Parish Survey – Moving Forward

By Terry Strukely and Kristen Craig

For most of the 2013-2014 term, Parish Council undertook an extensive survey of our parishioners. It had been more than ten years since any type of survey or census was done, and due to shifting demographics, economic changes and advances in technology, the time was right to find out how our parishioners’ needs have changed and what they think about St. Jude.

During December and early January, parishioners were encouraged to complete a survey about St. Jude. 585 people answered that call, and gave feedback about themselves and our parish.

In January and February, the results of the survey were evaluated and a series of six town hall style meetings were held where parishioners could learn the results of the survey, offer additional comments and ask questions. Nearly 150 people attended those meetings and gave valuable feedback about where we are, where they would like us to be, and how we should get there. Now we’re entering the third stage of the survey process – implementing the recommendations that came from the respondents both on the survey and during the meetings.

While the respondents were generally satisfied with the programs offered at St. Jude and the direction our parish is heading, several good ideas surfaced on how we can strengthen our parish community and build for the future. The number one “goal” was to grow our parish – have more members in general and have more people attending Mass each week. The challenge, of course, is how to do that. The suggestions that were offered the most included: adding a youth ministry and/or programming specific to youth and young adults to encourage more young people to join our parish and attend Mass; scheduling more social events that were not specific fundraisers as a way for parishioners to come together and get to know one another; and making sure that we are using our volunteers wisely – not duplicating efforts, welcoming new volunteers and generally getting more people involved.

Parish Council has created four subcommittees to focus on these areas – Mentoring (new parishioners and new Catholics) to
Dear Parishioners,

After the long and hard winter of 2014, we all look forward to spring and the new life all around us. After 40 days of Lent, the Church celebrates the Easter season for 50 days.

I am very appreciative of all the work that was put into our parish survey. Almost 600 folks responded and the follow-up meetings were very helpful. It’s always good to see new ideas and “new blood” surfacing in our parish community. Our new Parish Council will have the opportunity this summer to begin strategizing on how to best address our parish needs and concerns in the future.

Our Finance Committee is also diligently working on a very comprehensive St. Jude maintenance list plan. This includes both on-going summer “to do” list and necessary long range preventative maintenance work – such as finish school roof repairs, church roof, 23 year old church carpet, etc.

In the past several years we have welcomed many new parishioners at St. Jude parish and school. As a matter of fact our school enrollment has increased the past two years. We are very proud of our wonderful staff and all the programs they provide. So that we will be able to continue to meet all our financial obligations, we will be introducing the “Grateful Giving” program this spring. There will be more information to follow.

We also made great progress lately in our communication efforts. Amy Yoho has done a wonderful job on Facebook and you are most welcome to log on to www.saintjudeparish.org. Kristen Craig has added significantly to our parish web page and continues to keep it current. If you have not logged in lately, you will be very pleasantly amazed.

The Elyria Cluster of Catholic Churches continues to grow together. The Parish Council members are working together on a number of projects. In the past our joint Missions and Communal Penance have been very successful. We will again be doing the Vacation Bible School this summer, July 14-18. We also continue to dialogue and address mutual social concerns.

I started by saying “it’s been a long and hard winter.” We have survived and spring has arrived. We have our work cut out for us. My prayer is that all working together, with God’s help, we will be able to meet the challenges as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary in 2018.

With best wishes I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Frank P. Kosem

Check Us Out...

If you haven’t stopped by www.saintjudeparish.org in a while, take time today to visit. Our parish website has been updated and provides you with a convenient way to find out all that’s going on at St. Jude. There are links to other religious resources, and current information about all of our ministries. You can contact us through the website with questions or comments, and you can even nominate someone you know for their outstanding volunteer efforts! Take time to visit our site today—you’ll be glad that you did!
We've Welcomed... New Parishioners
Brian & Dawn Bott
Brian & Rachyl Brandenburg
Carolyn Caporale
Timothy & Lisa Coche
David & Mary Jane Croston
Joshua & Patricia Dumont
Montgomery & Kathleen Hall
David Hatfield
Peter & Heather Haywood
Matthew & Charlene Hixon
William Jordan
Constance Kazovich
Kevin & Amanda Koehler
Tyler Koors & Michelle Matia
Andrew Kovaiak & Ashley Keener
Edward Kramer
Daniel & Wendy Kunzler
Matthew & Stacy Latessa
John & Mary Libassi
Richard & Judith McCally
Michael Minardo & Jennifer Centifanti
David & Julianne Nau
Julie Nedwick
Daniel & Deborah Palmer
David Richards & Amanda Tansey
Chris & Chris Ann Schwanenberger
Jeremiah & Sara Smith
James & Sandra Sours
Veronica Starett
Mark & Clare Stawick
Brian & Shannon Straka
Bernadette Szarek
Patricia Tiratto
Caitlin Van Verth
Garnetta Warner
Adam West & Brittany Kocsis
Christine Wright
Nicholas & Susan Zambo
Thomas & Leslie Zimmerman

