

# THE GOODNEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF ST. ANN, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND ST. PATRICK PARISHES

(413) 637-0157 ~ 134 MAIN STREET, LENOX, MA 01240

STANNLENOX.ORG / STANNLENOX@VERIZON.NET

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From Father's Desk

## A Message From the Pastor . . . . .

*"Welcome! Who Are You?"*

During the summer months, it has become our custom to place a guestbook at the front door of St. Ann Church, asking visitors to let us know where they are from and, if they would like, to share a comment about the church. I always love to read over this book after Mass and I marvel at the variety of places people come from. Recently, visitors were from as close as Norwood, MA and Vernon, CT and from as far away as France and Hungary. The comments left by visitors also warm my heart and they often have to do with the beauty of the church interior, the sacred calm people find, and the welcoming attitude of the parish family they experience. Another comment I often read and take great pride in, is when visitors write about the church grounds being well cared for and the church interior being well maintained.

As your pastor, I try my best to be available to the spiritual needs of all, but I also take very seriously the obligation to keep the church and grounds looking perfect, from the stone of the church, and the polished oak of the pews, to the flowers in the grotto and the cleanliness of our parish centers. The custodial staff and I work hard seven days a week to maintain not only the property in Lenox, but also in Lenox Dale and West Stockbridge as well as our two cemeteries.

What is done could not be accomplished, however, without your generosity in the weekend collection. Month after month our faithful parishioners in our three parishes donate especially to the building and grounds collection and the monthly cemetery collection – and your generosity allows us to keep our historic properties looking great. We all take pride in our parish and the grounds, both the interior and exterior.

As we move into the fall and visitors return home from experiencing the beautiful Berkshires, I just want to again express my thanks for your generosity all during the year, which allows us to keep each of our churches and our parish grounds looking wonderful. God Bless You, -Father C.J.

### HERE ARE 12 REMARKABLE FACTS ABOUT HIS HOLINESS, POPE FRANCIS.

1. He has a master's degree in chemistry
2. He speaks many languages
3. He likes The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings
4. Pope Francis is a soccer fan
5. He loved the tango and had a girlfriend in his youth
6. Pope Francis is not called Pope Francis I
7. He owned a Harley-Davidson motorcycle
8. He flies economy class
9. Pope Francis once worked as a bouncer
10. Pope Francis is a legal citizen of three countries
11. Pope Francis is the first non-European pope in 1200 years
12. Pope Francis only has one lung

**Editor's Note**  
by Deb Kuni

Raise your hand if you can't believe it's August already with September barreling down on us. Me, too!

Overall it was a great summer. Our experimental "mini Summer Festival" turned out to be great fun. We did have more than a few people express disappointment that we were not holding our full scale festival, but we promise you it will be back in all its glory next summer. July 10-12.

This October 24th St. Ann's music department will present another concert in our church. Save the date for this one, it promises to be one you won't want to miss! The concert will be at 7 p.m. in the church. Suggested donation is \$15.

With fall quickly approaching, our religious education program will soon be starting up, RCIA classes will also be beginning soon and Shawl Ministry will resume their bi-weekly sessions. In the meantime, enjoy the read in this issue and keep us in mind if you have something to share. The next issue will be out in time for Christmas.

There is a lot of good weather still left so get out and enjoy.



*Please don't forget your church when making address or phone number changes. We try to keep our records as current and accurate as possible, but we need your help. If you change to a P.O. Box or close your P.O. Box, please keep us in mind! Thank you.*



**It may seem early to be thinking about this ~ but mark your calendars - On Sunday, Nov. 2nd we turn our clocks back 1 hour and check the batteries in our smoke detectors.**

**St. Patrick's Rosary Sodality**

by Shirley Panzeri

The ladies of St. Patrick's Sodality held their end of the season dinner on June 4, 2014, at the Cork N' Hearth Restaurant in Lee.

They resumed their meetings this year on Wednesday, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m., with recitation of the Rosary and a business meeting followed.

Election of officers will be held and dues will be payable up to December 2014.

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is available for anyone to have in their home for a short visit, by calling Shirley at 232-7750.

Also, anyone wishing to join our Prayer Network may do so by calling the above number.

Watch the bulletin for more information on upcoming events.

