



# The Weave

Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2019

Volume 23 Issue 2

A Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

## Parish Update

by Fr. Brian Manning

Our Parish of Saint Mary maintains a very high level of community life and activity: Our Sunday Masses, our Baptisms, our Wakes, Funeral Masses and Services and also Interments, our Religious Education Program for the Young, our Adult Spirituality and Scripture Study Groups, our Prayer group, Visitors to the Homebound and Hospitalized, our Bereavement Ministry and many more other activities are all that go on each day. Certainly we all appreciate and value the extraordinary work of our Saint Vincent de Paul Society which faithfully and humbly serves many, many people in need. When you think about it, our Parish actually is “running” seven days a week. All these activities require an infrastructure for it all to happen. We have three major buildings for a property infrastructure: The Church, the Rectory and the School Building. We also have to raise all our own funds to support these many, many works of the Parish and Church. Although our Parish is a faith community, much like a family community, it is complex and involves lots of factors and dynamics. We are a gigantic mixed generational family with great and grandparents, parents, adult children, teen and young children with all the accompanying personalities, capa-

bilities, needs, opinions and also especially with the conflicts and dysfunctions of life. We are, in fact, a wonderful faith community of people based on following the Way of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic Tradition.

At the present moment we are finishing the wonderful improvements to our Church Building. Our priority has been to make this holy sanctuary and center of our faith life a most welcoming and accessible structure. We also constantly try to make it one of the “most beautiful homes of our Parish” simply because it is the Home and House of our God. We all know that sometimes basic infrastructure matters greatly (think about kitchens and bathrooms in your own home) and so we have improved some more elements of this building. By this May, 2019, we will have barrier free access into our Church with an indoor elevator that will bring people to either the main floor of the Church or the lower level. Anyone will be able to be present in the main Church and sanctuary, the Chapel, the Sacred Heart Hall with its addition of food preparation space or the two meeting rooms. The installation of 2 ac-

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## We Are a Resurrection People

by Joan McGuire

Lent is one of the church seasons that makes me particularly guilt ridden. Even though I know it springs from my youth when I drew a crucifix with boxes for each day in Lent and colored in the last days of Jesus differently each day depending if I successfully accomplished my chosen sacrifice, nevertheless I still think I should do something during Lent. So when Good Friday arrives I am sufficiently uncomfortable with my inane sacrifice and am ready to meditate on Our Lord's suffering and death and to make the stations fervently.

But the feasts of the Resurrection— Pentecost and Corpus Christi— are a different matter. These are feasts expressing God's infinite and undeserved love for me.

I always go to the gospels to find answers or at least peace in questioning times. Each of the evangelists chose a different way to portray the last days of Jesus on earth and at least one usually fits my needs at a given time. Luke and John have characters that are very meaningful and helpful to us as people of the resurrection. Luke tells of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. They are disheartened by the news of Jesus' death.

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## “What If?”

by John M. Ristaino

Lent is now in full swing and we are heading rapidly towards Easter. The Church seasons of Lent and Easter coincide with the meteorological seasons of winter and spring. It is a time to awaken from the cold and icy winter and look forward to the warm days of spring ahead. It is also a time to shed what we want to change and to embrace the possibility of “what if.” This article is a look at some “what if” opportunities that we might consider as we complete Lent and prepare for the arrival of Easter.

Each Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Sunday evening St. Mary Parish offers the opportunity to gather as a Faith Community and participate in the celebration of Mass. Our Church building is quite full on Ash Wednesday, on Palm Sunday, on Easter Sunday and at Christmas. The church is standing room only for First Communions and Confirmation Masses. “What if” just half of the people who flock to the confines of St. Mary Church on those occasions decided to attend weekly Sunday Mass on a regular basis?

Life is busy and seems to get busier each and every day. In order to meet the demands of life getting busier, businesses now open on Sundays in order to accommodate the needs of people. The stores, shops, markets and restaurants are quite full each day of the week (including Sunday morning). “What if”

instead of supporting the stores, shops, markets and restaurants we chose attending Mass first?

