



**ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

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**NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER, 2018**



On Sept. 24, St. Mary's 4th Graders experienced "Church Tours."

In these photos, Music Director Mr. Kevin Lyczak shows our kids the church pipe organ – inside and out!

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

October, 2018 ~ Volume 44, Number 2



St. Mary's Parish
8 Church Street
Holliston, MA 01746

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Mission ~ "To Know Christ and to make Him Known."

Parish Clergy

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
Rev. James Flynn, Weekend Assistance
Deacon John Barry, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon

St. Mary's Religious Education Is in Full Swing!

September saw the children of St. Mary's Parish gathering again to learn the rich history and teachings of their Catholic faith. Shown below, Mrs. Traci Robie's 5th Grade Class was all smiles as they met for the first time on Sept. 24. In 5th Grade, our young people study the seven sacraments, the nature of God, and the liturgical year.

St. Mary's 4th Graders started out the year with tours of our beautiful church. These included the nave and sanctuary, and a "behind the scenes" tour of the sacristy. As shown on the Newsletter cover, a popular tour stop was the choir loft, where Music Director Kevin Lyczak showed off St. Mary's magnificent Hutchings-Votey Pipe Organ. Mr. Lyczak let the children play the keyboard, and even opened up the back so they could see the hundreds of pipes and mechanical action at work. May God bless our students this year, and their parents who work so hard to give them the most precious gift of all – faith!



"Faith is the great treasure we bequeath to our children. It is a sword that pierces falsehood, a shield that guards the soul, a light that shines in a dark and confusing world to show the way safely home to heaven. There is no greater gift a parent gives to their child, than faith."



WELCOME STEVEN BOOTH!

Steven Booth, Seminarian Intern

I would like to begin by thanking Fr. Mark and the Parish of St. Mary's for their warm welcome. I've already had the good fortune of experiencing Confirmations at St. Mary's and I was struck by the large number of young people, the energy of their families and the dedication of the parish staff. My name is Steven Booth and I've been studying to be a priest for the Diocese of Fall River for almost seven years now. I entered seminary right out of high school and spent my first four years at Our Lady of Providence in Providence, RI, where I also received my BA in Philosophy from Providence College. I am currently in my third year of theological studies at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA. I have been incredibly blessed along the way and I am excited to join you here at St. Mary's.

What are some of the factors that led to your decision to enter the seminary and discern the question of a vocation to the priesthood? One of the most consistent factors in my spiritual development has been the reality of the Holy Eucharist. For me, the True Presence of Jesus Christ under what looks like simple bread and wine made, and still makes, all the difference. It's the difference between attending an ideological assembly filled with flawed people, and attending Church, where God is lovingly present and constantly acting on the human heart in order to call it to an ever-deeper conversion. The Holy Eucharist is what makes celibacy worth it and what brings meaning to suffering. I see a lifetime dedicated to God, in this tangible way, and dedicated to helping others love the Source of Love, as a life worth living.

Who are some of the people who influenced your decision to enter the seminary? The most spiritually influential people in my life have been my parents and my former pastor Msgr. Gerard O'Connor. I was blessed to have two parents who loved the Lord and prioritized their relationship with God above anything else. I loved my parents and when I saw how much they loved God it certainly had a subconscious effect on me. Because I loved my parents I began to love what they loved. This really set the stage, but my pastor showed me that a life exclusively dedicated to God was both possible and happy.

What do you like most about being a seminarian? I have had, and continue to have, the good fortune of being surrounded by awesome, faithful, and energized men of integrity here at St. John's Seminary. Having the opportunity to learn and grow among these men has been a real source of joy.

What are some of your hobbies or pastimes? I enjoy anything really that acts as an excuse to hang out with friends. I especially like outdoor activities: sports, hiking, swimming, relaxing by a fire, etc.

WELCOME PAULA O'BRIEN!

Paula O'Brien, Religious Education Secretary

Paula is a Massachusetts native currently residing in Hudson along with her husband Richard and family. They are the parents of 5 children – 3 adults and 2 quickly on their way to adulthood! Over the years, the family has been very active in community sports, Girl Scouts, business groups, and volunteering. After 20 years in a successful real estate career and variety of administrative positions, God placed a passion for ministry work on Paula's heart while employed at St. Michael's Parish.