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**Our kids are going back to school and there will be school buses everywhere. Please drive carefully!**



## THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

by Carol & Mary Anne Kirby

The Circle of Friends is a ministry under the arm of the Parish Council's Community Outreach Commission. This is a group of caring volunteers from St. Ann's Parish that have offered their assistance to grieving families when the family has requested the use of the Family Center for a funeral reception. We know you have heard all this before, but we do have some new parishioners that may not know about the Circle of Friends ministry and they may want to join.

The Circle of Friends will assist the family with the process of the reception from start to finish. They start by helping to set up the food that the family has arranged for, to be ready prior to the end of the funeral. They then help serve those who attend the reception. After the reception is over the team will package up the remaining food for the family to take home, then clean up the parish hall.

Let us just take a little time to explain about the food; this is one of the questions we get the most. When the rectory notifies us that a parishioner has requested the family center for a funeral reception, we contact the family and offer our assistance. At that time we give them a list of caterers that we have used in the past that have been very helpful. It is up to the family who they choose. Sometimes the family will not use a caterer at all, some of their family or neighbors prepare and bring the food to the parish hall, and that is fine.

We then ask the family if they would give us a list of the food so we can set up the correct number of tables for the food that they are expecting and select the serving dishes we will need. We also ask the family to let us know the approximate number of people they are expecting. We just need an idea so we can set up the correct number of tables and chairs. At this point this is all that the family really has to do, we take care of the rest of the reception.

The Circle of Friends is growing all the time with parishioners volunteering to join. It is wonderful that we have so many talented parishioners that are offering to help. Because we want to give each volunteer the opportunity to help at receptions, we alternate the members who are called. This way they will not be called for every reception. We have found that everyone has some special expertise to add to the team.

If in the future, you have a neighbor or friend that may pass away and you would like to volunteer only once to help at that particular reception for the family, just give us a call and we would appreciate your help.

Recently our good friend and neighbor passed away, what a wonderful feeling it was for us to assist at the family reception after the funeral, it really meant a lot to us and also to the family.

If you would like to join this worthwhile ministry or just learn more about it, please call Mary Anne or Carol Kirby at 637-2188. Let us know you if you are interested in joining or have any questions.

We have heard this comment from so many parishioners: "if the only purpose for the parish hall was to host receptions after funerals for parishioners, it would be worthwhile!!!!!"

The men and women of the Circle of Friends hope you will agree we have accomplished this for the parish. With your support we can continue to help grieving families at a very difficult time in their lives.

May God bless all of our members.



## ANGELS

***Gloria in excelsis Deo...*** Glory to God in the highest, the hymn of the angels, words still sung or said in our liturgies today. Who, what are angels? Are they even real? Do they really have wings? Most of the world's religions and even those with no creed believe that they exist. Polls show that more people believe in angels than believe in global warming. Even more than 75% of teenagers believe in angels. St. John Paul II in a 1986 general audience said, "Angels participate in the history of salvation. The angels have no body, even if, in particular circumstances, they reveal themselves under visible form because of their mission for the good of the people."

St. John Chrysostom, in his 3<sup>rd</sup> homily on the Colossians, stated that because of the fall of man, heaven and earth became divided and angels became man's enemy due to man's insults to God. Thus, in the Old Testament, the role of angels was to execute God's punishment as in the expulsion from Eden, Sodom etc. Upon the resurrection of Christ, man was returned to heaven in the person of Christ, true God and true man and thus reconciled with the angels; "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."

At first Chrysostom preached, "...angels were according to the number of nations but now are to believers." Christ said in Matthew 18:10, "See that you despise not one of these little ones, for their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." Since from the beginning, every one of those approved had his angel. However, that each individual soul has a guardian angel has not been approved as doctrine by the Church. St. Jerome expresses it as being in the mind of the church; "how great the dignity of the soul, since each of us has from his birth an angel commissioned to guard it. "The conflict lies in "each" of us and only "believers" have guardian angels. Scripture suggests that we all have our own angel when Peter was released from prison by an angel, Christ was ministered to during His passion and after His encounter with Satan. Psalm 91: 10-13 "...for to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways." prefaced by, "your holding the Most High your strong hold." suggesting that only believers have guardian angels.