Society ties us together in many wonderful ways. Today there are numerous activities for people of all ages to enjoy. Athletic practice and contests, theatrical rehearsals and performances, committee meetings and the like can fill up a family’s calendar quickly. More and more often Sundays are the day of the week selected for these demands on our time. “What if” we chose to attend Mass before attending a practice, a game, a rehearsal or a performance — and when asked why by the organizers, we state the importance of Mass?

Today’s weddings are lavish celebrations. More and more weddings are being held at destination locations and have elaborate themes associated with them. Fewer and fewer weddings involve the Sacrament of Marriage. The trappings of the day neglect God, the giver of the gift of love. “What if,” when Catholics planned their weddings, they sought out a Church venue for the ceremony of the Sacrament of Marriage rather than a place of fleeting beauty to just get married?

Television and movies are great and they are wonderful ways to spend leisure time. During Holy Week, St. Mary Parish will once again celebrate the ancient tradition of the Easter Triduum. At 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 18 and again at 7:30 PM on Friday, April 19 and again at 7:30 PM on Saturday, April 20, St. Mary Parish’s 2019 Easter Triduum Service will take place. “What if” we decided to not go out to dinner, or to watch television or take in a movie on these evenings and instead attended the Easter Triduum Service?

“We are the Church” and the Church depends on us. In a life which makes more and more demands of us it is easy to forget that. St. Mary Parish is reliant

on volunteers to fulfill its Mission. There are dozens of volunteer opportunities. “What if” we volunteered at St. Mary Parish with the same vigor that we volunteer to coach athletic teams, direct theater, teach a craft, serve on boards or promote causes?

In the song ‘Seasons of Love’ from the Broadway show ‘Rent’ the lyrics map out a year in the life; “525,600 minutes, 525,000 moments so dear. 525,600 minutes - how do you measure, measure a year? In daylight, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee. In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife. In 525,600 minutes - how do you measure a year in the life? How about love? How about love? How about love? Measure in love. Seasons of love.” So, “what if” we chose to spend more time at Mass, in prayer, in volunteering to help St. Mary Parish? “What if” we made our Catholic faith a higher priority? We have 525,600 minutes to spend and to share, “what if” we spent more of them in developing our faith? Journeys of inches turn into feet and feet into yards and yards into miles.

Lent and Easter are times to spring clean our spiritual lives. “What if” we used this Lent and this Easter to refocus our commitment to our Catholic Faith? Change is going to happen. Winter will turn to spring. Lent will turn to Easter. We can choose the way that our Catholic Faith will grow, or wither. “What if” we chose to grow in faith, hope and love during these Lenten and Easter Seasons instead of driving by the Church and stopping in only when it’s convenient?



### The Weave

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#### Parish Publishing

**Publisher** Rev. Brian Manning  
**Editor** Joan McGuire  
**Layout Editor** Mary Ann McSweeney  
**Proof Editor** Rev. Jack Sullivan  
**Contributing Editors:**  
Roger Gullo  
Terry Kerr  
Stephen May  
John Ristaino

## ...Parish Update

*(Continued from page 1)*

cessible bathrooms on each floor of the building offers to those who need their use a dignified and proper facility. The expansion of the narthex (the lobby) with its new glass walls allows people when they come inside to want to enter into the inspiring and uplifting main church. Our new lobby invites you in to be part of the beauty and grace of God. Our outdoor piazza with “the Statue of Saint Rocco in the Field” as our symbol and beacon of welcoming provides many walkways that are ADA compliant. Also the special parking for the mobility impaired is close by the new addition. This great achievement of preparing our building to welcome and support everyone with gracious ease is all due to the many parishioners who gave to support this great project. All of us now and in the future are in debt to those who gave to make this possible.

We now have looming close on the horizon another matter of our infrastructure. On this June 30, 2019, the rental of our School Building to the Benjamin Franklin Classical Public Charter School will end and they will vacate the building.

