



The Goodnews Letter

A Newsletter for members of St. Ann, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick Parishes
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20121 - No. 1

April 2012



A Message From the Pastor . . .

THREE POWERFUL DAYS...that's what Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are. With Easter Sunday capping them off, these three days, the three holiest days of the church year, are powerful and beautiful days to stop, reflect and give thanks to God for the core beliefs of our Christian Catholic Faith.

Holy Thursday - the day we stop and remember and honor our Lord's Last Supper with his 12 closest friends, his Apostles. The day Christ instituted The Holy Eucharist that over 2,000 years later we receive with awe. How he knelt down and washed his Apostles feet and commissioned them, and us, to be "of service" to others if they wanted to truly be his followers. It is also the day Christ instituted the ordained priesthood. What an awesome celebration Holy Thursday is! The prayers, the songs, the smells, everything about this Liturgy is fantastic.

Good Friday - the day we stop, along with the entire world, and prayerfully remember Our Lord's acceptance of his death on the wood of a cross. More than any other day of the year, this day we contemplate his powerful words, "Father, into your hands, I commend my Spirit."

Holy Saturday - the evening we gather to listen to scripture readings that touch our soul, the evening we recommit ourselves to our Christian Catholic Faith at the greatest Mass of the church year, the Great Vigil of Easter. The evening that we welcome new members into the Catholic Church and we recommit ourselves to our baptismal promises to be "of service" to our brothers and sisters and receive our Lord once again in Holy Communion. Please consider joining us for these **THREE POWERFUL DAYS**. If you've never been, give yourself an early Easter gift and "go on retreat" with us and attend Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday Mass. You will find the complete schedule of Masses and services for Holy Week and Easter in this Goodnewsletter.



Happy Easter,

-Father C.J., Deacon George and Deacon John

EDITOR'S NOTE

by Deb Kuni

Well, I don't know about you, but I'm glad that this winter is over. I'm exhausted from waiting for it to snow! As of mid-March I have a beautiful cluster of Snow Drops up and blooming in my garden. Such a hopeful sight. It's a wonderful feeling knowing spring is finally here and I can get outside and starting preparing my yard and gardens for the summer months ahead.

Along with Snow Drops and other spring flowers popping up around me, plans are popping up everywhere for our annual Summer Festival/fundraiser event. If you haven't been following the progress, you might be interested to know that our Annual Lawn Party has been renamed **St. Ann's Summer Festival**.

We have high hopes that it will all come together with new attractions, new music, new ideas, new everything. We will keep some of the favorites like our big auction (please remember us as you do your spring cleaning!) and basket raffles and the tag sale. (again, when you do your spring cleaning.....) But we have been working very hard since last year to bring fresh, new ideas to this year's event.

Please consider volunteering for a few hours during the July 13-15 weekend. We are changing a lot about the event, but as we say every year, we still need volunteers to help us out. Call the rectory office or talk to Fr. C.J. if you would like to give your church a few hours over that weekend. We *really* need your help.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday – April 5, 7 p.m. Mass at St. Ann Church
(no 7 a.m. Communion Service at St. Ann's today
(no 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church today)
7 p.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church
Adoration at St. Ann's from 8 to 10 p.m.

Good Friday - April 6, 2 p.m. Walk with the Cross, Church on the Hill
3 p.m. Stations of the Cross with Deacon John Zick, St. Patrick Church
3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. Ann Church
7 p.m. Good Friday Service at St. Ann Church
7 p.m. Good Friday Service at St. Vincent de Paul Church

Holy Saturday – April 7, No 3 p.m. Confessions at St. Ann
No 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ann
No 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul
8 p.m. Easter Vigil at St. Ann Church
8 p.m. Easter Vigil at St. Vincent de Paul

Easter Sunday – April 8, 8 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church
9:45 a.m. Mass at St. Ann Church
11:15 a.m. Mass at St. Ann Church

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SAVE THE DATE - Volunteer to Have FUN!!



This year, the **9th Annual West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival** will be held Saturday, August 11, 2012.

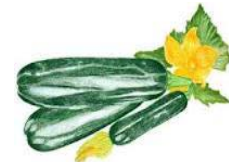
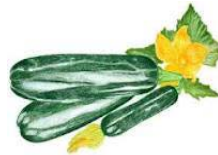
Over 100 volunteers are needed in order for this wonderful event to be successful and fun for all. Help is needed in planning the event, setting up in advance, running games, selling tickets and merchandise, and much, much more. It's not too early to start thinking about and planning for this event. We really need your help.

St. Patrick's Church has a food booth at the festival, selling fried dough and zucchini fries, and also needs volunteers throughout the day. If you can give us a just a few hours it would make a difference!

You don't have to be a resident of West Stockbridge to help out. The festival attracts young and old from many surrounding towns.

If you would like more information, or would like to sign up now, (or anytime), please contact Mary Stodden at 413-232-4206 or mkstodden@verizon.net.

Please don't let the Zucchini Festival Die on the Vine!!!



