

The Weave

March 2014

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

The Gift of Discovery

by Father Brian

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at all the Masses our parish gave a gift of the book "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly to every household that came to celebrate the Birth of Jesus with us. This gift was meant to stir up our hearts and our souls, our very beings. This spiritual gift was offered in the hopes of reaching many, many people: those who come weekly or faithfully, those who come upon occasion, those who join us for the "high holy days of Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter", or those who join with us only for the Celebration of Christmas and those who came for the first time searching and hoping to discover what this Birth of Jesus is all about. In our American culture, we value books, cd's, and programs etc. that allow us to grow. Indeed many of us value books that let us grow in our spirituality. Certainly everyone who has read this book has discovered that this is a book for self-discovery, self-growth and reflective knowledge. Most of us seek insight and understanding of our world and

ourselves. This book is a guide to self-understanding and reflective knowledge.

Since then, many emails have arrived, notes posted in the mail, comments and conversations on the street and in stores have taken place with reactions by people who read the book. The emails and all the discussions have talked about how much this book has given them great insight and different ways of thinking and understanding things. Many have said that they passed the book on to someone else who was interested when they had mentioned it. Some said they just left it out for others in their home to see and start to read it. And they have read it!

Paperback books are not constrained by e-readers or electronic copyright limitations that do not let you share. Actual physical books, whether hardbound or paperback, are very powerful objects. The 2500 copies that our Parish gave out will probably be read in the next year by 6000

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Disciples in Mission

Archdiocese of Boston

Second Chances

by Joan McGuire

What does this term really mean? To some people second comes after first and then there is a period. There is a definite limit to the number of times they will forgive a real or imaginary offense. After that the offender is off the list!!! Jesus actually told Peter to forgive 70 times seven.

Just a quick read of any pages in the gospel will tell anyone that Jesus was big on second chances. In fact, the gracious Jesus never counted. He often gave second chances without being asked. Even before the person realized that he needed one.

In Luke 19, Jesus called up to the greedy tax collector who had climbed the sycamore tree to see him, "Zacchaeus come down quickly today I must stay at your house." Many in the crowd criticized Jesus saying "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." Zacchaeus responded to the crowd "Behold half of my possessions I will give to the poor and if I cheated anyone I will repay them four times over."

In John 4, Jesus sent His apostles away so He could talk to the Samaritan woman privately. This resulted in her leaving her water jar and hurrying to town to spread the news. "Come see the man who could be the Messiah."

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Pack Your Bags - It's Time for a Journey

by John M. Ristaino

Lent is about to begin and Lent is a journey, a journey in Faith. Like all good journeys you need to prepare for it. You need to pack your bags for the journey. What you pack will play an important role in your journey. The 40 days of Lent can be long. The supplies from your bag will help you navigate and survive the journey.

So, what will you need to pack for this journey? One great item to place in your bag is a book. This book may be the Bible for some. Others may want to pack the book distributed by St. Mary Parish at Christmas or the one handed out on Ash Wednesday. This book could be one found in a library or a bookstore. The book should contain information which will allow you to learn and to see Faith anew. Learning is an important part of the Lenten Journey.

You will also need to pack a prayer book. This might be a tried and true favorite, a seasonal booklet found at the doors of the Church or one recommended by friends or family. Your Lenten prayer book should contain reflections about the Lenten season. The reflections and prayer should not take a long time to read and recite. Prayer is essential in getting you all the way home on your Lenten Journey.

Practicing your Catholic Faith is important to pack in your bags for Lent. This practice may include attending Sunday Mass EACH week. It can include attending DAILY Mass when you can. Not "when your schedule allows" but MAKING time to attend. Stations of the

Cross are celebrated throughout Lent. Here at St. Mary Parish Stations of the Cross follow the 5:15 daily Mass each Friday. Like shopping for good deals on the internet, information about what other local parishes have planned can be found with a little effort, research and desire. Deciding to visit St. Mary Church and sit in quiet prayer also builds and enhances Faith. Participating in the Sacrament of Penance is a great action of Faith to pack in your bag. Practicing your Catholic Faith is a Lenten Journey essential!

