

The Goodnewsletter

A Newsletter for Members of St. Ann, St. Vincent de Paul & St. Patrick parishes

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A Message From the Pastor



“DO YOU PROMISE RESPECT AND OBEDIENCE TO ME AND TO MY SUCCESSORS?” This is a life changing question that is asked to a young man as he kneels before his Bishop, who is about to ordain him a priest. Thoughts, dreams, hopes and memories of life flash through a young man’s head as he is asked this. This very question was asked to a young seminarian named Daniel B. Brunton, 55 years ago this spring. Fr. Dan answered, “I do” when Bishop Christopher Weldon asked him, and he has served faithfully as a priest in our diocese ever since. A retired pastor now, but still very active, he served here at St. Ann and St. Vincent de Paul for 13 years. Soon this good priest and friend will be back (on Sunday, May 31st) in Lenox to celebrate 55 years of priestly ministry at our 9:45 a.m. Mass. We congratulate him, a bit early, and look so very forward to the month of May and having him back with us. Fifty-five years is a huge milestone and we applaud his “yes” when asked to serve as a priest.

With this said, next year at this time, I will be approaching my 25th anniversary of ordination as a priest. Though not 55 years, I can’t believe my 25 years have gone so quickly. I often ask myself, “Where have they gone?” I, too, was asked that same life-changing question as I knelt before Bishop Joseph Maguire, who ordained me on Nov. 9, 1991. Like Fr. Brunton before me, I, too, had dreams and memories and hopes flash before my eyes as I knelt at St. Michael’s Cathedral with my family looking on.

What a blessing the priesthood has been to me! My years as a priest thus far and my assignments have been wonderful. When I think of the people I have met and the places I have been honored to visit, it just amazes and humbles me. Throughout my almost 25 years, however, I have always longed to visit a very special place in this world. As I celebrate daily and weekend Mass as a Catholic priest and read the scriptures, I have always wanted to see with my own eyes, the places where Jesus was born, lived, grew up, preached, healed, was crucified and rose from the dead. I have always wanted to “walk in the footsteps” of Jesus and travel as a Pilgrim to The Holy Land. Well, that dream will become a reality this month as I travel with people from throughout New England to The Holy Land! From Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12 to April 21, we will visit places like Nazareth, The Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Caesarea, Cana, Jericho, Bethlehem and Emmaus. These places that we read about each weekend in the scriptures will come to life as roughly 35 pilgrims “walk in the footsteps of the Risen Christ”.

The Psalms read: “I rejoiced when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem.” (Psalm 122:1-2) This pilgrimage would not be possible for me without the generosity of friends and I hope and pray it enriches my vocation and priesthood for the next 25 years. To see and hear and touch the holy places that Jesus visited, and then bring that experience back to our parishes and share it with you from the pulpit and in your living rooms will be life-changing just like the question that was asked of me almost 25 years ago. May you have a Blessed Holy Week and a Joyful Easter!!

-Fr. C.J.

Editor's Note
by Deb Kuni

In this spring issue of our Good-newsletter you will find many interesting articles. Some are from new contributors and some from returning writers.

Michael Cleary shares a great story about a Christmas gift he received. It will leave you with a good feeling and perhaps start you to thinking.....

Lillian Colvin shares an essay she wrote for school about the kind of woman she wants to be. Very insightful for such a young lady! It is very well written and will remind you that you may very well be that someone special in a young person's life, if you're lucky!!

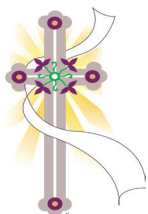
Father C.J. shares with us his long-time desire to visit the Holy Land. Could 2015 be the year?!

Our parish and finance council's chairs both share news from their committees. We have new members on our parish council that we hope will enjoy their time on the board and help our parish remain strong and grow.

We have provided you with a list of Holy Week Masses and confession opportunities. Be sure to save that page for future reference.

Also, be sure to check out Deacon Dan's next article in his Sacramental series and Lorry Decorie's next installment in her Catholic Traditions series. Both very interesting and full of things we should know as Catholics! There are many other articles too.

I wish you all a very happy Easter season. God bless.



Circle of Friends

by Carol & Mary Anne Kirby

Circle of Friends is a ministry under the arm of the Parish Council's Community Outreach Commission. Circle of Friends is a group of caring volunteers from St. Ann's and St. Vincent de Paul parishes that have offered their assistance to grieving families when the family has requested the use of the Family Center for a reception following the funeral of a loved one. Circle of Friends will assist the families with the process of the reception in the Family Center, from start to finish. We also assist with the reception after a baptism.

Time after time we hear comments from grieving families how wonderful it is to have our help at a very difficult time in their lives. Please take a moment and think about all the details you had to cope with when you lost a loved one and think how much you have to offer someone else. Please consider joining the Circle of Friends by contacting Parish Council Community Outreach Commission members Carol and Mary Anne Kirby at 637-2188 and have your name added to the list of volunteers.

This has been a very rewarding experience for all of us. God bless all our members and we thank them

for all their time and talent.

