

The Weave

Summer 2017

Volume 21 Issue 3

A Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

Moving Forward in Parish Collaboration

by Fr. Brian Manning

In the last two years our Parish of Saint Mary's has been steadily and faithfully following the graced Pastoral Plan of Cardinal Sean's called "Disciples in Mission" (disciplesinmission.com). This document announces a vision and understanding and also a process for us as we are called to be "disciples in mission" in the Archdiocese of Boston. This document lays out a strategy for all of our parishes and institutions to become stronger and more effective instruments of God's grace. On the parish level, the Cardinal has structured many parishes together, and larger ones like us remain as single parishes. This process has been called "the Collaborative Process." Each year for almost ten years, and indeed beyond even the expected canonical tenure of Cardinal O'Malley, designated parishes engage in the process of collaboration. Saint Mary's has been engaged for two years in this "collaboration" and busy in prayer, thought, reflection and decision making.

At the beginning of this summer, our Parish, as required, submitted a written plan to the Cardinal for our Parish to

grow in its evangelization efforts, while at the same time keeping all of what we do. Indeed, most everyone knows how active and engaged Saint Mary's Community is, however as faithful disciples of Jesus we can always grow to be better followers.

This "Plan" was approved by the Cardinal over the summer. This Plan was written by a group of parishioners who prayed, read, studied, consulted and attended formation and development meetings for over one year. The Plan Writing Team was led by Pandora Carlucci whose faith and also professional knowledge and expertise led us throughout

this entire enterprise. Members of the Plan Team reflected the various constituencies of our Parish. Monica Baker, Barbara Brunelli, Dan Fleming, Mary Ellen Hasenfuss, Tom Seery as a Finance Council Representative and John Ristaino as a Parish Pastoral Council Representative. Also members of this Plan Team were Trish Murphy, Nan Rafter, Fr. Jack, Fr. Chris and myself from the Pastoral and Ministerial Staffs.

(Continued on page 3)

The Theology of Beauty

by Joan McGuire

"There is a season for everything. A time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3)

We live in a fast paced society. Our vocabulary is filled with terms like rapid transit, instant video replay, fast food restaurants, job burnout and information overload. Some of us are so caught up in the accepted rhythm of this fast paced society that we have trouble slowing down. In Mark 6:30 we see how busy Jesus and His apostles were that as they went about teaching and preaching to people that they didn't have time to eat. Aware of this, Jesus invites his apostles to "come away to a quiet place to rest a while."

Summer is the season to rest awhile. The hectic schedules seems to slow down. Gardens are in bloom and walkers take the time to compliment gardeners on their beautiful gardens. God is calling us to enjoy the beauty around us, "Come to me" says Jesus "all you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you." This invitation of the Lord's to rest is not just a kind gesture. It is an indispensable call to find a few minutes of solitude and silence each day. With all the stress, anxiety and confusion we face daily, we need moments to stop and look into the face of God and remember we are His beloved children. He is here for us. Ask for His help in a trying moment. Give Him thanks for all the beauty surrounding us - people, places, things and

(Continued on page 4)



inside...

The Class of 2017 Celebrates and Hears that "God is with Us" **page 2**
"through cloud and sunshine..." **page 4**
St. Mary's Music Notes **page 6**
Scenic Drive **page 8**

A Community of Love Continues to Grow and Change

by John M. Ristaino

Well, St. Mary Parish's annual Feast of St. Rocco will be held again this August and next August and then it will change. "The Feast" as we have known and loved it for the past 38 years will change. Change is usually disappointing news and takes time to appreciate. As I reflect on the Feast of St. Rocco and what it has meant to our faith community; I am struck that it has been an outward expression of the Community of Love which is St. Mary Parish and the Greater Franklin Area.

The Feast of St. Rocco's arrival was well timed. It started the year after the gala celebration of the Town of Franklin's 200th birthday. The people of Franklin and St. Mary Parish were ready to continue that spirit and so the timing was right to launch a new community event. Many long-time Franklin residents likened the "new" Feast of St. Rocco to the days of the Firemen's Field Day celebrations which had been held each year in Franklin "back in the day." They too were community celebrations held in August. The Firemen's Field Days had ceased to exist for a number of years. The Feast of St. Rocco seemed to feel like those events of days gone by. The reason is that the same community spirit was present; a community of love.