Giving to those who are less fortunate or those who work to spread the Catholic Faith is a great-to-have item in your bag. This might include grabbing a Rice Bowl from the doors of the Church. It may be making donations to the St. Vincent DePaul Society each week during Lent. Hunger and Want know no one season but all of them. Perhaps your family will decide to make a sacrifice during Lent. Rather than spending money on what you are sacrificing; you put that money aside and make a donation to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Giving from the heart is another item to pack in your bag.

Lenten sacrifices are traditions for many and also great to pack in your bag for the journey. Make your Lenten sacrifice meaningful and excuse-proof! Giving up chocolate, desserts, alcohol or a favorite food can focus our Lenten Journeys. Sacrifice is important to pack in your bag too.

There is room in your bag for items which you want to pack too. It's YOUR journey. Your Lenten Journey follows Jesus. He is the leader of our Lenten Journey. Oh yes, you are not going on this journey alone! Jesus is leading you and Catholics across the globe are traveling WITH you. When you get tired, weary and worn from your journey; turn to Jesus and fellow Christians on the journey for love and support. This is a journey of Faith, learning, prayer, practice, giving and sacrifice. It's also a journey of love. Pack your best and travel well. Easter joy awaits at the end of your journey.



Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

In Lent we remember that we are being called to holiness. Although we are called to holiness all the days of the year, we seem to think of that vocation mainly as a 40 day Lenten sacrifice. Family members are busy thinking about what they will "give up," or maybe proactively seeking to adopt a new 40 day habit such as reciting the rosary or attending daily Mass. Teenage members of the household in Catholic programs may be invited to share their wealth with the less fortunate, participate in a food drive or serve dinner at a homeless shelter. Everyone might reflect on repentance and take the many opportunities offered by parishes to seek the sacrament of Reconciliation during the season.

The opportunity that Lent presents us, annually, is to deepen a relationship with God, to remind ourselves of our complete dependence on His will by making an effort to ignore our own will. We fast and pray to become more mindful of Him. Some people make a retreat during Lent so that they can physically remove themselves from their customary routine, attend to His word and participate in His life and so better understand His hopes for their happiness. Busy parents and busy young people, whose lives are full of engagements and schedule, can benefit from a retreat, especially during Lent.

Resolutions that spring from our fasting, abstinence and reflection during the Lenten season can sustain us throughout the entire year, if we think of those 40 days as a training session rather than the marathon itself. One Lenten resolution that is easy to continue is focused concentration at Mass. As the sacrifice offered by Christ Himself, the Mass is the greatest prayer. Parents can offer the Mass for their children and the needs of their family; children can be helped to offer the Mass for their special intentions and the needs of others. For a Lenten practice, one can focus on being involved in the Mass, participating

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The Weave

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Notes from Father Brian

by Father Brian Manning

On Monday evening, January 26 our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) shared a meeting with the Archdiocesan Director of Planning Father Paul Soper and Assistant Director Sister Patricia Boyle about how we can envision our parish as a stronger center of faith for all who are seeking God. Our sharing and discussion with them relied on the book "rebuilt" by authors Michael White and Tom Corcoran. "rebuilt" is a book highly recommended by the Office of Planning for leadership groups in parishes to read and reflect upon to assist them in leading faith communities closer to Jesus Christ. This book is the story of a Catholic parish which sought to be a vibrant and living community of faith for all who came through the church's doors. In "rebuilt" the preface reminds us that our parishes and our people exist within a particular culture of our times. The book says plainly "Cultures are like clouds. They materialize as byproducts of the prevailing cultures. They reveal the world's influential cultures as they move across the landscape. And when you're inside them, it's hard to see what's really going on around you."