We must now launch a process of determining what we will do with the almost 5 acres of land on which the school building sits and the building itself and also at the same time operate the building for our 1200 to 1400 Religious Education (CCD) students. The building with its electricity, pipes, bathrooms, windows etc. has aged to a great degree (almost 60 years – it is no longer a “new” building!) and the use by the Charter School has worn it down considerably. The great question before all of us is: “How does this building and land (i.e. the Patrimony of Saint Mary’s) support the long term Mission of Saint Mary’s Parish?” What is the best and highest use of all this land and building to help us worship our God and support the spiritual life of our Parishioners? This topic is a big and significant issue which we must address prayerfully, thoughtfully and openly. We need to

seek the insights, advice and opinion of all committed and engaged Parishioners to devise the many possible uses of the property in alignment with our Mission. Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will be providing leadership in being listeners and communicators with Parishioners and then, as a result become formulators of recommendations for our Parish. They will have as a professional advisor Dr. Bernard Swain, Ph. D, a skilled, experienced and accomplished Church leader with an expertise in parish life and process. He will help all of us create the vision or visions of our future use of the property. The Parish Finance Council will have the role of taking the wisdom, insights, visions and recommendations which the PPC has prepared and attempt to make the best possible use of the property to achieve all this. The PFC will be the ones who take what is hoped for and help to create what is possible and make those recommendations to me. The PPC and PFC have a great responsibility to all of us as they will be the people who help develop the strategy to make sure that we have the highest and best use of the property to help us support the holy work and Mission of Saint Mary’s Parish.

### Mission Statement

**We, the community of St. Mary, exist to honor and glorify God.**

**By imitating the life of his Son, Jesus Christ, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we work for the fulfillment of his kingdom on earth.**

**We dedicate the gifts and talents unique to each member of the community to continued growth in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.**

**As Christ’s disciples we are called to be living examples of his teachings to everyone we encounter in our daily lives. We acknowledge the need for the active involvement of all our members in order to reach our full potential as a Christian Community.**

This whole process will take a good length of time and will start to roll out publicly soon. The PPC and also the PFC will have met in deliberation twice on this major topic and process by the time this article is published. We must, however, use the building for Religious Education as this process takes place over the next few years. One of the difficulties is that we need to

restrict the use of the building for the foreseeable future of this coming year (July 2019 - June 2020) to direct and limited use of our Parish, especially Religious Education. The Town of Franklin adopted this policy for the new Franklin High School as a priority value and principle and it succeeded. Thus we will do the same.

Parishioners will be soon invited to attend an Open Forum on various dates to express their opinion in public of what they believe is “the best and highest use of the property to support our Mission.” It is absolutely essential that every parishioner be welcome to express his/her opinion on this question, but it is also essential that we take ownership by our name of what we say. Our Parish is best when we speak honestly and publicly, not in private chat groups. We all need to own what we say publicly and be accountable to others. We will also offer an electronic survey which will allow people to give additional feedback at various points. The process will determine when we will do this.

To determine “the best and highest use” of this property to help us fulfill the Mission of Saint Mary’s will not be easy or a straight line. The question is great and the answers are many, but which final answer is possible will require patience and skill to determine. There are many opinions, some quite good, some quite not so. We need to pray, think, reflect and then speak with an open mind and heart.

In short form, the essential infrastructure matter is two-fold: “How does this building and land support the long term Mission of Saint Mary’s Parish?” What is the best and highest use of all this land and building to help in our Mission? Always remember our Parish life is based on faith in Jesus Christ. All of us are part of its life. We pray, laugh, hope, cry, share, mourn, and serve together in the name of Jesus.

## Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Apr 10** Mass at Forge Hill 2pm  
**Apr 10** Confessions 7-8pm  
**Apr 12** Stations of the Cross 7pm  
**Apr 13** Men's Faith Formation 8:45am  
**Apr 13** Anointing Mass at Central Park Terrace 10:30am  
**Apr 13** K of C Scholarship applications due  
**Apr 13** K of C Gift Card Drive  
**Apr 14** K of C Gift Card Drive  
**Apr 14** CWC Bake Sale, after morning Masses  
**Apr 14** Baptisms 1:30  
**Apr 17** Mass at Magnolia Heights 2pm  
**Apr 17** Confessions 7-8pm  
**Apr 18** **Holy Thursday**  
 Morning Prayer 7am  
 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30pm  
**Apr 19** **Good Friday**  
 Morning Prayer 7am  
 Cross Walk 12 noon  
 Stations of the Cross 3pm  
 Good Friday Service 7:30pm  
**Apr 20** **Holy Saturday**  
 Morning Prayer 7am  
 RCIA Rehearsal 10:00am  
 Confessions 3-4pm  
 Easter Vigil 7:30pm  
**Apr 21** **Easter Sunday**  
 Upper Church: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00 noon  
 Lower Church: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30  
**NO 5pm Mass**  
**Apr 22** **NO 7:00am Mass**  
 First Communion Practice 3:30  
**Apr 23** Mass at Chestnut Street 2pm  
**April 24** First Communion Practice 3:30  
 Bereavement Support Group begins; pre-registration required  
**Apr 27** RCIA Closing Mass 4pm  
**Apr 28** **Mass and Blessing of Welcoming Addition 10:30 NO 12:00 noon Mass**  
 Protecting God's Children 2pm  
 Altar Server Training 4pm  
**Apr 29** First Communion Practice 3:30  
**May 1** Mass at Atria 2pm  
**May 4** **First Communion** 10am, 1pm  
**May 5** Baptisms 1:30  
 Baptismal Catechesis 1:30  
**May 8** Mass at Forge Hill, 2pm  
**May 11** Men's Faith Formation 8:45am  
**May 12** Baptisms 1:30  
**May 27** **Memorial Day**  
**Mass at Cemetery · 9am**  
**May 28** Mass at Chestnut Street 2pm  
**May 30** **Ascension Thursday**  
**Vigil Mass: Wednesday, May 29 · 4pm**  
**Thursday, May 30 · 7am & 7:30pm**  
**June 2** Baptisms 1:30  
**June 5** Mass at Atria 2pm  
**June 9** **Pentecost**  
 Baptisms 1:30

## At the Cross of Jesus

by Father Jack Sullivan

A prominent feature in the decoration of our sanctuary is the stained glass window high above the altar. As you recall from earlier visits during daylight, you see Jesus on the cross. At the foot of the cross of Jesus stand Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and the Beloved Disciple. Our stained glass window recalls this distinctive scene in John's Gospel-story of the passion and death of Jesus. Only John's Gospel mentions the presence of Mary the Mother of Jesus close to the cross of Jesus. As John tells the story, Jesus provides for the future care and well-being of his Mother by entrusting her to the Beloved Disciple. From his cross, Jesus says to the Beloved Disciple "Behold your Mother" (John 19:27). By adopting the Beloved Disciple as his brother, Jesus is fashioning a new family. Regarding this hour of crucifixion, Jesus promised "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32).

Friends, we are among the many beneficiaries of Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. Investigators of the biblical text of John's Gospel continue to advance theories about the identity and name of the Beloved Disciple. However in the symbolic world of Catholic imagination and devotion, we discover that the Beloved Disciple stands there beneath the cross of Jesus as our representative. In the waters of Baptism, the Church has claimed us for Jesus Christ by the sign of his cross. We emerge from the waters of Baptism as the sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ. The new family that the crucified Jesus established long ago now includes so many people. The Knights of Columbus, as part of their observance of their one hundredth anniversary of the Sacred Heart Council, have again enriched the decoration of our sanctuary. Their gift is a processional cross. The artistic design of this processional cross recalls this scene from John's Gospel. The artist has carved the

figures of Jesus on the cross and Mary the Mother of Jesus beneath the cross of Jesus. Observers will inquire about the apparent absence of the Beloved Disciple. The artist, however, depends upon our Catholic imagination to remember that the processional cross is always held and carried by a sister or brother of Jesus. Friends, today and every day, beneath the cross of Jesus we recognize one another and all people of every time and place as the sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ.

You recall the 14<sup>th</sup> and final station on the Way of the Cross – the burial of Jesus. As one artist has arranged the scene, you see the cross of Jesus on a hill in the background. In front of you, the dead Jesus is stretched out, in the sleep of death, lying on the linen cloth. The artist assigns a brief inscription, an epitaph in Greek: *nika* = He conquers, He is victorious. Yes, by faith, we claim: Jesus is victorious; Jesus has conquered sin and death. This artist, by his design of the fourteenth station, teaches us to keep together the death and resurrection of Jesus at the center of our Christian faith.