That is what we are as a Catholic faith community as well; we are a community of love. We enjoy numerous celebrations and demonstrations of this dynamic. There are daily and weekly Masses, there are Sacramental celebrations and special events throughout the year held at St. Mary Parish. St. Mary is also a community of love in times of sorrow when we gather to bury our dead; those who have lived a long full life and those

who have left us too soon.

Recently, I have been reflecting back in the importance of St. Mary Parish to the Catholic community of the area. Not so very long ago Franklin welcomed immigrants from France, Lithuania, Ireland, Armenia and of course Italy among other countries. St. Mary Parish and the Catholic faith were constants in their transition from foreigner to becoming new American arrivals and citizens. St. Mary Parish was a community of love to those newly arrived immigrants. Mass and community activities were celebrated differently back then. Like all of society, St. Mary Parish has changed with the times in order to address the needs of its parishioners and members of the Greater Franklin Community.

In the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s St. Mary Parish was able to open and operate St. Mary School. The times changed and the feasibility of continuing to operate the school operations stopped. The school building has remained and continues to allow St. Mary Parish to benefit from its existence.

St. Mary Parish has enjoyed many wonderful annual traditions through the years. The parish gathered on Mother's Day afternoons and held a May Procession. The children gathered and would begin at St. Mary School leading a procession which included a statue of the Blessed Mother carried by the Knights of Columbus. A very full church would witness the procession's arrival and the eventual crowning of the Blessed Mother statue with a wreath of flowers by a young member of the Parish. It was a gathering of our community of love.

The Parish once sponsored an annual Minstrel Show which showcased the performing talents of parishioners. This tradition morphed into the St. Mary Players who mounted musical theater productions for the community. As time passed, the musical theater productions ceased but the memories of fun linger on along with the love.

We stand at the threshold of another St. Mary tradition ending. Let's celebrate these next two years! Society is changing and St. Mary Parish needs to change with it as it has always done. St. Mary Parish will continue to be a community of love and will identify and start new

(Continued on page 6)

The Class of 2017 Celebrates and Hears that "God Is With Us."

written by Josh Rich FHS '17 and
Nick Georgette KPHS '17
edited by John M. Ristaino

The rivalry between Franklin High School and King Philip High School took a break during the 2017 Baccalaureate Mass at St. Mary Parish. Josh Rich, a member of the Franklin High School Class of 2017, and Nick Georgette, a member of the King Phillip Regional High School's Class of 2017, both delivered talks at the end of the Mass. The thread of both talks, as you will note is that "God is with us."

Josh spoke first and the following is the text of talk:

Hello Everyone, My name is a Josh Rich. I have been a member in the Rock Youth Ministry (*here at St. Mary Parish*) for the past *seven* years now. Between singing at the 5 PM Mass for *five* years, then working as the Head Usher for the last *two* years, I have grown to feel a strong spiritual connection between myself and God. But this connection has always felt casual and I have not seen its impact on my life until just recently, when I lost my sneakers.

Three weeks ago the Franklin High School Band started to prepare for the Memorial Day Parade and we were asked to bring in sneakers that we could practice marching in. I had brought in my sneakers in a green string bag, then proceeded to lose the string bag at some point in the middle of school one Thursday. That afternoon I searched the whole school, asking all the janitors and other faculty if they had seen the bag. I continued to search for them all through Friday. I ended up leaving school that evening feeling disheartened and lost. The following weekend came and made me more scared that they would not be found. It was not until that Sunday evening when I was talking to my mom that she told me to pray to Saint Jude, who was said to help those who have lost something. I realized that over the *four* days that I had been searching, not once did I think to ask God for guidance. I prayed to Saint Jude that night and the following Monday morning I went to school. Upon opening the door to the lost and found room, I looked at the table, and sitting right in the middle was the green string bag with my shoes inside. I stayed after school that Monday, to try to find who found them, so that I could thank

