



St. Patrick Parish

Church

Matters

NEWS ENCOURAGING FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

www.stpatsfarm.com

SPRING 2017

IN THIS ISSUE:

Spotlight on Bev Montresor and Jeffrey Pingpank

page 2

Ministry Minute: Homefront 10th Anniversary

page 3

Education News: GiFT 2017-2018

Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner

page 4

Good Friday Faith Walk

Easter Egg Hunt

page 5

Alex Bednarik Receives the St. Joseph Award Mother's day

page 6

First Communion May Crowning Parish Picnic

page 7

The Golden Jubilee

page 8

Fr. Barry's Golden Jubilee *by Maureen Sposato*

The Church of St. Patrick celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ordination of its Pastor, the Reverend Thomas J. Barry, with a reception on Saturday June 3rd at the Farmington Country Club, which included live music by the FHS Madrigals, and abundant food and drink. A celebratory Mass was held on Sunday, June 4th followed by a potluck picnic. Hundreds of parishioners attended all of the events. Fr. Barry was joined at the reception by his brothers, the Rev. Maurice Barry and John Barry, and his longtime friend Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. He also received an Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis.

He concelebrated the Sunday Mass with his seminary classmate Monsignor Gerard G. Schmitz, and during his homily he emphasized the changes that have taken place in the world and in the Church in the last 50 years. "In 1967 we entered an era of change brought about by the Viet Nam



Fr. Barry with Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman



Fr. Tom Barry with his brothers John Barry and Fr. Maurice Barry

war, abortion rights, drug use in our country, among other things. In 1967 we ordained 21 priests in our diocese. This year we are lucky to have three," he said. Resplendent in red vestments in honor of Pentecost Sunday, he said that Pentecost was a fitting day to celebrate. "Pentecost signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit, and brings us an opportunity for new life, energy, faith and evangelization. The changes in organized religion can be challenging for a priest," he said. "But time can be our ally. We must be aware of the last 50 years and look forward to our future. Thank you for your prayers."

Fr. Barry was born in Hartford and attended St. Joseph Cathedral schools before attending St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester. He was ordained in Hartford on May 4, 1967. He is also a Canon Lawyer, having received his degree from Gregorian University in Rome in 1973. Canon law (Cont. page 3)

Spotlight on Beverly Montresor & Jeffrey Pingpank, Trustees

by Maureen Sposato

Father Thomas Barry has named longtime parishioners Beverly Montresor and Jeffrey Pingpank to serve as the new parish trustees for St. Patrick, replacing Robert McLaughlin and Elizabeth Rubino, whom he thanks for their service.

Bev Montresor was born in Hartford and attended South Catholic High School and the University of St. Joseph. Before her retirement, she served as an executive in the technology department at Hartford Financial Services. She and her husband Gene have been members of St. Patrick since they moved to Farmington in 2001. Their son Jay, who works for ESPN, lives in West Hartford with his family, and their daughter Lori is a veterinarian with the CT Humane Society.

Bev is a familiar figure hosting the "Coffee And..." after all the masses on the first weekend of each month, and she has been the chair of the Communications committee for many years, overseeing the Welcome Baskets given to new families, the original website, and the development of "Church Matters".

In addition, she has taught religious education, twice managed the creation of the parish directory, was a member of ProLife, worked with Homefront for several years, and served a term on PAC. Her volunteer work extends beyond St. Patrick. She has been a member of the Farmington Valley Women's Club and the Rotary Club and is an active member of the UCONN Auxiliary where she volunteers 1-2 days a week. She and Gene have traveled to Haiti with Outreach to Haiti where they assisted at the dental clinic. They have also volunteered with Dream Ride for the last 3 years.

She feels St. Patrick needs to continue to grow by encouraging young families to participate in parish ministries. "We, of course, also need to secure the funds to upgrade and maintain our buildings so that we can serve everyone - easy access, space for teaching, and room for social activities," she says.

Jeff Pingpank grew up in Darien, and graduated from Johns Hopkins University and UConn School of Law. He practices law with the firm of Cooney, Scully and Dowling in Hartford. One of their clients is the Archdiocese of Hartford. He and his wife Anne have been members of St. Patrick's since 1978. They have three grown children, all living in the Boston area.



Beverly Montresor and Jeffrey Pingpank

In addition to serving as a greeter and usher at the 11:30 mass, Jeff was one of the original organizers of the Farmington Public School Foundation, and has been on the boards of both Winding Trails and the Farmington Land Trust.

He believes that there are two equally important challenges facing St. Patrick Church in the next several years. "One obviously is addressing the building improvements that must be done. Our church was built in the early 1920's due to the generosity and work of the parishioners at that time. Hopefully with the generosity and work of parishioners today, we can have a vibrant church for another 100 years," he explains.

"Our other challenge is attracting people to the Church and to St. Patrick's. We all have different levels of faith, and different

things that motivate us. We have to figure out new ways to motivate people with different levels of faith to come back or to join the Church," he adds.

According to state law, parishes must file an annual report each year which includes a list of corporate officers. Under the Archdiocese of Hartford, each parish's officers are: the Archbishop, two Chancellors, the parish pastor, and two trustees. The trustees are appointed for a one year term, renewable indefinitely. They act in an advisory capacity to the pastor, but Father Barry says that he will require more of them than advice. "I would like them to attend the Parish Advisory Council and Finance Committee meetings as well. I appointed Jeff & Bev because they have had a long time commitment to St. Patrick Parish," he said.

Ministry Minute: Homefront 10th Anniversary

by Joanne Dumais

This year the St. Patrick Homefront team celebrated its 10th anniversary by undertaking numerous improvements on the home of WWII vet John Wartonick of Bristol. The house needed a lot of work so the team focused on electrical fixes, windows, doors, gutters, siding and painting. There was also a lot of "stuff" in the basement, attic and yard that was cleaned up and recycled or donated if possible. The yard got some much needed TLC with general clean up and tree trimming. The team filled up over two 30-foot dumpsters!

