



St. Patrick Parish

Church

Matters

NEWS ENCOURAGING FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

www.stpatsfarm.com

WINTER 2017

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Spotlight on Mike Netkovick, Parish Council Chairperson *by Maureen Sposato*

As the new chairperson of the Parish Council, Mike Netkovick sees his role as one of reaching out to parishioners to become more involved in the parish. "I think our biggest challenge is to help our parishioners understand their faith and see the value of reaching out to others as disciples of Christ," he says.

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts and raised in Enfield, Mike has been a member of St. Patrick since he moved to Farmington in 2002. He graduated from Western New England University in 1980 and received post graduate degrees at Notre Dame College and CCSU. He had a career in public relations before deciding to become a teacher. Now in his 18th year of teaching, he is a 7th grade math teacher at Avon Middle School.

In addition to serving on the Council, he has been a Eucharistic Minister and a lector at St. Patrick, and has participated in the HomeFront projects for the last four years. He also researched and wrote the stained glass window series for Church



Mike Netkovick

Matters.

He credits Deacon Bill Farrell for encouraging him to become involved in the ministries at St. Patrick, but he has been an active volunteer for many years. "I've served on various boards and committees for the Easter Seals Society, United Way, American Lung Association as well as local civic and elected positions when I lived in Manchester, New Hampshire," he explains. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone increased their participation by serving on one committee, or attending one additional activity or serve on one ministry, or

just volunteer one hour in the community," he asks.



Catholics Coming Home: An Easter Invitation by David Edwards

Thursdays February 23 – April 6

7 – 8:30 PM

In the 2016 Spring edition of Church Matters I noted that we were developing a program called **Catholics Coming Home** to reach out to nonpracticing Catholics and welcome them back. The program was based on the book, "Catholics Can Come Home Again! A Guide for the Journey of Reconciliation with Inactive Catholics" by Carrie Kemp.

This six-part program was conducted last fall. The participants and team members had excellent discussions on topics such as: concepts of God and Jesus, Who is the Church?, faith and religion, Catholics and scripture, Catholic Christian values, Vatican II, morality and forming our conscience, sin, and the sacraments. We all gained from these discussions, and we all learned more about our faith. The participants' very positive evaluations of the program included suggestions that we extend the program to allow time for more discussions of several topics.

This program will be offered again this winter/spring as an **Easter Invitation to further our faith journey and to grow closer to Christ**. In response to the participants' suggestions the program will be offered for seven Thursday evenings (7:00 to 8:30 PM) from February 23rd to April 6th.

Who is invited? Who will benefit from this program?

Again we are inviting inactive Catholics who wish to explore coming back to the church. Do 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 we may not know how to help them. Please tell them that this program may be of help to them to begin their journey back and that they are all enthusiastically welcomed back. We miss them!

We are also inviting any adult parishioner (active or inactive Catholic) who wishes to learn more about the Catholic faith and grow closer to Christ by exploring the above topics in a relaxed environment.

One can participate as much or as little as desired. Maybe a participant will initially feel more comfortable just listening to the discussions - that is fine.

To join this program please contact me, David Edwards, at eugeneedwards5468@icloud.com or telephone (860) 677-4183. You can also join by contacting the Parish Office: Patty Antony at patty@stpatsfarm.org or (860) 677-2639 x 10.



2017 Parish Council



Front row (L-R); Deacon Bill Farrell, Fernando Macaro, Bev Montresor, trustee; Susan Collins, secretary; Rita Monahan, Eileen Dignazio, Religious Education Director. Middle row: Karen Mastella, Patricia McLaughlin, Marie Macaro, Kate Noe, Mike Netkovich, Chairperson; Monica Blum, Vice Chairperson. Back row: Jeff Pingpank, trustee; Deacon Bob Barry, Tim Pedrotty, John DiTommaso, Thomas Gleifert, Ed Fisher, Knights representative. Council members not present: Susan Chudwick, Matt Plona

Ministry Minute: The Meatloaf Ministry

by Lorraine Stec

We should feel very proud of all the ministries that St. Patrick Church has developed and continues to support. St. Patrick Church was not active in these ministries when I joined the parish in 1969, but we now have many choices of ministries in which we may participate in order to serve Christ in our community and archdiocese. One of these ministries is the Meatloaf Ministry.

