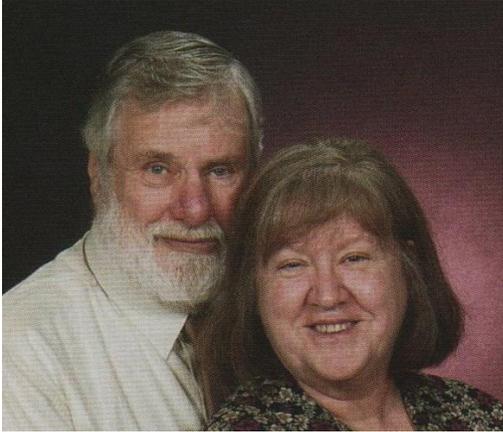


GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARISH FAMILY



Joyce & Jerry Beissel

Joyce and Jerry Beissel were married at St. Mathias Church in 1975. Jerry has been a member of the parish since his family moved to the area from Hastings in 1951. He is the son of Frank and Sophia Beissel, and the third of twelve children. He attended St. Mathias School and later spent six years in the Navy.

In 1968 Jerry purchased a dilapidated and unused property that sat vacant for ten years. After completely gutting and renovating the buildings by himself, he has turn this property into their home and also has a rental unit. He financed these building projects with various jobs, including cookware sales, working for Frandrup Masonry, Hudson's, Peavey Mill, various other construction companies, and spray painting barns and roofs.

In 1973 Jerry purchased land from the old depot so he could build his garage and workshop. He was a member of the Hampton Fire Department for twenty six years and for two years sat on the City Planning Commission.

In 1965 he married Joyce Strait from St. Louis Park. Joyce attended high school at St. Margaret's Academy and later received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at the University of Minnesota. She worked in public health nursing in Minneapolis and later worked as a school nurse in Farmington.

The Beissel's have four children and all attended St. Mathias School for part of their elementary education. They served as catechists and Mass servers, and played sax, flute, clarinet and trumpet for the music liturgy at mass. All are happily married and graduates of the University of Minnesota. The boys are both engineers and the girls hold teaching degrees. Josh has five children, Jaysa and Justin each have three and Jalane has a son. SO FAR, Joyce and Jerry have twelve grandchildren under the age of nine!

For several years the Beissel's were in charge of the Big Raffle and ran the gambling at the annual Fun Fest. They have been ushers and greeters at church and Joyce designed the original flyer for the first school "Barn Dance" fundraiser. She also served on the school board, was an officer for St. Anne's and taught CCD for seven years. She continues to help on various church committees and volunteers once a week at Joseph's Coat in St. Paul.

The Beissel's are good "caretakers" of their property and enjoy sharing with visitors the lovely gardens and landscaping they have created. Any spare time is spent working on their vegetable and flower gardens.