What about the wings? Angels are spirit without body but do assume physical form as well as gender. The Greek derivation of angel, is messenger, in Latin it is supernatural messenger. Practicality would call for wings. Before Christ, Pagan deities were depicted with wings and up until the 5<sup>th</sup> century angels were depicted without wings in Christian art and in the catacombs probably to distinguish them from the pagan identity. After Constantine, angels appeared bodiless but as cherubic faces surrounded by wings. In art form, the earliest appearance of angels was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and only when the art represented a scene where they were specifically mentioned e.g. The Annunciation. It was not until the 5<sup>th</sup> century that angels were included into scenes of Mary or Christ even if there was no scriptural reference of them in the scene depicted.

Dionysius, in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, placed angels into three choirs. The first choirs attend God and are Seraphim, Cherubim & Thrones. Dominion, Powers and Virtue over see the powers of nature and make up the 2<sup>nd</sup> choir. The 3<sup>rd</sup> choir is Principalities, Angels and Archangels. They have names and deal with humans. Michael is the defender of heaven and threw Satan and his army into Hell. Jews consider Michael the defender of Israel. Islam and Eastern religions say he brings thunder and lightening to earth. Raphael is the angel of healing for both Christians and Jews. Gabriel is God's messenger. For Muslims, Gabriel gave Mohammed the Koran and he destroyed Sodom for the Jews. He announced to Mary that she would bear the son of God for the Christians.

**"Forget not to show love unto strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware." Hebrews 13:2**

# Ask The Abbott



**Q:** Why do Catholics have a Pope?

**A:** Catholics have a Pope (from Latin: “Papa” or “Father”) because the Catholic Church has a visible head in addition to her invisible head, Christ Jesus. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ. A vicar is one who serves as a substitute or agent of another.

Before his death, Christ chose Peter from the twelve to shepherd his flock in his absence. Our Lord charges Peter: “feed my lambs...feed my sheep” ([John 21:16-17](#)), constituting Peter guardian of his entire flock in his own place, thus making him his Vicar and fulfilling the promise made in Matthew 16:18-19:

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the nether-world shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” ([Matt. 16:18-19](#)).

We see Peter’s role as head of the Church played out in the pages of the New Testament. In [Acts 1:15](#), Peter initiates the selection of a successor to Judas soon after Jesus ascended into heaven, and no one questions him. In [Acts 5:3](#), Peter exercises his binding authority, by declaring the first anathema of Ananias and Sapphira which is ratified by God, and brings about their death.

In [Acts 15:7-12](#), Peter resolves the first doctrinal issue on circumcision at the Church’s first council at Jerusalem, and no one questions him. After Peter spoke, all were kept silent.

Just as when Judas died, a successor was elected ([Acts 1:15](#)), so when Peter died, Linus was elected as Peter’s successor. And after Linus, Cletus. And after Cletus, Clement...and after Paul VI, John Paul. And after John Paul, John Paul II. And after John Paul II, Benedict XVI etc....

The Catholic Church is the only church which has an unbroken line of succession down through the centuries to Peter, and therefore to Christ himself.

A Sunday School helper was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children began discussing the dog’s duties.

“They use him to keep crowds back,” said one youngster.

“No,” said another, “he’s just for good luck.”

A third child brought the argument to a close. “They use the dogs,” she said firmly, “to find the fire hydrant.”



## One Last Surprise Gift!

by P.J. Dunn Fitzgerald

The twists and turns of life continue to entertain me and, even at my advancing age, prove that things are rarely as they appear. Case in point, last year I was on a mission to honor the memory of my both my parents by making a trip they had always wanted to take but were never able to make happen. It was often spoken of, in uncharacteristically wistful regret; “we didn’t miss much” my dad would always say, “but I sure wish we’d made it to Ireland.” He was right, they didn’t miss much; they traveled as much as they could, laughed with great friends for decades, were involved in countless activities, and loved each other and their family with a mighty force but the trip to Ireland never came together, despite 2 attempts to finalize plans which had to be scrapped for a variety of reasons.