## The Gifts of Faith

by Stephen May

In 1988, a 46-year-old Polish railroad worker named Jan Grzebski had a severe accident that resulted in him being in a coma. In less than a year, doctors diagnosed Grzebski as being in a permanent vegetative state, from which they said he would never emerge. After considerable prayer, however, Jan's wife, Gertruda decided to keep him on life support, despite what doctors were telling her. She had great faith that God would perform a miracle. God did do the unexplainable and 19 years later, in 2007, Grzebski regained consciousness at the age of 65, with his wife still by his side.

Years ago, I taught a bioethics class in a Catholic high school, and I asked my students what they thought was the most fantastic part of this story. Almost without exception, they mentioned the fact that the man woke up 19 years after being declared brain dead. However, I think the most amazing part is the story of Gertruda's faith. She had unwavering faith for 19 years that God would bring her husband back to her. I love hearing stories of great faith. One of the greatest stories of faith in our Catholic tradition

can be found in Luke's account of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38).

In that story, we have Mary, a young girl of no status, from the village of Nazareth, an utterly insignificant place, and she is singled out, called, chosen, and overshadowed with God's Spirit. Her response moves from one of fear to total trust in God's incomprehensible design.

For God's grand plan to come to completion, however, the cooperation of Mary was needed. She had the option to say no. How many of us, knowing the first-century (or any-century) social challenges of being an unwed mother, would take the enormous leap of faith that Mary did?

Probably without nearly as much drama, however, God asks each of us to have great faith in him all the time. God has something in mind for you to do regularly. Like Mary, you are asked to bear good news to others, and the Holy Spirit promises to help you. God waits for your response. If you say "Yes!" then the work of God in our world will move forward. Like Mary, do we dare

to say, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word"?"

Pope St. Paul VI wrote, "Mary has always been proposed to the faithful as an example to be imitated. She is held up as an example of the way in which, in her own particular life, she fully and responsibly accepted the word of God and acted on it, and because charity and the spirit of service were the driving force of her actions. She is worthy of imitation because she was the first and most perfect of Christ's disciples."

This Easter and beyond, God has something beautiful in store for you. Will you have the faith to be open to his will and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in ways that will make a difference in the world and your life?

Jan Grzebski eventually died of a brain tumor at the end of 2008 (about 18 months after he woke from his coma). In the days before he died, however, God gave him and his family the great gift of time to meet his eleven grandchildren, all born during his coma, spend time with his wife, and she and her children could spend more time with him, a dream they had been dreaming for a very long time. Such beautiful gifts, given to such great faith.

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### PARISH COMMUNICATION

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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: [bmannings@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:bmannings@stmarysfranklin.org)

Father Jack Sullivan: [jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org)

Deacon Guy St. Sauveur: [deaconguy@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:deaconguy@stmarysfranklin.org)

Karen Ackles: [reled.director@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:reled.director@stmarysfranklin.org)

Roger Gullo: [confirmation.director@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:confirmation.director@stmarysfranklin.org)

Liz Bertoni: [reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org)

Terry Kerr, Music Director: [terry.kerr@att.net](mailto:terry.kerr@att.net) 508-541-3286

Stephen May: [smay@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:smay@stmarysfranklin.org)

Mary Ann McSweeney: [secretary@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:secretary@stmarysfranklin.org)

Patricia Murphy: [businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org](mailto:businessmanager@stmarysfranklin.org)

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](mailto: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 or events, 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](http://www.stmarysfranklin.org). There is a wealth of information available there.

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### Bereavement Support Group

7-week bereavement group  
at St. Mary  
Our first meeting is  
Wednesday, April 24 at 7pm

This faith-based group is offered to anyone who has experienced a recent loss. There is no charge for this program; however, registration is required.

For additional information or to register please call **Nan Rafter at 774-571-0092.**



## St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

### Adult Choir

St. Mary's Adult Choir led us in song for our Fifth Annual "Festival of Lessons and Carols Service" on Sunday, December 9, 2018 – a new St. Mary's Tradition!