Paula holds degrees in Business Administration from Fisher College and, most recently, in Theology from Assumption College. She and her husband are active members of St. Michael's Parish where Paula volunteers her digital social skills and implementing small faith groups. The combination of business and humanities has ultimately lead to the development of her personal theological website www.whereareyoutodaylord.com and accompanying social media feeds. As an evangelization tool with a worldwide reach, she endeavors to help people seek and recognize Christ in their daily lives. By tuning into one of her favorite Scriptures, Paula is living her passion. *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:21





Saint Mary's Parish

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746 ~ (508) 429-4427

October 2, 2018
Feast of the Guardian Angels

Dear Members of the St. Mary's Parish Family,

This time of year we often see guidelines for a safe Halloween. They include such advice as making sure our children wear bright, reflective clothing; only accepting candy from homes we know; and throwing out any unwrapped items that could potentially have been subject to tampering. It might be appropriate then, to pause and consider some tips for a "spiritua'lly safe" Halloween. In reflecting on the First Commandment, for instance, the Catechism of the Catholic Church offers the following reminders:

"All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and love that we owe to God alone. All practices of magic or sorcery, by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one's service and have a supernatural power over others - even if this were for the sake of restoring their health - are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion." (C.C.C. art. 2116 & 2117)

These cautions, which might seem quite removed from our everyday lives, can be timely around Halloween. This is the season when under the guise of games and innocent fun ouija boards are placed out at parties, friends dare friends to participate in séances, or even to go and have their fortunes told. It is true that the faithful Christian has absolutely nothing to fear from spiritual evil of any type. For as St. Paul reminds us, *"To the name of Jesus every knee must bend, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth"* (Phil. 2:10). However, when we freely choose to open ourselves up, even jokingly, to supernatural forces other than the One, True God, then we render ourselves vulnerable. At worst (and rarely) we might attract some malevolent spiritual attention. At best, we are invoking and placing our needs before powers other than Jesus Christ, a rejection of the One who shed His blood to free us from darkness in all its forms.

Perhaps the most important thing for Catholic parents to make sure of is that Halloween festivities do not outshine or distract from the great Feast of All the Saints. "Halloween" stands for "All Hallow's Eve" – the Vigil of the Feast of "All Saints" on November 1. That is the feast day when Catholics honor the memories of the holy men, women, and children who witnessed their faith in Christ in this life and now dwell with Him eternally in glory. What message would we be sending if our kids see us go all out for Halloween – decorations, candy, costumes, tons of time and effort ... only to do nothing to honor the Saints of God the very next day? All the Saints of God. The ones we are called to imitate. And whose joyful company we hope to share when our earthly journey is complete.

I encourage our parents this month to take a little time out from the costumes and candy to share with their children the story of at least one saint; someone to inspire them in holiness and assist them in prayer. Let us remember too that each and every one of us is called to become a saint in Christ Jesus.

God bless you.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro
Pastor



The Feast of All Saints – Thursday, **November 1, A Holy Day of Obligation.**

All Saints Holy Day Masses will be celebrated
Thursday, November 1 at: 9 AM & 7 PM.



Fall 2018: Catholic Cliff Notes
*A Study of Great Catholic
Thinkers & Writers*

women in
WINGS
God's spirit

Moms with young children are ENCOURAGED to attend. Nurturing childcare is offered in the room next to the hall!

*WINGS meets at 9:30
AM every Wednesday
in October*

*What are Women saying about
WINGS this Fall?*

- ❖ I like the opportunity that we can **grow spiritually** by becoming more familiar with the lives of the saints...
- ❖ The talk on St. Joan of Arc was excellent and was cleverly interwoven with Jen Schiller's mom's story. I felt like **I got to know two faithful women** I had not known before.
- ❖ I enjoyed being able to attend WINGS again. I **always feel so welcome** and encouraged that there are so many faith filled women to listen to, learn from and share my faith.
- ❖ **I love the new format with group Q&A at the end.** Jen Schiller's presentation was very moving and inspirational. I look forward to the rest of the excellent speakers in October!

Be Inspired by our October Speakers!

October 10 - Mary Jane Rice, English and Philosophy teacher at Montrose School for the past 25 years, **will speak on Dante Alighieri**. In 2015 Mary Jane was awarded a prestigious NEH grant to study Dante in Siena, Italy for 5 weeks and this intensified her love and appreciation for Dante.



October 17 - Ron Dowding, Candidate for the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Boston and a Software Program Manager for BluJay Solutions **will speak on the life of St. Augustine**. Saint Augustine was an early Christian theologian and philosopher.