Save The Date!

This year Fr. Brunton will celebrate his 55th year of Priesthood. In honor of that occasion, Father Brunton will return to Lenox on Sunday, May 31st to celebrate the 9:45 Mass. We will offer a reception for him following Mass.

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Easter Prayer

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the threefold joyful shout resound throughout a world sighing in darkness and death because the Lord is risen from the tomb this day.

He has broken the chains of death that once held bound all of Adam's race. He smashed asunder death's oppressive hand and restored life to all who bore the ancient curse. Christ is triumphant over the powers of darkness and brings light and life to all believers. Therefore, friends, rejoice with strong hearts and let the church echo the joyful sound of heaven's choir and all of earth's creation.

With great acclamation and holy praise we cry out: Alleluia! Alleluia! ALLELUIA!

The Seder Meal



The Last SUPPER ~ THE First Mass

As a Jew, Jesus would have observed Passover every year of His life. It was a rite of spring. The Seder Meal is different from other holiday meals in that there is a definite order of ritual, blessings, hymns and prayers. It does not take place in a Temple but in the home and the celebrants are free to use their own words. Passover celebrates the freedom from slavery under the Egyptians.

Mathew, Mark and Luke describe how Jesus tells Peter and John to, "Go and get the Passover Meal ready. To go into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover Meal?' He will show you a large furnished room upstairs where you will get everything ready." According to custom, that house and that room would have been thoroughly cleaned and any foods containing yeast would have been removed. Only dishes, cups, and cooking utensils that had never come in contact with yeast would be used for the Seder.

The first born son above the age of 13 of each family fasts in memory of the Angel of death passing over the marked homes of the Israelites but killing those of the Egyptians. Christ being the first born of God the Father as well as of Mary would have observed this rule.

Christ and His Apostles would have reclined at the table to symbolize their rest from slavery and reflecting the custom of independent Romans. The first Passover was eaten standing up to represent the haste of the exodus.

The Seder begins with the filling of a cup of wine and the lighting of two white candles which represent the presence of God along with His blessing. (Thus the requirement, even today, that Mass may not be said without lit candles). Christ would have said a prayer of thanksgiving, e.g. "Blessed art Thou, Eternal God, King of the universe who hast given us life and kept us alive and brought us to this moment." All would drink the first cup. Some are of the belief it was at this point that Christ washed the feet of the Apostles.

Each would take a green vegetable and dip it into salt water to represent the tears of slavery and eat it.

Three matzos, one on top of the other are usually covered with a ceremonial cloth. The middle matzo, represents the paschal lamb sacrificed at the time of the flight from Egypt and its blood was sprinkled on the doorposts of the Jews so God would Passover those houses and not strike their first born males. The middle matzo is broken in half and eventually, during the meal, is joined together to symbolize that what is broken is not lost. Was it the middle matzo that Christ took and broke and said "This is my body"? We don't know. Did He use the joining together of the broken matzo to symbolize His crucified body, His physical separation from His followers upon His death, in order to show that all was not lost and that that He would return? He is often referred to as The Lamb of God. Once the matzo is rejoined everyone would eat a piece of it. Was this the foreshadowing of our communion meal?

The 2nd cup of wine is now filled and the foods of the Seder plate would be explained: the matzo is bread without yeast as the Jews fled Egypt in haste. Our communion bread, as the bread Christ used at the Seder and said "This is my body...", is without yeast. The bitter herbs represent the bitter lives lived by the Jews under Pharaoh. The egg, as the Easter egg, represents life and growth and the coming into the Promised Land. The bone represents the Passover Lamb and the blood on the doorposts. The apple, nut and honey mixture represent the mortar used to build the pharaoh's buildings, the sweetness symbolizes hope.

At this point there would be a retelling of Jewish history beginning with Abraham through the time of slavery.

Seder, continued from page 3

From the 2nd cup, droplets of wine, representing blood, would be dropped as each of the ten plagues is chanted: The water turned bloody, the infestation of frogs, the affliction of lice, the infestation of wild animals, the killing of the Egyptian live stock, the epidemic of boils, the hail storm, the destruction of vegetation, the darkness over Egypt, the killing of the first born of the Egyptians. The cup is drunk in remembrance of deliverance, followed by prayers of thanksgiving, "Blessed are you, Eternal God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth."

The foods on the plate are eaten with the matzo and the teaching of the Exodus is over with the removal of the plate. A festive meal is now served along with singing, chanting of miracles that took place during the flight as the parting of the Red Sea, etc.

The 3rd cup is filled at the end of the meal and several blessings are sung, ending with "Blessed art Thou, Eternal God, King of the universe, creator of the fruit of the vine."

The 4th cup is filled for Elijah, the prophet, who was to return and prepare mankind for the coming of the Messiah. It is thought that this cup that Christ takes and gives us as His blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins thus fulfilling the promises of a redeemer. No one drinks this cup during the Seder.

A final prayer of praise, the Hillel or our alleluia is sung for freedom as Christ and the Apostles leave and depart for the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane to pray...