(Continued on page 3)

The Weave

Published three times a year
(March, July
and November)
by Saint Mary Parish, Franklin MA



Parish Publishing

Publisher Father Brian Manning
Editor Joan McGuire
Layout Editor Paula Coughlin
Proof Editor Fr. Jack Sullivan
Contributing Editors:

Karen Ackles
Fr. Chris Bae
Nick Georgette
Terry Kerr
Nan Rafter
Josh Rich
John Ristaino



...Disciples in Mission

(Continued from page 1)

During this year's Feast of Saint Rocco, but with greater emphasis throughout this coming Fall we will be rolling out the Plan to all our Parishioners and friends. There will be the long formal, written Plan available on our website and at the communication table in the lower side hallway, more quickly read brochures that capture the Plan at all the main church door tables, electronic copies of the Plan sent to you and also one or more 'town meetings.' I want to tell you the good news that because of timing issues, we are moving ahead right now on one of the three "priorities" that our Plan Team clearly named: a full capacity elevator and accessible bathrooms and more. We all recognize that it is important that we make our church facility easier to access for all people and also provide proper bathrooms. The issues are self-evident and I am glad that this facility priority was one of our most important. When more folks can get inside easily and properly and with the proper support facilities, more folks will be here. There are now 3 major assisted living facilities in Franklin and also

many people who have hip(s) and knee(s) replacement continue to live in their own homes, but need to be able to get in and out our church facility with ease and dignity year round. In the early 1900's no one thought about "barrier free access" or that medicine would allow us to have mobility in replaced joints throughout our now very long lives. Although the front steps of Saint Mary's Church are beautiful and impressive and also the lower level a great asset, in today's world and life, all those stairs are a daunting and often impossible problem for folks. We all recognize our deficit of accessible and also decent bathrooms for one and all. We are almost finished with the Architectural and Financial Feasibility Studies. We will begin the Capital Campaign shortly. Hopefully, the generosity of you and others will allow us to start construction in this coming early Spring.

Our Parish of Saint Mary's is a vibrant, wonderful and active faith community that seeks to worship our God and serve others. What a wonderful statement to be able to say and proclaim to others. Thank you for your part in the goodness of Saint Mary's.

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Banquet of Beans

As the days of summer arrive, I enjoy a slower daily pace and I have time to reminisce on the summers of years past. The summer after my high school graduation stands out as my first adventure without the protection of my parents. I was sixteen and my three cousins were a little older and we convinced our parents to let us camp cross country for two weeks. We had lots of energy, a sense of adventure, and a Volkswagen Beetle. We did call home frequently, we had a credit card and list of national parks.

One night along the Mississippi we camped under the stars and had only a large can of beans for supper. The label assured us that it was very nutritious, but we couldn't find our can opener to get the can open. Finally with the help of a rock and a tent spike we got the can open and heated the beans over the open fire. As we each took our portion we each spruced up our meal differently. One person added ketchup another added relish and I added mustard.

Whenever I hear a homily, I think of that event. In order to be nourished with the beans we had to open the can, heat it up and add the personal touch. No matter how excellent the material of a homily is or how well it is delivered, it is just a string of words unless I make it my own. The ideas in the homily must be opened with careful listening and heated up with thoughtful examination. To insure a thoroughly heated mix, the homily must be frequently stirred with reflective pondering. Now it is ready to be eaten-to be ingested and absorbed into my daily life. How I use this nourishment depends on my individuality. How has God called me daily to serve him and his children? Where does my service of God need to be spruced up during this coming week?

If prepared well the simplest fare can be made to nourish the children of the King, a Banquet of Beans.

...The Class of 2017 Celebrates and Hears that "God Is With Us."

(Continued from page 2)

that person, but no one knew who found them.

So it may seem a little bit silly that finding a pair of sneakers is a huge event, but then you have to realize that it is more than just about the shoes. God works everyday with the little things and the big things, and It is not until we realize this that we truly see God's influence in our daily lives. Whether it be with physical things like finding one's shoes, or just a little bit of guidance in the back of the mind, God is with us.

