

The Weave

May 2012

Volume 16 Issue 3

A Quarterly Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

What We Learned from the Parishioners at St. Marys

by Jeffrey Archer and Mark Storey



Jeffrey Archer

At the start of my 2nd theological year at Blessed John XXIII Seminary I knew I would receive my one-year health care pastoral assignment. I was assigned to

St. Mary's Parish here in Franklin for the year. Working closely with Nan Rafter and fellow seminarian Mark Storey we set out to learn, not from text books as is the case in the seminary, but from meeting and being with those parishioners from St. Mary's that are at home or in the hospital recovering from various illnesses. I was not sure how this ministry was going to play out. Yet I was in good hands with Nan and her plan for us. Once I understood Nan's plan I asked myself "How would I be able to help those in need and contribute to the various ministries at St. Mary?"

Nan's plan was two-fold. To meet those that she visits on a weekly or every other week basis and to understand and gain insight into the various ministries at St. Mary's. Well the "game plan" played out exactly as Nan had planned. Over the year I was introduced to many people at their

homes or in the hospital. I was introduced and educated in the various ministries at St. Mary's, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and many others. As the year winds itself down I can honestly say I am in a better position to answer my question "How would I contribute.....?"

First, let me begin with those who I have met at their homes or in the hospital. I'll state, my original question was off. The question was not "How would I be able to contribute...?" but "What will I learn from each person."

Each person has helped me to grow as a seminarian, growing closer towards the priesthood. Each person showed me how strong their faith is in God and how they keep their trust in God. No matter what the individual is going through, they continue to long for God and His presence with them. Each has a strong and healthy devotion to the Trinity and our Blessed Mother Mary. No matter what challenges they are faced with, they never turned away from God. I saw this each and every time I went on my visits.

This has helped me to strengthen my faith and has given me direction on

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Open the Door to the Holy Spirit

by Joan McGuire

Give God a break! How often we hear "Why did God let this happen?" God made us to his image and likeness but he also made us human. We seem to handle the spirit part well – we are usually on our best behavior when we are praying. It's being human that's the problem – we have free will. Once it was given to us by God, He cannot take it back or interfere with our use of it. After centuries of watching our acts of unkindness, violence and vengeance, He sent his Son to teach us how to be what we are - His spirit/human children. We have the model in Jesus, but God in his wisdom knew how easy it is for us to forget so He sent the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, to guide us along the way.

It is by reading the scripture that we know who this Spirit is and what is His job description.

John 14:14ff at the Last Supper

'If you love me and keep my commandments. I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth'

He is our constant guide who reveals the truth to us in our daily lives, if we listen.
Acts 9:31

"The church throughout all of Judea,

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St. Mary's CYO Basketball Program... Strong and Growing

by Joe DePalo

I am happy to report that our 2011-2012 Basketball season finished with our teams competing fiercely while acting as outstanding ambassadors of our parish. Our program is strong and growing. We added another team this year bringing us to 11 teams with 3 girls' teams and 8 boys' teams (which are separated by grade from the 5th through 8th grade).

There are some fundamental components that foster the strength and integrity of our program. The most important of these are our outstanding coaches and our Core Values. Our coaches work tirelessly giving many hours, nights and weekends to help our parishioners and players improve their basketball skills and to mature into positive faith-based models amongst their peers.

The St. Mary's CYO program lives by fundamental Core Values. Simply put, God is first, family second, school third, and sports follows. As a group of coaches, we discuss these each season. We live these values weekly throughout the season. When God is first, there is never any question about priorities when CCD or liturgical events conflict with a game or practice. We work hard to schedule games and practices around CCD schedules to minimize potential conflicts. Our coaches say a prayer with the team prior to each game and many also conclude each practice with a team prayer as well.

Many of our players' parents are juggling the demands of aging parents, mental, physical or financial challenges at home and a host of other critically important burdens. While basketball and sports are important, the needs of ailing family members and other family demands come first.

In order to be student athletes, our players need to be students first. The demands of school and their educational responsibilities come before sports and basketball. Some of our coaches poll their players to ensure that homework is completed before coming to practice. Since our coaches demand 100% effort from their players throughout each practice, we expect players will be too tired to concentrate effectively on homework when they are done.

