

Twin Parish News

MAY 2025

A partnership between St. William and St. Joseph, Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti



IMPACT: Gifts opened the door to another year of learning

Because of You They Can Grow and Thrive



Thank you for supporting the education campaign for our twin parish schools.

As of this writing, we have received 140 donations totaling nearly \$40,000. Because of your generosity, elementary children at St. Joseph Parish will enjoy another year of learning, and 30 secondary students attending the Catholic school in Côtes-de-Fer will receive scholarships.



We are deeply grateful—this would not be possible without you!



IMPACT: Mobility Restored to Serve 7 Chapels

Wheels That Keep the Mission Moving

Your continued generosity keeps St. Joseph Parish on the move — literally. **This past month, we sent funds to repair the parish truck and to purchase a new motorcycle** for the three clergy now in residence. In rural Haiti, travel is slow and challenging; even short distances can take hours over rocky, rugged roads. The harsh terrain takes a toll on vehicles, and Father often needs repairs after visiting remote chapels. Thanks to your support, our clergy can continue reaching the seven chapels and parishioners spread across the countryside. **Thank you!**



New motorcycle helps Father Faustin reach remote chapels



Mountainous countryside surrounding St. Joseph Parish



Typical road conditions faced on chapel visits

P.S. These two photos were taken in rural Haiti during our 2018 education fact-finding trip. They capture the actual terrain the clergy navigate to serve the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish.

Sharing Our Faith: A Feast Day Like No Other



March 19 is always a day of joy and celebration at St. Joseph Parish in Côtes-de-Fer — but this year's feast day was especially meaningful.

Father Faustin gave the church a fresh touch with new paint, making it shine for the biggest event of the year. Thanks to the new **Starlink internet system**, the Mass was broadcast live, allowing those unable to attend in person to join in the celebration. And because of the parish's **solar energy system**, the entire celebration was powered without the need for fuel or a generator — a quiet success that brought peace of mind and steady electricity.

The feast day is not only a spiritual highlight but also the **most important civic event in the town**. Mass draws parishioners and local leaders alike. After Mass, parishioners share food they've prepared, and this year the government added to the joy with a community-wide music and art festival.

The Feast of St. Joseph is more than a religious observance — it's a treasured moment of unity and cultural pride.



The offertory procession includes baskets of homegrown produce (top of photo) a beautiful expression of gratitude and faith.



More than coffee: it's connection

Building Community One Cup at a Time

By Evy Marshall



Hey everyone! Helping Hugs was delighted to help revive our parish tradition of Coffee and Donuts on Sunday, April 6.

This event is a simple way to reconnect as a parish family. After celebrating Mass, what better way to continue the joy than by sharing coffee, donuts, and conversation?

Many of you have told us how much Coffee & Donuts means, especially our seniors, who cherish the chance to socialize. Young families are also helping to pass on the blessings of parish life to the next generation. Your presence matters.

It's a moment to connect—meet a family with a new baby, say hello to the woman who always sits behind you, or give a warm greeting to Father Antwi.



For now, Coffee and Donuts will be held on the first Sunday of each month. **The Council of Catholic Women will host in May, and the Knights of Columbus in June.** With your support, and the leadership of our parish groups, we hope to keep this tradition going strong.

We hope to see you there!



Big thanks to Evy for these joyful snapshots.

Trudy (L) and Ann kept the coffee brewing, the donuts coming, and the whole morning running like clockwork—with plenty of smiles to go around!

Holy Saturday: A Tradition of Healing and Hope



A beloved tradition at St. Joseph is the **Anointing of the Sick**, held each Holy Saturday. This year, **Father Hector** and **Seminarian Gelin** offered the sacrament. For the fifth year, the **Hope for a Village** team, lovingly prepared and served a meal and beverages to 100 elderly parishioners.



Father Hector anoints the hands and the feet of the elderly during the sacrament of the sick. **Seminarian Gelin** lends a hand.



Please Remember

May 3 & 4

*Bi-monthly
Collection for
St. Joseph Parish*

TWIN PARISH COLLECTION

ST. JOSEPH

CHURCH SUPPORT

Payable to: Helping Hugs Inc.



Scan to support our
twin parish mission

Helping Hugs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity.
All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.

Contact: info@helpinghugsinc.org

Donations may be made to
Helping Hugs Inc.,
P.O. Box 24477, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

or on our website: www.helpinghugsinc.org