Nick Georgette followed Josh in speaking to those assembled at Mass. The following are Nick's remarks:

Before I begin I would like to thank Father Brian and the pastoral staff for the opportunity to speak at this mass. It is a

honor and privilege to be able to stand up here and to speak to all of you. I must say, it is weird being up here and not reading the scripture. I am used to God enlightening me with his words of wisdom, and now I find myself up here reading my own work that I am sure is riddled with incorrect comma usage. Nonetheless, I hope that you all enjoy what I have to say.

About 2 years ago I came to Saint Mary's not knowing what would happen. I was encouraged by my mom to try something new and to open my heart up to Jesus. To be quite honest, I was scared of going to church. I did not know how to do any of the religious signs nor did I understand numerous jargons the priest used during the mass. Yet, the thing that I was afraid of the most was God. I did not know who he was, and that was what really scared me. I knew he

(Continued on page 7)





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- July 25 Mass at nursing home
- July 26 **Planning Study Focus Groups, 4 & 7pm**
- July 30 Baptisms
- Aug. 2 Mass at The Estate
- Aug. 6 **Opening Mass for The Feast of St. Rocco**
- Aug. 6 Baptisms, 1:30
- Aug. 6 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30pm
- Aug. 9 Mass at Forge Hill
Feast of Saint Rocco
- Aug. 10 **Rides & limited food open 5-10pm**
- Aug. 11 **Food Booths, Rides, Entertainment open 5-10pm**
- Aug. 12 **Anointing Mass, 10am Food booths, Rides & Entertainment open 11am-10pm**
- Aug. 13 **Closing Mass and Procession of the statue, 10:30am Food Booth, Rides, Entertainment open 12-8pm**
- Aug. 14 **Vigil of the Feast of the Assumption, Mass: 4pm**
- Aug. 15 **Feast of the Assumption Masses: 7am, 7:30pm**
- Aug. 20 Book Bag/School Supply Drive
- Aug. 20 Baptisms, 1:30pm
- Aug. 22 Mass at nursing home
- Aug. 27 Baptisms
- Sept 4 **Labor Day**
- Sept 6 Mass at The Estate
- Sept 9 Memorial service at cemetery for aborted children, 8:45am
- Sept. 10 Baptisms
- Sept. 10 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30pm
- Sept. 10 **5pm Mass resumes**
- Sept. 11 Health Ministry Meeting, 10am
- Sept. 13 Mass at Forge Hill
- Sept. 17 Baptisms
- Sept 26 Mass at nursing home
- Sept 30 Friends of the Poor Walk
- Oct. 1 Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 2 Protecting God's Children Class, 7pm
- Oct. 4 Mass at The Estate
- Oct. 8 Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 11 Mass at Forge Hill
- Oct 15 Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct 15 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30pm
- Oct 19 Bereavement Support Group begins
- Oct 24 Mass at Nursing Home
- Oct 29 Altar Care Meeting, 11:15am
- Oct. 29 Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 31 **Vigil of All Saints Day Mass: 4pm**
- Nov. 1 **All Saints Day Masses: 7am, 7:30pm**
- Nov. 4 Mass of Remembrance
- Nov. 5 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Nov. 10 **Confirmation, 6pm**
- Nov. 11 **Confirmation, 10am, 1pm**
- Nov. 12 Baptisms, 1:30

...The Theology of Beauty

(Continued from page 1)
 animals. He has created all these things for our enjoyment. This is what I call the "Theology of Beauty." The opportunity to step out of the present moment and be engulfed in the peace of Christ which is always ours for the asking. This exercise can also be employed at any sudden tension in the day - such as waiting in a doctor's office, being stuck in traffic, or standing on a mile-long line in supermarket check-out. Just think of it as "the pause that refreshes."

"through cloud and sunshine..."

by Father Jack Sullivan

On vacation in Maine, I had the experience of walking the beach at low tide in the fog. Friends, I've walked this length of beach so frequently over the years in the sun, that I no longer feel anxious about walking along this beach in the fog. Even in the fog, joggers pass by me at a faster rate of speed. People walking toward me appear as surprises.