St. Ann Church to Hold Blood Drive

St. Ann's Parish will hold its annual blood drive on May 10th in the Blood Mobile located in the large parking lot. You will find a signup sheet in the Family Center if you would like to donate blood on this day. It's the best way to give back to your community and possibly yourself. If you have questions about the drive, please call Dianne Romeo, our parish nurse, at 637-2684

Upcoming Events

- Italian Classes for all levels, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in St. Ann's Family Center (For information, call Dianne Romeo at 637-2684.)
- "Get Cuffed" Blood pressure program, Thu. April 5 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in St. Ann's Family Center. Registration required with Dianne Romeo, 637-2684.
- Shawl Ministry, every other Thu. afternoon at 1:30 p.m. For information please call Pat Archey at 637-2729.
- Pre-Cana Class, for engaged couples, April 15, from 1-4 p.m. at St. Ann's Family Center.
- Clothing Drive, at St. Ann's Family Center. Drop off of donated items will be Friday, May 4th between 9 and 2. The sale will be held on Saturday, May 5th, from 9 to 2.
- Blood Drive, in St. Ann's Parking lot, Thursday, May 10th. Watch the bulletin for more details.
- St. Ann's Summer Festival, Friday, July 13 through Sun. July 15th.
- Friday Morning Walking Group, Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. meet in large parking lot.

ST. PATRICK'S CCD NEWS

By Dorothy Pieropan

It appears that spring has made its early debut this year and we see the beginnings of new growth creeping up in our flowerbeds and orchards. We welcome these new signs in our environment. We also are delighted to witness other changes, especially in our CCD Program. The children and the young adults in the program have physical growth, social growth, but most important of all, these students have shown strong spiritual growth in their faith.

Deacon John Zick has introduced his class to the new text "The Catholic Faith Handbook," St. Mary's Press. Mrs. Brenda Cadorette is using Ignatius Press, "Our Life in the Church," to assist the young teenager to understand the Church, its meaning and mission in our world today. The elementary students in Dorothy Pieropan's Grade 3, using Faith and Life Series, "Our Life with Jesus," are learning of God's plan for salvation, from creation, to the birth of the Church with the emphasis that he/she is a special part of God's family.

The curriculum continues to enhance the program with community outreach activities. In December, the response to the "Christmas Shoe Box" was overwhelming with participation from our students as well as our parish community. Not only were many boxes filled, but also monetary donations were made towards the cost of mailings.

Students and their parents participated in the success of the UNICO Polenta Chicken Dinner on January 29th! There were many compliments on the efficient and courteous service from our diners. Too, the students created Christmas greeting cards for the shut-ins at home and those in the area nursing homes from the parish.

As we continue our effort and dedication, we ask the parish community to continue to pray for our students and staff. We are very fortunate to have Fr. C.J.'s pastoral guidance to help us achieve and maintain our goals. Thank you!

Financial Update – March 2012

by Joe Cacciola

“It is our hope that following through on this plan will reduce the ‘balloon’ payment at that time to a manageable amount.”

Total income for the period from July 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012 was \$245,016 vs. a budget of \$231,021 and total expenses were \$207,739 vs. a budget of \$204,056. While these appear to be outstanding results to-date, showing a surplus of \$37,278, nearly the entire surplus was used to service the parish’s debt to the Knights of Columbus. The principal payments for this period totaled \$31,988, including \$15,000 from the 2011 Lawn party leaving a net surplus of \$5,290. It should be noted that the overrun of expenses vs. budget was entirely due to the emergency maintenance work needed on the stone work of the church, and to the repair of the church sound system.

In October of 2008 the parish borrowed \$275,000 to cover the remaining balance on the new heating system, and to restore the badly deteriorating bell tower. The loan balance as of this writing is \$99,157.

The plan to repay the balance of the loan includes applying all of the proceeds from the remaining two Summer Festivals, while continuing to make the regular monthly payments. It is our hope that following through on this plan will reduce the “balloon” payment at that time to a manageable amount. That balloon payment is due on September 1, 2013.

In the area of maintenance projects, this spring we will finally finish the road repair work in the cemetery, repair the walkways around the church and the rectory, and complete the replacement of the rectory windows.

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We hope you will join us for St. Ann’s Annual Summer Fund-raiser event, July 13-15. The following is a list of some of the new events planned for this year’s summer festival!

Even More Family Fun

Dog show (best behaved, best groomed, best costumed, etc)
Scavenger hunt
Kids’ carnival
Puppet show
Balloon sculptor
Friendly competitions (balloon toss, races, Lego contest, etc.)

Attention Catholic Singles

Interested in joining an excellent Catholic singles organization? The Catholic Alumni Club International is looking to expand into the Springfield diocese. We provide a group dedicated to social, cultural, civic and spiritual relationships in a Catholic setting. For more information, please check out the following site www.caci.org, or contact Steve at valksr@yahoo.com

A Taste of Lenox and the Berkshires

“A Taste of Lenox” is now “A Taste of Lenox and the Berkshires”, and will be held on July 14th from 5 to 6:30 p.m. as part of St. Ann’s Summer Festival.