Very shortly before he died, my dad once again spoke of his regret in not getting to the country where his great grandparents emigrated from and to be able to immerse himself in the heritage he took such great pride in. So, a year almost to the day of his death, his birthday and Father’s Day, which run consecutively, I was standing on the South East coast of Ireland to fulfill my dad’s incomplete wish list.

I enlisted a stronger arm than mine and had my husband hurl a Stockbridge Golf Club golf ball, from my fathers’ golf bag, into the Irish Sea. We shared a laugh that this wasn’t the first time one of his golf balls was in the drink and welled up at the thought that it would be the last.

So for days, we explored the rolling hills, endless beaches, majestic castles, ate exquisite food, used the word “Slainte” frequently, shopped for meaningful treasures, listened to lilting brogues and saw all we could absorb of the remarkable Irish culture, and always with the thought of how my parents would have enjoyed it all. I felt, truly, that they were with me and I even made it a point of finding the original “Quiet Man” cottage in Cong that my mom had an oil painting of – so job well done?

I initially thought so, but the subsequent year had me feeling the pull to return to Ireland but not so much as a tribute to my folks but for me this time. And to that point, we returned purposely in June on my dad’s 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, his birthday and Father’s Day as the year before, but this was a totally different trip. I felt such a sense of warmth, peace of mind and the gratification of feeling like I belonged to something/someone much bigger. As a result of my trips to Ireland, I’ve now spent quite of bit of time researching the cast of characters that preceded me starting in Ireland, moving to Lenox and all ending in St. Ann’s; they were the Dunn’s, the Kelly’s, the Martin’s and the Wigmore’s. What started out as a tribute and a gift for and about my parents turned out to be a gift for and about me. Surprise! Thanks to my irreplaceable parents for, yet another, unexpected gift and until we meet again, “May God hold you in the palm of his hand.”



## MASS OF ANOINTING

On Oct. 5, 2014, St. Ann's Spiritual Life Commission is planning a first for our three parishes. A Mass of Anointing will take place at 2 p.m. followed by a reception in our Family Center. This is a huge endeavor; one that requires the help of our parishioners. Those most needing the blessings of this special Sacrament of the Sick are usually those home-bound or in nursing facilities or those due to have surgery.

Father C.J. has a list of people he visits regularly, but there may be others who have not made this request to receive Communion from him. They may, however, like the opportunity to come back to the Church for a Mass, (which fulfills your weekend obligation) the Sacrament of the Sick blessing and a reception. To do this, we most certainly will need the help of their families. Home-bound parishioners may need a family member to bring them and help them.

What we are looking for is the help of our parishioners at St. Ann, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick parishes. We would like to have families wishing to bring their home-bound or nursing home family members to this Mass and reception, to call us so that we may obtain the necessary information from you. At that time we might also be able to answer any questions you may have.

Although we have mentioned only those who are home-bound or in nursing facilities, it is important that all of our parishioners know that this Mass and Sacramental blessing and reception are open to any parishioner feeling the need of a Sacramental Blessing, especially someone receiving treatment for any life-threatening or serious illness.

If you will be attending this Mass, please call one of the following members to let them know:

Judi King, 442-5445

Lorita Decorie, 499-0134

Carol Kirby, 637-2188

Claire Mooney, 637-0753

Or Debbie at St. Ann's church office, 637-0157



## News for Our Parish Nurse

Summer is wrapping up and soon we'll all be getting back into a routine. If you are looking for something new to do I'd like to suggest a few programs to try out. Some are old and some are new and waiting for you.



The Berkshire County Parish Nurse Ministry lecture series will kick off on Sept. 18th right here at St. Ann. The guest speaker is Dr. A. Kulburg, a local pediatrician and concussion expert. He will give a short presentation on all aspects of children's concussion. A short question and answer period will follow. Please, if you have children in your life come to the lecture and find out more about this condition. Our programs are always free and open to the public. Check out the bulletin for the time and more details.

Last winter I met a lovely woman, relatively new to our parish, who spoke of how difficult it was for her to meet new people. She went on to say that she often wondered who the other women were that she gave the sign of peace to every week during Mass. As our conversation continued she mentioned a program that her previous parish conducted to allow women to meet each other.