October 24 - Professor Kerry Cronin, PhD, Associate Director of the Lonergan Institute at Boston College and the Faculty Fellow in BC's Center for Student Formation, **will speak on St. Thomas Aquinas**. Professor Cronin's class is one of the most popular at BC. Her lecture on Saint Thomas Aquinas will be inspiring.



October 31 - Mary Jo Kriz, Professional of the Archdiocese of Boston at St. John's Seminary **will speak on St. Monica**. Patron saint of wives and abuse victims, Saint Monica was a deeply prayerful woman. She faced a difficult marriage and by many years of prayer and example helped her wayward son St. Augustine find his way to Christ. She is a model for worried parents.



NEW ALTAR SERVER CLASS

Any parish youth currently in grades 4-12 may study to become an Altar Server. Just bring the youth accompanied by a parent with your family calendar to this planning meeting – **Sunday, October 14 from 7-7:30 PM in the Church.** Also, please email Patty Baribeau to indicate your interest: st.marys.altarserver@gmail.com.



BABY SHOWER FOR THE UNBORN

October 20 & 21 at all Masses. Please bring new baby items and clothes to Mass and place them in or around the baby stroller in the sanctuary. These gifts will directly assist mothers in crisis pregnancies through the Pregnancy Help program of our Archdiocese. Thank you for supporting families and babies in their time of need! A Pregnancy Help Client Testimonial: *"When I got pregnant I felt lonely, desperate, and confused. I found myself pregnant with no husband, no family, no money, no house and maybe no job. It was like being in a dark hole. I heard about Pregnancy Help, and they gave me the emotional and material support to get out of the confusion, to put aside all the obstacles that I thought I had and begin to take care of myself and my baby. I do not have words big enough to match the work they do."* Learn more at www.pregnancyhelpboston.org.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 21 at 1 PM. Parishioners are invited to bring their pets to the Lower Church as we celebrate the Church's Rite of the Blessing of Animals. Each pet will receive an individual blessing as we ask God's protection for our animal friends and remember that all living things

are precious to Him. This blessing takes place in October as St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day is this month, and he had a special love of the furred, finned and feathered creatures of the earth.

BECOME A CATHOLIC!

Are you un-Baptized? Are you Baptized but never made first Holy Communion? Are you an adult who was never Confirmed? Were you Baptized in another faith but are now considering becoming a Catholic? St. Mary's offers an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Called R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) these sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Christ's Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter. You are invited to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a supportive and accepting setting. Our wonderful R.C.I.A. team is waiting to give you a warm welcome. Call 429-4427 to learn more.



ANNUAL TRAINING FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS



St. Mary's youths between 4th – 12th Grades are needed to serve at the Lord's altar at Holy Mass. Altar Servers prepare the sanctuary for Mass and assist during the celebration of Mass. They also occasionally serve at Weddings and other special celebrations in the life of the Church. Altar Servers are usually scheduled for two Masses in a five-week period.

**ALL INTERESTED BOYS & GIRLS ARE INVITED
TO A MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14,
FROM 7 – 7:30 PM IN THE CHURCH.**

Any parish youth in 4th Grade through 12th Grade interested in becoming an Altar Server should attend this meeting with a parent and their family calendar. We will plan the training schedule together according to the kids' activity schedules. This ministry is a beautiful way to support the worship life at St. Mary's and to serve God. Email Patty Baribeau that you are coming at: st.marys.altarserver@gmail.com, or just show up!

Why did I become an Altar Server? Here's what some Servers said!

"It's more interesting to have a job at Mass instead of sitting in the pew."

"I thought it was cool to know the names of everything and how to set up the Church."

"My family wasn't getting to Mass very much before. I thought my becoming an Altar Server would help us, and it did!"

"I wanted to do something for God."



67 CONFIRMED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT!

2,000 years ago, on the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' Disciples with the sound of wind and the form of fire. The Holy Spirit transformed that group of frightened, unsure individuals, into fearless witnesses of Jesus Christ. On Saturday, September 22, that same Holy Spirit descended upon 67 young adults of St. Mary's Parish through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Two Masses were celebrated by Bishop Robert Reed, who spoke to our young people about his love for the Catholic faith and the difference it makes in his life. Having been Confirmed, these 67 are now fully initiated in the Catholic Church. In requesting Confirmation, they have made a beautiful decision to commit themselves to live as Catholics - worshipping at

Mass on Sundays, praying daily and making life choices in harmony with the moral teachings of the faith. They are now officially Christ's witnesses to the world. May they be the very face of love! [More Confirmation pics on the next page].