At present, we have 12 Lenox restaurants participating but need more, so we are contacting other Berkshire restaurants.

We also need volunteers to set up, serve, bus, and clean up. If you can help in any way, please contact Marilyn Nejaime at 413-298-4970 or viptavel2@verizon.net

Here’s to a great Summer Festival!

-Marilyn and Nabih Nejaime
and committee

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
ROSARY-ALTAR SODALITY**
by Shirley Panzeri

St. Patrick's Rosary Altar Sodality meets the first Wednesday of each month, from September to May, in our Parish Center. Recitation of the Rosary begins at 6:45 p.m., followed by the business meeting.

This March, we held our annual St. Patrick's Pot Luck dinner on St. Patrick's Day, in the evening, and, again, was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Dolores Rocha for providing the music and a sing a long.

In May we plan to sell roses again on Mother's Day to benefit the Alight Pregnancy Program.

The Sodality is planning a spiritual evening with Deacon John in the near future.

The Pilgrim Statue is available for anyone to take for a visit in their home. Anyone wishing to join our prayer network, help with cleaning of our altars, or help us in anyway, should call Shirley at 232-7750. Thank you to all who have helped make this another successful year.

Did you know that it costs St. Ann .16 cents to mail each member of the parish their monthly envelope packet, plus an additional .65 cents each time it is returned to us because you have moved and forgotten to tell us?

If you no longer use your envelopes, have moved or changed to/from a P.O. Box, please remember to give the office a call or email to let us know.

This year's new Summer Festival will be July 13-15. Here is a sampling of what you'll see this year:

Some New Events Planned:

Friday night "Adult/Casino Night"

"Taste of Lenox" - Saturday dinner featuring the finest of Lenox restaurant food, with live musical entertainment

Sunday 11:15 Mass under the big tent, followed by

a Family Potluck Picnic



Ask The Abbott

Q: Father, why do eggs play such a big roll in our Easter celebration?

A: In Medieval Europe, eggs were forbid-

den during Lent and were often boiled or otherwise preserved. You can just imagine how many preserved or boiled eggs a family would have by Easter time! Eggs therefore became a mainstay of Easter meals and a prized gift for children. In addition to this, eggs have been viewed as a symbol of new life and fertility throughout the ages.

Many of our traditions at Easter time center around eggs. For example, we gather as a family and color eggs. We also have Easter Egg hunts and egg roll competitions. Even the White House gets caught up in the spirit with their annual Easter Egg Hunt on the White House lawn.

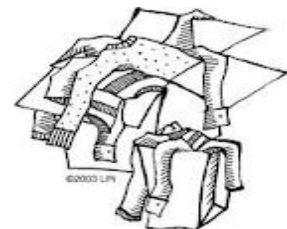
Family Clothing Sale at St. Ann

St. Ann Parish will hold a clothing sale on Saturday, May 5th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Family Center.

Drop off of donations will be accepted on Friday, May 4th between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Family Center.

We are asking that items donated be in very good condition or new. All items will sell for \$1.

If you would like to volunteer to help on Friday or Saturday, or if you have questions, please call RoseAnn at 637-3398. Thank you!





Saint Ann's Religious Education

All our students took part in Operation Christmas Child, a project of the Samaritan's Purse organization. Over 500 CCD students and families filled the boxes for distribution around the world at Christmas time. The students and families should be very proud and happy that many children had something to open for Christmas as a result of their efforts.

The Confirmation Class, under the guidance of Annie and Tessie Sorrentino, is completing their lessons. The *New Spirit* program was presented to them with great success. The date of Confirmation is May 22nd at 7 PM.

Our middle and high school students had a Penance Service during Christmas and were treated to an ice cream social after confession. For Lent we attended the Stations of the Cross presented by the Confirmation Class, on March 18th. The Middle School students had a retreat on March 13th, led by *The New Spirit Program*.

The Elementary classes hopes you enjoyed the decorations on the trees for Christmas and the "Valentines for Jesus" that decorated our Church. They helped with the signs for the altars at all the Churches by reminding us to say, "And with Your Spirit". For lent we had the Stations of the Cross at Church presented by the 5th grade on March 26th. We are busy making crosses for Easter to brighten up our windows at the Parish Center.

The Second Grade with the guidance of their teacher RoseAnn King, made their First Penance and are now preparing for First Communion. The date for First Communion is May 19th at 11:00 AM.

The Kindergarten Class is learning about God and Easter and are enjoying their time with Lisa Kane. They meet the first Sunday of each month at 9:45 AM in the Parish Center basement.

