

# The Goodnewsletter

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

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**July 14 & 15**

## **St. Ann's Annual Summer Festival - Mini Version**

**Save the Date**

**Don't let the title fool you - there is nothing mini about this year's festival!**  
**We may be taking the year off from our tag sale, and a few other events, but we have managed to pack a whole bunch of other surprises into our two day weekend.**  
**This year, you will find a Pig Roast on Saturday and musicians roaming around all weekend.**  
**You can shoot some hoops, visit our kids carnival, or sit in on the popular auction;**  
**Mass under the big tent on Sunday morning and the pancake breakfast in the family center will be back for sure!**  
**You can spend some time doing a fun Paint and Sip project;**  
**or you can stop in for a quick but delicious burger and some ice cream.**  
**While here, go ahead and take a chance on our 50/50 raffle and theme basket raffles.**  
**There will be lots to do and see ~ volunteers needed!!**



## Editor's Note by Deb Kuni

Spring! That seems like all I should have to say. It feels like after the odd winter we've had, it's enough - everyone understands. But I know there are a few people who enjoy the cool weather and the snow and don't feel the same way about the approaching warm weather, so I'll refrain from expressing further joy!

Instead, I'll focus on the great articles between these pages. We have updates from our various "departments"; some great stories and article from our deacons and others. We have also recently had some personnel changes.

Our finance council has recently appointed a new chairperson, Sean Wilson. Welcome Sean! I look forward to working with Sean and the rest of our dedicated finance council to keep the finances at St. Ann in tip-top shape and growing.

Our longtime family center custodian, Marie Bourassa, has decided it was time to move on. Her obligations to other jobs were mounting and becoming harder to balance with her responsibilities here, so she had to make the hard choice to let this position go. Thank you to Marie for her years of dedication and work for this parish. There wasn't a day we ran into her that she didn't offer us a smile and we'll miss that, but we are fortunate that our church custodian, Charlie Mendes, has offered to extend his hours and cover the family center custodial duties. He has covered for Marie in the past so he has just slid into that position with ease. We appreciate him making this seamless transition.

Another change is the retirement of our long time DRE, Joan Davis. After many years as our Religious Education leader, Joan has retired. She has spent many years in the public school system in Pittsfield and also in the Catholic School system at St. Mary's before coming to St. Ann's to run our religious education program. She will be missed but we will continue to see her and her husband Paul at weekly Mass. We wish her many years of a happy and healthy retirement with her family.

Before she retired, Joan helped us find a very enthusiastic and qualified replacement, aptly named Joan; Joan Hymanson. Our new Joan also has years of experience in education in both the public and religious education fields. You may remember our first introduction to Joan when she took on our Christmas Pageant. At that time Joan was a CCD teacher. I have gotten to know Joan H. better in the months since the pageant and feel her enthusiasm for this new chapter in her life. She has many great ideas for the program and looks forward to meeting all the students and parents in the upcoming months. If you see her in church or within the religious education program, please make her feel welcome.

As you noticed from the cover of this newsletter, our summer festival is just around the corner. We hope we have some surprises for you this year and we hope that you will come by and spend some time with us. This is our "mini" year, but it seems like we have filled the days with just as much to do and just as much fun. Please enjoy the articles between these pages and appreciate the effort our contributors made to bring them to you.

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## Upcoming Important Dates

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|-----------------------------------|------------|
| *Talk on Skin Cancer and Melanoma | May 8      |
| *Mother's Day                     | May 13     |
| *Confirmation                     | May 20     |
| *Memorial Day                     | May 28     |
| *Annual Blood Drive               | May 30     |
| *Father's Day                     | June 17    |
| *Independence Day                 | July 4     |
| *Summer Fest.                     | July 14&15 |



## Parish Nurse News

by Dianne Romeo

This past winter was a particularly long and hard one to be a part of. To help pass the time and resist the tendency to hibernate, my husband and I decided to get motivated and a little educated. We enrolled in Berkshire Health Systems "Health and Wellness" program that ran for 8 weeks. It meant trading in our comfy chairs and instead, sitting on a folding chair in a gym every Thursday evening for 2 hours. Was it worth the time and effort? Would we complete the entire program? That first evening we were hooked! The presenter was Dr. Mark Pettus, a highly educated, enthusiastic and gifted speaker. Week after week we plunged into a different topic. Some of the information we already knew, some went over our heads and some gave us a lot of food for thought. I promised myself that there would be some take away to incorporate into daily living and I would like to share some points with you.