School Enhances Safety and Security with Rooted In Faith Grant Money

By Kelly Flowers, Business Manager

In December 2013, 59 schools received grant awards totaling $1.9 million through the Expanding the Educational Landscape with Innovation component of the Rooted in Faith - Forward in Hope campaign. These awards are focused on improving Facilities, Technology, and Curriculum Enhancement with particular emphasis on facilities security.

We are happy to announce that St. Jude has been awarded $17,300. Specifically, we will be installing a new video surveillance system comprised of 19 cameras, multiple DVRs to record 24/7, and full network connectivity. This will allow appropriate staff and police access from any smart device or computer. Thirteen cameras will be used inside the school and monitor all points of entry as well as blind halls, the library and gym. In addition, 6 cameras will be located outside for monitoring the playground, pavilion, parking/play area, and family center. Finally, our existing camera system used for visitor access will be integrated into the new system for complete coverage.

We are very excited about raising the level of safety and security in and around the school and this grant helps us achieve that goal in a big way! We are hoping to ‘go live’ with the system after the school spring break coming at the end of April. Special thanks to all those who contributed to the Rooted in Faith campaign and helped make this project possible!
Students at St. Jude School & Preschool have had numerous opportunities to flex their academic and fine art “muscles” over the past few months. Our students have shined in a wide variety of competitions that have been held both internally at St. Jude as well as out in the local community.

Our Academic Challenge Team is having a great year! Each week, our students participate in matches against other Lorain County Catholic schools. Students are tested on their knowledge in specific subject areas and quizzed on a variety of random facts as well. Our team is doing quite well this season, with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss. Team members include 7th graders Chris Sedlak, Viola Takacs and Nick Ziegelmeyer and 8th graders Melanie Ellingson, Zach Horvath, Billy Kirkpatrick, Quinn Morris, Ray Shaver, Sarah Stephens, Erica Uszak, Donovan Warfield, Alex Wilgor, and Beth Ziegelmeyer. Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. McFarland, Mrs. Scherer, and Mrs. Ziegelmeyer have worked with our Academic Challenge team this year.

In February, St. Jude School & Preschool hosted the district tournament for the Power of the Pen. Over 200 students from 20 different schools participated in this interscholastic writing event. During this day, students were given three separate writing prompts, and they had 40 minutes to complete each prompt. Our St. Jude team did well at this event, with seven of our students qualifying to advance to the regional tournament which will be held at St. Joseph Academy. Congratulations to St. Jude 7th graders Gianna Foisy, Gabriela Santiago-Narvaez, and Nick Ziegelmeyer, and 8th graders Sabrina Burkey, Faith DeVengencie, Erica Uszak, and Beth Ziegelmeyer who will represent St. Jude at St. Joseph Academy. Students that place high enough at the regional event will have the opportunity to attend the state Power of the Pen tournament which will be held at the College of Wooster in May. Special thanks to the many staff members, parents and students who helped to make the St. Jude tournament a success! Mrs. Puskas has served as the moderator for our Power of the Pen team this year.

St. Jude 8th graders Alex Wilgor and Beth Ziegelmeyer were the winners of our school spelling bee. These students represented St. Jude in the Chronicle Telegram Western Regional Spelling Bee held at Amherst Junior High in March. Congratulations to Beth for placing second at this bee! She will be competing in the Regional Spelling Bee Finals at Midview West Elementary School. In addition, St. Jude students in grades 3 through 6 will be participating in the ESC Spelling Bee in May.

The annual school science fair was held in February. Outside judges having experience in engineering, medical and other science related fields volunteered their time to quiz the students about the knowledge that they gained from their experimentation. The winners from this year’s science fair include: 7th grade - Nick Ziegelmeyer (1st place), Gabriela Santiago-Narvaez (2nd place), Tyler Conner and Max Reichert (3rd place tie). 8th grade winners - Quinn Morris and Mackenna Ternes (1st place tie), Faith DeVengencie, Erica Uszak and Donovan Warfield (2nd place tie) and Meredith Flanagan and Beth Ziegelmeyer (3rd place tie). The students receiving these awards have the opportunity to present their projects at the Mohican District Science Day at Ashland University in March. Our junior high science teacher, Mrs. Muenchausen, supervised all of our students’ work on their science fair projects.