Our Parish Pastoral Council is engaged in the work of discerning how we can best offer worship to our God, grow in spirituality and faith and also live in our daily lives the words and actions of Jesus. This is a holy work and it requires prayer, learning, reflection, dialogue and action. Our PPC, as leaders of our faith community, understand most seriously these tasks. Each member brings his or her distinct personal life and faith experiences to the meetings and to help shape a common positive vision for the good of all of us. "rebuilt" has helped us to grow in understanding and insight in how we can live out the words of Jesus Christ to "Come, follow me." PPC members

learn to surrender their own 'agenda' and take on the role of seeking the good for others and for all so that we may grow in spirituality as Catholics. Father Paul and Sister Patricia shared with us the understanding of the Planning Office of the Archdiocese of this vision based on "rebuilt" and helped us to broaden our insights for Saint Mary's Parish. Our Christmas gift, given to every household was a spiritual book on becoming "A Dynamic Catholic." This book was also part of the discussion with Father Paul,



Archdiocese of Boston

Sister Patricia and the PPC. Our vision for all of us for this year is to grow spiritually as leaders and as individual members of the faith community.

In particular, Father Paul and Sister Patricia focused their words of reflection and insight on the concept of "radical hospitality," a trait that a parish must have for everyone who enters the church's doors. One of the signs of a dynamic Catholic engaged in "radical hospitality" in church is one who welcomes those in church and offers an appropriate sense of caring. We do live in the New England area and culture and have stronger lines of separation than other parts of the country, but we need to reach out in gentle and kind ways to those who are part of our faith community. People become dynamic Catholics because they have been welcomed.

All of us recognize that we come to the church to participate in the Eucharist because we come to worship our God. We are nourished by the reading of the scriptures, the Word of God and its explanation and also by the Body of Christ in Holy Communion. We also gather to sing in praise and to pray together in petition and thanksgiving. In all of this, we are there primarily because of God. Did Christ not command us "Do this in memory of Me?" However, Father Paul and Sister Patricia helped us to understand that often we may forget that we

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Who's in the Spotlight

I was looking through a religious catalog a few weeks ago and I came upon several coffee mugs. One was labeled "100% CATHOLIC" and the other was labeled "THE CHOSEN."

It's time for us to get out of the spotlight and turn it back where it belongs on God the Source of all good.

Lent is a time to evaluate our daily discipleship in the service of our omnipotent God of Love. It is not a competition. We are called to work together as the "Communion of Saints." As with a baseball diamond we leave from a home plate, touch all the bases and return home. Every member of the team has his or her strengths and weaknesses and has a particular part to play in the success of the game.

On Ash Wednesday as we receive our ashes we also take on an: "attitude adjustment," that shifts from self-centeredness to gratitude to God for all His undeserved gifts of grace.

First we must realize that everything we have is a gift. Sometimes we take things for granted - our health, our freedom, our talents and the love of our family and friends.

Second We must tend to the gifts God has given us. Even take some time to name them, It is not humility to deny God's gifts to us. We should work on perfecting them.

Thirdly We must share them with other children of God. Sometimes this is easy, other times it will be a sacrifice. No gift is given for oneself. If the gifts are not shared then some part of God's plan may not be accomplished

This is the purpose of Lent. To evaluate and adjust our lives so as to be assured of the final welcome home greeting, "Well done my good and faithful child."