After that, I began to look around at Mass and realized that I didn't know a lot of people outside my age group. Who were the single women, the young mothers or the elderly people who now came to St. Ann? I also thought back on my conversation with this woman, and the solution that had been talked about. It's a simple one that one can choose to participate in once or monthly. It might be great or it might fizzle out but I want to test out her idea.

Every month on the first Tuesday, we'll have a drop in pot luck dinner. Bring just enough for you and another person (you can always make more if you want) and come down to the parish center to break bread with each other. Then we can all do what we do best - TALK to each other for a while and get to know each other.

Let's start it this fall and see how it goes. Look for more information in the bulletin as the time approaches. Fall is right around the corner and we can begin in October.

Our ongoing "How do you make that?" cooking series is coming back again this fall. Talented and generous cook, Judi King, will teach us how to make tortellini; the date to be announced later on.

Finally, basket weaving will return this year. Class will be held in early December. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Nurse Continued on page 8

# RCIA News

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Repetition is the mother of learning. What is the RCIA? It is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is a process, begun after Vatican II, to introduce the teachings and the practices of the Catholic Church to people who may have an interest in becoming Catholic. As such, it is the formal evangelizing unit of the parish. A small group of parishioners meet on Monday nights during the school year to share their understanding of what the church believes and practices with those who come forward to learn about the Catholic Church. Although the program is primarily intended for non-Catholics, it is also most open to Catholics who want to grow in their love and understanding of their Catholic faith.

Pope Paul VI once commented that a lot of “smoke” has entered the Church. This “smoke” is the result of lack of real knowledge of the truths of the Church that have been handed down to us by the people of God under the guidance of the magisterial (teaching) authority of the Church. This lack of knowledge has led to indifference and eventual abandonment of the Church. “Why should I go to Mass? It is boring. I don’t get anything out of it. (Only God Himself, Jesus Christ, whole and entire, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, with all His power and beauty, can enrich us beyond all that we desire or imagine.) I’d rather be my own god and make my own decisions.” That is what Adam said and why the “apple” stuck in his throat! If I want to put water in my gas tank to run my car, lots of luck, Buddy. At least it won’t cost you anything. All depends what your goal is! Or would “where your goal is” be better? Didn’t Jesus say: “He who rejects me will be rejected by my Father?”

Our Catholic faith is an absolute treasure. When is the last time that you opened the chest to examine the jewels? How much “smoke” has enveloped your own understanding of the faith? We are all called to be evangelizers. We can’t go out to others with empty baskets. We are all on a journey, pilgrims heading for a goal, eternal life. We can think of the journey as a swimmer in a river. Unless we keep swimming, we are floating downstream. There is no standing still. We are all called to grow in our faith and to share it with others. What is your status on the “river?” What happens at the RCIA meetings? Come and see. Try it, you might like it!

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Sept. 1, 2014 Labor Day - The office will be closed on this Monday
- Oct. 5, 2014 Mass of Anointing for the Sick - at St. Ann Church, all are welcome, 2 p.m.
- Oct. 13, 2014 Columbus Day - The office will be closed on this Monday
- Oct. 24, 2014 Concert in St. Ann Church with St. Ann’s Ensemble, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 1, 2014 All Saints Day - A Holy Day of Obligation
- Nov. 2, 2014 All Souls Day
- Nov. 11, 2014 Veterans Day - The office will be closed on this Tuesday
- Nov. 27, 2014 Thanksgiving - The office will be closed on this Thursday and Friday
- Nov. 30, 2014 First Sunday of Advent

## Nurse continued from page 7

Of course you can join us for a quick 1/2 hour walk meeting in our large parking lot, on Tuesday mornings or find us in a stretch class on Friday mornings, in the Family Center.

Hope there is something here that might interest you. Please call if you have any questions or wish to help out in any way.  
- Take care always!



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC LOFT!



by Ron Ramsay, Musical Director  
& Sandy Morley, Youth Choir Director



Wow! We are about to embark on another year of music ministry at St. Ann Church! We finished out last season with the Youth Ensemble being asked the honor of singing at the Marian Fathers for Divine Mercy Sunday which is televised worldwide! In July, we hosted the second year of the "Shining Stars Theater Camp" with Kara Demler, Artistic Director of the Berkshire Children's Theater and Ron at the helm. We had a great turn out for the performance at the Summer Festival. Another new addition in early August was the impromptu "Youth Singer's Mini Camp" that was led by our Music Director, Ron. The kids had a great time learning how to sight read, harmonize, perform and even dance!

