



St. Patrick Parish

Church

Matters

NEWS ENCOURAGING FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

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WINTER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

Peer Ministers Installed

Mass with Bishop Robert Barron

page 2

Ministry Minute: Welcome Baskets

page 3

GIFT

Let's Celebrate! Haiti Fundraiser

page 4

"The Best Lent Ever"

Lent, the Way to a Deeper Faith

page 5

Meatloaf Ministry Save the Date "Missio"

page 6

Christmas Party Christmas Tree lighting Festival

page 7

Archdiocesan Celebration

Social Justice Awards

page 8

Spotlight on Monsignor Thomas J. Barry

by Maureen Sposato

Pope Francis has named St. Patrick pastor, Thomas J. Barry, "Monsignor" a title given to older Catholic clergymen with distinguished service records. The pope granted this title to nine priests at the request of Hartford Archbishop Leonard P. Blair. "My intention, on the occasion of the 175th Anniversary year of the Archdiocese, is to recognize the service of all of our priests by honoring a few representatives



Monsignor Thomas J. Barry

out of the many who so faithfully teach, sanctify and shepherd the people of God," he noted in his column in the Catholic Transcript.

Monsignor Barry was born in Hartford and attended St. Joseph Cathedral school before attending St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester. He was ordained in Hartford on May 4, 1967. He is also a Canon Lawyer, having received his degree from Gregorian University in Rome in 1973. Canon law is the legal system of the Catholic Church, and canon lawyers assist and advise the clergy and laity in the application of the law. Fr. Barry was a member of the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese

of Hartford and has also served several terms on the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford as member, secretary and judge. The Tribunal assists those seeking marriage annulments. Father Barry also taught a course in Roman Catholic Polity at Yale Divinity School for five years, and he is the president of the MJB Corporation, a non-profit organization that focuses on economic development in the disadvantaged areas of the city of Hartford.

He had served as pastor of three parishes in the archdiocese until he was appointed to St. Patrick in 2011. During his tenure at St. Patrick he has committed himself to the youth. "So many parishes do not have active participation on the part of the young," he said, and he has vowed



(Cont. Page 3)

Peer Ministers Installed *by Maureen Sposato*

Monsignor Barry installed 10 new peer ministers during the 9:30 mass on Sunday, February 3rd. The new coordinator, Curtiss Stella, who also directs the Confirmation classes, is looking forward to working with these young adults who want to take on leadership roles in the church and in the community. "The goal of Peer Ministry is for students to become visible leaders for their peers in the community of St. Patrick's parish. The most effective means of evangelization for the youth of our parish are the youths themselves. Peer Ministry is focused on spiritual growth, service, and outreach. It is designed to educate, challenge, and encourage the newly confirmed members of our parish to live out the Catholic faith at St. Patrick's Church, thereby, giving a solid witness to the other students in their age range," he said, adding that the goals for the program are:

1. To actively participate in the sacramental life of the parish
2. To be involved through the different ministries at St. Patrick's
3. To creatively find ways to draw other students into the life of the parish

Monsignor Barry said that young people are needed to look ahead to the spiritual needs of the church 5, 10 or 15 years from now. "This is important for the rejuvenation of the ministry. It's a positive sign for us that they've come forward. It's an opportunity to start from scratch and rebuild our parish in a way that's in sync with the 21st century," he said.

The new peer ministers are: Nathaniel Watson, Nicholas Greco, Jaime Porter, Millard Finn Sposato, Liam Chamberlain, Brian Collins, Joseph Wagner, Kiley Keough & Rhythm Pravasi. Not pictured: Helena LaBonte, David Babigian & John Hollis Tharpe.



Top: Members of the Peer Ministry, Middle: Grecos and Sposatos, Bottom: Peer Ministry



It's not too late to join.....

The Mass with Bishop Robert Barron

Thursdays, 2/28 & 3/7

Church Hall: 9:00 a.m.

Hitchcock Room: 7:00 p.m.

Why is the Mass so important? Why is it the "source and summit" of the Christian Life? It is the most beautiful encounter between friends and it is an anticipation of the play that will be our permanent preoccupation in heaven."

Ministry Minute: Welcome Baskets by Bev Montresor

In February 2014, as a way to reach out to new parishioners and let them know we appreciate them and are glad that they joined our parish family, the Hospitality Ministry began a new initiative called Welcome Baskets. Since our first year when we made 28 baskets for new families we have seen a steady upward trend of people joining St. Patrick. In 2018 we welcomed 51 new families bringing the total number of Welcome Baskets distributed over the 5 years to 188. How wonderful that people see St. Patrick as a vibrant, caring parish and wish to join us!

