

# The Goodnewsletter

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

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**Editor's Note**  
**by Deb Kuni**

So we have come to our spring issue of the Goodnewsletter already. Spring being my favorite season, all I want to do lately is clean my windows, rake my lawn and clean my flower beds!! While Christmas is always such a wonderful time of the year, I usually find it too busy and stress-filled. Easter is much calmer, (except if you're clergy) more serene and spiritual.

In this issue we have a variety of articles. We are getting ready for our Annual Summer Festival and we want you to know of a few changes plus remind you of some returning favorites! We will be holding our large tag sale this year. You can start your pile for the church as you do your spring cleaning! We will let you know when we will be accepting donations. Watch the bulletin for that notice. Some of our articles will teach you about traditions and your Catholic Faith.

We hope you will enjoy this issue and appreciate the time and effort it took for our contributors to bring them to you.

I hope that you have a happy and holy Easter.

*Peace*

**Up Coming Dates**

Sunday, April 14,	Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 14,	Joint Penance Service with St. Mary's parish at 3:30 p.m. in St. Ann's Church
Thursday, April 18,	Holy Thursday - 7 p.m.
Friday, April 19,	Good Friday - 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 20,	Holy Saturday - 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 21,	Easter Sunday 8am St. Patrick 9:45 a.m. - St. Ann 11:30 - St. Vincent de Paul
Sunday, April 28,	Confirmation at 9:45 Mass with Bishop Rozanski
Saturday, May 11,	First Holy Communion, 9:30am
Sunday, May 12,	Mother's Day
Thursday, May 30,	Ascension of the Lord

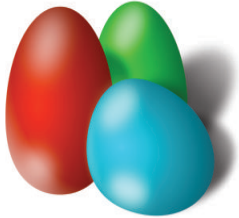
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## THE EASTER EGG

### *Tradition ~ Games ~Legend*

*21<sup>st</sup> in a series of articles from the Spiritual Life Commission regarding our faith*



The egg has universally symbolized new life as far back as pre-Christian times. Decorated eggs were used to welcome the sun and to insure the fertility of the fields and rivers.

The Easter Egg can be traced back to the advent of Christians in Mesopotamia in the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. Christians would stain eggs red as a reminder of the blood of Christ spilled at His death and sacrifice for mankind on the cross. The earliest Christians considered the egg not only to be a symbol of Christ's death but also His resurrection as new life coming forth from the empty tomb – just as new life cracks the shell from within to issue new life leaving an empty shell.

The custom of the Easter egg spread from Mesopotamia into Russia and Siberia through the Orthodox Church and later to the Greek Christians from Persia and then to Europe through the Catholic and Protestant churches. By the Middle Ages Easter Day was called Egg Sunday in some places. Easter greetings were given by "Egg Tapping" or hitting one's egg with another's upon greeting, symbolizing the resurrection in that new life emerged and left an empty tomb.

The decorating of eggs actually pre-dates Christianity. Decorated and engraved ostrich eggs have been found that are 60,000 years old in ancient Sumeria and 50,000 year old eggs have been found in Egypt that were decorated in gold and silver.

The Roman Ritual of 1610 contains a text of blessing... "upon these eggs that they be healthful food for you faithful who eat them in thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Lord..."

The modern tradition is to substitute chocolate or plastic eggs filled with candy and may be placed in a basket of artificial straw or hidden by the Easter Bunny to be hunted for.

Many Easter games involve the egg, such as: egg hunts – as on St. Ann's lawn, egg rolling – as on the White House lawn, the hunt has its roots from the United Kingdom. Egg tapping and egg dancing comes to us from Germany. In Egg Dancing, eggs are spread around a lawn or floor and dancers must avoid them while dancing. Egg Plays, common in England, the plot always has to do with rebirth.

Legends also surround the Easter Egg- two of which deal with Mary Magdalene. Eastern Christians tell the story that Mary Magdalene was bringing cooked eggs in her basket to share with the other women at the tomb. The eggs in her basket turned a bright red when she saw the risen Christ. Another is that Mary Magdalene in spreading the Gospel, went to Tiberias Caesar and greeted him with, "Christ has risen." Caesar pointed to an egg and said, "Christ has no more risen than that egg is red." The egg turned red.

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

By Carol Kirby

The 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 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. Everyone joins the Circle of Friends for a different reason. Recently we assisted a family at a funeral reception for a member of the Circle of Friends who passed away. After the reception the family was very appreciative of all the assistance we had given them during the reception, one of the family members told us that they would like to join the Circle of Friends ministry. Time after time we hear comments from grieving families how wonderful it is to have 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 member Carol 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 their time and talent.

We wish you a very Blessed Easter

### PRAYER FOUND IN A CHURCH PEW

Apparently this prayer has been around for a while and may be used in many places. It seems particularly appropriate at this time in the life of the Church.

