

Messenger

St. Mary of the Assumption
Roman Catholic Church

Fall 2018
Volume 9 No. 3



Prayer for Students and Teachers

Loving Father,
our Teacher in all things,
we ask for Your wisdom to begin this
school year as students of Your love
and as teachers of Your wisdom.

For You gave Your law to our Jewish
brothers and sisters to help them live
in peace with each other.

So too You give Your wisdom to each
of us to learn and grow in holiness
and goodness in the world around us.

May this coming year of learning
together about You and about the
world You created offer each of us
an opportunity to help us shine the
bright light of learning into the dark-
ness of this world.

We ask all this through your Son,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

From the Pastor ... Faith Sharing

We live in a culture often characterized by instant communication, offering both happenings and thinking. Some of this information is accurate and truthful - some unreflective, incomplete and even incorrect. The challenge is to recognize the difference and the ability to appreciate the truly important. This also applies to our beliefs and practices as Catholic Christians. Our need and desire to have informative, inspiring and instructive experiences about our faith is also a challenge today.

One such opportunity for this to happen here at St. Mary's is for those participating in our Family religious education gatherings. This once each month Sunday meeting involves our families who come together to learn more about our Catholic beliefs and practices, to engage in activities that strengthen their faith life, and to celebrate the Eucharist together at the 10 a.m. Mass.

Over the past few years, participation in this program has significantly increased, and the joining together of religious instructors, parents and our youth helps enrich their lives as Catholics. Of course, not every participant is always delighted to be there, but their presence, willingness and efforts are important contributions to knowing our loving Lord just a bit more.

It is important that we continue our search and struggle to become better informed and vibrant believers in a world of considerable doubt and uncertainty. For further information about this program or to become an active participant, please call our Faith Formation Office at (716) 683-8564. Hope to see you there!

St. Mary's Celebrates the Feast of the Assumption

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish celebrated its annual Feast Day on August 15. The day's Masses included one celebrated in the Pavilion at 7 p.m. The evening Mass was followed by the 2018 Feast Day Raffle Drawing and an Ice Cream Social. Raffle prizes included \$2,000, \$500 and \$200 in Scrip gift cards to vendors of the winners' choice. (Read more about Scrip on page 3.) This year's winning numbers were: 1st Prize - 4679, 2nd Prize - 4377, and 3rd Prize - 4284.



Preparing For Confirmation



Candidates preparing for Confirmation this fall at St. Mary's were enrolled during a Mass in early summer - and during the months of July and August continued to explore their faith as they met in small groups with adult mentors. Blessings to our Confirmation class of 2018, their sponsors, mentors and families!

Christmas Cards Available at Sale Prices

Seven of St. Mary's historic stained glass windows were renovated this summer, thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends who gave to the Upon This Rock campaign, as well as those who continue to support the maintenance of our windows on an ongoing basis.

There are a limited number of boxes of St. Mary's Christmas cards - featuring four of our stained glass windows - for sale at special prices, while supplies last. A single box of 16 cards is priced at \$10 and three boxes can be purchased for \$25. Stop in at the Rectory to purchase yours!

Why You Need to Download The St. Mary's Parish App

If you haven't done so already, grab your smartphone and download the free St. Mary's parish app. It's a simple process and it only takes a few minutes.

Use the QR code, search for the app in the Apple or Android store, or go to parishsolutions.com/assumption.

The home page of the app links you directly to our parish website (and from there, you can link to the St. Mary's Elementary School site as well) and to current bulletins and newsletters. In addition, the "Message" button gives you access to important push notifications, which will be sent to remind or update you on parish developments, weather closures and other relevant items. There is a second push notification feature dedicated specifically to Faith Formation families - and others will be added as needed.

When you hit the "More" button, you can access numerous other helpful resources including:

- Faith Formation schedules and information.
- Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration schedules.
- Information on the St. Mary's Cemetery.
- Information on joining St. Mary's Parish.
- A "Learn" section which includes a Catechism, *Catholics Come Home* updates, a Bible, Sunday reading reflections, and access to the Vatican website, *Sunday Visitor*, Catho-



lic News Service, *Word Among Us*, ETWN, Relevant Radio, and movie reviews.

