

SHRINE  
OF  
ST. JOSEPH

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176 YEARS

# The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

1220 N. 11th Street • St. Louis, Missouri 63106-4614 • Rectory Phone (314) 231-9407  
email: info@shrineofstjoseph.org

WINTER-SPRING ISSUE 2020

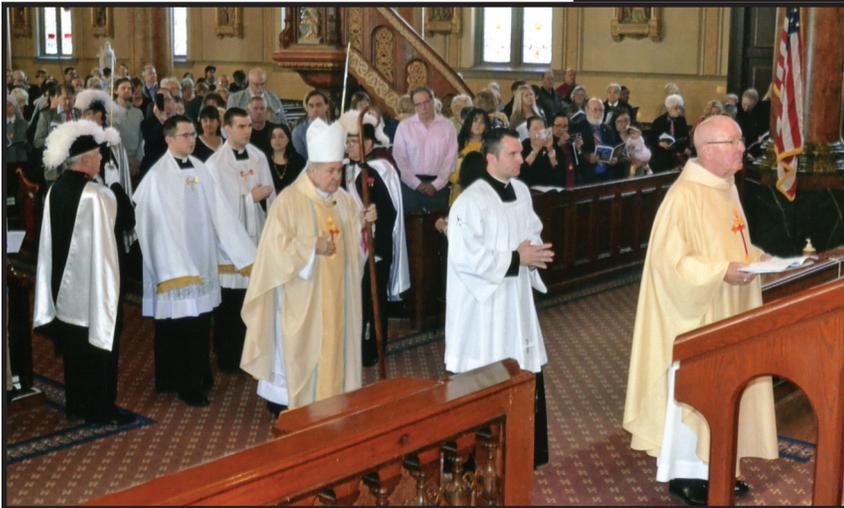
## REMEMBERING THE SHRINE'S 175TH YEAR

### Looking Back on A Momentous Day

Last October 27th was a day to remember as roughly 500 souls came to the Shrine's 175th anniversary Mass of Celebration followed in the afternoon with a memorable banquet attended by 400.

The Choir of the Shrine of St. Joseph was augmented by violin, oboe, brass quintet, and timpani. Many of the instrumentalists are also members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. It was a special honor to be joined by guest violinist, Kathleen Scarborough, daughter of Ted and Phyllis Wofford. The Choral Prelude included the Bach / Gounod setting of Ave Maria for Choir, Piano and Violin, followed by an elaborate and impressive fanfare from the brass, timpani, and organ preceding the well-chosen processional hymn: "*Hail St. Joseph, Pure and Gentle*", arranged for the celebration.

It was a triumphant occasion for the Shrine as St. Louis Archbishop Robert Carlson, the Main Celebrant, along with Father Dale Wunderlich, Shrine Rector for the last eleven years, and several invited seminarians, processed up the 150 foot long



aisle in between the always colorful Knights of Columbus Honor Guard to the sanctuary of the Shrine's magnificent and glorious 60 foot high completely restored Altar of Answered Prayers.

There was a certain nostalgia as well as joy in experiencing this scene when one recalls the sheer effort it took to not only save this Shrine from being torn down but also to restore it and bring it back to life. This jubilant occasion for those who have worked and volunteered was not just about the 175 years, but also about the pride they possessed in contributing toward seeing this Shrine, in all its magnificence, on this day after nearly 40 years of painstaking effort through the contributions of many donors and volunteers under the direction of the Friends, Inc.

As the Archbishop commented: "we realize that the man, St. Joseph, was ordinary, but he was holy...and he had confident hope...just like all of the folks who have worked to take care of the Shrine and are now able to see the result of their efforts as we sit here in this holy splendor."

Indeed, surely the founders of our organization back in 1979 who are now deceased, who worked hard and sacrificed much, were with us in spirit in the 175th year, and applauding everyone -- donors and volunteers alike -- who, through the years, came together to contribute in making this massive effort a success.



**a Happy and Blessed New Year to All**

## SHRINE'S 175TH BANQUET A GALA EVENT

Following the Jubilee Mass, a banquet attended by nearly 400, was held one and a half miles south of the Shrine at The Cedars Banquet Center. Volunteers arrived at The Cedars early on Sunday to beautifully decorate in splendid fashion the 40 tables. Kathleen and Mike Weltzin used their well-known and much appreciated God-given creativity to design and construct very unique center pieces for each table. The centerpieces honored St. Joseph. St. Joseph, the carpenter, was symbolized by oak tree limbs and white lilies; two lighted votive candles were hanging on the oak limbs for those who have gone before us and for those still living to follow. This visual aura of these lit centerpieces at every table in the ballroom was an impressive sight to behold.