The Meatloaf Ministry was a result of the growth of the House of Bread in Hartford. The House of Bread was officially developed and founded in 1980 by Sister Maureen Fazna and Sister Theresa Fonti in response to the needs of the homeless in Hartford. It started as a little coffee house, serving coffee and donuts – now it has expanded to offering breakfasts, lunches and dinners. One of our own parishioners, Lorraine Douglass, immediately became active and donated her time and expertise to the House of Bread.

The Human Needs Committee at St. Patrick Church was organized in 1983 and became involved in assisting the House of Bread. It was then that the Meatloaf Ministry was organized in order to provide needed protein for the homeless in breakfasts, lunches and dinners. This is one of the favorite food items for the House of Bread because the homeless enjoy it and it is versatile. One two pound meatloaf feeds about six people and the cooking staff prepares it with various sauces for dinner, sandwiches for lunch, and even for breakfast. "Meatloaf Benedict" for breakfast sounds tasty when prepared with a poached or fried egg on top! Originally chaired by Lorraine Douglass, the committee was then chaired by Peg Keating, followed by Peg Murphy, and now me. Very important committee members include John Griffin who picks up the meatloaves at the church and drives them to the House of Bread in Hartford every month, and his wife Debbie who provides a meatloaf every month.

Of course, this committee would not exist without the hard work of the volunteers who prepare the meatloaves. Eileen Dignazio's confirmation classes have also helped out; Eileen has asked her students to prepare the meatloaves. This is a great way to "give of yourself" to the homeless, and it is easy. We ask volunteers to prepare a two pound meatloaf and place it in the refrigerator-freezer at the church. (While preparing this, you can make two meatloaves and serve one of them at home for dinner.) The meatloaves go directly to the needy—no bureaucracy here! St. Patrick Church donates meatloaves once a month. Volunteers are contacted about 9 months after they make their donations for another one, so that this is not a monthly undertaking for the volunteers. We do have a few volunteers who make meatloaves almost every month,

and they are responsible for the continued success of this undertaking.

During 2016, 132 meatloaves were baked and delivered to the House of Bread in Hartford and used in meals for the homeless. That number resulted in about 800 meals served as dinner entrees, sandwiches and/or additional protein for breakfasts. Our numbers dropped again this past year, and meatloaves were collected during 11 of the months—with no collection in August.

I thank all of you who have given of your time to make meatloaf donations. It is because of you that this committee continues to succeed. Some of our volunteers have become inactive, and we are seeking more volunteers to help us continue in our efforts. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me. Lorraine Stec, 860-506-4238, bacistec@comcast.net



Blessing of Animals November 11, 2016



Father Barry blesses the animals.

Education News: GIFT Winter & Spring 2017



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.

GIFT Program - Upcoming Dates

March 24, 25, 26: Theme: "Holy Week - Easter: New Life in Christ" Speaker: Sr. Jewel Renna.

April 28, 29, 30: Theme: Ecumenism & Interfaith Relations in the Modern Catholic Church; Speaker: Deacon Arthur Miller.

Looking Ahead:

Fall 2017: Justice and Peace **Spring 2018:** Prayer

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.

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.

Please go online to www.stpatsfarm.org to register. Orange sign-up sheets may be found at the door of the Church for families who do not have computer access. For questions please contact Eileen or Patty in the parish office: 860-676-0253, or Patty@stpatsfarm.org; or Eileen@stpatsfarm.org.