We practice these core values by not penalizing a player for missing a practice or game to go to Mass or CCD or for visiting an ailing grandparent. Players are not disciplined for missing a practice or a weekend's worth of games to complete a major school project or assignment. We welcome our parents' help and support in our players living these values.

In the end, the most important aspect of any sports program is the coaching staff. I am so proud of the outstanding men and women that continue to volunteer their time, energy and talents to support, teach and mentor our young parishioners and players. While every coach and assistant coach has successfully completed the Protecting God's Children seminar offered by the archdiocese, many of our coaches have also played basketball at the high school or college level. Others have long mastered their skills of teaching, guiding and directing their players and their teams are perennial participants in post-season play at the archdiocese's Invitational Championship Tournament. In addition, we are fortunate to have one coach who is a certified NCAA and Hocomock League referee. Finally, we have three coaches

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Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

Passion Play 2012

His Holiness John Paul II, himself a distinguished playwright, said that theatre should be used as a force for good, to appeal to the senses and the heart, to help people know what it means to be human. Using that advice, parishioner and drama teacher Mrs. Marianne Lonati staged for the second year in a row a moving passion play on Palm Sunday evening at the 5 PM Teen Mass, concelebrated by Father Frank and Father Brian.

The same troupe of nine teenagers, Jared Ginnetty, Jonathon Hardesty, CJ Hathaway, Elizabeth Landry, Matt LaNeve, Michaela Lonati, Kasey Lynch, Sarah MacClellan and Chris Rich reprised their roles and provided a dramatic interpretation of Saint John's account of Christ's condemnation, crucifixion and burial.

Using the altar as their stage and no props to distract the audience from the stark narrative, the players performed the interpretation simply, in monochrome or black and white contemporary dress. The simplicity enhanced the dramatic effect, as parishioners concentrated on the words of the Gospel, seeming to hear for the very first time the words that came from the lips of Pilate, St. Peter and Christ, the chorus of the crowd and the narrated story itself.

Last year, during his homily at that Mass, reminding the congregation of Pope John Paul II's regard for young people and the theatre, Father Frank had asked the congregation to reflect on how we are pulled into the story when we see it acted, how the individual characters invite us to ask our-

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The Weave



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Social Justice



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Building a just society has been a concern

for religious and secular organizations alike. Human imperfection means that there will never be any wholly just society, But over time certain values emerge that form the basis for decision-making and the progress of peoples.

Upholding the dignity of the human person is a core principle. Individuals, communities, and nations are called to protect that dignity. A corollary is that not only is the individual person sacred, but that people have the right to organize themselves into societies that promote the common good.

Consequently, people have both rights and responsibilities, one of which is to protect the poor and vulnerable.

In a just society, the economy must serve people. Work has a dignity of its own. In our care for creation, we act as stewards of the earth, recognizing our responsibility to future generations.

**Feast of St. Rocco
August 5-12**

**August 5
Opening Mass
10:30 in the church**

**Thursday, August 9
6pm-10pm
All rides open
Limited food booths open**

**Friday, August 10
6pm-11pm
All rides and food booths open
Entertainment on the bandstand
by The Reminisants**

**Saturday, August 11
10am
Anointing Mass and Sacrament of the Sick
on the festival grounds**

**11am-11pm
All rides and food booths open
Entertainment on the bandstand
DJ Giacomo in the afternoon
Itamia in the evening**

**Sunday, August 12
Closing Mass of St. Rocco
10:30am in the church
Followed by procession with the statue to the festival grounds**

**12noon-9pm
All rides and booths open
Entertainment on the bandstand
DJ Bobby Costello during the day
Jerry Secco in the evening
Raffle drawing at 8:30pm**

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Light as Life

This is the time of year when I am looking for annuals to brighten my garden. Frequently there is a little tab giving directions as to the light requirements needed for the plant to thrive. It may be direct or indirect according to the species. In the winter I have to bring into the house the plants that can't endure the winter cold. Unfortunately they have to survive in refracted light. Even though I water them, turn them daily and speak words of encouragement, they suffer light deprivation and languish.