St. Jude students in grades 4 through 6 had the opportunity to participate in the Science Olympiad at John Carroll University in March. Students spent the day competing as teams of 2 or 3 in a variety of science related events including Lego robotics, bridge building, and egg drop. St. Jude participants included 4th graders Ryan Bell, Bella Congelio, Gabby Davis, Gino DeVengencie, Mikey Griffith, Emily Kirkpatrick, Nick Kristoff and Nick Thoman; 5th graders Sarah Griffin and Bella Kulacz; and 6th graders Sonny Congelio, Dominic DeVengencie, Jacob Davis, Missy Decker, Matthew Gdula, Garrett Kirkpatrick, Jacob Krous, and Coltin Wacker. Mrs. Milchen supervised the Science Olympiad students. Mr. and Mrs. Gdula and Grandpa Congelio also helped to prepare the students for this event.
Ministry Spotlight

By Kristen Craig, Director of Communications

Have a green thumb?

Have you ever wandered around the grounds at St. Jude and wondered who plants all the flowers and weeds all of the flower beds? Our volunteer gardeners are responsible for caring for the beautiful plants that greet all of our parishioners, visitors and guests coming here for Mass and other events. Now is the time to join this necessary ministry to help keep our grounds looking good. There will be an organizational meeting on April 22 (Earth Day!) at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory Dining Room for anyone interested in getting involved. There is also an annual picnic in July. As a gardener, you are responsible for your own section of the St. Jude flower beds—you choose the plants and you create your own schedule for watering and weeding. If you love the outdoors and can spare just an hour or two a week during the Spring and Summer, this is the perfect way to give back to St. Jude.

Calling all teachers!

Do you love to teach? Does the idea of sharing your faith with students appeal to you? Consider teaching PSR or being an adult leader for Children’s Liturgy of the Word (C.L.O.W.).

PSR: Students from 1st grade through 8th grade are enrolled in PSR which meets from September until May on Monday evenings from 6:15 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Catechists are St. Jude parishioners who have answered the “Call” to share their Faith with the children of our parish. Opportunities to learn more about their own Faith — and how to most-effectively convey it to their students — are offered to catechists through special in-service training sessions, guest speakers and attendance at diocesan-offered conferences and workshops. The volunteer catechists participate in Virtus Training and have undergone background and fingerprint checks. Most classrooms have a volunteer aide in addition to the teacher.

C.L.O.W.: This program is open to children in grades one through three during the 11:00 a.m. Mass each Sunday, and provides a unique opportunity for the children to hear the Word of God “broken open” at their own level. Using special resources, a trained “Leader” facilitates the informal session, which takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the same time the rest of the assembly is participating in the Liturgy of the Word in the Church. The children are invited to hear the Word in language they can more-easily understand (from the “Lectionary for Masses with Children”) and engage in a dialog/discussion about the relevance of the readings of the Mass in their own lives.

If you are interested in either of these two vital ministries, contact Ann Chadowski at 440-366-5711 or Ann@saintjudeparish.org.

Mark your calendars!

August 31, 2014 is the 30th Annual Parish Festival and Chicken BBQ! The Annual Festival Wine and Cheese kickoff meeting will be held April 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rectory. Please consider joining us for this informational and fun gathering as we begin the task of organizing this outstanding event! Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the Festival and there is plenty of work to be done before, during and after the event. Consider volunteering as a family—spend an hour or two running one of the kids’ games or serving food from one of our booths and then enjoy the rest of your day.

Donations of new and gently used toys and stuffed animals as prizes for the games are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the rectory. We also need baskets and prizes for the Chinese Auction.

For more information contact Kristen Craig at 440-366-5711 or Kristen@saintjudeparish.org.
Certificate Program—A Great Way To Support Our Parish

The St. Jude Certificate Program provides parishioners with a way to support our parish. Through this program, you purchase prepaid gift cards at their face value. A percentage of the profits from these cards goes to the parish, and the remaining percentage of the profits can be utilized to help reduce a family’s tuition. Shopping cards are available for restaurants, grocery stores, gas, fast food, furniture, appliances, clothes, and much more.