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Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Mar. 5 Ash Wednesday**
Masses: 7am, 7:30pm
Prayer Services: 12:10 & 4pm
- Mar. 7** First Friday Holy Hour
- Mar. 11** Penance Service for Rel. Ed.
- Mar. 12** Mass at Forge Hill
- Mar. 16** Baptisms
- Mar. 16** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Mar. 22** Electronic and Appliance Recycling, 9am-2pm
- Mar. 23** Baptisms
- Mar. 25** Mass at nursing home
- Mar. 28** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 29** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 30** CWC Communion Breakfast
- Apr. 9** Mass at Forge Hill
- Apr. 9** Grief Support group begins
Pre-registration required
- Apr. 12** Anointing Mass 10:30 at
Central Park Terrace
- Apr. 17 Holy Thursday**
Mass: 7:30pm
- Apr. 18 Good Friday**
Service on Common, 12pm
Stations of the Cross 3pm
Good Friday Service, 7:30pm
- Apr. 19 Easter Vigil, 7:30pm**
- Apr. 20 Easter Sunday** Masses:
7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00
- Apr. 22** Mass at nursing home
- Apr. 26 First Communion**
10am & 12pm
- Apr. 27** Baptisms
- Apr. 27** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- May 3 First Communion**
10am & 12pm
- May 4 Baptisms**
- May 6** Mother's Day bags due
- May 11** Baptisms
- May 14** Mass at Forge Hill
- May 18** Baptisms
- May 18** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- May 26 Memorial Day**
Mass at cemetery, 9am
No 8am Mass
- May 27** Mass at nursing home
- May 28 Vigil of the Ascension**
Mass: 4pm
- May 29 Ascension of the Lord**
Masses: 7am, 9am 7:30pm
- June 1** Baccalaureate Mass and
Reception, 10:30am
- June 1** Baptisms
- June 8 Pentecost**
- June 8** Baptisms
- June 8** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30

Lenten and Easter Schedule

Lenten and Easter Liturgical Celebrations

Ash Wednesday March 5th

Mass with distribution of ashes
7am, 7:30pm

Prayer Service
with distribution of ashes
12:10pm, 4pm

Daily Mass
Mon. - Fri. 7am, 5:15pm
Saturday 8am

Confession
March 12th, 19th, 26th
April 2nd, 9th, 16th
6:30-8pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays after the 5:15pm Mass

Holy Thursday
April 17th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Mass at 7:30pm

Good Friday
April 18th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Cross Walk on the Common, noon
Stations of the Cross at 3pm
Good Friday Service at 7:30pm

Holy Saturday
April 19th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Easter Vigil at 7:30pm

Easter Sunday
April 20th
Masses:
7:30am, 9am,
10:30am, 12 noon

...Families Corner

(Continued from page 2)

deeply and prayerfully, yet one can continue this more profound involvement throughout the glorious Easter season and throughout the rest of the Liturgical year.

One can also make engaging in daily mental prayer, a practice started for Lent, into a permanent habit. Spending twenty minutes meditating on a spiritual reading, listening for God's prompts, may be exactly what a busy family member needs to flourish as a child of God. A practice begun in Lent, such as reading the Bible, a biography of a saint, a Papal letter or instruction, and then reflecting on its meaning in one's own life, can be a fount of strength throughout the year. Praying the rosary daily, another practice Catholics frequently undertake during Lent, can give strength to persevere in resolutions for the rest of the year.

On board an airplane, the flight attendants remind adults that if the oxygen masks drop, the adults should attend to themselves before attending to any child travelling with them. The same logic holds for parents as we travel through family life: we need to be sure our own wells are full before we can irrigate the faith beds of our children. Lent gives us many opportunities to renew our relationship with God, to gain routines that will facilitate knowing Him better and discerning His plan for each of us. By helping us take time to hear the word of God, practices begun in Lent can help us cooperate with that plan and become the people He intended us to be.

I Samuel 3:10 reminds us to ask, "Speak Lord. Your servant is listening."

Bereavement Support Group to begin

A seven week Bereavement Support Group will begin on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 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.





Caring For Your Heart

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

As we begin our Lenten journey this March, why not take time and prepare your heart. February is "American Heart Month" so this is a gentle reminder to take good care of your precious heart. Scripture tells us, "A heart at peace gives life to the body" (Prov.14:30)

The CDC calls America's heart disease a burden. About 600,000 people die of heart disease in the United States. Every year about 715,000 Americans have a heart attack and about 385,000 people die from heart disease. All of this very important data tells us that we need to care for our hearts physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Physically:

Here are five simple ways to love your heart:

Celebrate life with an annual check-up
Quit smoking. Check with your doctor to find the best way to help you.