- A "Music" section.
- A "Pray" section featuring common prayers as well as the Order of the Mass, Daily Mass Readings, a digital Rosary and Stations of the Cross.
- A journal and prayer wall for your own use.
- Social media links to our parish sites, as well as those of ETWN, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Pope Francis.

"We encourage everyone to download our parish app," said St. Mary's Communications Coordinator Diane Zwirecki, APR. "It will become increasingly useful as a communications tool to keep parishioners up to date and aware of developments at St. Mary's and throughout their faith community."

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Zwirecki at (716) 683-6445, ext. 24 or dianez@st-marysonthehill.org.



Scrip Program Benefits St. Mary's ... And Costs You Nothing Extra!

As you shop, eat out, go to movies, get your hair cut and make other routine purchases throughout the year, consider using the St. Mary's Scrip program. It costs you *nothing extra*. You simply use Scrip gift cards in place of cash, checks or credit cards when you make your regular everyday purchases.

Our parish benefits whenever you use Scrip cards - because a percentage of every purchase comes back to St. Mary's. These percentages range from 1.25 to 50, depending on which vendors you use.

In one 12-month period, the total Scrip rebate earned by St. Mary's was the largest in the Buffalo Diocese: \$42,100. A family of four can raise \$1,080 in one year just by paying for their everyday purchases using Scrip.

You may purchase Scrip gift cards to local and national vendors at face value via paper order form in person at St. Mary's Elementary School, the Rectory or online (see instructions below). Some gift cards are available immediately; others may have a 7-10 business day wait. All filled orders can be picked up at St. Mary's Elementary School.



Online Instructions: To begin using the online Scrip program, go to www.shopwithscrip.com and select Join a Program. Enter our St. Mary's enrollment code: CB95L97L3L66. While there, check out the FAQ page and extensive list of national vendors.

There are many local vendors who support the St. Mary's Scrip program. These include but are not limited to: Tops, Chrusciki Bakery, Federal Meats, Fowler's Chocolate, Franks Grille, Tim Horton's, Bloomsbury Lane Toy Shoppe, New York Store, RJ's Piano Tuning and Dark Forest Chocolates. Vendors continuously join the Scrip program, so keep checking the list for updates.

You can buy physical gift cards, eGift cards and reloadable gift cards at face value at www.shopwithscrip.com or on the mobile website myscripwallet.com.

Note: Local vendors appear on the main website and paper forms; they unfortunately are not available on the wallet app.

If you have any questions about the Scrip program, please call (716) 683-2112, ext. 312 or email scrip@smeschool.com.

In short, there are a few small steps involved with participating in the Scrip program. However, once you get started, it will quickly become routine, and you'll be providing much-needed support to St. Mary's at the same time.

Partial List of Scrip Vendors (and rebate percentages)

- Adidas (13%)
- Amazon.com (2.25%)
- AMC Theatres (8%)
- American Eagle (10%)
- Applebee's (8%)
- Bath & Body Works (12%)
- Bloomsbury Lane Toy Shoppe (10%)
- Best Buy (4%)
- Carter's (10%)
- Chili's (11%)
- Chrusciki Bakery (10%)
- Dark Forest Chocolates (10%)
- Delta Sonic (50%)
- Federal Meats (5%)
- Fowler's Chocolate (40%)
- Franks Grille (20%)
- Gap (14%)
- Groupon (7%)
- Home Depot (4%)
- Hotels.com (6%)
- JC Penney (5%)
- Kohl's (5%)
- L.L. Bean (16%)
- Lowe's (4%)
- Macy's (10%)
- New York Store (4%)
- Old Navy (14%)
- Panera Bread (8%)
- RJ's Piano Tuning (25%)
- Shutterfly (9%)
- Starbucks (7%)
- Subway (6%)
- Supercuts (8%)
- Target (2.5%)
- Tim Horton's (5%)
- Tops (5%)
- Walmart (2.5%)
- Williams Sonoma (8%)

(Note: Not all cards are in stock. Some may take approximately one week to come in.)

