



# St. Patrick Parish

## Church

## Matters

NEWS ENCOURAGING FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

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SPRING 2016

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## Windows Devoted to the Blessed Mother

by Mike Netkovick

The Annunciation of Mary and the Assumption of Mary are highlighted in this article, the ninth in a series featuring the stained glass windows in St. Patrick Church. In the last issue, we incorrectly stated the window closest to the pulpit as you face the altar was of the Annunciation of Mary. It depicted, instead, the Assumption of Mary. The Annunciation of Mary is depicted in the window on the wall and to your left as you walk up the stairs to the church.

### The Annunciation of Mary

This deeply religious stained glass panel depicts the Archangel Gabriel (shown on the right) as he presents himself to the Virgin Mary, bearing the message that she has been chosen to give birth to the Son of God. Described in the Bible in the Book of Luke, the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary is the moment that Mary finds out she will bear the son of the Lord. She has already promised her hand in marriage to Joseph when the Archangel Gabriel appears to her. He tells Mary that



The Annunciation of Mary



The Assumption of Mary

she is highly favored by God and blessed among women. Mary is shaken and frightened by the vision, and questions how she could possibly bear a child when she is still a virgin. The words of the angel bring her comfort and peace.

### The Assumption of Mary

Celebrated every year on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven. We Catholics believe that the glorification of the flesh, which will take place for us only at the end of time, was granted to Mary at the end of her earthly life. We believe, therefore, that the bodies of both Jesus and Mary are now in heaven. There is, however, this difference: Jesus arose from the tomb and ascended into heaven by his own power, whereas Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son. For that reason we use two different words: the *Ascension* of Christ and the *Assumption* of Mary.

# Spotlight on Marita O'Rourke *by Maureen Sposato*

Main Street resident Marita O'Rourke has been a familiar person at St. Patrick Church since she moved to Farmington with her family in 1969.

Born and raised in Westfield New Jersey, Marita attended Mt. St. Mary Academy and then Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. She and her husband Jim, an ophthalmologist, moved to Farmington when he was recruited to become the first director of the UCONN Health Center's ophthalmology department.

Although raised as a Catholic and married in the church, Marita considers herself fortunate to have had an ecumenical upbringing. "My mother came from a large Catholic Brooklyn family, and my father was an engineer and Episcopalian. They couldn't have been more different, and I saw all sides of every issue," she says. Her husband Jim, born a Catholic, became more comfortable at St. James Episcopal Church after they moved to Connecticut. "It was the right one for him," she says. "The Catholic Church is the right one for me."

Her husband passed away in 2011 after 57 years of marriage, and she credits her faith for helping her through the hard times. "I lost my husband, my son and my brother in a very short time period, and daily Mass gets me out, keeps me going," she says. "We are very fortunate and blessed to have Fr. Barry. He is a good priest who gives good sermons."

Marita has three daughters: Carol Troiani, Elizabeth Doyle, and Margaret Nowak. Her son James passed away suddenly when he was in his fifties. She has eight grandchildren. She also has many friends, both from Farmington and from her childhood.

When the children were younger she managed the household,

handled the family finances and loved to sew. She was a "friendly visitor" for shut-ins and the elderly who needed a friend. In addition to often attending the "Tuesday Morning" group at St. Patrick, she has been a long time regular at the "The Brown Cover Book Club" at St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford. The reading group discusses books and articles about Catholicism and how the Church has changed. "It's important to be broadminded, to not get in a rut," she says.

**Marita O'Rourke**



## **New Parishioners:**

Mr. & Mrs. Hector Castaneda  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Lally  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jaroslaw Czyz  
 Mrs. Lynn Donnelly  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Russe  
 Mr. & Mrs. Luis Coronado  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Levine  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Irala  
 Mr. Ryan Martin  
 Mrs. Maureen Ellen

Mr. & Mrs. William Kulas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Johnathan Espinar  
 Ms. Jennifer Pietrzak  
 Mr. & Mrs. Enrique Quintana  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hintz

## **Baptisms:**

Jackson Randall Collins  
 Aidan James Lally  
 Brooklyn Anna Chmielecki  
 John Michael Trottier

Jillian Elizabeth Curtis  
 Gavin Timothy Moran  
 Cole Michael Bucchi  
 Elley Mary Dignazio- Drost  
 Adriella Christian Bardales  
 Mason Todd Falcone  
 Austin Matthew Rubino  
 Abigail Rose Kulas  
 Zoe Elizabeth Kulas  
 Javen Arturo Espinar  
 Kenysha Marie Espinar

Savannah Maureen Walker  
 Charlotte Rossi Lee  
 Emily Winter Coronado  
 Isabella Victoria Grabulis  
 Lucas Cruz Russe



# Brian Connolly, St. Joseph Award Recipient

by Maureen Sposato



Father Barry has named longtime parishioner and volunteer Brian F X Connolly as this year's recipient of the Saint Joseph Medal. This medal is awarded annually to outstanding members of each parish. In his remarks at St. Joseph Cathedral on April 17th, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair commended the recipients, thanked them and called them to continued service. "This is a very special celebration. As honorees you are outstanding representatives of many others like you who are generous with their time, talent, and treasure."