CCD CALENDAR

May 19th - First Communion at 11 a.m. in St. Ann Church
(Practice days will be scheduled later)

May 21st at 6 p.m. - Confirmation rehearsal at St. Ann Church

May 22nd - Confirmation at 7 p.m. with Msgr. John Bonzagni at St. Ann Church

Trip To Italy Planned to 2012 Diaconate Ordination in Rome

Many of you may remember Michael Pierz, the seminarian who spent last summer with us at ST. Vincent de Paul, St. Patrick and St. Ann's. Michael is completing his schooling in Rome this October 4th and we have been invited to witness his move one step further in his journey towards priesthood.

A trip has been organized for us to travel to Italy this October 1-12 to be a part of this ceremony and to also see the sites of Rome and Umbria as well. This is a 12 day-10 night trip and the cost is \$2,869 including transportation to and from the church, 2 meals a day .We'll spend 3 days in Rome and then travel through the Umbrian countryside stopping at Assisi, Siena, Perugia, Orvieto, Spello, Spoleto and other small countryside towns. **An informational meeting will take place on April 28th, at 7 p.m., at St. Ann Family Center.** Those interested in this trip are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please direct any questions to Dianne Romeo at 637-2684. We have been offered an outstanding price for this trip so please come see what we have planned! Feel free to bring a friend or two. This trip will be open to the public.

Postures and Gestures of the Liturgy

The following is another in the continuing series from The Spiritual Life Committee regarding the whys and wherefores of our faith, we hope you will find them helpful in sharing our faith with the young people in your life as well as with your friends of other faiths.

During the celebration of Mass and other devotional liturgies we assume various postures and use various gestures that are backed by tradition, symbolism and meaning. Their understanding leads to a fuller and richer experience of worship and participation.



The Procession

The first posture we encounter when attending the sacred liturgy is the procession. This procession symbolizes the Pilgrim Church. The presiding priest, deacons, ministers, servers and the book of the Gospels in processing their way to the altar give meaning to the journey toward Heaven of the body of believers present in the pews. During the Mass the gifts of bread and wine are also brought in procession to the altar and this is followed by the procession of the communicants who will receive these transformed gifts with the hope of Heaven in their minds and hearts. The recession, our procession out into the world to carry out our services for God and one another in peace, reminds us of Christ's jubilant procession into Jerusalem. Knowing full well the obstacles He would face with His trial, rejection and crucifixion for our sins we, too are reminded of the obstacles we will face as we journey through life in His service. We also process to receive the sacraments of confirmation, matrimony and blessings such as at the Feast of St. Blaise and for the veneration of the cross on Good Friday. From the earliest days of Christianity the practice of processing the body of deceased loved ones from their place of death to the church and then to their final place of rest is still with us even as practiced with the modern automobile.

Processions differ from parades in that a parade is a show in motion where as a procession is a journey toward a destination.



The Sign of The Cross

One of the first gestures we make in the Mass is the sign of the cross signifying our belief in the triune God. The earliest Christians traced a cross on their foreheads with the thumb or finger, eventually this gave way to the use of two fingers. Either the thumb and forefinger or forefinger and middle finger symbolizing the two natures and wills of Jesus. Later in the East, three fingers were used to symbolize the three Persons of the Trinity. These early signs of the cross were small and first made on the forehead later including the practice of making the sign on the lips and different parts of the body as well as on objects; some with extended fingers, some with bent fingers and variations thereof. The number of times the sign was made also varied from as many as seven times and to as many as to the four parts of the body. This version of The Sign continued through the 11th century when the one larger sign we are familiar with today evolved. The Sign went from the right shoulder to the left, which is still maintained today in the Eastern Church. Archeological findings of sculptures and pictures reveal that both Eastern and Latin Christians used three extended fingers through the 12th and 13th centuries. St. John Chrysostum taught the Sign that we are accustomed to with the open hand beginning at the forehead to the breast then to the left and right shoulders. He taught that in thy blessing the Lord Jesus came down from

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the head, which is the Father, into earth by His incarnation and from earth to the left side, that is Hell, by His bitter passion and from there into His Father's right side by His glorious Ascension.



Standing

Even without religious connotation, standing is a very powerful posture. Common references that we often use show the honor and dignity of standing, e.g. *stand up for your rights*, take a *stand*, *stand up for what you believe*, *stand and be counted*, *stand with me*, I'll *stand by you*, *stand at attention*, etc. etc. The first Christians were Jews and then, as in Christ's time as well as now, it is the custom of Jews to *stand* while praying whether it is in the Temple or at the Wailing Wall. In Matthew 6, Jesus makes reference to not being like the hypocrites who love to *stand up* and pray in the houses of worship and on street corners. In Luke 17: the Pharisee and the tax collector both *stood* to pray, one boastfully and one humbly but both *stood in prayer*.

Those of us old enough to remember the Latin Mass would know that it was time to *stand* when the priest sang. The priest's song was a call to prayer, "Oremus" or "Let us pray." We also *stand* in witness to the truth of the Gospel accounts, in honor when we take the vows of marriage, in dignity when we receive the sacraments, in respect when we greet the presider, ministers and servers, in reverence when we sing and in faith when we pray.