*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest;
Come with Thy grace,
and heav'nly aid, to fill our hearts
which Thou hast made ...*



St. Mary's EPIC

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Plus: Sign Ups for
Mini-Golf Trip
Evening Oct. 21

2018 OFFICIAL KICKOFF MEETING
SUNDAY, OCT. 14, 7:30 - 8:45 PM

Father Haley Hall

\$5 DUES

Faith, Awesomeness, Adventures, Friends, Games, Fun, Food



Deerfield Whitewater Rafting

The date was Friday, August 17, as sixty-seven St. Mary's MSYG 6th and 7th Graders and their adult leaders packed eight rafts for a day of Class I-III whitewater adventure on the Deerfield River in Western MA. The 8th Grade MSYG members had rafted the Kennebec River in June, and now these younger members had their chance for whitewater adventure. First they mastered such rapids as "Sideways Splash", "Freight Train" and "Pinball". Then it was time for "Zoar Gap" - at Class III the day's biggest rapid. This was followed by several miles of water bucket fights and swimming in the deeper spots. A blast!



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

Open to all 6th, 7th & 8th Graders for Faith, Friendship, Service & Fun.



NEXT MSYG MEETING
SUNDAY, OCT. 28,
6:30 - 8 PM

Come Enjoy ~

A Prayer Service for our Beloved Departed; A Giant Milk & Cookie Bar; Sign-Ups for the annual Cookie Walk (Dec. 8 & 9); Sign Ups for Paintball (Monday, Nov. 12); Sign Ups for 7th Grade BINGO at St. Patrick Manor (Monday, Nov. 26)





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 October, 2018



Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

2018 RAFFLE DONATIONS AT CELEBRATE HOLLISTON: Grand Knight, Al Scaramella and Deputy Grand Knight, Tom Anguish presented checks to the Holliston Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, and Holliston Senior Center at Celebrate Holliston during Celebrate Holliston festivities at Goodwill Park on September 22. The Council thanks all St. Mary's parishioners who purchased raffle tickets.

HOLLISTON BERTUCCI'S NIGHT: On October 9 and 10, Bertucci's will donate 15% of your meal bill to Council #14224. The Council will use this donation to fund seminary support, youth programs, Coats for Kids and other council activities. Please support our council by enjoying a meal at Holliston Bertucci's. Present the attached coupon to your server when you pay your bill for the 15% donation to our council. [coupon below]

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2018: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508 429-7588 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now **join ON-LINE** by going to the Supreme K of C website **kofc.org**. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.

MONTHLY ROSARY: The next Rosary will be Wednesday, October 17. The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer." ALL parishioners are invited to share in this beautiful and powerful prayer with our council.

 HollistonCares	
When you present this flyer, Bertucci's of Holliston will donate up to 25% of what you spend - Dine In, or Carry Out to the Holliston Knights of Columbus.	
Bertucci's of Holliston Tuesday, October 9, 2018 (11:30am - 9 pm) and Wednesday, October 10, 2018 (11:30am - 9 pm)	
ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL AND GIVE TO A GREAT CAUSE	
 Bertucci's RESTAURANT	414 Washington Street Holliston, MA 01746 (508) 429-4571

A COLUMBUS DAY PRAYER ~

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer as we observe this national holiday. Help us to have a greater awareness of your magnificent gifts to us, the riches of our land, the splendors of the diverse peoples who form our country. Help us to view all your good gifts with respect and gratitude. Help us to understand that we need the forgiveness of those from whom we acquired this land and to learn to respect it as they did. Heal our divisions and bring us to unity and peace. Amen.

CROSS WALK

By Cathy Stenquist



The multi-colored leaf floating down to the lawn today, confirmed that Fall is here; a time of change and new beginnings. After Mass a couple of weeks ago, I browsed the list of the many ministries to get involved in, and began thinking of some of the amazing times I have had working with others at St. Marys: eager students joining in great discussion about their faith while I taught a class, getting chills up in the loft, as the music swelled to an exhilarating note and knowing our music was touching the hearts of those we could see prayerfully below, cutting up vegetables and singing to music with the teens as we simmered soup for the first "Lenten Soup Supper."

It seemed like finding enough time to get involved was impossible, but somehow my time expanded when I took a chance and said...yes, and I never looked back. I am so happy that I did not miss the new experiences and friendships that were waiting for me. To kick off the Fall season of Cross Walk, I thought I would share a miracle story that happened to me a few years ago during one such volunteer opportunity.