The Adult Choir continues to add new music to our celebrations of the liturgy at St. Mary Parish. The goal of our parish choir is to enhance the worship of our parish community.

The Adult Choir has already begun preparing for the Triduum and Easter Season and is always happy to welcome new faces and voices. They rehearse on Thursday Evenings in the Upper Church Choir Loft from 7:30 - 9:00 pm.

The Adult Choir will participate in the celebration of the official unveiling of the new elevator and entry way to our church on Sunday, April 28th.

### Holy Week and Easter Liturgical Celebrations

#### Holy Thursday

April 18

Morning Prayer • 7am

Mass • 7:30pm

#### Good Friday

April 19

Morning Prayer • 7am

Cross Walk on the Common, noon

Stations of the Cross • 3pm

Good Friday Service • 7:30pm

#### Holy Saturday

April 20

Morning Prayer • 7am

Confessions • 3-4pm

Easter Vigil • 7:30pm

#### Easter Sunday

April 21

Masses:

Upper Church: 7:30, 9, 10:30am,

12:00 noon

Lower Church: 7:30, 9, 10:30am

No 5:00pm Mass

Monday, April 22 • No 7:00am Mass

## Coming of Age - The Confirmation Preparation Program

by Roger Gullo

*"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Cor 6:19).*

This is just one of the profound messages from Saint Paul to the Corinthians that our Confirmation Candidates receive in their Confirmation Preparation Program. Our program continues to experience great participation from our area Catholic teens. We have just completed our Fall Session with 268 Confirmation 1 (Grade 9) and Confirmation 2 Candidates (Grade 10) attending Sunday afternoon / evening sessions. We are already halfway through the Spring Session with over 80 Confirmation 1 and 2 Candidates attending. We are filled with the Spirit as we deliver our 4<sup>th</sup> year of this new program. In this second part of our series, I will take the opportunity to dive deeper into the material and content of the program.

*Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit—his actions, his gifts, and his bidings—in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. (CCC 1309)*

As stated in the Catechism, the parish community bears responsibility for the preparation of confirmands (confirmation candidates) for the Sacrament; a community consisting of the Religious Education Staff, volunteer catechists, parents and sponsors. At the

core of the preparation has been the delivery of the "Decision Point" Confirmation Preparation program from Mr. Matthew Kelly of the Dynamic Catholic Institute. This program contains 12 sessions geared toward engaging our candidates with multi-media presentations and small group level discussions on insightful questions.

Let's further examine these 12 sessions in a brief overview of each.

### Session 1: Life is Choices

This session helps each candidate understand that life is a journey, and from time to time we need to think about where we are and where we're going. It also helps them to discover how to get back on track when they lose their way.

### Session 2: What's Holding You Back?

From time to time we all need someone to walk into our lives and say, "What are you doing?" This session helps the candidates get ready to step back and reflect on where they are and where they're going.

### Session 3: The Jesus Question

In each one of us, there is a Jesus and a Judas, a best-version-of-ourselves and a-second-rate-version-of-ourselves. Candidates learn how to choose the best-version-of-themselves.

### Session 4: The Prayer Process

Clarity emerges from silence. If we want to understand who we are, what we are here for, what matters most, and what matters least, candidates are taught how they must become comfortable with silence.

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## ...The Confirmation Preparation Program

(Continued from page 6)

### Session 5: The Bible

One of the most wonderful gifts God has given us is the Bible, but we don't always see the Bible for what it really is. Candidates spent time throughout this session to truly experience the beauty of this gift.

### Session 6: Relationships

Who are your friends? Are they helping you become the-best-version-of-yourself? Candidates will understand that God wants to teach us how to be a good friend and how to have great relationships.

### Session 7: The Eucharist

Have you ever been bored at Mass? Candidates discover what really happens at Mass so they'll never be bored again.

### Session 8: The Holy Spirit

Throughout our life there will be many voices encouraging us to do the wrong things. Who will we listen to? In this session candidates are opened to letting the Holy Spirit be their guide.