Do You Know What This Is?

I didn't, until I took this picture and wrote this article. It is called an Ossuary. In looking up a good discription of it for this article, I found this one:

A bone casket, notably that of a person buried in the Near East in the first century. Ossuaries contain inscribed names commonly used by the Jews in the time of Christ, along with rarer ones. They testify to the historical authenticity of the names used in the Gospels, as also of such titles as "master" or "teacher" (didaskalos), although the designation previously had been cited as evidence of a second-century date. (Latin ossuarium, a bone urn.)

In more modern times, we no longer place skeletal bones in these ossuaries, but instead place urns containing ashes from those who are cremated. At St. Ann's we will offer families the choice at funerals of processing down the aisle with their loved one's urn placed in this wooden box, or not. It is a very beautifully made wood box with handles on two of the sides for carrying. Parishioner Steve Maggio carefully and lovingly made this for us. Once again, we thank Steve so much for crafting this beautiful box that I'm sure we will use and cherish for years to come.

Parish Council Update

Parking in Lenox

Anybody who has tried to navigate the historic district of Lenox during popular local events, such as Apple Squeeze, knows of the parking challenge. The Parish Council is encouraged to know that the town is looking at various options to improve the situation.

We may, in fact, be able to help.

Our February meeting included a special visit from Lenox Town Manager Christopher Ketchen, who shared some ideas about improving the parking and traffic flow in the downtown area.

The town is considering several approaches to solving the parking challenge, including changing the parking regulations and creating or finding more spaces. It was in this latter context that he asked the Parish Council to consider some ideas. It is important to note here that these are just ideas, nothing has been formally proposed, to either the Lenox Planning Board, Board of Selectors, or, in fact, to the Parish.

It was noted that cars often park near our cemetery entrance off Ore Bed Road, especially during ball games across the street. Indeed, the town manager acknowledged that sometimes, attendees to ball games actually park within our cemetery, a practice that needs to be discouraged.

But to the point at hand, Mr. Ketchen wondered if the parish would consider granting an easement that would actually (legally) allow such parking at other times on Ore Bed Road. Some landscape adjustments might need to be made, to accommodate the cars; we had a good exchange about the concern for making any such changes palatable, and as environmentally sensitive as possible. As conceived, no trees would be removed in the process of creating these additional spaces.

Other property owners are also being approached.

This is a preliminary idea, and the Parish Council recognizes that the Diocese –the actual owner of the property— would need to agree with any plan before it could be implemented. And, as your representatives, the Parish Council would participate in that decision process.

Town Manager Ketchen approached us first, before talking to any Town boards, to see if there is a realistic chance of coming up with a mutually acceptable plan. We encouraged him to develop his ideas further, believing that an agreeable plan can be devised. We –the Town, the Town Manager, and your Parish Council—will continually seek your input. As the months progress, and assuming the town does want to proceed, there will be hearings and ample opportunities to make our opinions known.

When the minutes of our February meeting are finalized, they will be posted, and all parishioners (anybody who is interested, actually) can see the various items that were raised in this very friendly discussion. Feel free to make your opinions known to any of the Council members.

We fully recognize that the needs and interests of the parish are our top priority, and we also want to be good citizens of the community. If the goal of creating more parking spaces is achieved, getting around the historic Lenox village will be easier.

We'll keep you posted.

Edward Bride

Parish Pastoral Council Chair

“The Kind of Woman I Want to Be”

Real Woman Essay

by Lillian Colvin

Mrs. Cady’s 3rd Grade

Can you name a woman who is smart patient, caring, joyful, creative and hopeful? Well, I can, and her name is Sandy Morley. Sandy is a wife and the mother of three girls: Sarah, Hannah and Alyssa. She is the director of the youth choir at my church, and she is the reason I love to sing! Sandy is a real woman because she lives a good life and inspires others, especially kids like me!

Sandy Morley was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1969. She has one brother and three sisters. Sandy’s best friend’s name was Tim. He was her best friend because they both liked to do things together like play outside and ride bikes. Sandy’s happiest childhood memory was jumping from her tree house into a pile of pine needles. Real women like Sandy know that you are only young once, so you better have fun while you can!

Sandy went to school in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. Her favorite subject was math. Sandy’s best school memory was winning the tower of Hanoi contest. Sandy played soccer and basketball. The name of her old basketball team was, “Gumdrop Square.” She also played violin, piano, the recorder and the glockenspiel. Music was always a big part of her life. Real women know school is important and they cherish the time they spend there.

Growing up, Sandy’s first job was as a preschool teacher. She worked with 18 3-year-olds every day! The job she enjoys most is the one she has now; directing the St. Ann’s Youth Choir. We meet and sing together every Sunday morning. Sandy makes sure that we know our songs, but more importantly, she makes sure that everyone gets a turn to shine and everyone has fun!

Sandy’s favorite place to visit is Scarborough Beach in Maine. She likes to walk along the beach and collect seashells. Sandy also enjoys gardening at her home. She grows her own vegetables and fruit for her family! Sandy said that nature and being outside inspires her in her own life. It makes her happy. Sandy knows that hard work is part of life and that taking care of family is important.