My Church is composed of people like me - I help make it what it is

It will be friendly if I am - it will be holy if I am

Its pews will be filled - if I help fill them

It will do great work - if I work

It will be prayerful - if I pray

It will make generous gifts to many causes - if I am a generous giver

It will draw other people into its worship and fellowship - if I invite and bring them.

May the peace, love and light of Christ shine in our hearts during this blessed Easter season and beyond.

### Stained Glass As A Teaching Tool

During the Middle Ages, the daily life of townspeople often centered on their churches. Realizing that many laypeople could not read, priests and bishops used pictures to tell stories of the Old and New Testaments.

Mary, the Mother of God, is a frequent subject of Catholic stained-glass windows. She is often shown as the Stabat Mater (or "mother stood") at the foot of the Cross in Crucifixion scenes, scenes from the Rosary, depictions of her apparitions, and more. Other popular subjects include the Sacred Heart, the life of Christ, and beloved saints.

Among the most famous and beautiful of Catholic stained-glass windows are the three rose windows of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. With scenes from the Old and New Testaments, the rose windows tell the story of the Faith.





## Knights of Columbus News 2019

Council 2412, Fr. William F. Davitt, Lenox, MA



The Free Throw Contest this year has been very successful. In January, 18 girls and boys participated, nine of whom went on to the District Competition in Pittsfield (Katie Shove, Grace Julieano, Jocelynn Fairfield, Savannah Reber, Paige Digrigoli, Leo Lazalde, David Kirchner, and Luke Gamberoni). The winners of that contest went on to compete in the Western District contest in West Springfield. As a result, Katie Shove (9 year old Girls), Grace Julieano (10 year old girls), and David Kirchner (10 year old boys), went on to the State Finals on 7 April at Boston College.

In other news, we again are going to have our “World Famous” (per Msgr. Bonzagni) Spaghetti Dinner on 18 May. This year the proceeds will benefit the Lenox Food Pantry. In addition to our usual menu of spaghetti, meat balls, salad, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, and soft drinks, we hope to have beer and wine

available. Tickets will be available before and after Mass at both St. Ann and St. Vincent de Paul parishes during April and early May. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Tickets are also available at St. Ann’s Rectory or from Bob Baumann (413-446-4915).

As always, we are seeking new members to help us continue our charitable works here in Lenox and in the world. Ask a Knight about our local and world-wide efforts.

**Bob Baumann, Grand Knight**

**Council 2412, Lenox**

### A St. Francis Statue in the Garden

The Catholic family that enjoys tending to flowers may have in their garden a statue of St. Francis of Assisi. Known as the patron saint of the environment and of animals, St. Francis is often depicted in a garden setting or with birds and other animals. This association may be due to his “Canticle of the

Creatures,” in which he praised God’s creatures, including Brother Sun and Sister Moon as well as Brothers Wind and Air and Mother Earth.





## Ordinary & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

By Deacon Dan Romanello, KM

What is the difference between ordinary and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion?

The short answer is:

Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are bishops, priests, and deacons, all of whom have received the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are non - ordained persons appointed by the bishop or his delegate (priests) and properly trained to assist ordained ministers in the distribution of Communion.

The Church permits the use of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion under certain circumstances. Canon Law provides that when the necessity of the Church warrants it, and when ordinary ministers are lacking in sufficient number, lay persons also can distribute Holy Communion. Further, these conditions may include situations in which ordinary ministers present are impeded by illness or age, or when the number of the faithful receiving is so large as to make the celebration of the Mass excessively long.

The decision to allow extraordinary ministers of communion to serve ultimately is at the discretion of the pastor. What is clear, however, is that the churches' guidelines strive to emphasize the difference between the service of the non-ordained faithful and that of sacred ministers, and to prevent laity from substituting for ordinary ministers who are present and able to distribute the Blessed Sacrament.



A decade ago St. Ann began a new program that has given hope to someone you know. You've heard the saying "6 degrees of separation?" If you scan out that far in your own life you will know of someone who has received a transfusion or some type of blood product. Donated blood is critical in supporting cancer patients, new mothers and babies and a host of others.

We have opened our hearts and given 146 units of blood over the years. Please, consider becoming a donor at our 10th Blood Drive this June 6th. If this date doesn't work for you consider another time and date by going to this website: [www.berkshirehealthsystems.org/giveblood](http://www.berkshirehealthsystems.org/giveblood).

