Member Profile Story

This week's feature : Marge and Jim Jaracz

Marge was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was an only child in her family attending elementary schools through high school in the Grand Rapids area. She attended Michigan State University majoring in Education. When she started college the choices for women were limited. You either were a Nurse, Home Ec, or Teacher. Marge became a teacher in North Olmsted for 35 years! Her teaching mate was Gayle Manning who currently serves as a member of The Ohio House of Representatives. They taught Economics to 3rd graders and they won awards at the City, State, and National Levels!

Jim was born in Cleveland and grew up on Beta Avenue in Newburg Hts. near Slavic Village. He had a "Kid" sister, Kathleen, 13 years his junior, now deceased. He attended St. John Nepomucene School (E. 50th and Fleet),

and St. Ignatius Loyola High School (West 30th and Lorain). Jim served in the Army from 1959-61 as a ration breakdown clerk. When active duty was fulfilled, he was hired by an Electrical insulating materials company in a Sales Coordinator/ Inventory Control position. Later he was transferred as a Supervisor/Manager to St.Paul, MN , then Atlanta. He returned to Cleveland to manage a local office. After 20 years, he changed employers to join a similar business and retired after 24 years in 2004.

Jim and Marge were longtime neighbors for 33 years in North Olmsted, and their children from each of their first marriages grew up together. When the children flew the coop, they both sold their homes for smaller dwellings and took retirement during the ‘04/’05 time frame. Marge went to Avon and Jim settled in North Ridgeville. They met occasionally simply as friends /former neighbors, but “dated” in 2017 and married December 29, 2018!

Marge has 2 children living in California, Mike and Sherry, and 1 in Nashville, Dan who was a contestant on The Apprentice. Jim has children, Nancy and Joe, both in their 60’s, and daughter Jean who passed away at age 53 from pancreatic cancer. Jean left 2 boys , James and Chris. James has 2 daughters, Nora and Lili. Chris and his wife are expecting in September. Nancy’s daughter Deanna will be getting married in September. Nan’s son Jack is still available. Joe has 2 girls, both still at University of Toledo, Kaleigh, and Youngstown State, Mara.

Marge joined Prince of Peace in 1993 when her parents moved from Michigan. Prior to that she was a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in North Olmsted. After Jim’s wife passed away, he began to attend POP with Marge. He joined in 2018 before marrying Marge. They both contribute to many of the ministries here at our church! They are Readers/Assisting Ministers, Communion Ministers for traditional services. They participate in Tables of Eight, Buds and Suds, and take communion to shut-ins. Marge and Jim sponsor 4 children through the OMNI project.

Jim's interests include books and magazines. Marge belongs to a stock market investment group. They both enjoy going to Tri-C Encore programs.

Their love of musicals and plays have brought them much happiness by attending Cleveland Orchestra and Cleveland Pops Orchestra performances, as well as Clague Playhouse and local live shows. They both love to travel and always find places they would like to see or revisit.

In his spare time, Jim enjoys puttering in the yard and tinkering at the garage workbench. Some things that you may not know about them is when they got married at 79 years young, they began a loving routine. They have a coffee maker in their bedroom closet. Whoever wakes up first makes the coffee and writes a love note on a post-it note and attaches it to their mug. It is a wonderful way to start the day both for the writer and the reader!

Marge and Jim know the Blessings and Love they have received from God. They have Big Hearts and offer themselves to POP in service to Our Lord. Please take the opportunity to speak with them, their story is an inspiration!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Writer