Sandy Morley inspires me because she teaches me things that I have grown to love like singing and acting! She also teaches me to follow my dreams and reach for the stars! Sandy has put a song in my heart that will stay there forever. She is a leader, a mother, a wife, a teacher and real woman who is a REAL part of my life!



St. Ann's Parish Nurse

Dianne Romeo



Women's Dinner to Resume

On Monday, April 6, our monthly "Women of the Parish Meal," gathering will resume, only this time it will be a lunch date. We will hold these events on the first Monday of each month. All you are asked to bring is yourself, maybe a friend, and a small meal to share. We'll do the rest. Take this opportunity to meet new members of the parish or chat with someone you haven't seen in a while.

At this first gathering on April 6, Judi King, my chef extraordinaire, will demonstrate a simple vegetable dish to add to your recipe finder. Then we'll all share a bit of it as we sit down to eat.

Please join us at noon on April 6th for an afternoon of food and friendship.

Attending the 13th Annual Catholic Mens Conference

by Scott Harrington

Recently, I had the privilege and the honor to attend the 13th Annual Catholic Mens Conference in Chicopee, titled: *For Freedom, Christ Set Us Free.*

I am returning to the Catholic Church after almost 30 years and so to go to this conference was in a way a home-coming for me. To be in the company of almost 300 men (50 vendors, 25 Priests including and the Bishop) was a very welcoming and appreciated experience.

One take away from the event, for me, was the importance of evaluating where my priorities are. To look how I spend my time and to make sure to include time for God in my weekly planning. Its all too easy to schedule away the week with work and other pursuits...So I would like to say I am glad to be back and thanks to Father C.J. for encouraging to go and supporting me! So Men - mark your calendars for March 5, 2016, and I'll see YOU there!

Annual Women's Conference

We have great speakers coming! Please save the date.

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Mike Leonard is the Executive Producer of the Catholicism series, a ten-part, global documentary illustrating the story of the Catholic Faith, with Father Robert Barron. He also is also an acclaimed filmmaker, author, and a veteran correspondent for NBC's TODAY show.

Alice Camille is an author, religious educator and parish retreat leader. Her reflections appear regularly in publications such as Living with Christ and This Is the Day. She has earned awards from the Catholic Press Association and often leaves her home in New England to speak at conferences, parish missions, workshops.

Allison Gingras founded Reconciled to You Ministries in 2009 to share her love of the Catholic Faith and ways it can be lived out in daily life. She does this as a Catholic Radio host, writer, retreat leader and speaker with enthusiasm, passion, and a sense of humor.



The Nicest Gift

by Michael Cleary

A few weeks before Christmas, my wife started asking me what my favorite songs were and why they were important to me. Being a lover of all types of music, I had many and her list was long. Then, she asked me to pare down the list to 6 or 8.

As we talked about different songs, I reminisced about the many divergent paths I'd taken on my life's journey and how interesting it was to realize how clearly music so often reflects one's journeys.

I talked about a Celtic song my mother used to sing, *Slievenamon*, which means 'Woman of the Mountain' and is about a mountain in County Tipperary with views from its summit of great beauty— mountain and valley, river and wood. My mother used to ride her bicycle to her job in 'business' near Slievenamon. The song is often sung at major occasions within Ireland and in particular after hurling and football games, reminding me of home.

Growing up very, very poor in Ireland without a father, I felt there was little for me in the way of opportunity if I stayed there. When I first heard Paul Simon's song, *My Little Town*, I instantly related because I always felt the same:

“ Everything's the same back in my little town
In my little town I never meant nothing
I was just my father's son
Saving my money
Dreamin' of glory
Twitching like a finger on a trigger of a gun”

Leaving home at 15, I took a long and circuitous path towards the United States, finishing culinary school, working jobs in England and finally spending three years traveling the world and following the sun on the Pacific & Orient passenger cruise ships as a waiter. I often felt the Beatle's *Long and Winding Road* really reflected the story of how I eventually found myself in New York City. One of my favorite bunk mates and I often sang it together as we cruised the world.

New York City offered an unexpected love affair...with the city itself. I'd always been warned to stay away from New York—"it's dirty, there's tons of crime, you won't be able to make it there..." From the moment I walked out of JFK Airport with \$200 in my pocket and a dream in my heart, I knew I'd found a new and exciting home. As it turned out, I enjoyed a great career as a Chef in New York, became a 2:24 marathoner in NY, represented the U.S. in the Sea of Galilee Marathon as a prize for being the top NY State runner in the NYC Marathon, and I met my bride in NY. Naturally, *New York, New York* holds a very special place in my heart and amongst my favorite tunes.

Once I was trained as a chef, I set a goal of owning my own restaurant by age 35. Although I was offered partnerships in New York City with the owners of the Irish pubs and restaurants I worked in, I really wanted to achieve this goal on my own. Thus, Frank Sinatra's *My Way* became a kind of theme song for me. As it turned out, I was 36 when we purchased the Cork 'n Hearth Restaurant in 1986—close enough!