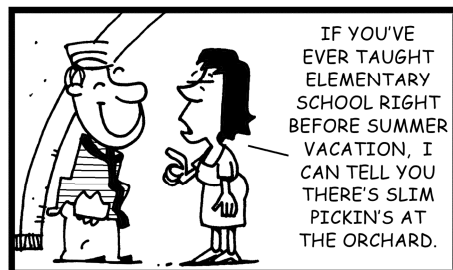
When I am living in direct light, the plans and decisions I make in my life seem clear and easy. When the light is refracted through some medium - people, events, health, or emotions, choices aren't always clear. In Mark 9:2-10 (2nd Sunday in Lent) Jesus took Peter, James and John up to the top of Mount Tabor.

Frequently the apostles didn't understand what Jesus was talking about and were confused about what Jesus wanted them to do. Like the plants and me, they lived in refracted light. There on Tabor without the humdrum activities, interaction with people, and personal disappointments, they saw Jesus as He really was. More important they got a clear insight into what he was for them - the Light, Truth and Sign of how they were to live.

For me going to Tabor is the Mass. The prayers of the Mass lead me to the top of the Mount. "By the mingling of water and wine may we share in the humanity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion is the culmination of the dazzling light of the Tabor truth.

Once this happens, life is no longer a series of rules, rituals or regulations. Life is no longer a check list of good, bad, or indifferent occurrences in my life. In the direct light of the Mass we will flourish as God meant us to do. We are made to his image and likeness. We can spread His light and message to others by our transformed actions.

PENTECOST





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- May 27** Baccalaureate Mass
- May 27** Pentecost
- May 28** Memorial Day
No 7am Mass
9am Mass at cemetery
- June 1** First Friday Adoration
Confession - 2:15
Benediction - 2:45
- June 2** Electronic Recycling,
9am-12pm, school parking lot
- June 3** Baptisms
- June 3** Prolatio Singers Concert
- June 6** Eucharistic Minister training
- June 7** SVdP Trivia Night
- June 9** Baptismal Catechesis
- June 10** Commissioning of new
Eucharistic Ministers
- June 10** Baptisms
- June 13** Mass at Forge Hill
- June 17** Baptisms
- June 24** Baptisms
- June 30** Freedom from Hunger Food
Collection
- July 1** Freedom from Hunger Food
Collection
- July 6** First Friday Adoration
Confession - 2:15
Benediction - 2:45
- July 8** Baptisms
- July 11** Mass at Forge Hill
- July 15** Baptisms
- July 15** Baptismal Catechesis
- July 22** Baptisms
- July 24** Mass at nursing home
- July 29** Baptisms
- Aug. 3** First Friday Adoration
Confession - 2:15
Benediction - 2:45
- Aug. 5** Opening Mass-Feast of St.
Rocco, 10:30
- Aug. 8** Mass at Forge Hill
- Aug. 9** Feast of St. Rocco, 6-10pm
Rides, midway and limited
food booths open
- Aug. 10** Feast of St. Rocco, 6-11pm
Rides, midway and all food
booths open
- Aug. 11** Feast of St. Rocco
Anointing Mass - 10am
- Aug. 11** Feast of St. Rocco
11am-11pm
- Aug. 12** Feast of St. Rocco
Closing Mass, 10:30am
- Aug. 12** Feast of St. Rocco
12-9pm

Gardening for Joy

In his last manuscript, "The Dispersion of Seeds," Henry David Thoreau says, "As I went by a pitch-pine wood the other day, I saw a few little ones springing up in the pasture from these seeds which had been blown from the wood. In a few years, if not disturbed, these seedlings will alter the face of Nature here."



Thoreau was very much aware of the immense possibility contained in things so

small that we can hold hundreds in the palm of our hand.

While not every plant we handle comes from seed, they all start out small, no matter how we propagate them. And while some might grow into large trees, the greatness of others will be in the happiness and joy that they will bring to those who see their flowers or eat their produce. How wonderful to be a gardener - for our own and others' delight.

... CYO Basketball

(Continued from page 2)

that have coached high school varsity and/or junior varsity programs in Metrowest area schools. The 11 teams in the CYO Basketball program are coached by a truly outstanding class of coaches. We are indebted to them and grateful to each of them.

We encourage any interested young people to watch the bulletin in the fall for registration and try-out information. Our program is strong and very entertaining. Once our program starts again in December we welcome anyone to drop by the gym on any Sunday for a FREE and exciting afternoon of fierce competition.

Open the Door...

(Continued from page 1)

Galilee and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit grew in numbers."

He is our comforter who consoles and brings peace in our lives, if we listen.
Roman 8:26

"The spirit comes to us in our weakness because we do not act as we ought. He searches our hearts and intercedes for us according to God's will."