Get off the couch and get moving. Exercise 3-5 times a week for at least twenty minutes. (Check with MD prior to starting any exercise program.)

Exercise can help with stress.

Cut calories by decreasing portion sizes. (Cutting out just 200 or 300 calories a day can help you lose 1-2 pounds a week.) Eat a balanced diet reduced in fat, cholesterol and salt.

Emotionally:

St. Peter encourages us to love one another "deeply from the heart." (I Peter 1:22) Unconditional love comes with a lesson in acceptance and is a work in progress. Practice the gift of forgiveness and you may be surprised to find that you are the first person you need to forgive. The sacrament of Reconciliation can help you to begin the process of forgiveness and healing your heart. During Lent our church offers additional times for confession. Take time to listen to God each day through silent prayer and meditation. This peaceful time will give rest for your heart. Pray for others.

Spiritually:

We can pray the words of the psalmist, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant to me a willing spirit to sustain

me." (Ps. 51:10-12) We share the good news that it is God who creates wholeness in our hearts. At the same time, we must understand the need to nourish our spirits; We can care for our spiritual health by setting aside a regular schedule to pray, worship, meditate, and celebrate the Eucharist. Share the good news with others by inviting them to join you at Mass. Donate a little extra to your favorite charity or church. Giving of the time, talent and treasures that God has blessed you with can help others AND help your heart feel good.

May your Lenten experience bring you a heart of healing and peace.

Healing Mass

There will be a healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM. This special Mass will take place at the community hall at Central Park Terrace (off of Wachusett Street.)

A light lunch will be served following the Mass. This Mass is sponsored by St Mary's Health Ministry and the Legion of Mary.

For information, please call Nan Rafter at 508-528-0020.

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: bmannings@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Jack Sullivan: jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Anthony Le: ale@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: reled.grades1-6@stmarysfranklin.org

Jayne Malonson: reled.grades7-10@stmarysfranklin.org

Liz Bertoni: reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

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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** 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.



On all the **Wednesdays of Lent from 6:30-8:00pm**, Saint Mary's and all the parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese of Boston will be open for individual confession. The Archdiocese has set up a website, TheLightIsOnForYou.org, to help you prepare. It has videos on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, sheets on how to make a good confession, answers to frequently-asked questions and more. Please make plans to come on Lenten Wednesdays and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know.



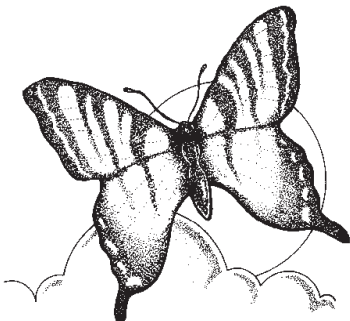
St. Mary's Music Notes!!

Adult Choir: The St. Mary Adult Choir did a fabulous job singing through Advent and the entire Christmas season! Both choir members and parishioners alike thoroughly enjoyed the selections and level of spirit and enthusiasm that was brought to each liturgy.

The Adult Choir has already started for 2014. Maybe your New Year's Resolution could be singing with the St. Mary Adult Choir. The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday Evenings in the Upper Church Choir Loft from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. We are just getting ready for preparations for the upcoming Lenten and Easter Season! Why not resolve to join the Music Ministry Program at St. Mary Parish!!

Children's Choir: The St. Mary Children's Choir made their "liturgical debut" on Sunday December 1st at the 9:00 a.m. and also sang for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy. There is a very high-level of excitement among the children and their offer to lend their voices in song at various Liturgies at St. Mary Church.