I met my beautiful bride, Kathleen, while we were both running in Central Park. Three and a half years later we married and had Dan Fogelberg's *Longer* played at our wedding. I love to hear that song and think back to the beginning of our journey together.

Anyone with any interest in English Football is familiar with the song *You'll Never Walk Alone*, especially fans of the Liverpool Football Club which took the song on as their anthem, played before each home game. But anyone with any kind of Faith can't help but be moved by the inspiring lyrics which encourage us to 'walk on' through all of life's many challenges, knowing we'll never walk alone.

So, those were some of the songs I shared with Kathleen. Apparently, she'd gotten to know a local award-winning pianist, Jessica Roemischer (www.painobeautiful.com). Jessica creates personalized CDs for people. Her strategy is to meet with a client and discuss the music they'd like to have played and why each song is meaningful.

The Gift, continued on page 9. . .

The Gift, continued from page 8. . .

Then as she plays the songs, she reflects on those stories thus adding a truly personal touch to the music. After Kathleen had Skyped with Jessica and told her 'my story', Kathleen added some information about how she always felt at peace with our relationship; it just felt right to her. Jessica asked her if there was a song that gave her those feelings of peace and 'all is well with the world.'

A couple days later, Kathleen asked her to add ***What a Wonderful World*** to the selections. The client can personalize the CD case as well. While our house was destroyed by fire in 2009, the firemen asked us if there was anything we really wanted to save. I asked for a photograph of the Main Street in Portarlington, Ireland that shows the house I was born and raised in.

Kathleen took a photo of that picture and sent it to Jessica for the cover along with a Celtic road sign to County Laois, my county. Jessica had the sign superimposed into the picture. Kathleen then sent a photo of the two of us in front of the Brooklyn Bridge, symbolizing our meeting and living and loving in New York City.

She titled the CD, ***Dreams Do Come True, piano music for Michael Cleary***. Inside is the dedication: "Dedicated to my husband Michael whose love of life and devoted dedication has made this a wonderful world, indeed."

"I see trees of green, Red roses, too.

I see them bloom, For me and you.

And I think to myself, What a wonderful world"

I have to admit, I was truly stunned on Christmas morning when I opened this gift. And no, I could not hold back the tears that came to my eyes.

I did have some fun telling people, "All I got for Christmas was a CD". Of course, I can't help telling the story of its creation after that! We listen to the music all the time and made copies for our children as a kind of lifetime gift we hope they will cherish.

If you are seeking a special, personal and different gift to give to someone you love, I recommend you call Jessica and see what she can do for you!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 5th ~ Easter

Sunday, April 26th ~ World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday, May 10th ~ Mother's Day

Thursday, May 14th ~ Ascension of the Lord

Friday, May 15th ~ Priest's Concert at Barrington Stage, Pittsfield

Sunday, May 24th ~ Pentecost

Monday, May 25th ~ Memorial Day (the office will be closed on this day)

Sunday, June 21st ~ Father's Day

Friday, July 10 - Sunday, July 12 ~ St. Ann Summer Festival

ST. ANN & ST. VINCENT DEPAUL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Joan Davis D.R.E.

All our students took part in Operation Christmas Child, a project of the Samaritan's Purse Organization. 250 boxes were filled 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.

The 10th Grade Confirmation Class, under the guidance of Fr. C.J., is completing their lessons of formal instruction. They will attend the Mass of Oils at St. Joseph Church during Lent. The *New Spirit* program will be presented on April 28th in the Parish Center. Their Confirmation is in September. Just a reminder that our Confirmation program is a 2 year series of instruction, and attendance is required for both years. If your child cannot make a class or scheduled event please call Fr. C.J.

Our 5th Grade, middle and high school students and parents cleaned our Church before Christmas and were treated to pizza and dessert. For Lent they will be choosing a service project to provide help to our parish community. This is in conjunction with Pope Francis' "Call To Serve" initiative. All churches in our diocese are asking the young people to get involved and engage others. The 5th and 9th grade will see a film or be given a lesson on safe environment/child abuse prevention on April 12th.

The Elementary classes hope you enjoyed the decorations on the trees for Christmas. They really showed their artistic talent and their love of glitter. On March 23rd they prayed the Stations of the Cross and were offered Confession by Father C.J. Hanna Keator will visit each classroom and talk with the students about keeping safe and respecting themselves and others. This is part of the Dioceses' Safe Child Program.

The Second Grade, with the guidance of their teachers, made their First Penance and are now preparing for First Communion. The date for First Communion is May 9th at 9:30 a.m. Once again, the First Grade will host a reception after the service.

First Grade and Kindergarten students are learning about God, our Holy Days, Lent and Easter. Many more students are enjoying their time of formal religious instruction. This is the second year our First Grade class is attending the 9:45 Mass with their teachers and family. Due to family commitments Mrs. Nejaime stepped down as Kindergarten teacher and we thank her for her help. Alice Huth and Emily Tibbets have taken over and are really enjoying the Kindergarten children.