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Working at St. Marys, I had the true blessing of joining my confirmation students in many of their service projects. The one that became my favorite, certainly didn't begin that way. Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter in Boston seemed like a very intimidating place. I was a suburban girl and my few trips into the city coming across the homeless, honestly made me sad and a bit uncomfortable. But Pine Street needed help serving dinner to over 350 men and I had a class full of eager teens who wanted to serve.

This particular evening, the logistics of safely packing hundreds of pieces of homemade dessert in the back of my minivan and getting 4-5 teens and their parents to Boston seemed overwhelming. But after a short discussion about the shelter and joining our hands in prayer, we were off!

We arrived at 4:30 PM to the loading dock on the back side of the Inn near the kitchen. We placed our goodies next to the day old bakery donations on the cold stainless steel tables. The cooks were busy scooping the warm meal of the day into serving dishes. It smelled like Sunday supper at Mom's house.

In the volunteer room, we donned our green aprons and paper hats. Michael, our contact there, took us on a tour of Pine Street. We climbed up stairs to street-lit rooms with row upon row of cots, each with a pillow and neatly folded blanket. We wound our way past lines of men gathering to be first to get their number, ensuring they would be among the lucky to have a shower and a warm bed that night.



I was surprised to hear the camaraderie from serious faces worn by a life too hard for most days. We learned that most of us take our mail box for

granted, but when your homeless, you don't have a place to get your mail, making it hard and sometimes impossible to have an address for housing or job applications. Friendly volunteers cared for their spirits, while nurses cared for their feet, which were neglected but also depended upon to walk the streets.

Soon, dinner was ready and the anticipation of a much needed meal filled the cafeteria. Serving nutritious, high carb and protein meals allowed the guests, as they respectfully call them, to store energy for the journey.

We each took our assigned places behind the L-shaped counter. Volunteers with walkie talkies announced that the kitchen was open and a line of men began streaming in, grabbing a tray and patiently waiting their turn. Three teens to my right scooped steaming ladles of pasta and sauce, the parents on my left methodically placed a chunk of day old bread and a pat of butter on rows of napkins. I stood in the center readying the homemade goodies we had brought on a tray.

We were like a well-oiled machine: pasta, vegetable, dessert, bread; over and over again. Each time with a smile and a "Good evening sir." I loved watching the faces of the men as they pushed their hot plates along the cafeteria table and stopped to choose a dessert. Their eyes would light up, as if some precious memory

from the past had stirred in them and made them smile. A warm chocolate chip cookie or brownie becoming just for a moment a connection to home and family.

Serving went on as usual, a very intense and fast hour from 5-6 PM serving both well-dressed college students of 18 and shaggy dressed elderly men showing the stress of living on the streets. Pine Street makes no judgements and turns no one away. If you are hungry, you are welcome at their table. The clinking of stainless flatware and the murmur of small talk filled the air as face after face, each with their own story, filed past pushing their trays occasionally asking for just one more piece of bread or an extra brownie.

And then I saw him. In the midst of the fast pace, time slowed as I glanced up and caught the eye of a middle-aged man. I can still remember his face and the coat he wore. Dark disheveled hair, deep blue eyes, worn brown suede coat with a dirty lambs wool collar and trim at the edge of his sleeves. His ocean blue eyes sparkled and seemed to stare right through me. As he pushed his tray along the cold steel rail, he stirred a curiosity in me. Why had he caught my eye? What was it about this man?

I greeted him with a kind, "Good evening, sir." He said nothing, keeping his eyes transfixed on mine, a kind, peaceful smile on his face. He reached out his hand to take the napkin wrapped brownie I handed him. As he turned the corner of the table and began to walk away, I kept watching, noticing his head was still turned toward me, even as the next man approached. Time seemed to move in slow motion as he began to speak to me... "When I was hungry, you gave me to eat, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink. Thank you for coming to serve these men."

I gasped. I couldn't believe what I was hearing and seeing. I felt as if I had just served Christ himself and He had just told me, "Thank you - You are serving me through these men. You are doing my work. You are being my heart and hands to my people." The meaning of 'Body of Christ' never felt so clear to me. I saw Christ in him and I felt Christ in me. I understood in that moment, what those words really meant and what we are called to do.

Stunned, I strained forward to get another look at the man's face. As suddenly as he came, he disappeared into the sea of men looking for a place to set down their trays. My hands continued to work handing out

cupcakes and brownies, but my head was ringing with his words. "When I was hungry... When I was thirsty..."