More to come in the next issue: kneeling, genuflecting and sitting.

We hope that you will save the date for this year's all new, re-vamped, Lawn Party. (July 13-15) To begin with, we took a vote and renamed the event *St. Ann's Summer Festival*. Next, we took the best from our old Lawn Parties, threw in lots of fresh, new events and came up with one heck of a family weekend! Some of the returning events are listed below. If you would like to add ideas or volunteer for a few hours to help us, please call the church office at 637-0157 or talk to Father C.J.

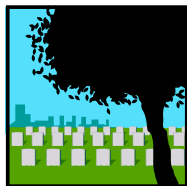


Back By Popular Demand

- Live auction
- Continuous food & drink
- Bounce House
- Tag sale
- Fried dough
- Bake sale
- Theme basket raffle
- Money raffle
- Book sale
- Ice cream treats
- Sunday pancake breakfast



Memorial Day Mass
The Significance of Catholic Cemeteries:



This year's **Memorial Day Mass** will be held on **Monday, May 28, at 10 a.m.** in our cemetery (weather permitting). Bring a chair for yourself and celebrate and honor our deceased veterans and all those resting in this sacred ground. In case of bad weather, Mass will be held in the church.

"Lord, for your faithful people, life has changed, not ended." When one enters a Catholic cemetery, like St. Ann's Cemetery, the church's teachings about life, death, and life after death should come to mind. Cemeteries are a part of our ritual space. In the Diocese of Springfield, there are some 50 Catholic cemeteries dating from the time of the first Catholic presence in Western Massachusetts. Whether diocesan or parochial, Catholic cemeteries in the Diocese of Springfield are service organizations. They seek to help people face the hard reality of death in the context of the promise of Eternal Life.

The people of St. Ann and St. Vincent de Paul parishes wish to thank Marcel Roux, and his staff, Tom Kirby, Dave Read, and Gene Lagonia, for all the work they do to make our cemetery so beautiful! They work hard to keep the grounds mowed and raked, and the stones in good repair. We are blessed to have such a dedicated crew taking care of our loved ones in their final resting place.

Don't forget that our Lenox Parade begins at noon on this day!

Our Sanctuary Candle burns for.....

If you would like St. Ann or St. Patrick's Sanctuary Candle to burn for 14 days in memory of someone or for a special occasion, please call the office at your parish and reserve the date you would like. Cost is just \$14 for the two week period.

St. Ann Church - 637-0157

St. Patrick Church 232-4427

St. Ann Cemetery Records

As I write this for our April issue of The Goodnewsletter, I realize that I have been working on our cemetery records for about 3 years now. Over the last 100+ years, our cemetery cards were not kept up as accurately as they probably should have been. So, I have been trying to account for as many burials and as many plot owners as I can. I have been blessed with help from some extraordinary people in our parish. They have spend many, many hours logging in data, creating spreadsheets, talking up the need for better records, and more. After all is said and done, it really all comes down to one thing. I need *everyone* who is reading this article, to ask themselves if they own a plot, have family who owns a plot, or know of anyone in their family who has long since been buried in a plot at St. Ann Cemetery. If they answer yes to any of those questions, if they haven't already done so, I need them to complete the form on the next page with as much information as they know, and return it to the office. Even if it isn't your immediate family, fill a form out with what information you can. The information of who is buried in a plot is key to my project. I am cross checking all of our old cemetery cards against the new information that comes in, to be sure I can account for every grave and every person in our cemetery. ***I can't do it without your help***, so please take a moment and complete the form on the next page. You can place it in the collection basket, mail it, drop it off, whatever works! I have extra forms if you need them. Thank you in advance for any help you can offer!

-Deb Kuni

St. Ann Cemetery Burial Record

please return completed form to: St. Ann Church, 134 Main St., Lenox, MA 01240

(for office use only) Section _____ Grave # _____ # of plots owned _____

Contact Info:

Your Name: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Best time to reach you _____

Are you the current contact name and phone number responsible for this grave? ____yes ____no

If not, please provide us with whom you think that name, address and phone number should be.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Family name of *original* purchaser of grave(s) _____

Please list the names and birth and death dates of all of your family members known to be buried at St. Ann Cemetery:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Other Info.</u>
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St. Ann's Re-Invents the Lawn Party

Have you heard about it? Have you been contacted about it? What is it, that would inspire a growing number of our parishioners to gather for an hour or so every few weeks since last summer? "It" is the shared passion to shake up and re-invent what has been known for the last ten years as "The Lawn Party."

Lessons Learned in 2011:

Soon after last year's Lawn Party, a lively group convened to discuss what worked well

and not so well. Their key findings:

- ➔ Planning began too late, with too few people involved.
- ➔ We wore out our pastor (and several long-time participants).
- ➔ We had "OK" financial results, but in some respects we missed the goal of an exciting family-centric event.
- ➔ We need to re-invent the Lawn Party.