Mrs. Nancy Armstrong, a dedicated volunteer, has moved to Florida. She faithfully put out snacks and filled in for teachers for many years on Monday afternoons. We will miss her and wish her the best.

We hope everyone can join us at the 9:45 Mass on May 4th to honor our students, families and teachers who shared and increased their faith with others this year.

St. Patrick's Rosary Altar Sodality by Shirley Panzeri

The ladies of St. Patrick's Rosary Altar Sodality at St. Patrick's Church, held their last meeting, ever, on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, after many, many years of being in existence.

Shirley Panzeri will continue our prayer network which will now be open to men of the parish. Anyone interested in joining this prayerful ministry may do so by calling Shirley at 413-232-7752.

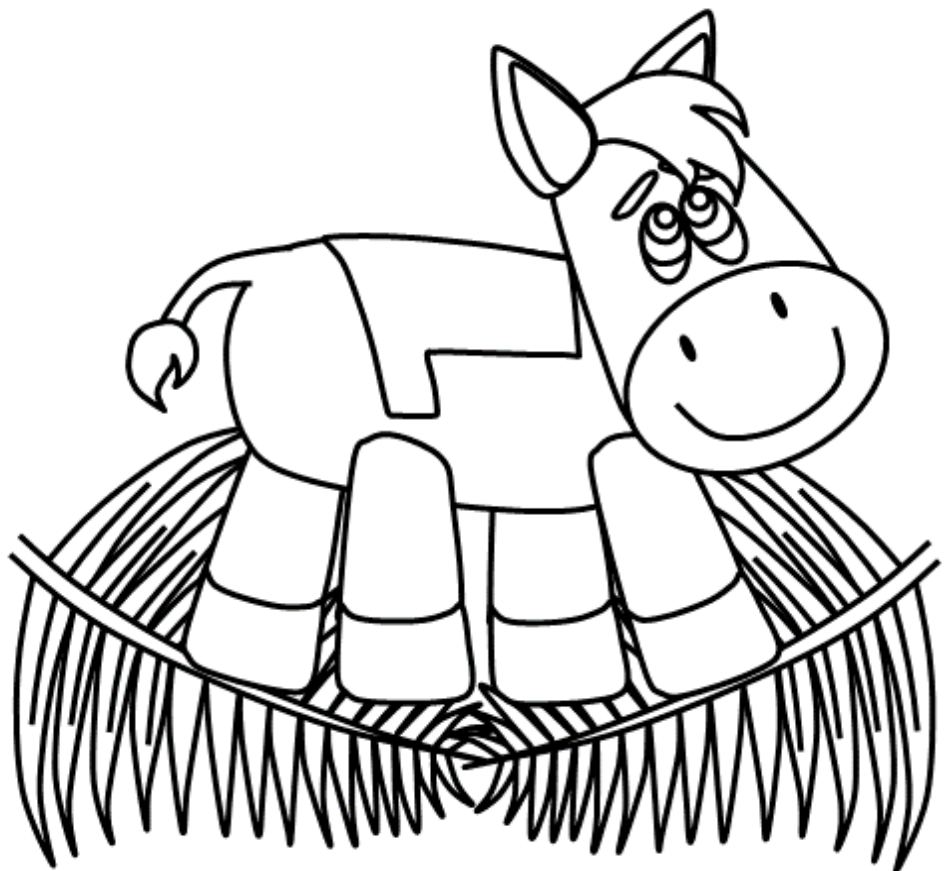
The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will also still be available for anyone to have in their home for a short visit, by calling Shirley.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in anyway for many years!!!!

People Wave Palms to Jesus

S D A N Y C O W Q D R S I B C V
B E M R X O M R E E D K M R A A
Y R H F A A C F G S J O O L N Y
J T G C H T G J L S Q W N N A R
Z H N J N S I G V E D U A K E P
X V I L L A G E T L W S U S E J
M E L A S U R E J B O Q P M H Y
T C N V J U E B Z H B Q D V P C

blessed
branches
coats
crowd
donkey
Hosanna
Jerusalem
Jesus
palms
village



Parish Council Update

The St. Ann Parish Pastoral Council (known more informally as the Parish Council) is an advisory group to the Pastor. The council includes elected, appointed, and ex-officio members (such as liaisons to other Parish bodies); we meet five times a year to discuss family, community, education and faith issues. Our newly-installed Parish Council recently elected the following to lead the group:

- Chair: Ed Bride
- Vice-chair: David Novitsky
- Secretary: Bobby Aldrich.

Bobby and David are new members to the team, after the elections last fall (as announced in the bulletin). In addition to these three, the Parish Pastoral Council now comprises:

- Jeremiah Ames
 - Fred Baron
- Barbara Bilyeu
 - Paula Blagg
 - Tom Cowhey
- Lorrie Decorie
 - Walter Doerle
 - Joe Healy
 - Vicki Holt
 - Carol Kirby
- Mary Ann Kirby
- Lou Omelenchuck
 - Tom Romeo
- Mike Wilser (Finance Council liaison)
- And, of course, our pastor, Fr. CJ Waitekus.