The work done on Mr. Wartonick's home was by far the largest project the St. Patrick team has taken on, and he was extremely grateful. Many thanks to all the volunteers, and to the sponsorship of Home

Depot, local businesses & Tony at Subway, who provided lunches, and Habitat for Humanity volunteers who helped.



Clockwise from Top: Before, After, the Home Front Team

Hospitality Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help with the Coffee And... on the first weekend of each month following all of the masses. Please put your special cooking, hosting or clean-up talents to work! Contact Bev Montresor at bevmontresor@snet.net for more information or to volunteer.

Fr. Barry's Golden Jubilee *(Continued from page 1)*

is the legal system of the Catholic Church, and canon lawyers assist and advise the clergy and laity in the application of the law. Fr. Barry was a member of the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Hartford and has also served several terms on the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford as member, secretary and judge. The Tribunal assists those seeking marriage annulments. Father Barry also taught a course in Roman Catholic Polity at Yale Divinity School for five years, and he is the president of the MJB Corporation, a non-profit organization that focuses on economic development in the

disadvantaged areas of the city of Hartford.

He has served as pastor of St. Dunstan in Glastonbury, St. Mary in Newington and most recently at St. John of the Cross in Middlebury from 2002 until he was appointed to St. Patrick on March 23, 2011. During his tenure at St. Patrick he has committed himself to the youth. "So many parishes do not have active participation on the part of the young," he says, and he has vowed to change that and bring more young people into the church through programs. "Teenage spiritual development is crucial to the life and future of the parish," he says.

Education News: GIFT 2017-2018

GIFT (Generations in Faith Together)



2017-2018 Theme: "Act for Justice."

Fall 2017 - September 15, 16, 17. October 20, 21, 22.

Spring 2018 - February 9, 10, 11. March 23, 24, 25.



GIFT is a Religious Education Program for every member of the Parish. 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.

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.

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.



Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner



Church Matters
Spring 2017

Communication Committee:

Bev Montresor, Chair

Editor:

Maureen Sposato

Reporters:

Eileen Dignazio
Joanne Dumais
Bev Montresor
Maureen Sposato

Photography:

Denise Connolly
Eileen Dignazio
Joanne Dumais
Maureen Sposato

Design and Layout:

Katherine Sposato Johnson

Printing:

Garrett Printing & Graphics
Bristol, CT

 printed on recycled paper

Good Friday Faith Walk



Easter Egg hunt



Alex Bednarek Receives the St. Joseph Award

by Bev Montresor

Father Thomas Barry recommended St. Patrick parishioner Alex Bednarek to receive the St. Joseph Award in recognition of his continued dedication to St. Patrick.

On March 19, 2017, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair awarded the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation to 188 volunteers from 148 parishes of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Each year this honor is bestowed on parishioners selected for their exemplary service in their parishes.

"For over 55 years Alex has welcomed people to our parish. He is easily recognized by fellow parishioners because he has rarely missed an opportunity to serve as a greeter and usher at the Saturday 4:30 mass," said Fr. Barry. In his remarks at St. Joseph Cathedral, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair thanked all recipients. "Thank you all for the selfless and devoted service you have rendered over the years". He also issued a call to action to all Catholics to share time, talent and treasures. "Continue to render to the Lord and his church, and to your local faith communities and neighbors," he said.



Alex Bednarek with his son Jim and daughter in law Shirley



Mother's Day

Knights of Columbus give carnations to parish women.



New Parishioners:

Ms. Kayleen Martin & Mr. Bruno DeMelo
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Williard
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Giannini
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Spirito
 Ms. Wendy Zdunczyk
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kropp
 Mr. Eric Rogers & Ms. Roseann Jackson
 Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Gencarelli

Ms. Joni McMillan
 Mr. Jason Leavitt & Ms. Tammy Samperi
 Mr. Fernando Macaro
 Mr. Andrew Munson & Ms. Leah Estanislaw)
 Mr. & Mrs. John Relunia
 Ms. Theresa Chase
 Ms. Aimee Brousseau & Mr. Brian Wood
 Ms. Christine Dube & Mr. Brian Mikolascik

Mr. & Mrs. Tyson Blackburn
 Mr. & Mrs. Gualberto Jardeleza
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Popovic
 Mr. & Mrs. Danilo Pangilinan
 Mr. Michael Esteves
 Mr. & Mrs. James Naples

Patrick Martin Hendrickson
 Timothy Palmer Lischick
 William Scott Bernier
 Samuel Normand Shepard
 Nora Prior Shepard
 Ava Laurette Rose Shahmir
 Isla Elaine Shahmir

Baptisms:

Alexander William Aniello
 Colton William Wagner
 Eleanor Rose Cannon



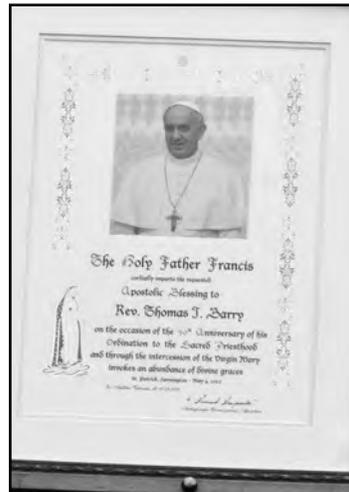
First Communion



May Crowning



St. Patrick Parish Picnic





Church Matters

110 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
Farmington, CT 06034-0523

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARMINGTON, CT
06034
PERMIT NO. 25

The Golden Jubilee