Even the perfectly enjoyable summer vacation includes a foggy morning. Our lives are somewhat the same. A day arrives when even the familiar looks different, as if a heavy fog has covered over what we know. When sorrows (death, medical diagnosis, romantic betrayal) arrive in our lives, these sorrows resemble fog. Feelings of disappointment, confusion, and disorientation arise within us. For help in gaining resilience, we turn to trusted advisors or counselors.

We set out again on the pathway. We follow after Jesus. We trust that the Lord Jesus is ahead of us, but the fog overshadows Jesus - or so it seems to us on that foggy day.

Following after Jesus resembles our lives' mixture of clear and foggy days. As we walk along the path, we trust that the Lord Jesus is nearby, just ahead of us, leading us to our share in his heavenly glory. We find our prayer-request in the familiar song "Abide with me" - "through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me." Our Catholic heritage always puts the emphasis upon our communal experience as baptized members of the Body of Christ and as a worshipping assembly. The Christmas season, in the prayer texts for the Epiphany, gives us a prayer for year-round use: Go before us with heavenly light, Lord, always and everywhere.

St. Mary Parish is currently in the process of moving to all-electronic communication. If you do not currently receive emails from us please send your name, address, phone number and email address to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Thank you for your assistance in this effort to keep our contact information as up-to-date as possible.

- Nov. 13 Our Lady of Hope Healing Mass
- Nov. 19 Baptisms
- Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Food Collection
- Nov. 23 **Thanksgiving Day**
- Nov. 26 Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 28 Mass at Nursing Home
- Dec. 2 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 9am
- Dec. 3 Caring Tree Gifts Due
- Dec. 3 Baptisms, 1:30
- Dec. 3 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30pm
- Dec. 7 **Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass, 4pm**
- Dec. 8 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception Masses: 7am, 7:30pm**

Bereavement Support Group to begin

A seven week Bereavement Support Group will begin on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 7pm in St Mary's lower church. This faith based group is offered to anyone who has experienced a recent loss. For additional information or to register, please call Nan Rafter at 508-528-0020. Space is limited.



Promoting Family Health

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

As we enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer, I would like to reflect upon healthy families. We live in a world that challenges us and we are the ones who need to protect ourselves and our families.

Every day in our country and our world we hear about tragedy, trauma and crime. We and our children witness road rage and bullying on our roads and in our towns and in our country. We are also becoming a “non-relational society, tethered to our cell phones and iPads. (I do like my phone to see pictures of our family.) I recently had dinner with my husband at a nice restaurant and saw several families texting on their phones and not communicating with each other. We live in a stressful world where technology, which is supposed to help us, can actually be a cause of our stress. We need to take control of our home environment and care for ourselves and our families. So how do we promote a healthy, family environment?

I invite you to take a look at your family and home situation.

Answer the following question either “yes or no.”

My family usually...

Communicates and listens to each other.
Affirms and is supportive to each other.

Shares interaction among the members.

Shares a meal and conversation.

Encourages trust among members.

Has a sense of play and leisure.

Shares leisure time.

Values shared responsibility.

Values service to others.

Has a strong sense of family in traditional values and rituals.

Shares religious and spiritual values.

Teaches respect for others.

Teaches the difference between right and wrong.

Respects individual privacy.

Respects and visits with elders.

Admits to and accepts help with problems.

How did you do? Were you surprised by your answers?

I congratulate you on all of the aspects of your family life that foster growth and development of the family as a whole and as individuals. Were there areas that you would like to change? It is never too late to promote a healthy environment.

Schedule meals together just like you would do for a doctor appointment. Sharing a meal together can become a sacred time. Our granddaughter always waits until we are all at the table to say grace, then ask how our day was, promoting relational behavior and interest

in our family, a life lesson well learned!

How about making this a “limited television, limited device summer,” allowing for time to talk to one another, play board games, do a jig saw puzzle or a rousing game of corn bag toss. Outdoor activities can include concerts on the common on Wednesday evenings or family bike rides on a safe bike path. As a family you could visit an elderly relative or neighbor, bringing a homemade goodie grown from your garden or from a visit to the local Farmer’s Market.