We thank them all for their service, for the duties they are taking on.

Did You Know. . . That when we have a special collection, if you are making a donation to that collection in the form of a check, your check should be made payable to your church? The Diocese has instructed us to deposit all donations to the parish checking account and to then send them one check for the total of those donations. They in turn forward our contributions to the proper place.

FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATE

by Mike Wilser, Finance Council Chair

The end of February marked 8 months into the current fiscal year for our parish. In summary, our income has been just adequate to cover ongoing expenses, but not enough to cover an \$11k church masonry preventive maintenance effort we have planned for the spring. We need to perform this work, since it is critical in ensuring that moisture does not degrade the mortar that binds the exterior stonework in our beautiful church.

Fortunately, we have strong financial reserves and no debt. Thanks to your generosity in the past, we can handle the maintenance effort using our readily available savings if this becomes necessary.

Our income/expense situation was in relatively good shape until the snows of February arrived in the Berkshires. With a series of weekend storms, Mass attendance fell off significantly, and with it, some \$7,000 in collections.

It's important to know that the vast majority of our monthly parish expenses is essentially fixed. Just as in each of our households, some level of income is needed for heating, lighting, and other utilities. We have a modest-sized staff that work hard to serve the parish, maintain its facilities and do their best to provide the utmost value for what we spend. And did you know that each month, regardless of how many of us attend Mass on any given weekend, we send \$6,493 to the Diocese of Springfield? This includes \$1,305 for pastor's health insurance, pension and other benefits, \$1,526 in Diocesan support, \$1,866 in Diocesan general education assessments for parochial high schools, and \$1,796 in property insurance premiums.

We list these items not as a complaint, but as further emphasis to you that we do need your support – and we are so grateful for whatever you can provide, now and in the future.

Current members of our Finance Council include:

Mike Wilser	Fr. C.J.
Bobby Aldrich	Mathew Farkas
David Keator	Pam Mackie
Michelle Maggio	Suzanne Malkin
Jim Tremblay,	Clyde Decorie

St. Ann's 2015 Summer Festival

Our first meeting to plan this summer's festival was held on March 10. As reported in past bulletins, this summer will once again be our full festival with all the events that our parishioners have become accustomed to.

Our festival is currently in need of a chairperson who will share this task with Father C.J. We are looking for ideas for Friday evening, July 10th. If you have an idea of an event that could start off the festival, please call the rectory at 637-0157.

The last time our full festival was celebrated, we had a wonderful influx of volunteers, especially young adults. In order for this summer's festival to be a success, we again desperately need as many volunteers as possible. Please consider attending the following summer festival meetings:

- **Thu. April 9, at 7 p.m. in the church**
- **Mon. April 27, at 7 p.m. in the family center**
- **Mon. May 11, 7 p.m. in the family center**
- **Mon. May 18, 7 p.m. in the family center**

SACRAMENTAL SERIES – PART 2

Deacon Dan Romanello, KM

Sacraments are outward, visible signs instituted by Christ to impart grace to those who truly believe in Him.

Reconciliation

During this season of Lent, the sacrament of reconciliation (also referred to as confession or penance) is an especially important gift from God and one to which we are uniquely called. While Reconciliation is available to us throughout the year, cleansing our hearts and souls through a confession of our sins during the 40 days leading up to Easter is a central part of the Lenten experience of repentance, almsgiving, sacrifice and prayer. Reconciliation also is the second sacrament received by members of the Church to prepare them for their first reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Penance is a sacrament instituted by Christ in which forgiveness of sins committed after baptism is granted through the priest's absolution to those who, *with true sorrow*, confess their sins and promise to strive not to repeat them. As an outward sign, the sacrament of reconciliation comprises the actions of the penitent in works of the priest who pronounces absolution and imposes satisfaction for our sins.

This whole procedure is usually called, from one of its parts, "confession", and is said to take place in the "tribunal of penance". It is a judicial process in which the penitent is all at once the accuser, the person accused, and the witness while the priest pronounces judgment and sentence. The grace conferred by the sacrament is deliverance from the guilt of sin and, in the case of mortal sin, from eternal punishment - hence we are reconciled with God and justified.

Confession is not made in the secrecy of the penitent's heart; to a layman as friend and advocate; or to a representative of human authority. Rather the sacrament of reconciliation can only be ministered by a duly ordained priest with requisite jurisdiction. Unlike priests, deacons do not hold the "power of the keys", i.e., the power to forgive sins which Christ granted to His Church.

And priests, no matter how pious, don't have the power to forgive sins on their own. This authority belongs to God alone but He chooses to exercise it through the ministry of men acting in the person of Christ. Neither the Church nor priest interferes between the soul and God. On the contrary, penance is the removal of the *one* obstacle – sin - that keeps our souls away from God.

It's very important to recognize that the mere "telling" of our sins isn't enough to obtain forgiveness. Without a contrite heart and the sincere intention to do our best to change sinful behaviors, the act of confession has no sacramental effect and the absolution that the priest pronounces is fruitless.