The Adult Ensemble had a stellar year. Though small in numbers, this group has demonstrated such faith, perseverance, and openness to new and creative ideas that the "ensemble" we were all wishing for has successfully come to fruition. Christmas Eve was a particularly memorable moment as our ensemble was joined by outside talent. The music which poured forth from the loft that evening should have been recorded on CD! Constant growth is happening with this group, so much so that in June when it came time to end for the summer.....no one wanted to leave! Hence was formed the "Summer Choir" for the 11:15 a.m. Mass on Sundays. What an extraordinary journey it has been for all of us!

So now the journey continues as we embark on our 2014-2015 season!!!

We start out in full swing with the Youth Ensemble singing for Grandparents' Sunday at the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge on Sept. 7, at 2 p.m., having been asked for the second year in a row to be the choir for this beautiful event bringing together the old and the young to worship and sing praise together.

All choirs officially begin again on Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>.

We would also like to mention two exciting additions to the Music Department of St. Ann, The Teen Choristers and the St. Ann Youth Orchestra. This group of talented youth from our parish will be led by the wonderful husband and wife team of Michael and Meghan Gillespie!! Both have been members of the church for over 10 years. They are also both music teachers in the Berkshire County Public School System. They have three children: Lelia (already a member of the Youth Ensemble), Finnian and Declan.

**SAVE THE DATE! "Raise the Roof!"** - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual benefit concert for the St. Ann Music Ministry will take place on October 24<sup>th</sup>. This year's event will be a joint effort with The Whitney Center for the Arts in Pittsfield. The concert will feature our own music department talent as well as outside local talent. The last concert was a great success, completely funding the new sound system in the choir loft raising a whopping \$3,700! This year we would like to top that goal to put in a much needed new floor in the choir loft, suspend the sound system microphones from the ceiling for better sound production, and also provide funding for outside guest artists and groups that only enhance the growth and development of our music ministry.

We are constantly growing the music ministry at St. Ann Church and thank you for your support. We are always open to and seeking new members. All that is required is you like to sing or play an instrument with joy. "No professional experience required!"

Youth Ensemble members typically join in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, after having made their First Communion. We invite anyone who is interested to please speak with Ron and Sandy and we will work out an opportunity for your child to try out the experience. Rehearsals begin at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday morning.

Two years ago I asked from the pulpit that people join in the singing during the Mass. I was greeted with a bit of a moan. I stated then that the majority says..."Catholics don't sing..." Well...I want to personally thank you all for proving them wrong, CATHOLICS DO SING AT ST. ANN'S FOR SURE!!!! Thank you for singing every Sunday and please keep whistling, humming, and singing a happy tune not only on Sunday, but every day!

## **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS**

**by Deacon Dan Romanello**

*One of the most important decisions that parents will make when planning the baptism of their child is who to name as godparents.*

*Choosing godparents is a serious decision and not to be taken lightly. All too often parents wish to honor a special friend; repay a favor; or encourage a non-relative to have a closer relationship with their child. While all of these motives are very well-intentioned, they are neither ideal nor practical.*

*First and foremost, a godparent serves a special role for the one to be baptized whether an infant or adult. Godparents are called to represent the Christian Catholic community, the Church. In the case of infant Baptism, godparents are to assist the child's parents in raising their child in our Catholic faith so that the child may profess and fully live it as an adult. And in the event that the child's parents are no longer able to serve as primary instructors of the faith for whatever reasons, then the godparents are solemnly called to undertake this role.*

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "the godfather and godmother must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized (child or adult) on the road of Christian life" (#1255)". This is the Church's way of saying that being a godparent is truly a ministry in the Church, and not simply an honor.*

*And in fact, the whole Church community and/or parish, bear some responsibility for the development and nurturing of the grace given to your child at Baptism. Much of this will come later in parish religious education and even classes for you on Christian parenting.*

*The purpose of all of the above is to ensure that the rich and beautiful faith of Roman Catholicism is passed on to your child in the most loving and authentic way possible.*

*Hopefully you now know that the task of choosing godparents is one which should be performed with much prayer, careful thought and with the greatest concern for the precious spiritual life of your child.*

## **A Note From Our Pastor ~**

**"Is what I am wearing to Church appropriate?"**

Several weeks ago, I spoke at Mass about a difficult topic regarding Church attire. During the summer especially it is common for us to wear lighter clothing and understandably so! Today I want to thank those parishioners who took my words to heart that day and thought about my message. Perhaps you even had a discussion at home with your family.