Our environment: from the time we were in utero has played a huge role in our current health and longevity. With some changes we can improve our lives. We are a product of what we put in and put on our body.

First off, the adage "move it or lose it" is something we hear from our doctor and should be incorporated into our daily routine. I don't mean for you to become a gym rat but even if you walk for a short period of time everyday life will improve. There are many ways to move without joining a gym. Try the Lenox Community Center, try enrolling in a yoga class or try something here at the church.

Try to identify and remove the stressors in your life. This is a hard one to control but stress undermines your health. Removing it may be impossible so the next best thing is to learn to relieve some it by meditating, taking some deep breaths throughout the day, doing yoga and praying.

We are not living better through chemistry so become knowledgeable of the foods you eat. Learn the dirty dozen and the clean 15. Shop at local farms when you can, start a garden and stay away from sugar and simple carbs. Look at the labels on food products and remember that less is more in the ingredient list. When you buy skin products, look up their chemical compounds to see if they good for your skin. This can all be done by going onto the computer and typing in [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org). This site is the environmental working group that can help you make better choices on skin products and have a shoppers guide to pesticides in produce. The other site to investigate is [seafoodwatch.org](http://seafoodwatch.org). Know the fish that contain mercury.

There was a lot more information given at this series so please sign up to attend this program when BHS offers it again. I'll have it put in the bulletin and help arrange rides if you are interested. Staying healthy is something you have to continuously work on.

Lastly, the Annual Blood Drive is going to be on Wednesday, May 30th. The sign-up sheet will be in the parish center for you to pick your time or else you can just call me to reserve your slot, 637-2684. Thank you ahead of time!

Take care and blessings!

## Ordinary Time

One might think that ordinary Time in the Liturgical Calendar is routine, non-descript or even dull. After all, it is not unusual to open up our missals at Mass and see double digit numbers titling the liturgy of the day. Ordinary time is the longest season of the liturgical year; 33-34 weeks and is technically one liturgical season. With the exception of when certain Feast Days fall within Ordinary time, green vestments are worn. The season is divided into two parts. Prior to Vatican II, these seasons were called The Season After the Epiphany and The Season After Pentecost. In the naming of Ordinary Time, Vatican II followed the Latin definition of *ordinalis* meaning: showing order, following ordered succession inferring a numbered sequence between feast/liturgies. Ordinal Time might be a cleaner name for those whose background is from a non-Latin tongue.

Ordinary Time After the Baptism is the first half of Ordinary Time, it deals with the childhood of Jesus and His public ministry and begins after the baptism of Christ and ends the day before Ash Wednesday or Shrove Tuesday.

The second part of Ordinary Time, longer than the first, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before Advent. The Age of the Church or what is known as the Age we live in now, that is, the Age of The Apostles until the second coming of Christ, is the focus of this segment of Ordinary Time. Christ's reign as King of Kings is the end of this segment of Ordinary Time.

Another connotation of "ordinary" in our ecclesiastical language has to do with jurisdiction, permanent connection to an office or activity as in *ordinations*. Recently the term *Extraordinary Ministers* has become misused in Catholic circles as in the case of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. In this case, *extra* does not mean surplus but out of or away from ordination meaning non-jurisdiction. Eucharist, according to Catholic liturgical definition, refers to both celebration of the Mass as in Eucharistic Liturgy and in transubstantiation or changing in substance of the bread and the wine to the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ or Holy Communion. Only the *ordained* priest is a Eucharistic Minister. Deacons, lay men and lay women are the ministers of administration of the sacrament or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. They assist in distribution of Holy Communion during Mass, to hospitals and to homebound persons. Eucharist implies broader functions which are reserved for the *ordained* priest.