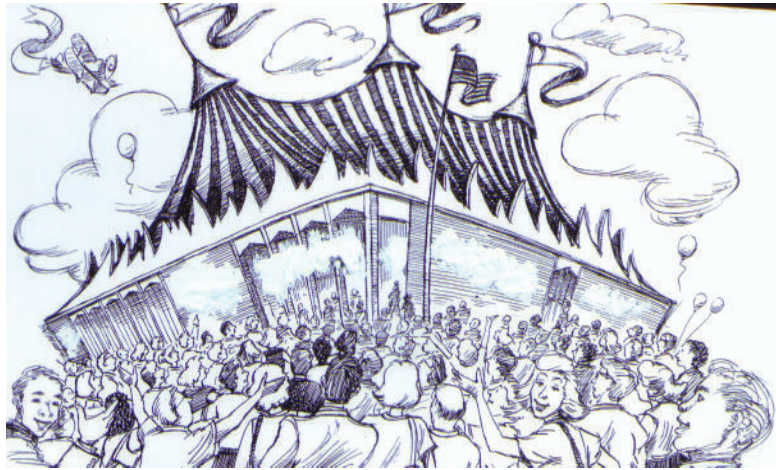
The medical equipment loan program is well stocked so if you know that you will be needing a specific piece of equipment call the rectory and we can arrange to loan it out to you for a while.

The Berkshire County Parish Nurse Lecture Series will be hosting an April program on Autism and a May program on A Fib. Look for flyers soon.

Think Spring and find time to go out and enjoy the warm weather!

Blessings to you!

Dianne Romeo



## **Save the Date!**

### **St. Ann will hold their Annual Summer Festival on July 13 & 14th**

St. Ann's will hold their popular tag sale this year so as you do your spring cleaning, keep St. Ann's tag sale and Auction in mind! We will not be accepting donations for the tag sale until later in June so watch the bulletin for updates on that. If you have items that are of a bit more value and think they would be good in our auction, give the rectory office a call or bring them by in June and we will have our auctioneer take a look.

As we tell you every year, we need volunteers to help with every aspect of the festival. One hour or several hours doesn't matter. We can find something for you to do! Please get your kids involved as well!

This year we are doing something a bit different with our cash raffle. Instead of the multiple sheets of raffle tickets, you will be receiving rows of tickets - two-part tickets where you keep one part and fill in your name and address on the other and return that portion. We are trying this for this year, to save on time and postage. You can let us know if you like it or not!

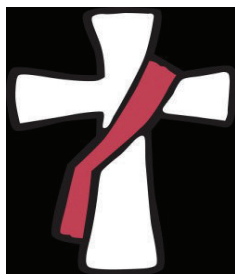
You can always use your own return mailing labels to save yourself some time from having to write out your name and address on them all! We will just need a phone number. I have posted a picture below, of what the tickets will look like, so you'll know what to expect. I'm sure you have all seen tickets like these at other raffles. When you receive them if you have questions you can call St. Ann's office and I will help you if I can! 637-0157



We have many of the usual favorites, like the bake sale, headed up by Carol Kirby. You can give her a call if you'd like to help by donating baked goods. And our themed basket raffle. Start thinking what you'd like your basket to be! I will be running reminders and date notices in the bulletin as the time gets closer. So watch for that.

The Knights of Columbus will have food during the day on Saturday, we will have a pancake breakfast and Mass under the tent on Sunday, as well. The 5K run will be Saturday morning. Watch

for the signup sheet to be out soon. We have some new things this year, too. So watch for more information. Maybe attend our May 7th meeting at 6 p.m.! Maybe plan to donate some time this year. Maybe plan to spend some time at the festival itself. Whatever you do, we hope to see you around!



## ***Frequently Asked Questions about Deacons***

***By Deacon Dan Romanello***

### ***What is a deacon?***

A deacon is an ordained Roman Catholic cleric and minister. He is a person of faith called to serve God and his people as an official representative of the servant Church. The word deacon is derived from the Greek “diakonia” - service to others.

What is the difference between a transitional deacon and permanent deacon?

All priests must first be ordained to the diaconate. Transitional deacons are those men who will go on to the priesthood while permanent deacons remain in this major order of the church for life.

*Is he a layman?*

The deacon is not a layman. He is an ordained cleric but there are differences in his office compared to the roles of priest and bishop. While deacons perform many of the same duties as priests, the diaconate exists in its own right. The office of the permanent deacon carries the same sacramental character and office as the transitional deacon.

### ***May deacons marry?***

Deacons may marry before ordination but a married deacon may not remarry after the death of a spouse. Single deacons must remain celibate. An aspiring candidate for ordination to the permanent diaconate must discuss his intentions with both wife and family. In fact, our Diocese requires that a spouse give her consent before the candidate can be accepted for formation.

### ***Is the deacon paid for his work?***

Permanent deacons are not paid and very few work full-time in ministry. The permanent deacon therefore is expected to support himself and family from his secular occupation.