If you are interested in having your child participate in the St. Mary Children's Choir Program, please come to rehearsals at St. Mary Church on Thursday afternoons in the Upper Church from 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The St. Mary Children's Choir sings on the first Sunday of each month at the 9:00 a.m. Mass and various other parish liturgical celebrations throughout the year!



...The Gift of Discovery

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people. Some of these folks will rejoice that they have read the book, others will be troubled by it, but be glad that this book has helped them to grow. And, truth be told, some will pick it up and then put it down. Yet the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives.

What are these signs, and what do they mean for you, for us? I do not want to give away the secrets! If you don't have a book, look to borrow one, just about every household has one, or more!



...Notes

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are a community of faith and there are people near us in church that we do not know or recognize or welcome them.

Did you know those who conduct research have found that a minimum of 5% of the attendees at Mass are there for a 'first time' struggling and searching? Oftentimes, the person sitting near you is carrying an aching heart or struggling with family or health issues. They are looking for God's comfort and hope. Did you know that a kind word from you is the 'sacrament' of God's comfort and hope? This act of caring can help so much. When you see someone back in their bench after they have been missing for a few weeks, ask "How are you?" It is nice to know that we are missed.

The book "rebuilt" is offered with "the conviction we have that things could go better." All of us at any age are called and invited to help change the cloud of our culture to a brighter and better one that welcomes everyone and warms the hearts of those who are cold and sad. Indeed the warmth and ever expanding heart of our Pope Francis is a wonderful sign and example to us of how we can live out the "radical hospitality" of welcoming being a Catholic believer.

...Second Chances

(Continued from page 1)

Kindness rather than threats leads to conversion.

There are innumerable accounts of healing - the deaf, the blind, the lame and the lepers. Some on the Sabbath. These were carefully listed against Him by the "bean counters" of the day. They are always with us.

Possibly, the greatest second chances He gave was when He raised the dead. These events were not always greeted with great enthusiasm. When He went to the house of Jairus, the mourners jeered at Him for saying that the little girl was sleeping. Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus in spite of Martha,

Lazarus' sister scolding Him "If you were here my brother would not have died."

Lent should be a time when we walk in Jesus' footsteps up to Jerusalem. If we take some time each day to read the gospel we can see how concerned he was for his apostles and the people he met, although he knew he was going to his death.

Jesus gave second chances to every one he met by really listening to their needs and by offering words of encouragement. He raised their spirit by making each person he met feel special.

What an amazing forty days this would be if we each practiced the evangelization of "second chances."

St. Mary's Religious Education Safety Program

by Karen Ackles and Jayne Malonson

An important component to the Religious Education Program is a very comprehensive Safety Program offered to the children of St. Mary Parish. This program is offered three times during the year, covering three very important topics - general safety issues, internet safety, and keeping our bodies safe.

Statistics tell us that one in four girls and one in eight boys will be sexually abused by their eighteenth birthday and when a child is victimized, 80% of the time it is by someone that they know and trust. Given this startling statistic, teaching children not to talk to strangers isn't very practical information and actually can be counterproductive to what a child needs to do. Instead, this program teaches children how to recognize and trust their instincts whenever they are in a situation that makes them angry, sad or confused. This faith based program provides children, in a very non-threatening, educational manner, the skills that they need to recognize potentially dangerous situations and what they can do. Best child protection practices are taught, which will enable parents to introduce these skills into everyday family lessons. An initial parent meeting is held every fall so parents have the opportunity to preview all material taught and have any concerns addressed.

The 7th grade program is based upon the "See I Make All Things New" program approved by the Archdiocese. The children view a video in which Pediatrician Dr. Meg Meeker discusses puberty and adolescence. Discussion then follows about what God's plan for their bodies is vs what Hollywood and social media tells them. The 8th grade program expands upon the 7th grade program, but focuses on how one's sexuality can define their character development. Emphasis is placed on how decisions and choices made now can have a dramatic impact on their ability to be happy and fulfilled later in life.