He is our support in weakness and our intercessor to fill us with the grace to rise up each time we fall, if we listen.
Roman 15:18

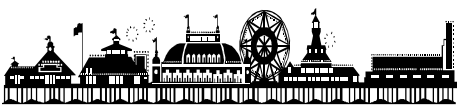
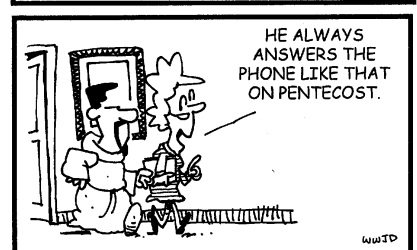
I do not dare to speak of anything except what God has accomplished through me....by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Paul)

He is our sanctifier enabling us to accomplish the unique work God's has sent us to earth to do, if we listen.

If we take some quiet time to read the scripture we will find the Holy Spirit is frequently mentioned either directly or through the symbols of water, wind and fire. At this time of Pentecost let us open our hearts and embrace this Divine gift - GOD WITHIN US.



PENTECOST





Creating a Healthy Balance

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

The Easter season is a time for new beginnings....new life.

I especially loved this Easter season because we here in New England experienced an early rebirth with God's creation breaking forth with new life. The trees are flowering, the crocus are long gone and have given way to the daffodils and tulips. It is a time for us to re-examine our lives and ask, "why am I doing this?" "Do I really need to do this?" "Do I need to take better care of myself?"

Our children and grandchildren teach us many lessons. I look at our granddaughter who is forever asking "Why Neena? What's that Neena?" "Why are you doing that, Neena?"

Jesus tells us "I have come that they might have life and have it to the full" *Jn. 10:10*

It seems that we often try to "create" our own "full life" and find ourselves over-committed, fatigued, frustrated and out of balance. We need to find the "full life" and balance that only Jesus can give us.

There are many reasons why we can feel out of balance. We live our lives in which demands out-pace our time and energy. Some of the demands we place on ourselves and some are imposed from the outside. We spend our lives trying to balance roles related to the home/spouses/parenting, the work place, the church, friends and extended family and community. Is it possible that our culture seems to over-value service to others and undervalue service to ourselves? Self-care may seem a luxury which few of us can afford yet without it our balanced life can be out of reach. We live in a society of quick fixes and finding and keeping a balance takes time and effort every day.

The way to aid us in helping to find a balance in our lives is to remember that "All we do should be done for the glory of God." (*ICor.10:31*)

There are several ways we can nourish or attain a balance in our life.

First, we can consider our current life in terms of energy investment, values and priorities. Are we spending our days in activities that have external consequences?

Second, we could come up with an action plan. Write down the activities that take up your time and then decide if there are ways that you would like to spend your energy and time a different way. The plan would need to identify what needs to be changed, what is needed to make changes and if and how these changes would be made.

As we look forward to summer, I would like to encourage you to look at the way you live and ways that you can find and keep a healthy balance that will bring you peace and joy.

May the peace our God and comfort and strength be with you... *We can live our changed lives with the confidence that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus" (Php.1:6)*



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 Frank Campo: fcampo@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: director_grades_1-6@stmarysfranklin.org

Jayne Malonson: director_grades_7-10@stmarysfranklin.org

Religious Education Office: religious.ed@stmarysfranklin.org

Paula Coughlin: parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Claire Perry: cperry@stmarysfranklin.org

Paulette Thomas: pthomas@stmarysfranklin.org

Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing** 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 or new meeting rooms or 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.

Feast of St. Rocco August 5-12

Thursday, August 9

6pm-10pm All rides open
Hot dogs, burgers, pizza available

All rides and food booths open

Friday, August 10 6pm-11pm

Saturday, August 11 11am-11pm

Sunday, August 12 12noon-9pm

Liturgical Services

Sunday, August 5

Opening Mass

10:30am in the upper church

Saturday, August 11

Mass and Sacrament of

Anointing of the Sick

10:00am on the festival grounds

Sunday, August 12

Closing Mass

10:30am in the upper church

followed by the

Procession of the St. Rocco statue
to the festival grounds

The Bells of Saint Mary

By Father Frank Campo

Who could ever forget the 1945 American film, **The Bells of St Mary**, written by Leo McCarey and Dudley Nichols! Bing Crosby in the role of Fr. O'Malley and Ingrid Bergman in that of Sister Benedict. The movie comes to mind as the new bells of St Mary Parish in Franklin, are heard at 12 noon and 6 p.m. daily, the hours of the *Angelus*, that most beautiful prayer recounting the Annunciation: the words the Angel Gabriel said to Mary; her acceptance; and that which is crucial to our faith **"And the Word was made Flesh, and dwells among us,"** each followed by one Hail Mary.