So, there is nothing ordinary about the world *ordinary*...

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

BY CAROL KIRBY



The Circle of Friends is a ministry under the arm of the Parish Council's Community Outreach Commission. In this blessed Easter season, I would like to take a moment to thank all our members for their time and talent in assisting at receptions for our parishioners for funerals, baptisms and many other events that are held in our wonderful parish hall.

Also, a special thank you to my beautiful sister Mary Anne, who was always at my side helping with every event; which she truly loved.

Mary Anne is now living in the Life Enrichment Program Memory Unit at Kimball Farms. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel on this very difficult journey.

May God bless you and surround you with love, peace and hope.

## St. Ann & St. Vincent de Paul Religious Education Program

It has been a very busy year full of changes for the St. Ann & St. Vincent de Paul Religious Education Program. It hardly seems possible that another year of school and religious education classes will soon be coming to a close.

I would like to begin this Religious Education article by taking a minute to introduce myself. My name is Joan Hymanson. I was delighted to accept the position of Director of Religious Education for St Ann and St Vincent de Paul Parishes, upon Joan Davis' retirement in March of this year. My background includes over 25 years of teaching children of all ages, from pre-k to college prep courses. Most recently, I had been teaching at a Catholic pre-school in New Orleans until I moved to Lenox with my husband and daughter in October 2017. I was missing my days with little preschoolers so I quickly became involved with St Ann's Parish by teaching 2nd grade CCD class and directing the St Ann Parish Christmas Pageant. This experience of teaching your children and meeting their families and friends, introduced me to so many wonderful parishioners at our church. At the time I didn't quite realize that it was also a bit of an "on the job" interview for the of Director of Religious Education position! I am grateful to Monsignor John Bonzagni and Joan Davis for giving me the opportunity to take on this important role in supporting the parents and grandparents of our parish as we guide our children in understanding and living the Catholic faith.

Congratulation to Joan Davis as she officially retired as the Director of Religious Education position in March of 2018. Joan had held this position since November 2011. During that time Joan continued to evaluate and update the program as the needs of the parish changed. This often involve changing class schedules and curriculum materials, recruiting and assisting our fabulous volunteer teachers and planning retreats and additional programs to assist the parents in the most important role of passing on our Catholic Faith and Beliefs to their children. Joan and her dedicated team of teachers and volunteers have been a blessing to our parish. Thank you, Joan, for your years of service and dedication to the youth of our parish! We are all very grateful!

One of the key changes to the 2017-2018 religious education programs was the schedule for kindergarten through 4th grades. After much consideration and input from the Faith Formation Committee, it was decided that we would now have our elementary students (K-4th grade) come to 9:45 Mass on Sunday morning with their parents and be dismissed to class so they would be taught the weekly Gospel lesson with their peers- making the Liturgy of the Word more meaningful to the children each week. The children would then return to Mass to join their parents for Liturgy of the Eucharist and the conclusion of the Mass. The challenge of this schedule is that the teachers only have 20 minutes each week to teach the children, so we focus primarily on the weekly Gospel and have sent books home for parents to supplement these lessons. In our effort to have parents more involved in Family Faith Formation we have given each family a grade level appropriate workbook to continue the journey of learning and understanding the Catholic Faith. This new schedule seems to be working successfully as parents and children have expressed enthusiasm for the new format.

There are times when extra class time and home study is needed, especially during preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. We have found that parents are wonderful at working with us in this regard.

