



# St. Patrick Parish

## Church

## Matters

NEWS ENCOURAGING FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

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SPRING 2018

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## Spotlight on Sally LaBonte, Coordinator of Ministries

by Maureen Sposato

Father Thomas Barry has appointed parishioner Sally LaBonte to become the new Coordinator of Ministries at St. Patrick. "This has been a special long time need, and a special focus of attention by our parish council," he explained.

Sally moved to Farmington and joined St. Patrick with her family when she was a teenager. She married her husband Scott at St. Patrick in 1995, and they have raised three daughters here: Carina, 20; Morgan, 18; and Helena, 17. Sally graduated from Springfield College with a double major in Psychology and Sociology, and from Southern Connecticut State University where she received a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.

She sees her new job first as focusing on the many current ministries in the parish: those that are working, and those that are not, and how they can be improved with input from Fr. Barry and other staff. "Our goal is to keep St. Patrick's a vibrant community which will enable our lovely church to be successful five and ten years from now when so many other churches are closing or have closed,"



**Sally LaBonte**

she says. "With the new building coming we have the potential for all our parishioners to come together in social, spiritual and nurturing environments," she adds.

She attends seminars and listens to webinars to stay connected with what the Catholic Church is doing nationally, and has recently become a Dynamic Catholic Parish Champion which enables the parish to receive free resources every month from Dynamic

Catholic. She has included these books in the welcome baskets and to graduates through Curtiss Stella; more were given to mothers of the recent First Communicants and more to the students at the Graduation Mass. "The resources are wonderful and enable us to be connected and learning about our Catholic faith and how our faith can help us throughout our life," she explains. She also runs the Facebook page and tries to Live Stream the important work that parishioners do for our community. She credits Fr. Barry with having the vision and insight to make the necessary changes now, such as the new yoga series and on-line instruction for baptism.

(Cont. page 6)

# John Griffin Receives the St. Joseph Award *by Maureen Sposato*

Father Thomas Barry recommended St. Patrick parishioner John Griffin to receive the St. Joseph Award in recognition of his continued dedication to St. Patrick.

On March 18, 2018, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair awarded the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation to 118 volunteers from parishes of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Each year this honor is bestowed on parishioners selected for their exemplary service in their parishes. According to Archbishop Blair, they set an exemplary example for others by adhering to the scripture: "Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all the humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:1-2).

"John is a worthy recipient of this honor in view of the many things that he has done for our parish," explained Father Barry. "He was one of the first parishioners to go through the lay ministry program and was commissioned in 2014. He has focused on ministry to the shut-ins and the elderly." He has also served on the parish council and the building committee, as well as organizing food collections for the House of Bread in Hartford and the Food Pantries in Hartford and at the Malta House of Care. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus and helps with the GIFT program. "This is an honor well deserved and I wish to congratulate him," added Father Barry.



## First Communion Class

May 12, 2018



## St. Patrick's Day Party at Country Club of Farmington

March 16, 2018



## Peer Ministry Update *by Fernando Macaro*

On **Sunday, July 29th**, the Peer Ministry will have a "catch up" breakfast after the 9:30 mass in the Hitchcock room. Seniors who are graduating in June are more than welcome to attend! Please email Fernando Macaro (Macaro.Fernando@gmail.com) with any questions.

# Ministry Minute: Homefront 2018

by Joanne Dumais

On Sat. May 5, 2,000 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to celebrate HomeFront Day's 30th Anniversary, by revitalizing 70 homes for low-income families. In 36 cities across much of CT and Westchester County, NY, neighbors from all walks of life represented 63 participating faith communities, service organizations and corporations. These free repairs enable older adults living on fixed incomes, disabled homeowners, single-parent households, and families in transitional crisis to remain in their homes with a much improved quality of life. Generous community and corporate foundations, individual donors and contributors of materials and services set this massive outpouring in motion. Since the first 12 Norwalk homes spruced up by HomeFront volunteers in 1988, the program has touched more than 3,100 families in need.