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And on a sad note....

This Cross Walk column is dedicated to the memory of Jack Evans, who bravely took the first Cross Walk with me last



December. I was so saddened to hear of his passing, a man of great faith who has been loved by so many and will be sorely missed.

I couldn't help but think back to our conversation that day in the library, and the beautiful thread of trust, faith, empathy and kindness that wove through the stories he shared. His life was filled with serving others in big and in small, kind ways welcoming the stranger. "I have a strong desire to help people feel welcomed and valued for who they are," he said, "it's my way of letting people know they are truly appreciated."

I can almost hear our Lord saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant." We are all better people for having walked a bit of our own journey with Jack. God bless you, my friend. I'll close today with the lyrics from a song that inspired Jack and changed his life. May it also change ours.

***I'm gonna say a prayer for you and yours
And if you in your own way,
will say a prayer for me and mine,
And maybe we can talk our neighbors into doing the same thing.
This will be more powerful than any conference held,
over any conference table,
Anywhere in the whole wide world.
And then maybe we can live as God intended,
Peacefully, together.***

(Dear Ivan Lyrics by Jimmy Dean)

Check back next month to see who I will be walking with next. Walking in His name, Cathy

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES OCTOBER 2018

got faith?



“FAITH SPEAKING” VOLUMES: *What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life* is this month’s recommended read. This book, by Thomas Groome, helps us to look at eight characteristics, or “gifts” as he calls them, of the Catholic faith, including living as graceful people, seeing the world sacramentally and working for justice for all. Groome poses questions for us to consider in each of the chapters and makes suggestions on how we might practice these “gifts” of the Catholic faith. *What Makes Us Catholic* is available in our parish library and through online booksellers.

RESPECT LIFE: October is Respect Life Month. One of the basic tenets of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a belief in the life and dignity of all human persons. Catholic Relief Services has put together a video series about CST entitled CST 101. Go to <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/cst-101-video-life-and-dignity-human-person> for the video on life and dignity. Over 30 years ago, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin gave a talk called “The Consistent Ethic of Life: Continuing the Dialogue”. While a bit dated, the message is still very much alive. Read the talk at <http://www.priestsforlife.org/maqisterium/bernardinwade.html>.

SUNDAY READINGS: All of the second readings from the Sunday Lectionary during October (Year B: Ordinary Time, weeks 27-30) are from the Letter to the Hebrews. This “letter” was written in the style of a treatise or homily and, according to Felix Just SJ, focuses on the “proper understanding and interpretation of the identity and significance of Jesus”. You can learn more about this “letter” at Fr. Just’s website <http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Epistles-Hebrews.htm>, as well as at the US Bishops’ Bible website, <http://www.usccb.org/bible/scripture.cfm?bk=Hebrews&ch>. To prepare for the weekly Sunday readings, visit <http://liturgy.slu.edu>.

“JUST” WONDERING: The Archdiocesan annual Justice Convocation will be held on November 17 at Boston College High School in Dorchester. This is the 10th convocation and the focus will be on concrete actions parishes can take now to address issues of social injustice. You can find more information about the convocation at <http://rcab.org/>.

GREEN HALLOWEEN: Pat Campo-LeBlanc, a member of the Creation Care Team, gives us some information on how to have a Green Halloween. “Use the colors and textures from nature itself to decorate your home for the season”, she says. “Pretty colored leaves, pinecones, vines with berries on them, Indian Corn, pumpkins, squashes, gourds, apples, asters, mums and hay make beautiful decorations in baskets or attached to wreaths. Since these items are all biodegradable you can feel good about not cluttering the landfills with materials that don’t break down.” Pat then adds, “go old school and have your children use pillowcases to collect their treats in, dig into your closets and your imagination to come up with original and homemade costumes.” Here are a couple of websites that can start you off on having a Green Halloween. For candy and other treats, <http://www.greenhalloween.org/content.php?page=treats> and for costumes, <https://www.countryliving.com/diy-crafts/q1360/halloween-costumes-for-kids/>.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: This year, our focus will be on the environment, and our responsibility, as Catholics, to be good stewards of God’s gift of creation. Three years ago, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical on the environment called *Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home*. You’ll find the complete text at the Vatican Website, <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>; click on Encyclicals and you will find it. You can also watch a video on care for the earth at <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/cst-101-video-care-gods-creation>. See this page in future months for more ideas about what we can do now. --Leo Racine