This initiative is supported by members of the Hospitality Ministry. Members donate the materials needed to make the baskets, and the things necessary to fill them. This includes items such as a bottle of wine, wrapped candy, and small toys or gift cards if there are children. The Outreach to Haiti Ministry has provided crucifixes and the Prayer Shawl Ministry provides a baby blanket where appropriate. A religious book, parish education information, and handouts from other ministries are also included in each basket. Generous cash donations from members have also helped us to keep this ministry going. A few members of Hospitality meet 4 or 5 times a year to assemble the baskets. They have been able to

make as many as 16 baskets at one time, taking only 60 to 90 minutes. This has been due to the dedication and hard work of Marilyn Walsh who not only has organized all the materials and items necessary for each basket but also created a very efficient assembly line process to maximize everyone's time.

A Welcome Basket may seem like a small thing but it seems to have a positive impact on our newcomers. We have received many thank you notes from new parishioners over the last 5 years expressing their surprise and appreciation.

There are several ways that you can help support this initiative. We are always looking for new volunteers to assist with making the baskets. In fact having done this for 2 ½ years, Marilyn would like to mentor someone new to take on the leadership role. If interested, please contact Bev Montresor at bevmon-tresor@snet.net or 860-677-8353. Other ways that you can help include making a donation; wine, wrapped candy, a gift card, or cash.

Also, please remember that a smile and heartfelt "Hello!" goes a long way in making new folks feel welcome. We should feel very grateful that our parish is thriving and be excited about our future plans.



Robert Norris and his mom pick up their welcome basket.



Yen Feng Concra, Marilyn Walsh & Judy Dutil work on the welcome baskets.

Spotlight on Monsignor Barry (Continued from Page 1)

to change that and bring more young people into the church through programs. "Teenage spiritual development is crucial to the life and future of the parish," he said.

Monsignor Barry said he was shocked when the archbishop gave him the news. "The Pope hasn't named monsignors in years and years," he said. "I appreciate the honor, but it isn't so

much about me; it's a way of honoring thriving parishes; it's an honor for you, the parishioners, as much as it is for me."

There will be a celebration of the conferral of these papal honors at a prayer service on February 24, 2019 at 4 pm. at St. Thomas Chapel at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield.

Education News: GIFT

“Looking at Life through the Lens of Forgiveness”

March 1, 2, 3, 2019 St. Patrick Church



We will end our GIFT sessions for this year with guest speakers from the Hartford Happiness Club: Barbara Shulman-Kirwin and Audrey Carlson.

“Forgiveness is the GIFT we give ourselves to lead us out of the prison of anger, grudges and fear.”

Please go online to register for GIFT MARCH 2019.

* Please note, we will no longer be using the Porter Memorial.*



Let's Celebrate

We Have Been Found By The Good Shepherd!

First Reconciliation Class of 2019

Brynn Bouchard, Neila Braverman, Jeanne Caye, Michael Czyz, Jamyson Dignazio-Drost, Gavin Dusza, Kathryn Dutil, Mae Ferruggairo, Marco Fierro, Mara Grocki, Myles Guerra, Alexandra Hurd, Mason Jones, Nathaniel Keuler, Emma Kowalchuk, James Landry, Weston Law, Christopher Maule, Nola McCormick, Grady Mullins, William Osowski, Kayleigh Phillips, Riyan Pravasi, Cody Przech, Owen Rabbitaille, Gia Russo, Thomas Wagner, Ian Waite, Ivan Wargo, Dylan Williamson.

They will receive First Communion, May 5, 2019 at one of these Masses: 1:00 or 3:00 p.m.



Haiti Fundraiser, 2/9/19



Church Matters
Winter 2019

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“The Best Lent Ever”

St. Patrick Church will celebrate Lent in very special ways again this year.

- 6:00 p.m. Fridays - Traditional Soup & Bread Suppers
- 7:00 p.m. Fridays - Stations of the Cross
- 6:00-7:00 Mondays – Confessions
- Corporal Works of Mercy Collections on all the weekends
- You are invited to spiritually prepare for Lent with a “Parish Mission” led by Deacon Art Miller.



Dates to Remember

March 6 - Ash Wednesday

March 8 – 6:00 Soup & Bread; 7:00 Stations of the Cross. “Human Trafficking” Social Concerns.

March 9/10 -Works of Mercy Collection for Victims of “Human Trafficking.”

March 15 – 6:00 Soup & Bread; 7:00 Stations of the Cross “Pro-Life” - Peer Ministry & Gr. 9 Class

March 16/17 –Works of Mercy: “Pro-Life” to benefit St. Gerard Center

March 22 - 6:00 Soup & Bread; 7:00 Stations of the Cross. Religious Education Families - Gr. 6-8

March 23/24 - Works of Mercy: Veterans

March 29 - 6:00 Soup & Bread; 7:00 Stations of the Cross. Religious Education Families - Pk- Gr.5

March 30/April 1- Works of Mercy: Farmington Food Pantry.