A number of gift certificates are available for purchase either at a weekend Mass at St. Jude Church or during the week at the St. Jude Rectory from 8:00 a.m. – noon and from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. In addition, certificates can be ordered online. Orders that are completed online by noon on Monday can be picked up on Friday at the Rectory or at Masses that weekend. To order online, you just go to the website ShopWithScrip.com, create an account, and enter the St. Jude enrollment code 7A5739E6835L. You then have access to the following benefits:

HUNDREDS of gift cards to choose from. There are more retailers available than we could even print on an order form. Going on vacation? There are airlines, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and grocery stores we don’t even have around here, but you may shop at somewhere else. Do you have family out of town that goes to a particular restaurant or shops at a certain store we don’t have around here? You may find a gift card for them! You like to shop at Amazon.com but we don’t keep those in stock – Now you can order whichever retailers you want. PLUS, our local gift cards can still be found there such as Apples, Unicorn Restaurant, Pampered Chef, Pandy’s Garden Center, Lake Ave Floor Covering, and Wukie Furniture.

RELOADABLE Cards. As long as a gift card is purchased through our program and the retailer is on the list, you can reload any value you like on the card – AND ST. JUDE GETS THE CREDIT. You won’t have to keep buying new cards, you just reload the card you have online and they are reloaded the next business day.

ScripNow – So, you’re on your way to Home Depot early Saturday morning (or you know you’re going Friday night) to purchase some paint and supplies. You know you’re going to at least spend $100, but the Rectory is not open to purchase gift cards. Now you can just go to ShopWithScrip.com and print your own eCard which should be activated within 30 minutes. New retailers are being added to this service weekly.

PrestoPay – You can pay for your purchases online by EFT directly from your checking account. There is a 39 cent fee for each transaction. This is something you sign up for separately in order to be able to reload cards or purchase ScripNow eCards.

Volunteers Needed. Please consider volunteering to keep this program vibrant. Volunteers are scheduled for one Sunday per month to be in the Gathering Area to sell certificates and distribute orders that were previously placed. This program directly benefits our parish, and has, in years past, contributed upwards of $5,000 toward our General Fund.

Please e-mail stjudcertprog@yahoo.com for more information or to register as a volunteer.

Parish Survey—Moving Forward (continued)

ensure that our new parishioners become more engaged and are invited to participate in ministries and activities; Youth Group to focus on our younger parishioners; Reengagement of Lapsed Parishioners to encourage those members who have fallen away to come back to Mass and back to parish life; and Social Events to plan some events that encourage and foster a sense of fellowship and community in our parish. Over the next several months, these groups will be recruiting members and creating plans and strategies for improving each area. We need help in all of these areas. If you have a passion for sharing your faith or you have knowledge and skills that will assist in any of these subcommittees, contact Kristen Craig, Director of Communications, at Kristen@saintjudeparish.org to be put in contact with the appropriate person. By working together we can move our Parish forward!

If you are interested in seeing more detailed results of the survey, they can be found on our website, www.saintjudeparish.org.
Math students in grades 5 through 8 had the opportunity to compete in the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCCTM) math problem solving tournament. Our 7th and 8th grade teams participated at the tournament held at Lake Ridge Academy in March and consisted of Cameron Engrish, Jaiden Frantz, Jack Maxwell, Gabrielle Hawes, Max Menner, Nick Ziegelmeyer (7th grade); and Zach Horvath, Billy Kirkpatrick, Quinn Morris, Haylee Honoshofsky, Avery Puskas and Beth Ziegelmeyer (8th grade). Our 5th and 6th grade students competed in the math tournament held at Midview East Intermediate School in February. Our math teams included Sean Decker, Xavier Gendics, Bella Kulacz, Maggie Zambataro (5th grade); and Sonny Congelio, Jordan Ramirez Munoz, Michael Thoman, Jackson Zsigray, Kaylie Griffin, Stephanie Griffin, Melanie Meecha and Skye Rawson (6th grade). The 6th grade alternate was Melissa Decker.

St. Jude held their annual Geography bee in December. Congratulations to our classroom finalists: A.J. Farley and Cameron Friday (4th grade), Bella Kulacz and Christopher Phillips (5th grade), Matthew Gdula and Katy Koch (6th grade), David Griffin and Viola Takacs (7th grade), and Melanie Ellingson and Alexa Spencer (8th grade). The top three winners for St. Jude were 7th grader David Griffin (1st place), 5th grader Christopher Phillips (2nd place), and 7th grader Viola Takacs (3rd place). David Griffin took a written test to determine if he would qualify for competing at the state level.