Brian has served as PAC chairman, committee leader and CCD teacher. Through his career with Maier Advertising, he has used his digital and media marketing skills to put together instructional videos for the GIFT program at St. Patrick, as well as any other

presentations that Fr. Barry or the council needs.

Brian and his wife Denise have two daughters, Caitlin and Shannon.

**Above: Brian Connolly and family.  
Left: Archbishop Leonard P. Blair with Brian Connolly.**



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**[www.stpatsfarm.org](http://www.stpatsfarm.org)**

# Ministry Minute: MESI ANPIL

by Mary Ann Hubert

Thank you very much for, once again, generously donating to our annual collection for the people of Haiti. Your gift continues to CHANGE and SAVE lives! For many years St. Patrick has helped Outreach to Haiti's programs in life giving ways. On behalf of the Haitians we say, mesi anpil ~ thank you!

The programs developed and rendered by Outreach focus on healthcare, education, and economic development. Education in Haiti is vastly different than in the United States. Free public education does not exist, therefore students whose parents cannot afford private school tuition, do not go to school! Fortunately, through Outreach to Haiti's education sponsorship program there are 200 students, kindergarten through post-secondary, who are able to attend school. Outreach has also launched a new economic development program named Fanm Avanse Kounye (FAK) ~ English translation is "Advancing Women Now". Using the skills of contracted coaches, FAK will provide the next steps for women to develop the skills and confidence to secure a livelihood and attain a sense of well-being for themselves and their families. To learn more about these and other Outreach programs visit [http://out-](http://outreachtohaiti.org)

[reachtohaiti.org](http://outreachtohaiti.org). The newsletter has up-to-date information about what Outreach is doing in Haiti.

Outreach works with skilled Haitian doctors and nurses to deliver much needed healthcare for the Haitians. In addition, St. Patrick's has been blessed to have many of our parishioners travel and volunteer with the dental team led by Dr. Ralph Bozza. Every year they set up a dental clinic and care for hundreds of patients in one week. Dr. Dennis Gianoli, also from our parish, often travels with the dental team. Among those who helped at the clinic last October were Bob and Marion Slater and Gene and Bev Montresor (pictured). Below are the thoughts they shared about their experience.

According to Gene Montresor, "Working with our parish dental team in Haiti was an amazing experience. Adults and children were lined up every day for an opportunity to receive much needed dental care. Everyone was so gracious and appreciative. While there is so much need in Haiti, it was rewarding to see what this team accomplished in one week and how much good Outreach to Haiti is doing."

Bob Slater added, "When first planning to go to Haiti there were many things unknown to me. I wondered whether the

water would be safe to drink; I didn't know what we would be doing there, and I also didn't know how we would interact with the Haitian people. I had a great experience – truly better than I thought it would be. We assisted St. Patrick's dental team, and each morning we found long lines of Haitians waiting at the clinic for treatment. It was evident that the Haitian people appreciated the terrific work of the dentists. Lastly, I enjoyed the harmonious company of the travelers and delicious food we were served at the Mission House. We were lucky enough to travel to Haiti with a great group of people and the trip was so enjoyable and memorable."

*St. Patrick Haiti Ministry: Marylou and Ralph Bozza, Lynn and Tom Campbell, Mary Ann and Jim Hubert, Sue and Dennis Petruzzi, Marion and Bob Slater*



*Church Matters*  
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# Education News: GIFT Fall 2016

**GIFT (Generations in Faith Together)** by Eileen Dignazio, DRE

GIFT is a Religious Education Program that is intended for all members of the Parish.

GIFT sessions will be held in the Porter Memorial, 75 Main Street; directly across from the Fire House on Rte. 10 - Main Street.

Parking is in the Noah Wallace School Parking Lot on Church Street, Farmington.

## The following format is followed for each GIFT session:

- Family/community meal
- Large-group presentation of the Theme
- Break-down groups of participants of all ages: Pre/K-Adults
- Groups will work on the theme; (Speaker for Adults and Confirmation Students)
- Brief sharing of what was done in each group, followed by a closing prayer.
- Each family is given a GIFT Bag with activities and prayers to be done at home as follow-up activities.

Online registration information is available for participants with computer access. <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

Orange registration sheets for families without computer access are available at the doors of the church. Please return them to the religious education office, located next door to the church.

## GIFT Sessions for Fall 2016

**September 16, 17, 18:** Theme: The Holy Spirit: The Spirit in Scripture; Pentecost; Spirit of Life.

**October 21, 22, 23:** Theme: History of the Church: Development of the Church; Marks of the Church.

**November 11, 12, 13:** Theme: Ecumenism & Interfaith Relations in the Modern Catholic Church.

### Time commitment for sessions is as follows:

Friday Evening Sessions: 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning Sessions: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Afternoon Sessions: 2:00-4:30 p.m.