Thanks to The Home Depot Foundation, HomeFront was able to tackle large-scale repair projects to ensure that ten low-income veterans have a safe place to call home. In the words of HomeFront's Board Chairperson, Kenneth Wiegand, "For years, The Home Depot Foundation has led by example when it comes to honoring the sacrifices of veterans. HomeFront is proud to join forces with them." Through their Team Depot initiative, Home Depot employees will be tackling facets of these projects throughout the year.

Among other things, beneficiaries eagerly await having drafty windows replaced and tired walls painted, along with plumbing and electrical improvements, roofing repairs, wheelchair ramp installations and other safety enhancements.

HomeFront is a community-based program dedicated to pro-

viding quality of life improvements to families with financial hardships. Since 1988, HomeFront volunteers have repaired 3,100 homes, injecting \$54 million of assistance where it is needed most. More information on HomeFront can be found online at: [www.homefrontprogram.org](http://www.homefrontprogram.org).



The St. Patrick Homefront Team completed its 11th year working with Homefront. The team had more than 30 volunteers who worked on Saturday May 5th to do home improvements for this year's recipients, Doug & Katie Poskus and their two daughters. The home owners are extremely grateful for the significant work done on their home. You should all be proud of what has been accomplished. It was exciting to see so many familiar faces and a number of new team members!

Special thanks to the following organizations and businesses for their support:

- DeDominicis Foundation, Hamden, CT
- Knights of Columbus - Reverend M. Ernest Wilson - Council 20
- The Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford
- The Homefront Foundation
- Tony @ Subway, Main Street, Post Office Square for supplying our volunteers with delicious food for lunch
- Joe @ Accurate Insulation, LLC Bristol Phone: 860-584-2146 for handling the asbestos abatement

The team thanks Fr. Barry for his continued support of this community outreach



# Education News: ELM – Parish Accompaniment

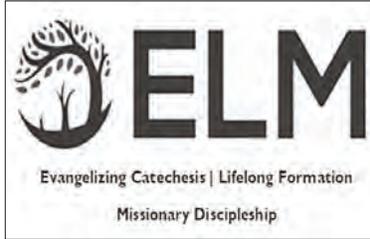
## Program *by Eileen Dignazio*

What is ELM – Parish Accompaniment Program? ELM is an acronym for Evangelizing Catechesis / Lifelong Formation / Missionary Discipleship. ELM is about expanding faith formation, evangelization and catechesis to all people of the parish – from the actively engaged to the uninvolved. The focus of **Parish**

**Accompaniment ELM** is in utilizing 21st century approaches, methods and tools to achieve vibrant parishes. ELM offers us a framework for our 5-year plan, as requested by the Archbishop.

St. Patrick is one of 20 parishes in the Archdiocese involved in developing a unique and customized plan to expand and strengthen faith formation based on the specific needs of the parish. Our team includes seven people who will meet to do homework assignments and attend workshops for the next 18 months. The St. Patrick Team is comprised of the following: Fr. Thomas Barry, Eileen Dignazio, Dave Edwards, Sally LaBonte, Fernando Macaro, Patricia McLaughlin, and Mike Netkovick.

Involvement in the ELM project is a wonderful way to get the individualized support, resources and tools for improving faith formation in our parish. The ELM project is guided by



John Roberto, who will conduct the workshops and webinars, in coordination with the (OEEC), Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

What do we hope to accomplish at the end of the 18-month commitment? We hope to be on the road to accomplishing the following:

- Vibrant and dynamic faith formation in our parish.
- Ability to reach and engage the involved, uninvolved or unaffiliated people in our parish.
- Engage all ages and generations in the life of the parish.
- Engage in ongoing formation in ministry/missionary discipleship for all parishioners.

We need information to update our Parish PDMS (Parish Data Management System) and are asking for all members of the parish to fill out the index cards found in the pews of the church. Please fill out one for each adult in the family and put it into the collection basket. We will have someone on staff update the PDMS system, so that we can effectively plan for the future of the Parish Family of St. Patrick. Please pray for our parish and the ELM team as we attempt to make our parish vibrant and fully alive in the Lord. Thank you.



## GIFT 2018 - 2019

Please mark your calendars with the following dates for St. Patrick GIFT 2018-2019.