April 5 – 6:00 Soup & Bread; 7:00 Stations of the Cross – Religious Education Families

April 6/7- Works of Mercy: South Park Inn. Bob McLaughlin rbm.96@hotmail.com

April 12 - 6:00 Soup & Bread; 7:00 Stations of the Cross – Religious Education

April 13/14 – Works of Mercy: Hartford Catholic Worker – Jim Conway: jimpeggy@sbcglobal.net



Lent, the Way to a Deeper Faith

Parish Mission

Led by Deacon Arthur Miller

March 11, 12, 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Motivational speaker Deacon Arthur Miller will lead the St. Patrick parish Lenten Mission. Deacon Miller was the Director of the Office for Black Catholic Ministries of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Campus Minister at Capital Community College, and the host of the “Good News” Sunday morning radio program.

“Lord, in the midst of the tempest you are with us calming our fear. When we are lost you illumine the way. When we see no hope your gentle stirrings awaken your faith in our faith

and we are again alive. Help us during this time of Lent for our spirit to be nurtured, so that we might be closer to you when Lent ends than we were when Lent began.”



Deacon Art will preach at all the Masses on March 9 & 10

End -Of-The-Year Report (2018)

Meatloaf Ministry *by Lorraine Stec*

I am very happy to tell you that as the result of efforts by volunteers of the meatloaf ministry during the calendar year 2018, the grand total of 208 meatloaves were baked and delivered to the House of Bread in Hartford and used in meals for the homeless. That number of meatloaves resulted in about 1,300 meals for the homeless served in dinner entrees, sandwiches and/or additional protein for breakfasts. Our numbers increased for the second year in a row, and this past year represents an 18.8 per cent increase. Meatloaves were collected 11 months of the year--with no collection in August.

I thank all of you who have cooperated in this ministry, and I especially appreciate the help of John Griffin who picks up

the meatloaves and delivers them to the House of Bread in Hartford, and whose wife, Debbie, also bakes meatloaves. I also appreciate the generosity of those who donate meatloaves monthly and also those who spontaneously donate meatloaves without being called. In addition, we have received generous donations from confirmation classes where students have worked together, and several students in the classes have committed to preparing meatloaves for a period of time. The Peer Group Ministry also worked together to make a few meatloaves. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for all that you do; and you can reach me at 860-508-9650 or bacistec@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE

HOMEFRONT

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2019



HomeFront is a community-based, volunteer-driven home repair program that provides free repairs to low-income homeowners, enabling them to remain in their homes with an improved quality of life. For information or to participate, e-mail

Joanne Dumais: ajdumais@comcast.net or 860.674.8627

“Missio”

Faith Formation Congress Ignite Hearts 2019

**March 30, 2019
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**St. Paul Catholic High School
1001 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT. 06010**

The Office of Education, Evangelization, and Catechesis (OEEC) invites parish catechetical leaders (PCL), Youth Ministers, Catechists/Teachers, Catholic School Educators, RCIA Coordinators, Sacramental Preparation Coordinators and all who minister in Faith Formation to attend “MISSIO”, a day designed for growth in ministry and faith.

The day includes: Keynote Speaker, Joe Paprocki, D.Min., workshops and Mass with Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, vendors from around the country, opportunity for confession and lunch.

**Please contact Eileen Dignazio for more information or to sign up to attend.

Christmas Party 12/2/18



Christmas Tree Lighting Festival



New Parishioners:

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Caporale
 Mr. & Mrs. Darius Shahmir
 Mr. & Mrs. Sean Dunphy
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Cenentano
 Mr. & Mrs. Jean-Philippe Caye
 Robert Norris
 Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Stephen
 Holly Williams & Cody Pepin

Andrei Codreanu & Setareh Balazadeh-Codreanu
 Mr. & Mrs. Ramzi Alkass
 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Mays
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald DelBiondo
 Mr. & Mrs. James Baldwin
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Autorino
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Mala
 Miss Madusree Krishnan
 Mr. Gregg Daly

Kristin Angelo & Ross Kuchyt
 Mr. & Mrs. John Mayette
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Mayette
 Elizabeth E. Popko
 Elizabeth M. Popko (Beth)
 Mr. & Mrs. Miroslaw Krawiecki
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Farrell
 Mrs. Katherine Eaton

Baptisms:

Grant Daniel Popovic
 Luke Vincent Giacoia
 Reece Walker Lally
 Jonah Alexander
 Levine
 Teagan Luna
 Celentano





Church Matters

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175th Archdiocesan Anniversary Celebration



50th Annual Social Justice Awards Celebration