The festival for St Rocco, August 10-13 is a family event and a great opportunity to create wonderful memories.

A healthy sense of self and family that is consistent with God’s perspective can help us to live a life of peace and joy! In Romans 12: 4-16. “*We are called to nourish our relationship with others.*”

Enjoy your family time together!



PARISH COMMUNICATION

This parish is very large and active. It is important for us to be able to give you accurate information and for you to be able to contact us as needed. If you wish to contact anyone at the rectory we can be reached by phone, 508-528-0020; Fax, 508-528-1641; or email. Here are email addresses for the clergy, Religious Education and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmanning@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Jack Sullivan: jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Chris Bae: cbae@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: reled.director@stmarysfranklin.org

Roger Gullo: confirmation.director@stmarysfranklin.org

Liz Bertoni: reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

Paula Baker: reled.registration@stmarysfranklin.org

Paula Coughlin: parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Patricia Murphy: businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org

Paulette Thomas: pthomas@stmarysfranklin.org

Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

Terry Kerr, Music Director: terry.kerr@att.net 508-541-3286

If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing (email is preferred)** by 5pm Sunday afternoon for the following weekend. Information can also be submitted for inclusion on the parish website at any time. Bulletin or website information can be emailed to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

If your organization is planning to use any parish facilities, such as the church, church hall, lower church meeting rooms or the school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is **necessary** that you call and reserve the time and place that you want. This is the **only** way that you can be assured of having your activity at the desired location.

CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysfranklin.org. There is a wealth of information available there.



This year’s SVdP “Friends of the Poor Walk” is on Saturday, September 30. Please mark it on

your calendar and join us in our major fund raiser to make it better than ever! Your generosity enables us to provide help to our struggling neighbor families. Watch future bulletins and check out www.stmarysfranklin.org for further details.



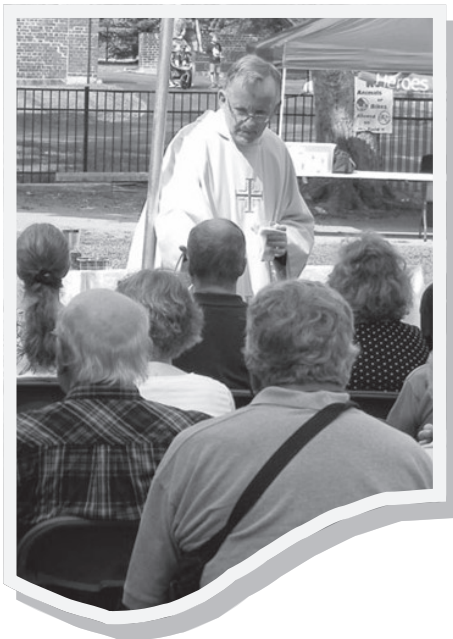
St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

Adult Choir: The St. Mary Adult Choir will begin their Choral Season for 2017 - 2018 very soon! The Adult Choir rehearses Thursday Evenings and sings weekly at the Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Mass from October - June.

The First Rehearsal for the season is more of a social event than a rehearsal. The first rehearsal of the Season is a social gathering, a Wine and Cheese Party. The social setting is more relaxed and gives us the opportunity to welcome back returning choir members, from a well-deserved summer rest, and to welcome new members to the group.

Mark your calendars:
First Choir Rehearsal
 Thursday, September 21st at 7:30 p.m.
 Upper Church Choir Loft!



Father Brian Manning anointing participants at a previous St. Rocco Anointing Mass

Faith, Family, Food and Fun

by Paula Coughlin

By now you have heard the news that next year's Feast of Saint Rocco, the 40th Festival, will be the last one. The good news is that we still have this year and next year to enjoy this parish tradition.

Over the years, this festival has seen many thousands of people come to enjoy what the St. Rocco Festival has to offer, faith, family, food and fun. Whether it is the special Masses, or the wonderful food or the rides, games and entertainment, there is something for everyone, whether you live down the street, or many miles away.