Two special commendations were also given one to Ted Wofford and one to Eldon Arteaga. Ted Wofford orchestrated the entire magnificent Shrine restoration beginning in 1974 and he continues to this day to oversee the conservation



After dinner, Jim Allen, the Shrine's lead docent, produced a slide show describing aspects of the Shrine and some photos of long-time volunteers. Zip Rzeppa was the banquet's featured speaker. Earlier in his life, Zip was a well known sportscaster. Today, using his energetic and dynamic persona, Zip travels throughout the country raising donations to Catholic organizations. Part of his message was humorous followed by a serious plea to get the younger generation more involved in their Catholic faith and volunteering at the Shrine.

Zip Rzeppa, Master of Ceremonies

The rest of the program was dedicated to the volunteer spirit. Howard Matthews, public relations, and Jim Blum, Board president, both paid tribute to "those who came before us," the early founders and others of our organization. Then Kathie Schmid, one of the Shrine's wedding coordinators, introduced the 15 volunteers who have given 25 years or more of service (*see inset*). She finished by very appropriately saying, "without each and every one of these volunteers we would not be here today." Joe Finazzo, Vice President, made a special commendation to David Byrne, organist and to the choir for their contributions.



Kathie Schmid



Joe Finazzo, Caroline & Eldon Arteaga, Donna Finazzo

of the Shrine. The Arteaga family has been involved in saving the Shrine beginning with Bob Arteaga around 1977. After Bob's death, his son, Eldon, has continued

to support the effort through his wonderful photographs that are used in color brochures, the newsletter, and other venues. Now an Arteaga 3rd generation, Brad, who is the son of Eldon and Carolyn, is also helping out. Wofford and Arteaga were both brought up to the podium and presented with a plaque. Jim Blum, Board president, said that a special citation with a picture of Wofford was planned to be placed near the entrance to the museum space now being built.



Zip Rzeppa, Ted Wofford, Joe Finazzo

At the conclusion of the banquet program, five matted ink sketches by Ted Wofford, who is also a fine artist, were auctioned off by Zip Rzeppa for the



benefit of the Shrine. The winning bid was \$1400.

Everyone at the banquet received a commemorative medallion and a 70- page color booklet detailing the history of the Shrine to take with them.



Mike and Kathleen Weltzin

### 25 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

- Eldon Arteaga
- Jim Blum
- Carl Capuano
- Frank Fessler
- JoAnn Geisz
- Maribeth McMahon
- Bernie and Dooley Pestka
- Conrad Philipp
- Dianne Raney
- Anita Schene
- Mae Skubiz
- Ann Voss and Bobby Voss
- Ted Wofford

## THE BEAUTY OF THE SHRINE'S 175TH CHRISTMAS



A couple of weeks before Christmas, a large group of volunteers decorated the Shrine with at least 25 lit Christmas trees, garland, poinsettias, and a large nativity scene. The entire result by the end of the day was a stunning presentation dedicated to our Lord's birth. One comment made by a regular worshiper to a first-timer before entering the Shrine on Christmas Eve was: "When you come inside here, you'll see what the entrance to heaven looks like."

On the secular side, about a week prior to Christmas in the seasonally decorated rectory was a visit by Board member, Jim Fuller, as Santa Claus. After Mass, about 25 youngsters got to visit Santa, who was, for these kids and their parents, an absolute total "class act."



The culmination of the Shrine's 175th year,

Christmas could not have been better: with Father Wunderlich, our great and humble priest, our outstanding choir and instrumentalists, along with an impeccably restored and exquisitely decorated church. For the Christmas Eve Mass, over sixteen different carols were sung by our choir along with congregational singing and enhanced by organ, piano, and

a brass ensemble from the St. Louis Symphony. David Byrne, organist and choir director included a few lesser known yet beautiful carols from other countries. With over 550 in attendance it has become a tradition for many of these families to begin their Christmas by attending the Nativity of Our Lord Vigil at the Shrine. "Each Christmas is new," said Father Wunderlich in his homily, "yet it is connecting us to each and every previous Christmas we have known...God is outside of space and time but through the birth of Jesus he became part of our time." Taken together, both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses were attended by well over 750 worshipers to experience the awe-inspiring sacredness, beauty, and nostalgia associated with the Shrine at this blessed time of the year.