### Session 9: The Church

Our culture is a bit of a mess. But we're so used to it that sometimes we don't even notice it. The candidates learn how to recognize the mess and discover simple ways to do something about it.

### Session 10: Confirmation

There are going to be times in their lives when they're going to be uncertain about what they should do next. Candidates learn how to overcome those feelings of uncertainty and anxiousness.

### Session 11: Made for Mission

God has created each one of us for a mission. He wants to do incredible things through us. The candidates are

challenged with the questions - What is God calling me to do in your life? Will I fulfill my mission?

### Session 12: Holiness Is Possible

People who persevere never regret having persevered — it's the people who quit who are full of regrets. Candidates learn to be strong no matter what hurdles come their way.

This incredible program is available online and free. To learn more about these sessions and to make them a part of your Lenten Journey, I invite you to visit the *Decision Point* program website (<https://dynamiccatholic.com/Confirmation>). Discover the ways our Confirmation Candidates, and those recently Confirmed, are opening their lives to the Holy Spirit and surrounding it by the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

In the next part of our series, I will be discussing the Small Group Leader (SGL) Program which has become an instrumental element in the success of the Confirmation Preparation Classes. In future parts, I will also discuss other requirements to include the Works of Mercy and Service and the selection of a Confirmation Sponsor.

We ask that you please pray for our young adults, our volunteer Religious Education teachers, and the Religious Education staff as our youth "come of age" in their Catholic faith.



## View from the Pew

by Joan McGuire

### Loving Warmth: A Gift of the Holy Spirit

A fond memory of my childhood is watching my mother through half-awake eyes as she put my clothing near the radiator to warm them on cold day. Even today, problems do not seem insurmountable and chores do not seem as tedious when I am warm. I'm definitely less grumpy. The radiator is only a piece of metal; it does not make the heat, it only reflects it.

During this Easter season, one of the great feasts—Pentecost—reminds us of the gifts the Holy Spirit offers to us for the taking. Accepting these gifts we could become God's radiator. As His instrument we can reflect His light, love, and peace to everyone we meet each day. Just as the warmth of a radiator subtly warms and lifts our spirits so will our presence effect everyone we meet. It is not as if we are doing something extra. We are living through the same minutes and meeting the same people each day. God is doing all the work. All we must try to do is to be consciously present to the people we meet and allow the joy and peace that is a sign of God's love to flow from us to warm them.

Vividly from my childhood I remember an old woman in my neighborhood who had numbers etched into her arm. She had been in Auschwitz. She never spoke about the three years of unspeakable cruelty she experienced there, but she did share with me about the day that the camp was liberated. A young soldier came to her and asked to see her living quarters. As they arrived at the barracks, he reached out and opened the door for her. That simple act of kindness restored her faith in humanity, made her feel like a human being again, and gave her the will to live.

**You too can make a difference!**

## ...We Are a Resurrection People

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Jesus walks with them but they do not recognize him. He stirs their hearts with zeal to teach others the truth of the gospel. He joins them for a meal and they recognize him in the breaking of the bread. This makes us more mindful of spending time with Jesus after receiving Holy Communion. Instead of leaving immediately after receiving, spend a few minutes thanking Him and allowing Him to give us the grace to be energized to serve Him by helping others we might not ever notice.

John's gospel is very different from the other gospels. Mary goes to the garden by herself and brings the message to the apostles that the tomb is empty. Peter and the Apostle whom Jesus loved arrive. We are again introduced to this nameless disciple who some biblical scholars claim represents all believers. Jesus later appears to Mary and she is again sent to the apostles. This is why Mary is known in the East as the Apostle to the Apostles.

On Easter night (different from the other gospels) Jesus appears to the disciples and breathes on them. They receive the Holy Spirit and are newly created.

*We are a resurrection people and Alleluia is our song. The good news of the Resurrection challenges us to bring life to others by our words and deeds.*

# You're Invited

to the  
*Mass and Blessing  
of St. Mary's  
Welcoming Addition*

*Sunday, April 28, 2019  
10:30 am*

*Reception to follow  
in the Sacred Heart Hall*



**Please note: There will not be a 12:00 noon Mass  
on Sunday, April 28**

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