**We will only rent the Porter Memorial for Friday evening sessions, since we will be using St. Patrick Church, Hall and Office Building for Saturday and Sunday sessions.**

October 12, 13, 14, 2018

November 9, 10, 11, 2018

January 25, 26, 27, 2019

March 1, 2, 3, 2019



The Theme for the year 2018-2019 is  
“Living the Moral Life.”

More information will be posted on the parish website and in the bulletin.



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If there is any questions, please call the parish office at 860-677-2639 or email [office@stpatsfarm.org](mailto:office@stpatsfarm.org).

# Education News: Graduation Mass & Reception

On Sunday, June 3, 2018 at the 11:30 Mass all Graduating Seniors from High School and College received a special blessing. During the Mass, the Fr. Barry Scholarships and the Knights of Columbus Scholarships were awarded to the graduating seniors, who have been involved in ministries in the parish and have earned recognition for their extraordinary participation.

The recipients are as follows:

**Fr. Barry Scholarships: Billy Collins, John DiTommaso, Rita Monahan and Isabel Wagner.**



**Knights of Columbus Scholarships: Matt Plona, Nathan Koziol.**

**Discipleship Awards/ Youth Recognition for high school seniors who made a significant contribution to Comprehensive Youth Ministry: Billy Collins, John DiTommaso, Rita Monahan and Isabel Wagner**

**Also recognized: Nicole DiTommaso (UCONN); Michael DiTomasso (JD, UCONN) and Corey laForest-Roys**

**High School graduates: Billy Collins, John DiTomasso, Cameron Korsen, Rita Monahan, Matt Plona, Derek Quitter, and Isabel Wagner**

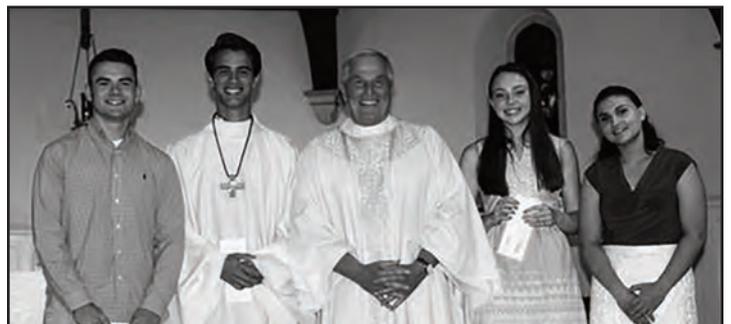
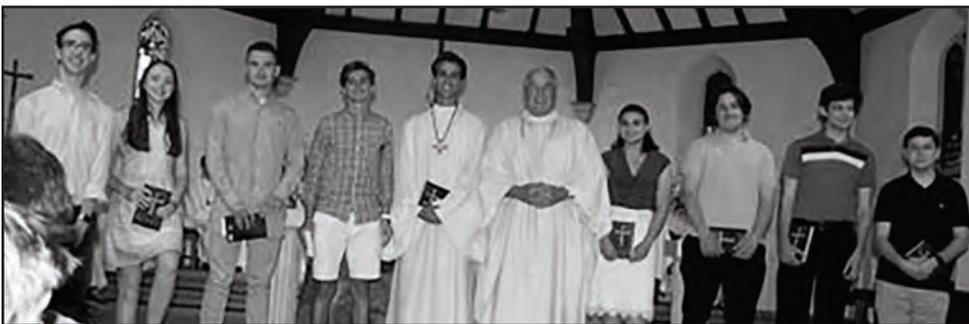
A reception for all graduates and their families was held in the church hall following the Mass.

## Archdiocese of Hartford

The Archdiocese has scheduled an award ceremony for individuals who have dedicated their time and talent to ministries of our parishes. The award ceremony will be held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Several of our parishioners will be receiving awards for their dedication and service to St. Patrick Parish:

**Religious Education Service Awards for 10 years of service in Religious Education:  
•Deena Babigian, Shari Greco, Lauren Grzywinski and Gina Watson.**

**We congratulate these recipients and thank them for their service to St. Patrick Parish!**



# Spotlight on Sally LaBonte (Continued from page 1)

Presently, along with the other staff members, I am organizing the Volunteer Appreciation Mass and Picnic. We really want all of our volunteers to know and feel appreciated. Without them our ministries would not be able to do the work they do for our parishioners and the communities all year long. After that I do whatever Father asks me to!”