This past December we had many enthusiastic 1st - 4th grade children participate in the St Ann Christmas Pageant. The children did a beautiful job presenting the pageant during the 9:45 am Mass on Sunday, Dec. 17th. Many thanks to the parent volunteers, without whom this year's Christmas Pageant, would not have been possible. We had new costumes this year and a beautiful baby playing the part of infant Jesus. The amazing voices of our St. Ann's Choir truly completed the pageant. Thank you to all the children that participated! - Angel Gabriel - **Cate Welch** - Mary - **Autumn Biernacki** - Joseph - **Owen Kamienski** - Innkeeper - **Matteo Ferioli** - Baby Jesus - **Maverick Lyons** - Shepherds - **Victor Fowler, Jackson Kamienski, Brodie McCormick**, - Angels - **Alexis Bergen, Audrey Bergen, Avery Biernacki, Gabrielle Dougherty, Nila Ferioli, & Gianna Love** - Star Carrier - **Zachary**

**Berry** - Wiseman #1 - **Madeline Blair** - Wiseman #2 - **Leah Face** - Wiseman #3 - **Libby Gop**

In January of this year, our 2nd grade CCD students and their parents and teachers spent time preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children celebrated their first Reconciliation with Monsignor John on Sunday, January 28.

We have 16 students preparing to receive First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 12. We are very blessed to have Joanne Lane and Kathy Face overseeing all the details for preparing our children for this special day. Helping the students with classroom lessons to practicing and planning for First Holy Communion Mass involves time and dedication. Joanne and Kathy have worked with First Holy Communion classes at St. Ann Church for many years and we are grateful for the gift of their time, knowledge and talents. Thank you, Joanne and Kathy!

Our middle school and high school classes met on Sunday evenings during the Advent and Lenten Seasons. Guided by their teacher, Steve Maggio, 5-6 grade students studied the Old Testament of The Bible, while Mark Elliott taught his 7-8 grade CCD class about the historical context of the Gospel. Monsignor John and Tess Sorrentino prepared the 9-10th graders for confirmation.

In September a retreat was held to start the year off for the middle school CCD students. A spring retreat was held on Monday, April 2nd, for all Confirmation students. Tenth grade students will receive the Sacrament at the 9:45am Mass on Sunday, May 20.

I would like to thank all of our amazing and dedicated CCD teachers who put aside the time each week to share their faith with the youth of our parish. Without these wonderful volunteers there would not be a religious education program. Thank you, to each and every one of you!

K & 1st grade

2nd grade

3rd & 4th gr

5th & 6th

7th & 8th

9th & 10th

First Communion

Kimberly Blair and Kathy Face

Chris Biernacki and Jacki Hymanson

Kathy Wilson

Steve Maggio

Mark Elliot

Tess Sorrentino and Monsignor John Bonzagni

Joanne Lane and Kathy Face

As I read through past Newsletters, I was reminded that, in addition to CCD classes and book learning, we want to focus on Faith Formation, which promotes a lifelong deepening of our understanding of our faith for all ages. Participation in the youth choir, the Christmas Pageant, serving as lectors or altar servers during Mass, or assisting the CCD teachers with a class once a month are only a few examples of how our youth members could experience growth and learning of our faith and beliefs and be an active part of our parish community.

Since this is the first year that we have implemented this new schedule for grades K-4, your feedback and suggestions would be most welcomed and appreciated. Please share your thoughts and ideas by emailing me at [stannccd2@gmail.com](mailto:stannccd2@gmail.com).

Thank you to all for welcoming my family and me to St. Ann Parish. It is a pleasure to be here!

*- Joan Hymanson*

## **DEPT. OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES RECOGNIZES CAROL KIRBY**

We are pleased to announce that Carol Kirby, of St. Ann Parish in Lenox, was recognized by the Citizen Advisory Board of the Dept. of Developmental Services Annual Awards Event on March 29. Carol received recognition as an “Unsung Hero” for her work with the New Genesis group of our Tri-Parishes.

Since its inception two years ago, Carol has been an active volunteer on the committee and at all events. Her involvement has helped to recruit other volunteers and several individuals of different abilities have developed a friendship with her.

As noted in her nomination, Carol is an outstanding member of the Lenox community on many levels. Her interest and devotion to the New Genesis program is an outstanding example of how a parish community can provide a welcoming place for individuals of different abilities, a place to make new community friends and a place to just have a positive experience.