Inventing The Future:

The group evolved into a re-invention team, sharing ideas and collaborating on the outline for this year. Key themes are:

- ➔ More family-friendly events on Saturday and Sunday.
- ➔ Enticing and welcoming Lenox visitors as never before.
- ➔ Strengthening our financial results through addition of a Friday "casino night" event focused on fund raising.

The "Summer Festival" is Born:

A re-invention deserves a new name. After polling at Masses in December, the planning team chose "Summer Festival" as the name that best captures the blend of exciting, family-friendly celebration in the Berkshires we plan to achieve.

Making It Real — Together:

All of this involves a bigger scope than ever. The re-invention team believes the

key to success is to involve more parishioners in the Summer Festival, both in planning and during the weekend itself.

By carving up the dozens of planning and coordination tasks formerly undertaken by one or two harried chairpeople, we can enlist more helpers who might each take on one or two tasks. The goal is for no one to feel burdened!

We Need You!

The plans are in place. We know

what needs to be done. The ranks of helpers are growing. Won't you please consider joining to form the greatest number of volunteers ever, as we together create an exciting, fun and profitable 3-day Summer Festival? Please call the St. Ann's Rectory at 637-0157 today!

July 13-15, 2012
 Friday - Saturday - Sunday
Save The Date!
 The St. Ann's Summer Festival
Don't Miss It!

From the July 17, **2012** Berkshire Eagle:

St. Ann's Conducts Most-Successful Gathering Ever

- ➔ *Rev. C. J. Waitekus:* "Everyone was so happy. It was just...fun!"
- ➔ *Finance Council:* "We raised \$30k toward our Knights of Columbus debt!"
- ➔ *Volunteer:* "I had a great time. It felt so good, I want to play an even bigger role next year."
- ➔ *Parent:* "It's worth bringing my kids here, and staying."
- ➔ *Teenager:* "This is where I wanted to be this weekend."
- ➔ *Visitor from Lenox:* "I felt welcomed from the first minute!"
- ➔ *Visitor from out of town:* "This was very special. I loved it, and can't wait to come back next year."

Spectacular incentives for outsiders to attend and participate

**Family-appealing...
 Youth-irresistible...
 Adult-engaging...**

St. Ann's RCIA Program

Once again, we approach the beautiful Easter Season. We witness new life in the rebirth of the beauty of nature that surrounds us. The RCIA team rejoices as well in the new life that it has nourished in preparation for the Easter liturgy. On Holy Saturday the parish will welcome new life in the person of a very dedicated young woman. During the liturgy on that evening she will be baptized, receive her first Holy Communion and will be confirmed. Her faithfulness to the program and her very active participation and eagerness to learn about the Catholic faith has been inspirational.

REVIEW: What is the RCIA? It is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. What's that? It is a program devised by the Church to introduce those interested to the beliefs, practices and teachings of the Catholic Church. There is presently a "team" that has been working for several years to keep the program in progress in the parish. Meetings are held on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30, in St. Ann's Family Center, September through May. The general format is to discuss the readings that will be heard on the following Sunday at mass. Following that teachings from the Catholic Catechism are presented. Everyone participates in some way whenever they feel comfortable to do so. In recent years many full-fledged Catholics have been regular attendees with the purpose of renewing and furthering of their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith.

Our Holy Father has been reminding us and encouraging us all to be evangelizes. Let us all ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to respond faithfully to this challenge in whatever way that we can. Don't be afraid "to reach out and touch someone". Spread the good word. October will soon be upon us. How can you be involved?

MEMORIES OF CUBA

BULLYING

by Nora O'Brien

My brother, Carlos, like our Dad, is a small person, but with a heart of gold. Playing marbles was very popular in Cuba, where we lived when we were young.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

BY MARY ANNE AND CAROL KIRBY

Congratulations to St. Ann's Circle of Friends for successfully completing the fourth year of their Ministry. Thank you to all our members for sharing their time and talent and dedication to help make our ministry a wonderful addition to our parish family.



The men and woman of the Circle of Friends agree that this is a very rewarding experience for them. As we enter our fifth year of our ministry we invite you to think about joining the Circle of Friends. Just let us know if you would like to join, or if you would like to learn more about the ministry. Please call Mary Anne or Carol Kirby at 637-2188.

We are truly blessed with our group of volunteers. We thank God for leading us on this journey.

Our Dad traveled a lot and would always bring home a bag of shiny marbles for my brother.

Otoniel was a slinky, tall young boy who would take my brothers best marbles from him. My brother would come home upset and tell our mother, "He did it again; he took my marbles, after he had been warned by his mother not to do it again." My brother stayed close to home because he was afraid of Otoniel. Carlos would be playing with other children when Otoniel would appear and proceeded to bully them; taking their marbles.

One time, a young man named Ramito (whose real name was Ramon), 6 feet tall, and almost 200 pounds, appeared and put his foot on Otoniels hand as he was taking my brother's marbles. "Don't you ever touch this kid's marbles, or you will answer to me," he said to Otoniels. My brother was shocked and ask him, "Why are you defending me?" Ramito said, "Remember the lady who asked you for some clothes so she could go to work? That was my mother. You were so generous to her."