## Showboat Jackson visits Saint Patrick

Showboat Jackson of the Harlem Globetrotters spoke to the congregation after Mass on Sunday, May 22nd. He said "Listen to your parents, you may not like what they say but it comes from love. Listen to your teachers; they want you to be the best you can be. Be a great athlete whatever the sport, but be an educated athlete. Respect yourself and others and above all give Glory to God for all you have and seek Him first on your journey."



# Catholics Coming Home

by David Edwards, participant in the Archdiocese Lay Ministry Formation Program

**D**o you know someone who has left the Church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find nonpracticing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, but do not know how to help them. Most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home?

As baptized, practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our nonpracticing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them. Next, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Many nonpracticing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. Many mistakenly think that they are excommunicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons.

Many nonpracticing Catholics carry with them a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church and are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected. We can make a difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them we miss them and would like for them to come back home to our Church community.

At St. Patrick we are currently developing a program called **Catholics Coming Home** to reach out to our nonpracticing Catholic brothers and sisters and welcome them back. This program will conduct a six-part mini-series this fall (October / November) for nonpracticing Catholics who are interested in returning or reconnecting with their faith. The sessions, based on the book, *Catholics Can Come Home Again! A Guide for the Journey of Reconciliation with Inactive Catholics*, by Carrie Kemp, will be conducted in a very welcoming, non-threatening, atmosphere. No one will be rejected for whatever reason they left the Church.

I am currently recruiting members to this program's team. If you are interested in learning more about this program, either because you might be interested in participating as a team member or because you know of a nonpracticing Catholic who might wish to attend our fall program, please contact me. I can be contacted at 860-677-4183 and eugeneedwards5468@icloud.com.

In September there will be much more publicity about this program as we recruit attendees for the sessions.



**Bruno Macaro giving a gift to a 1st Communicant on behalf of the Knights**



**Above and Right: Knights giving carnations to mothers on Mother's Day**



**Ladies preparing Welcome baskets for new parishioners**



# Pro-Life Baby Bottle Drive *by Ed Gales*



St. Patrick Parishioners took over 400 baby bottles on Mother's Day weekend with the hope that they will returned filled with coins, cash, and checks on Father's Day weekend. The proceeds will

be given to St. Gerard's Center for Life in Hartford so that they can continue their mission of providing services for the moms and dads who have chosen life for their babies. This is the 15th Annual Baby Bottle Drive that our ministry has sponsored for either the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Unionville or St. Gerard's and, thanks to the generosity of the parishioners who have wholeheartedly supported this fundraiser, the total raised during these past years has amounted to over \$75,000!!!! For more information, or to assist the Pro-Life Ministry with their events, please contact Ed Gales, Chair, at 860-508-3035 or Bob Jordan, 860-919-4021.

**Top Left: Hollis and Colin Tharpe handing out bottles.  
Bottom Left: Lawn sign. Below: Isabel Wagner handing out bottles**



## Easter Vigil



**Kenysha Marie Espinar & Javen Arturo Espinar are shown with Fr. Barry following their Baptism with their parents Tanyae Espinar & Johnathan Espinar. Wendy Lisbeth Espinar Bermudez & Cesar Israel Espinar Bermudez served as Godparents for Kenysha; Ileana Katherine Espinar Bermudez & Cesar Israel Espinar Bermudez were Javen's Godparents. Kenysha & Javen also received their 1st Holy Communion, and their mother, Tanyae, received her 1st Communion and was Confirmed.**



**Abigail Rose Kulas & Zoe Elizabeth Kulas, daughters of Ingrid Walczyk & William Kulas, were baptized during the Easter Vigil mass on March 26th. Godparents for both children were Steven Walczyk & Christine Miller. The family is pictured with Fr. Barry**



*Church Matters*

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## Homefront 2016 Update *by Joanne Dumais*

Okay, so maybe sunscreen was not exactly required on our official Homefront Day on May 7th, but the rainy start to the day did not slow down the St. Patrick Homefront team. Approximately 40 volunteers worked over several weeks on

our Forestville project. The team has a variety of skilled members who were able to complete electrical work, update the bathroom, replace multiple doors, repair windows, clean and paint the front porch and hatchway, and complete a full yard clean-up, even rototilling the garden! There were many other pieces to the project and the parish should be proud of what was accomplished. Joan, the homeowner, was ecstatic to be selected for the program and to receive the help that was provided. Her home is now safer and hopefully a bit more insulated for when cooler weather rolls around again. Her parting words to me were, "I'm sad to see the project end. I enjoyed having you all stopping by and I will miss seeing you ...." Just goes to show this team is about reaching out and creating community!

Next year will be our tenth year working with Homefront, if you are interesting in getting involved please reach out to Joanne Dumais, [ajdumais@comcast.net](mailto:ajdumais@comcast.net), 860.674.8627.