There were many members of St. Ann, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick parishes at the event to show their support for this well-deserved recognition. Melissa Guyer, Area Director of the Dept. of Developmental Services, presented Carol with a Certificate of Recognition and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli presented Carol with a Citation from the House of Representatives.

Congratulations Carol. We are so blessed to have you as a member of our parish community!



### **CREED: What We Believe – Foundations Series Seminar**

Explore what it means to believe as well as what is believed for an informed, lived, Catholic faith. This seminar offers a rapid overview of the central teachings of the faith as found in the Nicene Creed. The instructor is Rev Mark Stelzer, Ph.D. - Elms College chaplain and associate professor of humanities and teaches courses in religious studies and philosophy. The 4-session seminar begins on May 10 at St. Ann's Parish, Lenox. To register for the program in Lenox, please contact Darcy Dumaine at (413) 265-2575 or [dumained@elms.edu](mailto:dumained@elms.edu). The cost for the seminar is \$40, plus required books.

**St. Ann's Parish**

**Lenox, MA**

**FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT**

March 31<sup>st</sup> marked the end of the third fiscal quarter for St. Ann's parish and the state of our finances is good. If you have followed the weekly updates in the parish bulletin you know that, through your faith and generosity, weekly collections are above budget by almost \$13,000 for the nine-months ending last month. Expenses are on budget in total with electricity, fuel and snow removal running about \$4,000 above budget and repairs and other items trending below budget by about the same amount. Our Berkshire winter has been difficult for our parish as well as at home and we thank you for your gifts.

The Finance Council is committed to supporting the liturgical life of the parish as well as maintaining our physical facilities. We have identified several projects to be completed this spring and summer to extend the life of the church, rectory and parish center, as well as repairs to be made to the wall and water piping at the cemetery. We hope and pray that you will continue to support the parish through your contributions.

As you consider your gifts to St. Ann's, please consider using WeShare, our automated giving tool, to make your donation electronically. WeShare is easy to use and, once set-up, provides the parish with a regular, predictable cash flow and you never have to worry about missed weekends or lost envelopes. For help signing up for WeShare, please see the enrollment form under "Bulletins/News" on the St. Ann's website or by calling the parish office, 637-0157.

And thank you, again, for your support to St. Ann's.

*- Sean Wilson*

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

This past year marked another success story for our Christmas shoebox project. A total of 224 boxes were filled with an assortment of well-selected small toys and useful items that brought joy to hundreds of poor and needy children throughout the world.

We thank all the CCD students and parishioners of St. Ann, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick for their generous contributions and support. We are also grateful for the response of our Lenox Community including the Church on the Hill, Different Drummer, New Genesis, Town Hall and countless others who gave of their time and resources to insure its success. Even the shipping costs were fully met due to the generosity of many silent donors.



Lastly, the "Special Angels" who came in to help sort, pack and label the boxes at the Family Parish center deserve a huge High Five!

Thank you to you all ....

--- **Lorita Bosworth and Joanne Lane**



## SOWING THE SEEDS OF THE KINGDOM - COMMENTARY ON MARK 4:26-34

by Deacon Dan Romanello, KM

26 He said, “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land 27and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. 28 Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

30 He said, “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. 32 But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.<sup>34</sup> Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

One of my fondest childhood memories is the image of my late mother Josephine (affectionately known as Peppy) tending her large garden in our Connecticut backyard.

I still can vividly picture my mother carefully and patiently nurturing her plantings to produce bountiful harvests of vegetables each summer. Home-grown tomatoes, eggplant, zucchini, cucumbers, asparagus and fresh herbs such as basil and parsley were just a few of the many types of produce that graced our dinner table. Peppy always said that gardening relaxed and brought her closer to God by sharing in His miraculous creation. She loved the smell of the earth; the feeling of dirt sifting through her hands; and the satisfaction of seeing her work produce abundant results in accordance with the Lord’s plan.

