

Dear friends in Christ,

As you are probably aware of by now work is underway for our new parish directory. It's hard to believe it's been four years since our last one!

I'll let you in on a little secret: as much as I love to take photos of wildlife and nature, I really can't stand having my picture taken. The priest in the old directory seems to have very little hair, so I don't think they can re-use that photo. I was also told "Photo Not Available" is not a viable option. As such I'll get my photo taken soon. (I think the new version of PhotoShop also has an "eliminate double chin" feature too).

Admittedly while I'm not a self-portrait person though, I do really love our directory. Can you believe we have over 2000 families here at Saint Joe's? We also added over 80 families in the last year. And what's so nice with our new directory is as new families come in, we'll be able to send out new booklets with their photos in them rather than every 4 years. The directory is a great way for us to get to know one another as a parish family, and I use mine constantly as it's so helpful to put names to faces and to get to know people better.

You are invited along with your whole family to have a portrait taken. Even if you have family members that do not go to church or may not be here year-round anymore due to school, work, etc., they are part of your family and as such are a part of ours too. I'd love for them to be in our directory so we know who they are.

In upcoming weeks, we'll have a lot of availability for portraits.

You can sign up right on our website, stjosephcommunity.org. You can also sign up at our parish office, which is open daily from 8 to 4:30, and 8 to noon on summer Fridays. There is also a person in the narthex as you exit church as well so you can sign up that way.

Again, by having your picture taken, this helps people who come to Mass know "who is the person sitting next to me." God calls us by name, and it's good if we know one another's names too. This parish directory allows that to happen, and it's a great way for us to know our fellow parishioners.

What's also great is this is free. It costs you nothing to come and have your photo taken, and you'll get a free 8 x 10 photo. This is also a good time to take yearly photos of your family, as they are perfect for Christmas cards as well. Along with the free 8 x 10 photo, you'll get a free parish directory so you can know who the folks who share your pews are. Lifetouch will also give people the opportunity to purchase photos but please know you will not be pressured in any way to buy a photo package. This is completely free unless you decide to purchase more photos for your family.

So much happens at our parish each day, it's amazing what happens in just 4 years. This directory is a great way to celebrate our 150th year as a parish, and to help us become even more connected to one another.

Thank you so much for your participation.

God bless,

Fr. Paul Kammen