The bells do not and cannot toll the words and Hail Marys. They simply chime; and at 12:15 they play a variety of short familiar musical selections. They also chime at 9 a.m. daily. They grace whichever hour they are heard, especially during this Easter season, when we feel in an instinctive way the dwelling of Christ in us, as we continue to celebrate, up to Pentecost, Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead. The **"Great Sunday"** of Easter is remembered each Sunday of the Easter Season; and the Sundays that follow, throughout the year, remaining an intimate part of that **"Great Sunday."** (Hence, the Church's requirement that we attend Sunday Mass every Sunday, unless there is a good reason for not doing so.)

The three year mark is approaching when Fr. Brian and I came to Franklin. **"New Masses, New Priests, New Energy, Same Faith"** announced our arrival and ministry back then. That motto continues as this Spring of 2012 is upon us in the natural wonder of the season, which is but a reflection of the eternal Springtime of the Church. We hear birds singing melodiously amidst the trees in bloom, especially very early in the morning, the first notes of an angelic chorus.

In a poem entitled *CHORUS*, the poet, Algernon Swinburne writes, **"For win-**

ter's rains and ruins are over... all the season of snows and sins...

Blossom by blossom the spring begins." Perhaps the poet was thinking of an even lovelier poem, a divine poem, *The Song of Songs* from the Old Testament, **"For see the winter is past. The rains and snow have gone. The flowers have begun to blossom, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the sound of the turtle-dove is heard in our land."** The author of the *Song of Songs* is unknown. It has long been a favorite reading at weddings especially. Written, as one admirer said, by a writer not of this world.

The rhythm of parish life universally continues through all the seasons, a prelude to that Eternal Spring which awaits us all, so we pray, one day. Until then we take joy, as the St. Mary Parish Family, in the increasing number of faithful coming to Masses, to Confirmations, First Communions, to youth gatherings and to all of our many-faceted liturgies, programs, and festive gatherings, such as the upcoming and celebrated St Rocco feast in August.

Though we may be at work or play away from Franklin, or perhaps on vacation, or traveling far from Franklin; if we stop and listen at noon as the day is at its fullest, or in the evening at the 6 o'clock hour, we will hear the Bells of St Mary Parish in Franklin chiming the Angelus. They remind us of Jesus Christ' birth into the world through the power of the Holy Spirit, by way of the womb of His Blessed Mother, and of His presence to us every day, no matter where we are - above all in the Holy Mass. Such is our highest identity card in this world, and our highest passport to the next. Easter people we were meant to be. Easter people we are.



St. Mary's Book Club

by Joan McGuire

This September St. Mary's Book Club will begin its third year of meetings. It meets in the Olive Branch Room in the Parish Center on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30 until 9pm.

We are looking for a few new members. We read a book each month and then meet to discuss our reactions to the book, positive and negative. We choose books that are available from the public library, so there is no need to purchase the books.



At the meeting in September the members will suggest the books that they would like to read at least for the next 5 months. This gives the Franklin library an opportunity to get the books for us in advance or if the books are not available we can chose another without interrupting our schedule.

Anyone who wishes to discuss books is welcome. If you are interested please e-mail joanmcg1@verizon.net or parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org, call the rectory at 508-528-0020 or just come on September 11th. We do not have registration so, if you can, drop in on any 2nd Tuesday to see if our book group is a good fit.



34th St. Rocco Festival

August 9-12

See You There!

...What We Learned

(Continued from page 1)

how to help other people to strengthen their faith and trust in God.

Second, we met the many wonderful people who maintain and grow the various ministries at St. Mary's. Mark and I had the opportunity to converse with those who keep these ministries going. We were given details, write ups, and mission statements for each ministry. We were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and really learn how each ministry is maintained and their plans for growth.