Welcome New Parishioners

A warm welcome to these new parishioners who registered at St. Mary's between May and July 2018:

Steven & April Bach
and Family

Eric & Amy Godzich
and Family

Jaime & Jennifer Hermann
and Family

Erik & Anna Hilley
and Family

Donna Kaczmarek
and Family

Elaine Keppler

Michael & Ginamarie
Kimmick and Family

William & Kristin Klink
and Family

Justin & Melinda Mullen

Sarah Murphy and Family

Christopher and Julie
Pouthier and Family

Michael & Heather
Reinhold and Family

Susan Slavin

Marc & Jennifer
Zaborowski and Family



The Busier You Are, The More You Need Time with God

"Could you not keep watch for one hour?"

These words from Matthew 26:40 and Mark 14:38 document the words of Jesus to His Apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane.

They're also a message to each of us. With the onset of a new school year and the holidays not far behind, fall tends to be a busy time. But it can also be an excellent time to regroup, reevaluate your priorities, and realign for more balance in your life. What better way than by dedicating time to prayerful devotion to Jesus?

Eucharistic Adoration is held every First Friday following 12 noon Mass and concluding at 5 p.m.

During Eucharistic Adoration, the Eucharist (the Blessed Sacrament) is displayed on the altar in a special vessel called the Monstrance. This allows people to "keep watch" for specific periods of time. Traditionally, the time period is one hour, but shorter visits are also acceptable.

Even Jesus would frequently retreat to a quiet place for prayer and time with His Father. You can do the same by participating in Eucharistic Adoration. While Mass will always be the quintessential Eucharistic experience, Adoration extends that time in a very personal way.

To place your name in a time slot for Eucharistic Adoration, please call the St. Mary's Rectory at (716) 683-6445.

Vacation Bible School: Answering the Call



Summer Faith Formation at St. Mary's included Vacation Bible School in July. This year's theme was "Answering the Call." Children learned about the call of Mary, St. Paul, King David and Ruth - as well as how to be attentive as God speaks to them in their everyday lives. Teen volunteers played a key role as they worked with students in grades kindergarten through 5. The weeklong program ended with a Family Picnic.

Ladies of Charity Serve the Community



Eleven new members were inducted into the Junior Ladies of Charity at St. Mary's on June 23 during Mass in the Pavilion.

St. Mary's Ladies of Charity (LOC) and Junior Ladies of Charity (JLOC) continue their active ministries at St. Mary's.

The Ladies of Charity Annual National Assembly takes place Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 22 in Pittsburgh. Attending will be members from both the LOC and the JLOC from our parish. Parishioner Holly Walter serves on the LOC National Board of Directors. She is also LOC Spiritual Moderator for the Buffalo Diocese.

On June 23, Pastor Rev. Paul Steller inducted 11 new JLOC members at a ceremony during the 7 p.m. Mass in the Pavilion outside Church. The JLOC's annual Ice Cream Social takes place Sunday, September 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the St. Mary's Elementary School cafeteria. The social is for girls in grades 6 through 12 who may be interested in joining the JLOC.

- The JLOC Fall Clothing and Household Collection takes place Saturday, September 29 and Sun-

day, September 30 in the Church parking lot. JLOC collaborates with the St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) chapter at St. Mary's to hold the drive each year.

- In July, JLOC held its annual picnic, and volunteered by filling 600 backpacks with school supplies for needy children at the organization's Buffalo center. The girls returned in August to fill orders for the backpacks, which were received from Catholic Charities.

- Also in August, JLOC members volunteered at the Response to Love Center, Buffalo, and at the Nicaraguan Donation Center, Swormsville. They delivered shoes collected at St. Mary's during the summer to be shipped, along with much-needed clothing, to families in Nicaragua.

For more information on the Ladies of Charity, contact Holly Walter at (716) 656-9583 or bball-momma99@yahoo.com. For more information on the Junior Ladies of Charity, contact Marian Snyder at (716) 681-2957 or mariansnyder33@gmail.com.

St. Mary's Represented on National Ladies of Charity Board

Congratulations to St. Mary's parishioner Holly Walter, who has been named to the Ladies of Charity National Board of Directors. She also serves as Ladies of Charity Spiritual Moderator for the Buffalo Diocese.



Parishioner Earns Vocation Awareness Award



Congratulations to parishioner Matthew Killian, who won Honorable Mention in the 2018 Diocese of Buffalo Vocation Awareness Contest. All school and Faith Formation programs in the diocese were invited to participate. Matthew received his award from Bishop Richard J. Malone.