### ***Is a permanent deacon expected to take time off from his career to perform his ministries?***

Not at present. Diaconal ministry will be performed during non-working hours which most likely means on evenings and weekends. It should be understood by all to whom the deacon renders service that his family obligations always come first - even his job takes priority over ministry because this is the means of his livelihood. His duties as a deacon are third and last in priority. Accordingly, candidates for the diaconate must be ready to arrange their lives so that conflicts between family, occupation and ministry are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

### ***What does a deacon do?***

First of all, deacons are called to be active in charitable works of service. Such activities involve ministry to the sick, the aged, the poor, prison ministry, campus ministry, or youth ministry. The possibilities are limitless - the diaconal vocation is to initiate ministries wherever and whenever needs are perceived; promote social justice; witness to the light and truth of Christ; and proactively engage the laity in participating in these all-important initiatives.



## **Deacons, continued from page 8**

Second, the deacon preaches the Word. At liturgical services he reads the Gospel and may preach the homily. Deacons also proclaim the Word in action by working in adult education, religious education programs, sacramental preparation, etc.

Third, while the deacon cannot consecrate bread and wine as priests and bishops do, he assists at this celebration and is an ordinary minister of the Eucharist. Deacons also officiate at Benediction, administer sacraments, baptize solemnly, bless marriages and preside at wakes, funerals and burials.

### ***Why have we so rarely heard about deacons?***

The original deacons were commissioned by the twelve Apostles. They selected seven worthy men, including Saint Stephen who would become the first martyr of the Church. In the fourth century (for reasons too complex to discuss here) the office of deacon began to decline as the role of priests became much more important. By the Middle Ages, the permanent diaconate would be suppressed and the transitional diaconate viewed solely as the final step to priesthood. This view was upheld until the Second Vatican Council when the decision was made to reinstitute the permanent diaconate.

### ***Does the deacon take the place of such people as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors or Home Visitors?***

No. The role of the deacon is that of one who works side by side with others, enabling and encouraging the service of all. Remember that the deacon is the visible and official reminder of what all Catholic Christians are called to do – loving and serving the Lord by loving and serving others in his name.

### ***Are deacons transferred?***

Yes. Deacons are assigned by the Bishop wherever their services are most needed. They are expected to perform ministerial duties in parishes and institutions within a reasonable commuting distance from their homes.

### ***How are deacons prepared for ordination?***

Following an initial period of application, testing and discernment that spans more than a year, those accepted for formation must commit to a program of at least two nights per week and six weekends per year over a four year period. Program components consist of spiritual, pastoral and academic formation. A program for the wives of candidates also is offered to assist the families of candidates in adjusting to the demands of formation and future ministry. While neither mandatory nor expected, wives also have the option of attending most classes with their husbands.

### ***Can one apply to the Diaconate if he has young children?***


Ordination to the diaconate and holy matrimony both are sacraments. As previously noted, married men seeking to enter the diaconate must have the full cooperation, support and encouragement of their spouses. In addition, families with young children at home may require more in-depth discernment and review by both the applicant and the Formation Board. Care of children is a sacred obligation that should not be neglected as someone pursues the possibility of ordination to the Diaconate since ordination doesn't diminish one's obligation to the vocation of marriage. As noted above, a permanent deacon's priorities must be in this order – family, job and then diaconate.

### ***Why have deacons?***

We sometimes forget that the role of the Church is to be servant. All Catholics are called to service and in this sense the deacon (also bishops and priests) do nothing unusual. That said, the ordination of a man to the diaconate is a public, permanent and visible sign of the official teaching of the Church that everyone must serve. The deacon provides leadership in service and highlights the essential role of servant to which we all are called.

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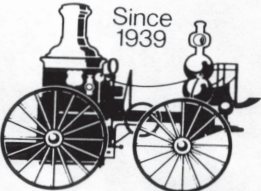


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# **Our Changing Communities**

January 2019 ~ April 2019

## **St. Ann Parish**

### **New Members**

Patricia Joseph  
Dawn Stix  
Anne & Mitchell Pratt  
Christian Gonzalez  
Jackelin Quispne

### **Baptisms**

Rowan Colleen Tagole  
Lucia O'Connor-Smith

### **Deaths - R.I.P.**

Margaret Mahoney  
Louise Omelenchuck  
Ellen Plageman  
Mary Jane Pignatelli  
John Pignatelli  
Paul Kastrinakis  
Anne Farr  
Lisa Jacobs  
Lawrence Fox  
Bessie Romeo

## **St. Vincent de Paul**

### **New Members**

### **Baptisms**

### **Deaths - R.I.P.**

## **St. Patrick Parish**

### **New Members**

### **Baptisms**

### **Deaths - R.I.P.**

Clementine L. Fruet