Last year, a young Hispanic man was at my brother's place of work, shivering from the cold, people were making fun of him. Carlos asked him, "Where is your coat?" He responded, "I don't own one." Carlos told the young man to meet him there the next day.

Continued on page 17

5th Annual Catholic Women's Conference
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 8:00 A M – 5:00 P M
BELLAMY MIDDLE SCHOOL, CHICOPEE, MA
REGISTER BY APRIL 9, 2012

Morning

8:00 a.m. Registration (coffee & pastries) Exhibits open—Gym	12:45- Group 2: Lunch
8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration is available until 1:30 p.m.	1:30p.m. Group 1: Exhibitors, Book Signing, Reconciliation and Eucharistic, Adoration
9:00 am. Welcome and Opening Prayer—Ann Hurley — Emcee	1:30 p.m. Hem of the Garment- Eucharistic Procession Msgr. Christopher D. Connelly
9:15 am. “Between Heaven and Mirth” Father James Martin, SJ.	2:15 p.m. “The Easiest Prayer Ever”: Ignatian Spirituality Father James Martin, SJ
10:15am Break	3:15p.m. Break
10:45 am “The Contemplative in You” Sister Mary Johnson, SND	3:45 p.m. Liturgy & Special Project Collection Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell Music by Robin Sheehan & We Believe”
Afternoon	
12:00- Group 1: Lunch	
12:45 pm. Group 2: Exhibitors, Book Signing, Reconciliation and Eucharistic, Adoration	

10th Annual Catholic Men Conference
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012 8:00 A M – 5:00 P M
BELLAMY MIDDLE SCHOOL, CHICOPEE, MA
REGISTER BY APRIL 15, 2012

7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration Welcome & Prayer	Eucharistic Healing Procession
9:00 am. Keynote Speaker Fr. Benedict Groeschel. C.R.F.	1:30 Keynote Speaker George Weigel
10:00 am. Keynote Speaker Tony Melendez	2:20 Music/Break
11:00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	2:30 Keynote Speaker Robert Rogers
11:15-12:30 Lunch Reconciliation, Adoration, Vendors	3:20 Music/Break
12:45 Holy Hour/Worship & Praise “Hem of the Garment”	3:30 Keynote Speaker Alex Jones
	4:30 Celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with Bishop Timothy McDonnell
	5:45 Departure

Bishop McDonnell reminds us of the Annual Diocesan Men's and Women's Catholic Conferences this year. Because of the damage at Cathedral High School, both of these important spiritual days will be held at Bellamy School in Chicopee, near Exit 5 of the Mass Turnpike.

These annual conferences are so very important to help nourish us and inspire us in our faith. The Men's Conference will be held on April 28th and celebrate its 10th anniversary. The Women's Conference marks its 5th anniversary this year, and will be held on April 21st. Many gifted speakers and presenters are scheduled to appear at these two events. For more information, please call St. Ann Church office at 637-0157 or the Diocese of Springfield at 1-800-854-0003.

Lenox Triad: Help for Elders

By Jan Chague

The Lenox Triad was formed in 2005 to prevent the victimization of our Lenox elders and promote their protection. Triad is a partnership with Lenox senior citizens, the Lenox Chief of Police and Fire Departments, the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the Director of the Lenox Council on Aging. These groups make up the Lenox Triad, which meets every other month from September through May with a Triad picnic in July for all Berkshire County Triad members.

At the Lenox Triad meeting, which starts at 9:30 a.m., each department of the partnership reports on any crime related incidents that would affect the elders of our Lenox community. Once the reports are given people have the opportunity to discuss the issues presented or other topics of concern. Recently some of the topics have been telephone scams such as the grandparent scam.

A person calls telling the grandparent that his or her grandchild has been in a serious accident and money needs to be wired immediately. This person relies on the shock of the message to instantly alarm the grandparent into action. Lenox Chief of Police encourages everyone to be alert and cautious on any suspicious calls received. Ask the person for a phone number so you can call back, while you check with your family about the accident. Most likely the person will hang up suspecting you are onto the scheme. Other scams are with people posing as contractors who will replace your roof or asphalt your driveway. Be vigilant, especially if they insist on money up front and tell you they will bring the contract back to you the next day when they start the work. If you give them the money you will probably never see them again. Just let them know you are not interested right now and send them on their way. Also call the Police Department to alert them to the possible scam.

Our Lenox elders have a wonderful resource in the Lenox Triad, which meets at the Lenox Community Center's living room. After the business part of the meeting there is usually a guest speaker at 10 a.m. During our last meeting we had Ned Roche, Funeral Director of the Roche Funeral Home who spoke on Funeral Planning. We have also had Margie Ware from Elder Services speak on Medicare.