It is important that we keep God in our daily lives and attend Mass each week, but it is also important to remember that our lovely Churches are a place of reverence and respect, not only for our Lord, but for each other. Thank you again for listening and I am always here to listen to you and your concerns.

*-Fr. C.J.*

## ST. ANN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

This year, twenty one children made their First Holy Communion on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The church was filled with friends and families witnessing this Holy Day as Father C.J. celebrated Mass. A reception was held at the Parish Center sponsored by the First Grade class. I would like to thank their teacher, Nicole Shepardson, for preparing the students for this day.

This year, thirteen young adults will be confirmed from St. Ann and St. Vincent de Paul parishes at St. Joseph Church, in Pittsfield, on Oct. 19. I would like to thank Annie and Tess Sorrentino for guiding these young adults in their faith. Please keep them in your prayers.

Fr. C.J., the CCD Board and I have made a few changes to next year's religious education program. Father has sent a letter to all of last year's families, along with a registration form. We plan to celebrate the upcoming year with a Mass on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at the 9:45 a.m. Mass. Following Mass there will be a coffee hour when we will explain the new programs, times and schedules.

Our program is in great need of teachers for the Kindergarden class, as well as for grades 1, 4, & 7. If you can give us one hour a week to teach a class, we would be very grateful! Please be sure to complete and return your registration forms as soon as possible.

If you have a student entering kindergarten, you need to pick up a registration form in the back of the church or at the office, and get the completed form back to us. You can reach the Religious Ed department at 637-4427 or the church office at 637-0157.

### Prayer for Students

Lord our God,  
in your wisdom and love  
you surround us with the mysteries  
of the universe.

Send your spirit upon these students  
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.

Grant that they may devote themselves to  
their studies and draw ever closer to you,  
the source of all knowledge.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Prayer for Teachers

Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills  
the earth  
and teaches us in your ways.

Look upon these teachers.  
Let them strive to share their knowledge  
with gentle patience  
and endeavor always to bring the truth  
to eager minds.

Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the  
way, the truth and the life,  
forever and ever. -Amen.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We invite the parishioners and CCD students of St. Ann, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick to once again participate in our Christmas Shoebox project.

These shoeboxes are a source of hope to the neediest of children around the world including our own children here in the United States.

The boxes send a message of love and we hope you will continue to support this worthwhile cause.

Please watch the bulletin for more details as we get closer to the holidays.

## Taste of the Berkshires Update

Now that the dust has settled, the numbers are in, and the Summer Festival Committee members are enjoying a well-earned break prior to starting up again for next year's event, I've had some time to reflect on the past 8 months – mainly what I enjoyed, what the team did really well, and improvements for next year. However, there is one area my mind quickly drifts towards which is a recurring theme at meetings, during discussions at coffee hour, and as part of Father CJ's announcements at the end of Mass: the importance of volunteers. I finally witnessed first-hand what Father has described as Summer Festival "Taking an Army" and the sheer amount of time and effort put into these events by a core group of individuals. My thoughts quickly turn to: How do we convince more people to volunteer? What can I do to convince more people to volunteer? That brings me here... to this article and my attempt to give you some reasons to consider helping out next year. These are my top three reflections on my experience on the Summer Festival's Taste of the Berkshires Committee.