This is the third year that we are offering the Safety Program. It has been very successful and is now being offered in seven other parishes in the diocese. The Safety Program is offered to our children by Barbara Brunelli, M.ED., a parishioner and Human Services trainer with over 25 years' experience in the field of child abuse and neglect. She has worked for the Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children and in the Domestic Violence Unit of the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office. She is an instructor for the Municipal Police Training Committee and trains in a variety of venues across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Barbara has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development, obtained a Masters of Education degree in Counseling Psychology and has trained under national leaders in the field of child abuse and neglect.

Below is some feedback we have received from parishioners whose children have attended the Safety Program:

"As a School Resource Officer and twenty year police veteran, I was impressed to find out that St. Mary Parish was offering a professionally run sexual abuse awareness and prevention program. I did not hesitate to send my child and I am quite pleased with the amount of knowledge she is learning, all in an age appropriate, non-threatening manner. The Child Protection message must be interwoven into every aspect of a child's life, so eventually it will be just as normal to them as learning how to cross a street. Anytime parents can receive support to help keep their children safe, it is always a win-win situation for both children and communities."
 ~Eric Cusson, Franklin Police Department, Parent

"I have always said to both of my children that I think it is always a good thing to hear about safety is-

ues, both with regards to keeping their bodies safe, as well as, how to make safe choices for themselves and those around them from, not only us, their parents, but from other respected adults like their Religious Education teachers."

~Karin DePaolo, Parent

"The world we live in is so crazy and these kids today are being exposed way before their years. The Safety Program is an open forum to help kids process the whole idea of seeing/hearing/experiencing situations in life. This program is designed to help the children understand what they are feeling and why. The fact that we can't stop society's early exposure doesn't mean we can't supply our children with the knowledge they need to deal with these unfortunate challenges and having them understand/act on their gut instincts, which are usually correct."

~Ellen Castillo, Parent

"Over the years I have been truly happy with the information presented in the Safety Classes at St. Mary's Parish. At each age, appropriate issues are discussed, including general home safety, as well as, safe computer use, bullying, and protecting themselves from danger. It is always done in a way that makes the kids feel empowered, not frightened. With our busy daily schedule, I'm embarrassed to say that I had forgotten about teaching my children what to do when a situation presents itself. I am so grateful to St. Mary Church and the Safety Program, for helping prepare my children and helping us as parents!"

~Christine Cadorette, Parent

"We think it's good for the kids to hear this important information (in age appropriate language) from a trusted adult to try and reinforce what we've been saying at home."

~Bill and Kelly Golden, Parents

We hope to see all of our students the week of March 24, 2014, for our final Safety Week of this year.

Meet the Seminarian - Paul Schultz

by Paul Schultz

I was born and raised in Edgerton, Wisconsin, hometown of author Sterling North (as well as professional golfer Steve Stricker, who was my classmate). I am the oldest of three siblings. My dad is a retired welder and my mom died of breast cancer at the age of 54. I graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology in Lombard, Illinois with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems. I've held various computer-related jobs in programming and support in Chicago and southern Wisconsin for about twenty years.

I'm currently half-way through my five years of formation at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston to become a priest. My story contains no lightning bolt mo-

ments. I never "played Mass" growing up. In fact, I thought Mass was boring. I never got anything out of it. It took me a while to realize you get as much out of Mass as you put into it.



Paul Schultz

When I went away to college I had to make the religion of my upbringing my own. It was no longer a family obligation. I came to know Jesus as a real Person and a companion during my journey through life.

On long commutes to work I started to pray the Rosary until it became a daily routine. I began attending Mass more than just on the weekend. I discovered Eucharistic adoration and signed up for a weekly Holy Hour. This is where God revealed my vocation, if only I would seek to do His will. Not without struggle I did listen and entered the seminary.

Now, I'm here at St. Mary Parish to experience Christ's pastoral love offered through ministry to homebound parishioners and nursing home residents.

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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