St. Jude School & Preschool art students did very well in the recent Scholastic Art Show! St. Jude students received six Gold Key awards, 2 Silver Key awards, and 23 honorable mentions. Gold Key winners include 7th grader Gianna Foisy (for photography), 8th grader Erica Uszak (for photography) and a former student, 9th grader Caitlyn Schnur (for drawing). St. Jude 8th grader Beth Ziegelmeyer received 3 Gold Key awards (2 for drawing and 1 for sculpture). The Gold Key artwork was sent to New York City to compete in the National Scholastic Art Competition. Eighth graders William Kirkpatrick and Erica Uszak each received a Silver Key. St. Jude students receiving Honorable Mentions include 7th graders Skyler Cain, Angela Fetsic, Gianna Foisy (2) and Regan Schill, and 8th graders Haylee Honoshofsky, Zach Horvath, Rachal Hrobat, Quinn Morris, Alex Orellano, Sarah Stephens, Olivia Szpak, Erica Uszak (4) and Beth Ziegelmeyer (7). Mrs. Mary Huck is the St. Jude Art Teacher and supervised all of the students’ artwork.

St. Jude School & Preschool was proud to host the Lorain County Catholic Grade School Band Festival. Over 110 students in grades 5-8 from St. Joseph, Amherst, St. Mary, Avon, Elyria and St. Mary, Vermilion traveled to St. Jude and spent the day rehearsing with our band students. Wonderful performances were given during the day to our staff and students and at night for families and friends. Congratulations and a huge thank you goes to St. Jude band teacher Mrs. Ramsey for coordinating this event. We were also grateful to the band teachers from St. Joseph, Amherst, St. Mary, Avon, St. Mary, Elyria and St. Mary, Vermilion and Elyria Catholic who helped with this event.

Several students at St. Jude School & Preschool were recognized at awards ceremonies for their creative works. St. Jude 7th grader Nick Ziegelmeyer and 8th graders Beth Ziegelmeyer and Erica Uszak were the top 3 essay winners of the Elyria VFW Post 1079 Patriot Pen competition. The theme of the competition for this year was "What Patriotism Means to Me". Each of these students had the opportunity to read their essays during the recognition luncheon that was held at the VFW hall. All of the participating students received commendation letters from several local dignitaries including United States Senator Sherrod Brown, Elyria Mayor Holly Brinda, and the Carlisle Township Board of Trustees. Beth Ziegelmeyer was also the 8th grade winner of this year’s "Happy Birthday Dr. King!" birthday card contest. She was recognized at a special breakfast in downtown Cleveland on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day along with the other winners from grades 1 through 12. Each of the winners also received a $500 scholarship which can either be deferred until college or used for an after-school or summer program. Beth will be using her scholarship to attend the B-Wiser Alumnae Science Camp this summer at the College of Wooster. Beth Ziegelmeyer also was the 1st place winner for 8th grade art in the LifeWorks Ohio “Respect Life” contest. The theme of this contest was the bible verse “…for we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.” Beth was honored at an awards ceremony in March.
Upcoming Events

April 6 - Elyria Cluster Communal Penance Service - 7:00 p.m. St. Mary Church, Elyria
April 9 - Lenten Soup Supper - 6:00 p.m. Community Room (Church) - call Rectory for reservations
April 11, 18 - Holy Name Fish Fry - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Carrabine Hall
April 12, 13 - Prenatal Shower Committee Collection at all Masses
April 13 - Palm Sunday
April 17 - Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 7:00 p.m.; Reconciliation - 8:00 p.m.
April 18 - Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord’s Passion - 2:00 p.m.; Reconciliation - 3:00 p.m.; Stations of the Cross - 7:00 p.m.; Reconciliation - 7:30 p.m.
April 19 - Holy Saturday - Church Decorating - 9:00 a.m.; Blessing of Food - 2:00 p.m.; Easter Vigil - 9:00 p.m.
April 22 - St. Jude Gardeners Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Rectory Dining Room
April 30 - Festival Wine and Cheese Kickoff Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Rectory Dining Room
May 17 - Family Mass 4:30 p.m.; Mother/Son Night Out at the Crushers Game 7:05 p.m.
July 14 - 17 - Vacation Bible School “Journey with Me”