Mark’s gospel above features two parables, simple stories that use comparisons and analogies familiar to the target audience to impart important moral or spiritual lessons. These particular stories, about sowing seeds, deliver important messages concerning the nature and growth of faith and the coming reign of God in the world.

In the Parable of the Growing Seed, Jesus describes a farmer who lavishly sows his seed. Night and day, whether he sleeps or rises, the seed sprouts and grows though the farmer doesn’t know how. All by itself the soil produces grain. Reflecting upon this parable allows us to understand that Jesus is the sower and that the seed He sows is the irresistible Word. The soil of our hearts receives the precious, powerful Word of God which by His grace creates faith. And faith, as it continues to grow, offers us the harvest of salvation and eternal life.

And while we are the soil in which the seed grows and brings about salvation, each of us also becomes the sower of the seed. The faith which is planted in us grows, matures and is ready to be transplanted in the hearts and lives of others as we generously share the love of God with those around us.

Clearly, the central focus of the first parable is on the harvest – the harvest of souls and expansion of God’s realm. This, Jesus wants us to know, is what the kingdom of God is about.

The second teaching, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, likewise concerns the kingdom of God. It is one of the shorter parables of Jesus and appears in three of the four Canonical gospels – Mark, Matthew and Luke.

According to biblical tradition, a tiny mustard seed grows to become one of the largest trees on earth, a tree that attracts innumerable flocks of birds because of the little black seeds that it produces. By analogy, God’s kingdom grows in a similar fashion. It starts from the smallest beginnings in the hearts of men and women receptive to God’s holy word. Working silently and unseen, the word causes a dramatic transformation within us and, in turn, empowers us to convert others by bringing to them the light and truth of the Gospel.

Some theology scholars suggest that the nesting birds may refer to Old Testament texts emphasizing the universal reach of God’s empire. These commentators also propose that an actual mustard plant would be unlikely to attract nesting birds so Jesus deliberately emphasizes the notion of astonishing extravagance in his analogy to characterize the enormous transformational power of the Word. Still other theologians opine that the birds represent Gentiles seeking refuge with Israel or the

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“sinners” and tax collectors with whom Jesus was criticized for due to his association with them. All of these individuals can be reclaimed from the darkness of sin and brought to faith and in to the Kingdom through the power of God’s divine word.

But just as a seed cannot grow until it is planted in fertile ground, we cannot spread the truth of the Gospel without our hearts first being fully open to the power of the Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As the Word of God grows in the hearts of the faithful so too does our ability to do God’s will in bringing about the growth of the Kingdom. We are the “birds of the air” who receive the forgiveness of Jesus who ransomed us from sin and death by his passion, death and resurrection. Through the seed of faith, the kingdom comes to exist in our hearts and the hearts of all believers in God’s Holy Church on earth. This seed of faith, so small in its beginnings, has the power to truly transform the world in which we live, and enable the will of our Heavenly Father to be fulfilled.

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## THE POWER OF THE EUCHARIST

Deacon Greg Ollick



Father Michael Schmitz has one of the most effective campus ministries in the country at the University of Minnesota. He tells a story about back when he was in the seminary in the late 1970s. Though we wouldn’t do it today, back then his particular seminary used regular loaves of bread for Holy Communion. During the distribution of the Eucharist the priest would break off pieces and give them to the people when they came up to the altar. Though they tried their best, there were always crumbs that would fall to the floor. One of the seminarians would stay in the chapel after Mass every day and quietly and reverently kneel down and eat all the crumbs off of the floor. One day Schmitz asked him why he did that, and the answer was something that he would never forget.

The seminarian had spent a year in China as a missionary. He heard a true story about the days when the Communists first took over, and how they would go into churches and ransack everything. One day they attacked a Catholic Church. They took down all the statues and broke them to into pieces. They smashed out all of the stain glass windows, and toppled the altar. Then they took the tabernacle and threw it out the back door. The priest watched in horror as it hit the ground and all of the consecrated hosts were scattered. There was nothing he could do. The soldiers had arrested him and locked him in a tool shed in back of the church. The priest was in there for days as three young Chinese soldiers stood guard with rifles. He kept an eye out for the scattered hosts as he prayed, asking that God would somehow send deliverance.