Lenten Parish Family Tradition Soup & Bread Supper / Stations of the Cross / Corporal Works of Mercy

The Season of Lent will be celebrated as a Parish Family in a special manner. On Friday nights, members of the various Parish Committees will provide the Soup & Bread Supper at 6:00 p.m. in the church hall followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. in church. The charitable donations collected will be the Corporal Works of Mercy donations for the Charities we support yearly. The dates of the family events are: March 3, 10, 17, 31, April 7. No Soup & Bread/Stations of the Cross on

March 24 due to the GIFT sessions held that weekend, or on April 14 for Good Friday. Please check the parish bulletin and website for details. Please come and join us for this Lenten Parish Tradition.



Church Matters
Winter 2017

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Oktoberfest - October 18, 2016



Confirmation - November 4, 2016



2016 Confirmation class



L-R: Eileen Dignazio, Religious Education Director; Bishop Peter Rosazza; Fr. Thomas Barry; Toni Berlandy, Confirmation Director

Christmas Tree lighting and Nativity - December 13, 2016



SAVE THE DATE

Father Barry's 50th Ordination

- May 6, 7** **After all Masses** "Coffee and..." will be dedicated to Fr. Barry.
- June 3** **6-9 PM Farmington Country Club**
Invitation to follow and RSVPs will be required.
- June 4** **1 PM Celebration Mass** followed by a potluck reception in the church hall. No charge for parishioners, but RSVPs will be required along with your potluck dish to share: appetizer, side dish or dessert. (No 11:30 Mass that day)

Registration will be available on WeShare, our online service for registering for church events and making contributions.

<http://www.stpatsfarm.org>.



HOMEFRONT Saturday, May 6, 2017

HomeFront is a community-based, volunteer-driven home repair program that provides free repairs to low-income homeowners, enabling them to remain in their homes with an improved quality of life. For information or to participate, e-mail Joanne Dumais: ajdumais@comcast.net or 860.674.8627



SAVE THE DATE

Hope for Haiti 12th Anniversary Fundraiser

Saturday, February 20, 2017

6:00 PM

Hawk's Landing Country Club

201 Pattonwood Drive, Southington

\$30 per person includes dinner,
drinks, dessert & entertainment

Please RSVP by 2/16. For more information
contact Sue at (860)673-1514 or
s.petruzzi@comcast.net



What if we all love each other?



Women's Retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center

Theme: The Light of Simplicity

April 21-23, 2017

The annual retreat for the women of St. Patrick Church is scheduled for April 21-23, 2017. Come away and renew your relationship with God. Leave your stress and distractions behind and spend the weekend discovering how simplicity can light the way on what is really necessary and important in your life. You'll go home to live a simpler life and discover how this gives you true freedom and joy.

For information call Gloria Farrell at 860-673-5370 or Janet Paquette at 860-677-0188. Check bulletin boards for registration forms, or to register by phone, call 860-760-9705. To register on line go to info@holyfamilyretreat.org

New Parishioners:

Mr. John Machowski
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kaszubinski
Mr. Jonathan Ferraro
Ms. Stephanie Goguen
Mr. & Mrs. Alexandro Lima
Ms. Mary Sheridan
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Williard

Ms. Jennifer Molloy
& Mr. James Fierravanti
Ms. Kayleen Martin
& Mr. Bruno DeMelo
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Giannini
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Spirito
Ms. Wendy Zdunczyk
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kropp

Baptisms:

Samuel Ronald Castrillon
James Lee Nestico
Dylan James Coutu
Micah Jason Levine
Fallon Anastasia O'Donnell
Isaiah Joseph Ridgeley
Eliana Rae DeMelo

Nola Millie Nemarich
Katherine Rose Osowski





Church Matters

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Peer Ministry Update *by Paul & Jessica Williard, co-directors*



The Peer Ministry's first event was an ornament station at the Christmas tree lighting festival at St. Patrick's, and we are looking forward to a busy spring. A few of our upcoming events are a rock climbing social event, a visit to a local nursing home, and a spiritual book club! Also, we have several juniors being installed as Peer Ministers. We are currently

planning a Spring/Summer retreat, but don't have the details worked out quite yet. In our new roles as co-directors of Peer Ministry, we are learning as we go, but we are loving it! The students seem so dedicated and interested in coming together to serve. We hope to have more and more interested juniors and seniors as time goes on.