Our upcoming meetings will be Marcia McKenzie, M.ED., Director, Diversity Initiatives and Western Massachusetts Alzheimer's Assoc., who will speak on Aspects of Alzheimer's. Marcia will be here on Monday May 14, 2012 at 10 a.m. On Friday May 18, 2012 Lenox Triad has a special meeting with Sheriff Tom Bowler, who will speak about his role as Berkshire County Sheriff and the Department's interaction within Berkshire County. All Berkshire County Triads, Council on Aging offices and the public are welcome to come to the Lenox Community Center at 9:30 a.m. for a morning of camaraderie and valuable information. The Dalton Triad has invited the Lenox Triad and the public to a special meeting on April 18, 2012 at 1 p.m. There will be representatives from the SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) to discuss Medicare fraud and how to protect you from abuse. All the above programs are sure to raise awareness and be informative to all who attend.

Besides the Lenox Triad meetings there is the Yellow Dot Program. A yellow dot is placed on the upper left corner of the rear window to alert police if you are in an accident. The yellow dot means there is a packet of information about you in the glove compartment, which consists of your name, address, emergency contact, medications, and hospital of choice, your doctor, or a pet at home. This information helps the police know how to care for you if you are unconscious or unable to speak. It is a program that is easy to partake in. Anyone interested in participating in the Yellow Dot Program may call the Lenox Community Center at 413.637.5535.

The information you attain from a meeting could someday save you from being scammed, having a financial loss or placed in harm's way. Lenox Triad welcomes everyone to attend its meetings to find out about other ways to protect you and be safe.

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Hampton Terrace Bed & Breakfast, 91 Walker St., Lenox, 637-1773

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Continued from page 13

one." Carlos told the young man to meet him there the name day.

After work Carlos went to Sears and asked the clerk there if they had a warm coat that was not too expensive. She said, "God is with you, we just mark this one down to half price and it is the last one we have."

The next day, Carlos brought the new coat to work and gave it to the young man who had been so cold. The young man took the coat and with tears in his eyes, said, "No one has ever been this nice to me." A year later, the young man came to see my brother and told him, "You changed my life. I'm a good person because of you."

I love my brother and my dream was to bring Ramito to this country and have them reunite. Carlos tried for a long time to find Ramito, but had lost contact and he couldn't locate him.

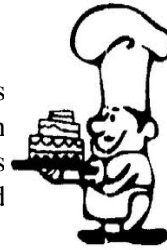
Ramito was a giant in my eyes, the way he protected my brother. They became best friends who swam together, ate together and played together. I pray he has survived in the hell Castro made of our beautiful island of Cuba.

Bullying cannot be tolerated even a little bit. Each of us can make a difference by not turning a blind eye to it. If you know someone who is a bully or who is being bullied, please tell a trusted adult who can stop the suffering of the one being bullied and just maybe make a positive change in the life of the one who feels the need to be a bully.



Greek Pastry Sale

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 73 Bradford St. Pittsfield, MA (across from Dery Funeral Home) will hold a Greek Pastry sale on Saturday April 7th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. For information, please call 442-8113. This event is sponsored by the Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society. Come on out and be Greek for a day!



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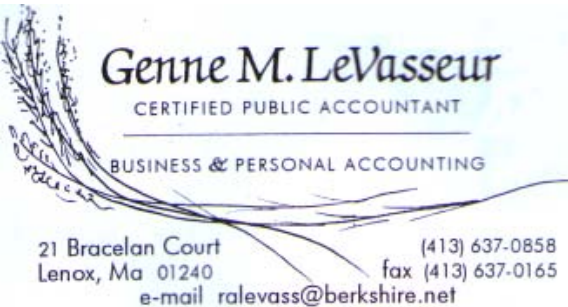
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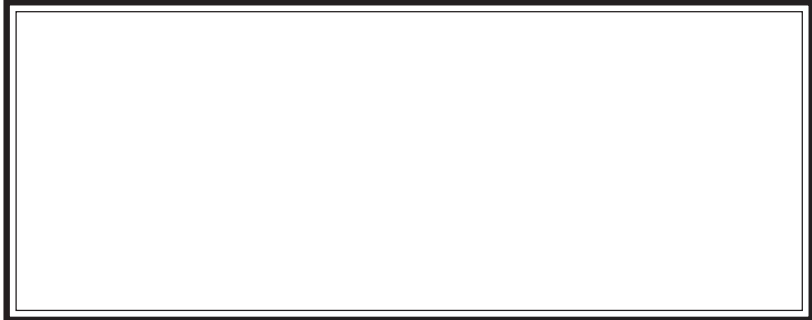
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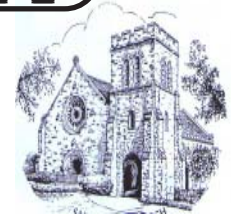
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Elmer Hansen
Ambrose McIntyre
Corrine Armstrong
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No new members - No Deaths - No Baptisms

St. Patrick Parish

New Members

Deaths

Yolanda Dus
Janet Cardillo
Edith Jamross

Baptism