That evening, once it was dark, he saw a little girl, about 10 years old, outside. She hid behind the trees and bushes so that the guards wouldn't see her. Then she knelt down and picked up one of the sacred hosts with her mouth. She slowly and reverently consumed the host and left. The children were taught that they could never touch the Blessed Sacrament, and they could only receive once a day. So she returned each evening. Darting in and out between the shadows. And each night she would kneel down and consume one of the hosts.

The priest knew how many hosts had been in the tabernacle. And he watched as the girl returned every night until there was only one host left. The priest kept an eye on that host from the window of the shed, and he also kept an eye on the guards. That night he saw the little girl again. She was quiet, fast and very careful not to be noticed by the soldiers. She knelt down and consumed the very last host, and as she got up, she tripped and fell. The guards heard her and rushed over. Then they beat the poor little girl to death with the butts of their rifles. With tears in his eyes, the seminarian said, "That's why I do it. That's why I eat the crumbs off the floor every day. I never forgot that story, and ever since then, there's nothing more precious to me than the Blessed Sacrament."

In the sixth chapter of John's gospel, in what is known as the Bread of Life Discourse, are some of the most profound words in all of scripture. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." Jesus told the Jews that he is the living bread that came down from heaven, and that whoever eats this bread will live forever. And the bread that He will give is his flesh for the life of the world.

The Jews understood this very literally, and that's why most of them left and went back to their families and former ways of living. They said, "This is a hard saying, who can accept it?" Jesus didn't try to explain that he was just speaking symbolically. No, he meant exactly what he said. The Church has understood from the beginning that the Bread of Life refers to the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The New Testament scriptures make this clear, and so does the history and testimony of the early church.

Saint Justin, around the year 145, explained what the Church believes about the Eucharist: "We call this food Eucharist, and no one is permitted to partake of it, except one who believes our teaching to be true and who has been washed in the washing which is for the remission of sins and for regeneration, and is hereby living as Christ has enjoined. For not as common bread nor common drink do we receive these; but since Jesus Christ our Savior was made incarnate by the word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have been taught by his apostles, the food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic Prayer set down by him, is both the flesh and blood of that incarnated Jesus." The Eucharist is indeed the "Bread of Life," and by it we are nourished for all eternity.

At Mass, the King of the universe comes down from heaven, onto the altar and into you and me. When we receive the Bread of Life with the proper disposition, we are changed forever. Disposition is an attitude of mind and heart. Let me share with you an example of someone who had the proper disposition. One Saturday morning, I was at Mass sitting in a pew beside a young boy in the second grade who was receiving his first Holy Communion that day. He had missed receiving his first Holy Communion with his class. His father was sitting on the other side of him. . . . . When the time came, the young boy went up to receive Communion. He bowed reverently, received in his hands and consumed the sacred host. When he returned to his pew, he knelt and prayed. I knelt down next to him. After several minutes his father turned to him and asked, "Son, do you feel any different now that you have received your first Holy Communion?" The boy turned and looked his father in the eye and said, "Yes, Dad, I do feel different. I feel very different. I feel God inside."

That young man received Communion with the proper disposition, the attitude of mind and heart that leads to eternal life. Saint Cyril, in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, said that the Christian who consumes the Bread of Life becomes a "Christbearer," one body and blood with him and the covenant is sealed. Then we are sent out of the church to be what we are called to be – a sacrament, a visible sign of God's invisible grace for the whole world to see, and know and draw closer to him. This is the proper disposition. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." This is why we do it.

Deacon Greg Ollick is a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and teaches in the Catholic Catechesis Certificate Program for Saint Joseph's College.