Hundreds of people over the years have worked as volunteers. Without them this festival, like any community event, would not be possible. Whether you are a current volunteer, have volunteered in the past, are volunteering for the first time this year, or are thinking about volunteering next year, you have made this tradition possible.

As we continue planning for this year's festival, as well as next year's, we also remember those volunteers who are no longer with us. Many of those people are represented on the "In Memory of" banner that is with the St. Rocco statue in church and on the field and remembered in the St. Rocco program book. Without them, this festival could not have continued for as long as it has.

Even as we recognize that the Festival as we know it is ending, that is not stopping us from trying new things. There will be new food offerings in several booths, including antipasto in the Cold Cut Sub

...A Community of Love

(Continued from page 2)
 events which will become cherished community events. One thing remains constant throughout all these changes; St. Mary Parish has been, continues to be, and always will be a community of love. So, let's salute the traditions of today. Let us remember the traditions of yesterday. Let us look forward with joy and love to the traditions of tomorrow.

Buona Festa!

booth and new pizza toppings in the Pizza Booth. Come check out all our food offerings.

The times of the Festival have also been adjusted slightly.

Thursday, August 10, when only the rides, midway and limited food (pizza, hamburgers and hotdogs) are available, the hours are **5pm-10pm**. The ride bracelet will be good for the entire time.

Friday, August 11, the rides and food booths will open at **5pm**.

Saturday, August 12, the food booths and rides will open at 11am as usual. The rides and midway will **close at 10pm**.

Sunday, August 13, the food booths and rides will open at noon. The raffle drawing will be held at 7:30pm and **the festival will close at 8pm**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

39th Feast of St. Rocco August 6-13

Thursday, August 10
5pm-10pm All rides open
Hot dogs, burgers, pizza available

All rides and food booths open
Friday, August 11 5pm-10pm
Saturday, August 12 11am-10pm
Sunday, August 13 12noon-8pm

Bracelet Days
Ride all rides for \$25
Thursday - 5-10pm
Saturday 11am - 3pm
Sunday 12noon - 4pm

Liturgical Services
Sunday, August 6
Opening Mass
10:30am in the upper church

Saturday, August 12
Mass and Sacrament of
Anointing of the Sick
10:00am on the festival grounds

Sunday, August 13
Closing Mass
10:30am in the upper church
followed by the
Procession of the St. Rocco statue
to the festival grounds

Welcome Back!

by Karen Ackles

Beginning in September we are making a change to our Religious Education program which will help to strengthen the Faith Formation of our young people. After much prayerful thought, advice, and discussion with Fr. Brian, teachers, and parents, we have decided to have our First Grade students come to class at the school building instead of having them taught at home.

If you already have other children in our program, you will register your first grade student when you register your other children this summer, adding Baptismal information online. New families of first grade students will have the opportunity to register online using the registration link that is on the parish website. You will also be able to add the necessary Baptismal information online.

You will be able to register your children 24 hours a day/7 days a week with the link

that is available on the parish website. Look for the Religious Education box on the website home page. Registration will be available **until Sunday, August 13 @ 11:55pm**. Payment can be made with your credit card or debit card.

It is our hope that this new program will help to add to all that we already offer to the young children of St. Mary's. We are excited for our little friends to be with us.

...The Class of 2017 Celebrates and Hears that "God Is With Us."

(Continued from page 3)

was a living being and that he loves each and every one of us. I yearned to find out who he really is, but I was not sure if I was up to facing my fear of the unknown. After a few weeks, I agreed to come to an RCIA meeting. During the months that I was a part of the program, I was immediately

However, like most things in life nothing is perfect. My faith was tested many times throughout my life. My dad's sickness and the pressure that comes with high school made me doubt my prior choices. Yet, this period of doubt was a beautiful part of my life. I realize now that doubt is the fuel for a stronger faith. In general without doubt, there is no true way for us to grow as humans. Everyone has instances of doubt in their lives yet it is what we do with that doubt defines who we are. People can give in to doubt and allow it to control every aspect of their lives. Or they can turn to God and trust in the fact that he loves and cares for us. Either way, God will have a plan for us.