This was tremendous for Mark and I, for if it is God's will that we are ordained priests, we will be able to help maintain and grow these ministries at the parish we are assigned to or even develop any one of these ministries if it is not available at the parish of our assignments. In being present to those who are sick as well as those who run the various ministries I know that in some way I was able to help.

The greatest gift however is what each person gave to me. They gave of them-

selves to me so that I may know and grow with them. They gave self-sacrificing love each time I visited. Each gave what Jesus' commandment was to his disciples at the last supper, "Love one another as I have loved you."

May God, our Lord Savior Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother Mary remain with every one of you. God Bless – **Jeffrey Archer**



Mark Storey

What I have learned during my assignment to St. Mary's Parish in Franklin has been of immeasurable importance.

I have learned to see the Holy Spirit at work in each parishioner and myself in everything that we have said and done together this year.

Each one of you has had a great impact on me. You have been so welcoming. You have invited me into your homes and your lives to share with you in intimate detail our love of God. I have learned to see God's presence in everything and everyone who I have met.

I have been very blessed to see people of great Faith, and their Love of God. I have met people who have shared with me their thirst for God's presence and love. I have witnessed the extended community of St. Mary's Parish beyond the physical church to the whole community of Franklin, and surrounding towns.

I have learned patience. I have learned how to listen and to be present with each of you and to share your pain and your joy. I have learned through each person how to pray better to God and through each of you I have been transformed.

Through each one of you, your caregivers, your family members, your health-care attendants, you have all shared your personal faith in Christ Jesus with me. You have all taught me and you have all taken part in my priestly formation.

These are but just a few of the things that I will take with me to my ministry in the Church of Jesus Christ for His Church in the Archdiocese of Boston for the remaining years of my life.

Mere words are insufficient, but I can simply say to everyone, Thank You and May God Bless you all! - **Mark Storey**

...Families' Corner

selves how we would have acted, if we had been part of the cast surrounding Jesus in those bitter hours: would we have been like Pilate, worried only about his temporal power? Like the crowd, calling for blood? Like those who did nothing, paralyzed by indifference or fear?

Again this year, hearing the voices of the different participants in the drama and watching Christ quietly endure his suffering stirred the congregation, especially at notable moments in that gospel account.

The congregations' audible reactions when Christ was struck across the face for telling the truth, or when He turned to the Queen of Sorrows to endear Saint John to her as her son, revealed their riveted attention to the drama.

Just before dismissing the Mass, Father Brian summarized the emotion of the play as poignant and powerful. He said that, as Catholics hearing the reading of the Passion twice a year, we can become immune to the greatness of the story.

Watching the teenage cast dramatize the gospel with such talent and grace helped us to see it anew and feel its power within ourselves.

Mrs. Lonati hopes to stage the Passion again next year at the Teen Mass on Palm Sunday. Based on the positive reactions from the first two presentations, she can expect that the Church will be full.



**Feast of Saint Rocco
Liturgical Services**

**Sunday, August 5
Opening Mass 10:30am**

**Saturday, August 11
Mass and Sacrament of
Anointing of the Sick
10:00am on the festival grounds**

**Sunday, August 12
Closing Mass 10:30am
followed by the Procession of the St.
Rocco statue to the festival grounds**



Baccalaureate Mass

In honor of all our parishioners who are graduating this season:

You go forth today having completed another step in your education. But whether you progress from one grade to the next, from one school to another, or from the end of school days out into life in the world, your education will continue.

Graduation is but a step. You will continue to learn, day after day. You will discover that there are people who are kind and others who are cruel, and you'll have to decide what kind of man or woman you will be. You will find people who are

filled with love and others who are filled with hate. And you will have to decide what will fill your life. You will learn that not everything is fair in this world, and so you will have to struggle with what can bring about justice. Reading, math, history, languages, psychology, and the sciences are no longer subjects to learn, but tools that will help you learn out in the world.



Each year, here at St. Mary's we have a Baccalaureate Mass to honor this year's high school graduates and their families.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the parish community to bear witness to the accomplishments of our young people, our hope for the future.

This year's Baccalaureate Mass will be held on Sunday, May 27th at 10:30. All high school graduates are invited to attend. There will be a reception for the graduates and their families immediately after Mass in the lower church hall.

Graduates are asked to meet in the lower church hall at 10:10, and to wear their cap and gown, if possible.

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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