She says that one of the challenges is that change can be very hard for everyone. As a community with many visions and different needs, it’s important to go slowly, focus on our present ministries and add some new ones as needed. The other challenge is that our information on all of our parishioners is extremely outdated and incorrect. We don’t have a good system of communication. All of us in the office are working diligently to update the information so we can improve our communication.

In the past she taught religious education for 12 years, and was a part of the Small Christian Community, Meatloaf Ministry

and volunteered at the House of Bread serving breakfast. She has co-chaired and been part of committees that raised money for The Fidelco Foundation, Renbrook School, Ethel Walker School, UCONN Medical Center and Ishi Dogo in Providence Rhode Island. She has also sponsored Children from World Vision for the past 16 years, and sponsored women through Women for Women International.

“I welcome Sally to our staff. She has experience working with volunteers and committees through numerous organizations and has been especially helpful with our Religious Education program. I know she will offer a much needed service in reinvigorating our volunteer ministries,” said Fr. Barry.

“I am extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity and to work in such a loving and supportive environment that I do. This is a huge testament to Father Barry and the atmosphere that he wants St. Pat’s to provide to every single parishioner,” she says.



## Fall Registration – Religious Education (CCD) Classes

### It’s that time again! Religious Education Registration for fall classes.

Religious Education Registration Forms for the 2018-2019 school year may be found online. We will register the children in Preschool through Grade 10, because Religious Education is Faith Formation for Children (CCD), throughout out their formative years, in hopes that as the children grow in their faith, they will come to know Jesus in a personal way and “choose” to follow him in their young adulthood. \*We also include gr. 10 in the registration process, since they will be the Confirmation Class of 2018-2019. (No fees for gr. 10)

The fees will remain the same: \$75.00 per child. *\*However, if your family is suffering a hardship due to financial problems, do not let this deter you from registering your children. Please call our office and we will work out an arrangement for your family.* \*\*Catechists ~ No Fee ~ “Thank you for your service.”

### Children “New to the Religious Education Program”

Parents who have children “New” to the program will need to fill out the **New Student** form as well as the **Family Registration** form, both are found online. Please present your children’s **Baptismal, Reconciliation** or **Eucharist** Certificates at the time of registration if they received the Sacraments in another parish. Thank you.



### New Parishioners:

Daniel Kevorkian &  
Joanna Maciulewski  
Mary Anne Tillona  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodger Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ferruggiaro  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Hogan

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Avery  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Bystricky  
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Seapan  
Ms. Nicole Battista  
Mr. James McColgan, III &  
Ms. Ruta Tijunelis

### Baptisms:

Luke Paul Cianci  
Olivia Lynn Kevorkian  
Rose Ellen Cisowski  
Regan Michael Collins  
Nina Marie Passaflume



# Foot Washing on Holy Thursday

March 29, 2018



**Fr. Barry** washes the feet of Confirmation class students on Holy Thursday.

# Mother's Day

May 13, 2018



**Knight Brian Connolly** hands out flowers to mothers in the parish.

# Good Friday Faith Walk

March 30, 2018



# May Crowning

May 21, 2018



# Knights of Columbus Pasta Supper



*Church Matters*  
Spring 2018

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## We Are Moving Forward! *by Bev Montresor*

**D**id you hear the cheers from the Farmington Town Hall in April? Did you feel the enthusiasm? Everyone claims that hard work pays off and the St. Patrick community sure has proof of that. Thanks to Father Barry's hard work for the last year plus, our building and parking plans were unanimously approved at separate meetings by both the Historical Society and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Father was pleasantly surprised by the unexpected positive response

from the town. It is highly unusual that an application receives approval from both entities on the first attempt. Father is in the process of interviewing fund raisers and expects a capital campaign to begin in the fall. After so many years of talking about and praying for an expansion of our church, I am sure that our parishioners will be even more excited and supportive than the town committees.