Hence, we come to the dilemma of what to do next? That is where free will comes into play. God gave us free will to express ourselves and to live our lives as we see fitting. I now have a poem I would like to share with you all. It is called *Risks* and the author is anonymous.

RISKS

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool,
To weep is to risk being called sentimental.

To reach out to another is to risk involvement.

To expose feelings is to risk showing your true self.

To place your ideas and your dreams before the crowd is to risk being called naive. To love is to risk not being loved in return,

To live is to risk dying,

To hope is to risk despair, To try is to risk failure

But risks must be taken, because the greatest risk in life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing, and becomes nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow or love. Chained by his certitude, he is a slave; he has forfeited his freedom.

Only the person who risks is truly free. Everyday each and every one of us takes a risk whether we know it or not. Coming to this church every Sunday risks publicly showing our devotion to our faith regardless of what other people think of us. Even Jesus himself took risks, our Lord risked his life preaching the word of God. He was conscious of the fact that he was risking his life, but he knew that this risk would pay off since we all would be free from our sins and granted peace in the afterlife. Being able to take risks is something to be proud of and even if you have not taken any risks yet, tomorrow is a new day to truly live life to the fullest. If a risk does not pay off, keep in mind that at least you put yourself out there and showed the world who you really are.

In the end, having doubts and taking risks is a part of life. I encourage the class of 2017 to go out into the world with aspirations of living life to its fullest potential. Because you do not want to wake up one day doubting whether or not you truly lived. Thank you all for listening and congratulations to the Class of 2017!



Josh Rich and Nick Georgette after this year's Baccalaureate Mass.

surrounded by some of the most amazing people I have ever met and they have had a huge impact on my life ever since. However, the most important person I met on this journey was God himself. Since then he has shown me the blessings I have in my life and that he is truly alive in every one of us.

Scenic Drive

by Fr. Chris Bae

The town of Franklin has beautiful neighborhoods. I enjoy driving around this town. When I drive on a scenic road, from time to time, I think of this story that one of my good friends shared with me.

This friend (let's just call him Jeremy) had a conversion experience several years ago. When sharing his conversion story in the past, Jeremy gave an interesting analogy of life. He thought that living a life was like driving a car.

When he was living mainly for worldly values, he thought that he was sitting in the driver's seat. He thought that he had to control everything in his life. Just like a driver

has to pay attention to many things such as traffic lights, oncoming vehicles and pedestrians, spaces between other cars, etc., Jeremy worried about everything in his life.

However, as he began to grow in faith and as his relationship with God deepened, Jeremy realized that he was actually sitting not in a driver's seat, but in the passenger seat. In the passenger seat, he could control A/C, radio, a window, etc., but it was ultimately up to the driver where to go. Who was in the driver's seat? Jeremy realized that it was Jesus. Once Jeremy knew that Jesus was leading his life, this young man was able to sit back and relax. Jeremy could enjoy the conversation with the Lord and appreciate picturesque sceneries passing by.

Before his conversion experience, this friend was too busy "driving" his life by himself, focusing only on what lay before him. But, now, his life became like having a road trip with Jesus. Jeremy knows that he is no longer alone in his car. He is no longer alone in his life. He is enjoying the life, having a great conversation with Jesus and appreciating the beauty of life that God gave.

Most of all, whether in joyful moments or in sorrowful moments, Jeremy knows that God will always be next to him and will lead him. So, this friend of mine is now filled with peace that the world cannot give.

Maybe whenever we appreciate beautiful sceneries passing by, we can remind ourselves that Jesus is present in our lives and that he is leading our lives.

The Weave

**St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038**

inside...

- page 1 Moving Forward in Parish Collaboration
- page 2 A Community of Love Continues to Grow and Change
- page 3 View from the Pew
- Page 4 Parish Calendar
- page 5 Promoting Family Health
- Page 7 Welcome Back!

Non-Profit
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Franklin MA
Permit No. 1