# St. Ann Cemetery Burial Record

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Grave # \_\_\_\_\_ # of plots owned \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Info:**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the current contact name and phone number responsible for this grave? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

If no, please provide us with whom you think that name, address and phone number should be.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Addr. \_\_\_\_\_

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:

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 2. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 3. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 4. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 5. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 6. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 7. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 8. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 9. _____  | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 10. _____ | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 11. _____ | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 12. _____ | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |
| 13. _____ | Birth Date: _____ |
|           | Death Date: _____ |

If you have family buried in St. Ann's cemetery or own a plot there yourself, and have not previously completed the form above, we would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes and give us as much information as you know. We are verifying and cross checking our information to bring our records up to date as much as possible. Your information is invaluable to us and will help us have better records going forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debbie in the church office, 637-0157. Thank you for any help you can give us.

# USE OF COLOR IN THE CATHOLIC LITURGICAL YEAR

by Deacon Dan Romanello, KM

The sense of sight, including color, plays an essential role in Catholic worship and ritual. While most congregants are familiar with the different shades used during the liturgical year, some may not be aware of the significance of each hue.

Vestment colors worn by deacons, priests and bishops help the faithful recognize that certain church seasons and celebrations are at hand. These liturgical colors usually are reflected in Church decorations as well. The main colors and what they symbolize are listed below.

## **White - Light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, glory**

Season of Christmas  
Season of Easter  
Feasts of the Lord other than of His Passion  
Feasts of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs  
All Saints Day  
Feasts of the Apostles  
Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, Holy Matrimony and Holy Orders  
Mass of Christian Burial



## **Red - The Passion, blood, fire, God's Love, martyrdom**

Feasts of the Lord's Passion, Blood, and Cross  
Feasts of the martyrs  
Palm Sunday  
Pentecost  
Sacrament of Confirmation



## **Green - The Holy Ghost, life eternal, hope**

Ordinary Time after Epiphany and Pentecost

## **Violet - Penance, humility, melancholy**

Season of Advent  
Season of Septuagesima  
Season of Lent  
Rogation Days  
Ember Days (except for Pentecost Ember Days)  
Vigils except for Ascension and Pentecost  
Good Friday



## **Rose - Joy**


Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)  
Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

In addition to the above, **Gold often is used to replace white.**



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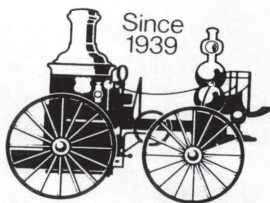
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# OUR CHANGING COMMUNITIES

September 2017 ~ March 2018

## St. Ann Parish

### New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Hymanson  
Mr. & Mrs. George Del Vecchio  
Mr. & Mrs. Trent Fowler  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Keefe  
Mr. & Mrs. John DeLorenzo  
Mrs. Sheila B. Irvin

### Baptisms

Audrey M. Lane  
Bradley McCormack  
Landon Prior  
Robert Clady  
Jaxon Garner  
Andrew T. McGurie  
Larissa E. Oliveira Benoit  
Livia E. Oliveira Benoit

### Deaths - R.I.P.

William Weigand  
Mary DeFazio  
Audrey M. Woodger  
Jean Kergaravat  
Dorothy Mariano  
Robert Gillmeister  
David Hunter  
Barabra Kerans  
Anne Nesbit  
Rita Maitland  
Edna Piretti  
Victor Breen  
Mark Lahey  
Anne Malone  
Evelyn Olchowski  
Gabriel Valenzuela  
Doris Henningsen  
Barbara Yakum  
Jim Prince

## St. Vincent de Paul Parish

### New Members

### Baptisms

### Deaths - R.I.P.

Trudy Haven  
William Irvin  
Jeremy Saunders  
Joseph Leahey  
Kevin Maguire

## St. Patrick Parish

### New Members

### Baptisms

Ruby Agnes Shanahan  
Colby Hank Cadorette  
Vivian Irene Holden

### Deaths - R.I.P.

Rose Viola Castagna  
Ann Louise Angelini  
Victor L Biasin  
Pauline E Negrini  
Janet M Barrett  
Elizabeth J Naventi  
Doris G Skorput