



THE GOOD STEWARD

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For the Members of St. Jude Catholic Church

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PLANNING FOR AN ACTIVE 2018 CHURCH YEAR

Though we have just started our new 2018 year, the staff and our parish leaders are already busy planning many wonderful events to help us grow together as a faith community, worship the Lord (who gives us all things), and serve our local and wider community.

One thing that will be exciting this coming year is to receive reports about the new school we are helping to build at our sister Parish in Honduras, (St. Rita in Saba). Because of the favorable exchange rate, and the low cost of labor and supplies, and of course your generous donations, we are in the process of releasing funds to construct the first phase of the school, which entails clearing the land for use, building classrooms, an entrance gate, and a gate house.

Our debt continues to wither down, and as of the end of January we will only have about \$1,917,381 left. Therefore, at this time we are pulling out our plans to do the next step in our master plan, some additional meeting rooms/classrooms in our Educational building, and the Bell tower.

We continue to support seminarians and vocations at our Parish. On February 1st we host a St. Andrew dinner to invite high school men to learn more about the vocation to the priesthood. We continue to have with us our pastoral year seminarian Ryan Hiaeshutter, and ask you to support him as he learns about parish life through our community. In addition, we mentor two Holy Trinity Seminarians,

Stephen Hamby and Adam Pittman through our RCIA program.

Lent is around the corner with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. During this important liturgical season, we will offer Bibles Studies, Stations of the Cross with adoration following on Friday nights, Families Stations of the Cross and Mary's Way of the Cross to enrich our Lenten journey. Don't forget about the Knights of the Columbus as they host the annual fish fries each Friday night from 5-7pm in the parish hall.

Finally, we look forward to a busy Spring with many First Communions (about 230 students), Confirmations (about 265 students), and several adult baptisms and individuals coming into the Catholic faith at our Easter Vigil.

The bulletin and website are wonderful ways to see what our busy parish has to offer. May God Bless you, and I give thanks for every parishioner, and your great love for the Lord and St. Jude parish, that makes me part of such a special community.

Rev. Andrew Semler

Fr. Andrew Semler