St. Gabriel: Messenger of Joy and Glad Tidings

by Barbara Owczarczak, Pastoral Minister

St. Gabriel is one of the three Archangels of God, who have been mentioned in the Bible, in both the Old and the New Testaments. Michael protects, Raphael guides, and Gabriel announces. He visited the Prophet Daniel twice, to explain his visions. Gabriel announced the coming of a Prince of Princes (Daniel 8:25) and a time when a Most Holy would be anointed (Daniel 9:24).

In Luke's Gospel, Gabriel comes to Zechariah, promising him that Elisabeth will bear a son, who will prepare a people fit for the Lord (Luke 1:17). Most Christians know of St. Gabriel as the angel who spoke to Mary, announcing her as having found favor with God, and been chosen to bear the Son of the Most High (Luke 1:32).

In Islam, Gabriel is an archangel

whom God sent with revelations to various prophets, including Muhammad. The first five verses of the 96th chapter of the Quran are believed by Muslims to have been the first verses revealed by Gabriel to Muhammad.

St. Gabriel is the angel of mercy; he is clothed in blue or white and is seen carrying a lily, a trumpet, a shining lantern, a branch from Paradise, a scroll or a scepter. He is considered to be a bringer of glad tidings and a messenger of joy.

In 1951, Pope Pius XII named St. Gabriel as the patron saint of all those who worked in the radio, television and telephone industries. In 1982, Pope Paul VI named him the patron saint of postal workers. He is also the patron saint of diplomats and stamp collecting.



Feast Day: September 29

Humanae Vitae Marks Its 50th Anniversary

The papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, written by Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1968, provides teaching about God's plan for married love and the transmission of life.

July 25 marked the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*. Here are some sources for additional information on *Humanae Vitae* and its global anniversary celebration:

uscgb.org

celebratehv50.com

ncronline.org

Affirming the Sanctity of Human Life

Upon its publication five decades ago, *Humanae Vitae* reaffirmed the teachings of the Catholic Church on married love, responsible parenthood and the rejection of most forms of artificial contraception.

The expressed views of Pope Paul VI reflected the teachings of his predecessors, including Pius XI,

Pius XII and John XXIII.

In 2008, on the 40th anniversary of the encyclical, Vatican Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone noted that *Humanae Vitae* affirmed "the sanctity of human life, as an essential element for the promotion and respect of the person in the service to the truth of the faith."

"... Whoever really loves their partner loves not only for what they receive, but loves that partner for the partner's own sake, content to be able to enrich the other with the gift of themselves ..."

- Blessed Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae: Of Human Life*

**St. Mary's of Lancaster
1st Annual**

Fall Fest on the Hill

Friday, September 28, 2018

6 - 11 PM

St. Mary's Elementary School

2 St. Mary's Hill

(Replacing Our Autumn Gold Event)



**50/50's
Pull Tabs
Basket Raffles**

**\$10,000
Grand Prize**
*Cash Prizes Totaling
\$13,500*

Featuring Live Music by Rough Stock

8 - 11 PM - In the Courtyard

\$50/Ticket - Admits Two Guests - Adults Only

Includes Cash Prize Raffle Ticket, Food Stations, Coffee & Pop

Bring Your Own Appetizers - No Carry-In Beverages - Cash Bar

To Purchase Tickets:

**Call (716) 253-7880 (St. Mary's Fundraising Hotline) or (716) 683-6445 (St. Mary's Rectory)
Or Complete & Mail to St. Mary of the Assumption, 1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY, 14086:**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE or EMAIL _____

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Dr. David Jerome, Permanent Deacon
John Owczarczak, Permanent Deacon

Diane Zwirecki, APR, Editor
Ray Milkowski, Sr., Photographer



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St. Mary's Mass Schedule

Daily Masses:

8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday (School Chapel)
12 Noon Monday, Wednesday, Friday (School Chapel)

*During the school year, there is also an 8:30 a.m. Mass on Fridays in the Church.
Please call the Rectory or visit the website for holy day information.*

Weekend Masses:

Saturday

4:30 p.m.
7 p.m.

Sunday

8 a.m.
10 a.m.
12 Noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday 3:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

*Appointments can be made for the Sacrament
by calling the Rectory at 683-6445.*