1. I was amazed at how generous our local restaurants, vendors, breweries and wineries are. They must field so many requests each year to make donations to various organizations, yet without hesitation, were willing to provide food, drink, linens, flowers, and anything else needed to make the event a success. I was lucky to have the chance to meet some of the owners and managers who were all delightful! The experience really gave me a fresh perspective on just how supportive our community is and the importance of helping our neighbors. As an added bonus, I got to try food from some of my favorite restaurants and a few new ones! I learned from one of the breweries that a good stout goes really well with dessert! And I'll admit it, first chance I got I ordered a cake from Mary's Kitchen...mmmm.
2. It was wonderful to see friends and meet so many new people on the day of the event, especially the volunteers! I was thankful that so many people came out that day to help and still can't believe how dedicated this group was! Holly Ricci drove out from Eastern MA to volunteer for the entire event! Noha Noujaim dropped everything last minute to come help us out by running the kitchen! I'm not sure Carol and Mary Anne Kirby ever left the Family Center that weekend! Father CJ continues to remark on the number of "Young Fathers" who were there all day helping out (that's right guys, he called you YOUNG)! It was work, yes, but it was very social... dare I say, fun!
3. As a member of the Committee, I had a chance to get to know & work with a whole new group of people who I may not have met otherwise. The highlight for me was the actual Taste of the Berkshires Event: as the moon rose and things wound down, it dawned on us that we had pulled this off successfully. It was so fun to enjoy that realization with such a wonderful group of people. If there is one reason to do this all over again, it's to relive that moment. I think about what we try to teach our kids about surrounding themselves with good people who are good influences. If I apply those words to my own life, this is the group of people I would surround myself with!

If at this point you're thinking that maybe you'd like to embark on your own emotional journey of introspection next year... or you'd just like to meet new people and get more involved in the community, please consider coming to a meeting for the 2015 Summer Festival/Taste of the Berkshires (which will most likely start up early in the new year). If you're still on the fence, talk to Father CJ or anyone who has been on the committee in the past!

I would once again like to thank all those who made the 2014 Taste of the Berkshires such a success! We were overwhelmed by the generosity of all the local businesses in donating food, supplies, money, and time to support this event, and we ask that you continue to support them throughout the year. Thank you to all the people who volunteered their time during the event! And of course, thank you to the members of the Taste Committee: Marilyn & Nabih Nejaime, Carolyn Nejaime-Jeffreys, Carol & Mary Anne Kirby, Jen Jaehnig, Valerie Lanfair, Janet Smargie, Susan Love, Christine Cooney, and Jennifer Farelly, who all put in their time and energy since early 2014 planning and coordinating this event. We are so blessed to have had the chance to work with all of you!

Thank you Father CJ for providing us guidance, prayer, kind words, and some occasional sanity checks! We could not have such successful events without you at the helm.

Finally, thank you to Laura Cestone, Co-Chair of the Taste of the Berkshires, and one of the nicest and hardest working women I know. At the time of the event, she was about 8.5 months pregnant but that did not appear to slow her down! While I know she shares in my sentiments, as I write this she is enjoying time with her beautiful, healthy baby girl.

Christa Ames

2014 Taste of the Berkshires Committee

[ameschrista@gmail.com](mailto:ameschrista@gmail.com)



# The Choice

**by Steve Maggio**

Two friends looked back on their lives  
And were in wonder at the similarities of their experience  
Both shared tremendous happiness  
And both shared deep grieving  
Both knew the warm glow of love  
And both knew the sting of abandonment  
Yet as they now approached old age  
These experiences had shaped them in different ways  
One was bitter and resentful  
And the other was at peace and content  
The bitter one asked his friend  
How he could find peace in spite of what they've been through  
The friend answered this way:  
*Everyone will experience injustice during their lifetime*  
*It is part of living*  
*It is our choice to either dwell on it*  
*And have it consume our happiness*  
*Or to live life in faith*  
*Knowing that the Creator will use all of life's experiences*  
*To mold you into the person you were meant to be*  
*I have made my choice to trust in God*  
*I live in peace*  
*Not because life has been fair*  
*But because I understand that inner peace*  
*Does not come from the circumstances of this world*  
*I live in peace*  
*Not because all is peaceful*  
*But because I know I will share true peace with God*  
*In the End*

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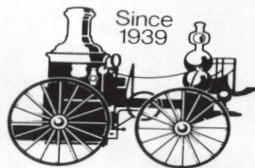
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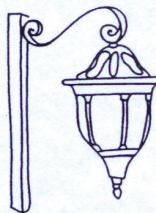
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Evan Matthew Tisdale  
Aidan Patrick Antil  
Gretta Pearl Garner  
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Curran Thomas Keefe  
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