The sacrament of reconciliation is a wonderful gift from God that should be received as frequently as possible. During our confession, we give our whole heart and being to Him whenever we sincerely profess this beautiful prayer of healing, The Act of Contrition:

O, my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. I detest all my sins because of your just punishment, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

HOLY WEEK CONFESSION:



- SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 3 P.M. COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S IN LEE
- MONDAY, MARCH 30, FROM NOON TO 1 P.M. AT ST. ANN CHURCH
- TUESDAY, MARCH 31, FROM NOON TO 1 P.M. AT ST. ANN CHURCH
- TUESDAYS DURING LENT, FOLLOWING 5:30 P.M. MASS AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

2015 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASS SCHEDULE FOR ST. ANN, ST. PATRICK AND ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISHES

HOLY THURSDAY

7 p.m. Mass at St. Ann

7 p.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church

GOOD FRIDAY

2 p.m. Walk with the Cross in Lenox, Church on the Hill

3 p.m. Station of the Cross at St. Ann's Church

3 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. Patrick's Church

7 p.m. Service at St. Ann

7 p.m. Service at St. Vincent de Paul

HOLY SATURDAY

8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass at St. Ann

EASTER SUNDAY

8 a.m. at St. Patrick Church

9:45 & 11:15 a.m. at St. Ann Church

During this Easter season, the office at St. Ann Church will be closed on Good Friday.
Please keep this in mind and plan ahead. Thank you.

ST. ANN CEMETERY RECORDS

BY DEB KUNI

After previous Goodnewsletters were published, I received many completed Cemetery Burial Record forms back from our readers. I can't tell you how much that helps my work toward updating our cemetery records.

I have decided to run my plea for records yet again in this issue. Getting even one more record helps, so please excuse the same old, same old. On the following page you will find a form to record burials in our parish cemetery. We are still updating and in some cases, correcting, our burial and plot owner records. If everyone who has family buried at St. Ann Cemetery, or who owns their own plot, completes this form to the best of their ability, we will be able to compare this information against what we already have and hopefully end up with more complete and detailed records. If you need more room for names and dates, either use a blank piece of paper or photocopy this form. I would be happy to mail extra sheets to you, too.

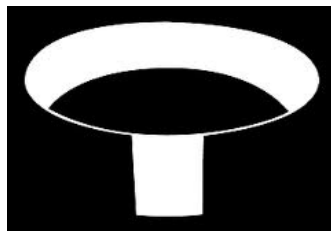
As I said, many people did fill the form out and return it to the church office, and I am grateful for those, but there are still more who did not. At this time, we are asking those who have not yet completed the form and have family buried here, or you yourself own a plot, to please take a minute to fill one out. You can drop the form into the collection basket at Mass, or return it to the church office directly. We really need everyone who has information to please help us out with this.

Thank you again to those who have already taken the time to turn the form back in. We appreciate your effort, very much!! If you have any question about this, or need help filling it out, don't hesitate to call me and I will help you in anyway that I can, 637-0157.

Priests Concert Scheduled for May 15

Our singing diocesan priests are at it again! Mark your calendars for Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m. This concert will be held at the Barrington Stage, 30 Union St., Pittsfield, and benefit the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased in person at the box office, by calling the box office at 413-236-8888, or online at www.barringtonstageco.org/rentals/singingpriests. This concert will once again be a mix of favorite hymns and popular tunes. Among the priests singing will be Fr. C.J., Msgr. Mike, Fr. John Salatino, Father David and Fr. Joyce.



St. Ann Cemetery Burial Record

Section _____ Grave # _____ # of plots owned _____

(For office use only)

Contact Info:

Your Name: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Are you the current contact name and phone for this plot? ____yes ____no

If not, please provide that name, address and phone number.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Family name of original purchaser of grave (s) _____

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

1. _____ Dates: _____

2. _____ Dates: _____

3. _____ Dates: _____

4. _____ Dates: _____

5. _____ Dates: _____

6. _____ Dates: _____

7. _____ Dates: _____

8. _____ Dates: _____

9. _____ Dates: _____

10. _____ Dates: _____

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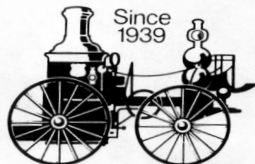
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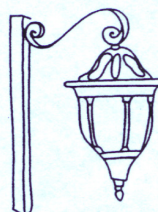
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John & Margot Martino
Andrew & Jenna McKeever
Anne Nesbit

Baptisms

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Brett Daniel Costa Jr.
Declan Stephen Tullock
Jalissa Marie Costa
Lucas Albert Lanfair
Karissa Marie Morano
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Kira Marina Kuni
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New Members

Baptisms

Logan John Hurley
Elizabeth Carolyn Honiker

Deaths

John "Jack" Stringer

ST. PATRICK PARISH

New Members

Baptisms

Deaths

Alice McNally
Laura Skorput Valenti