### THIS WINTER MARKS COMPLETION OF CEILING CONSERVATION

The Board of Directors has approved the final stage of ceiling conservation work. Therefore, scaffolding has once again been erected under the last four ceiling bays above the east side aisles this winter. Every winter since 2012 the ceiling has been gradually restored. This original restoration was accomplished over 25 years ago; this work on the 14 ceiling bays resulted in Wofford and his artisans being honored with a prestigious restoration award by the American Institute of Architects in 1988. In 2012, flaking was discovered in some of the primary colors of the vast areas of painted decoration. After further research, it was decided that, due to the cost of scaffolding, we would also clean and refresh the decorative ornamentation, and, at the same time, correct any water damage and minor plaster work that had occurred prior to the installation of the new slate roof. Temperature and humidity changes encountered throughout these many years can also create problems. This work of refurbishing of the entire Shrine ceiling has been completed over the winter months of these last 9 years. The Board appreciates the patience and understanding of those who regularly attend the Shrine during these times while we do the work necessary to conserve our precious historic church.

#### Upcoming Special Events

Sun. Feb 16	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time and Fr. Valentine Mass of Remembrance	11:00am
Wed. Feb 26	Ash Wednesday	12:00pm
Sun. Mar 8	Second Sunday of Lent and Annual reception for Ignatius Strecher Descendants	11:00am
Thur. Mar 19	Solemnity of St. Joseph, and distribution of blessed St. Joseph Bread	12:00pm
Sun. Mar 22	Fourth Sunday of Lent and distribution of blessed St. Joseph Bread	11:00am
Sun. Apr 5	Palm Sunday	11:00am
Thur. Apr 9	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00pm
Fri. Apr 10	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3:00pm
Sat. Apr 11	Vigil Mass of the Lord's Resurrection	7:00pm
Sun. Apr 12	Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection	11:00am

Photos courtesy of Arteaga Photography



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Please clip the address panel and mail it to us noting your correction or request.



**Mass Times**

Sundays: 11:00am

First Friday of each Month: 12:00pm (Noon)

Holy Days of Obligation: See Website [www.shrineofstjoseph.org](http://www.shrineofstjoseph.org) for details

Veneration of St. Peter Claver Relic or St. Padre Pio Relic following Mass

Fr. Dale Wunderlich, Rector and Recipient of the Aquinas Institute "Great Preacher" Award.

**Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership**



Sherry Chibnall

The restoration and on-going maintenance of the Shrine is accomplished strictly through private contributions. Annual membership dues are only \$10 per individual. All donations are tax deductible. If you are already a member, we **GRATEFULLY THANK YOU** and ask for your continued support. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. **Your financial support is**

**necessary** to help in the preservation of this irreplaceable historic and religious landmark for future generations. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Chibnall, your Membership Committee Chairperson, at (314) 231-9407.

**Air & Steam Club**

Members of the Air and Steam Club have, since the beginning of the restoration, helped to cover utility costs. We need your continued support for the Shrine. Your donations last year contributed approximately 60% toward the Shrine's heating, cooling, gas and water bills. **Thank you! Thank you! Please continue your support for the Shrine. If you aren't currently participating, please consider joining now. Your help is needed!** There are Monthly Drawings for prizes totalling \$200. Tickets are \$12 each for a 1 chance to win each month. There's no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase. To join the Air and Steam Club, complete the form below, and mail it with your check payable to:

"Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc."

1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614.

If you need more information, please contact **Dianne Raney** or **John Colao** at (314) 231-9407.

**Please Remember the Shrine in your Will or Trust.**

Application for Membership  
Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
*Dues are \$10 per person, per year*

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to:  
Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

Air and Steam Club  
Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

1st Prize	\$100
2nd Prize	\$50
3rd Prize	\$50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter my name. I do not wish to make a donation at this time.

**Special Notice:**

Please be aware that the Shrine has not and does not give or sell names and addresses on our list mailing list to any other groups or organizations.