



ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

130 Boston Turnpike • Shrewsbury, MA. 01545

Volume 6, Edition 2, August 2015

Our Mission: To inform and educate through our lived faith at St. Anne

Parish Connection



World Meeting of Families Prayer

God and Father of us all,
In Jesus, Your Son and our Savior,
You have made us Your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.

May Your grace and love help our families
in every part of the world be united to one
another in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family,
With the aid of Your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most
troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek Your truth and live in Your
love.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Pope Francis has asked all Catholics worldwide
to use the weeks ahead as a time of preparation
and prayer for the *World Meeting of Families* to be
held in Philadelphia in September, 2015.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (The Process of Becoming Catholic)



The RCIA process resumes each fall for all who
are interested in joining the Catholic community
from another faith, and for all Catholic adults
who have not yet received the Sacrament of
Confirmation. The RCIA Team is also looking for
volunteers to join the team and assist RCIA
candidates in their faith journey as sponsors
and catechists.

Individual questions may be answered by
reaching out directly to Deacon Bill Bilow or
Nick Morana by email to
(SaintAnneRCIA@gmail.com) or by telephone
(508-757-7154, ext. 12).

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130 Boston Turnpike
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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ST. ANNE'S MINISTRY FAIR

In the week prior to our Ministry Fair, a parishioner simply and eloquently stated, "Come to the Ministry Fair and be inspired."

And, that really was the Ministry Fair goal. Our hope was to inspire, to encourage and to give parishioners the opportunity to become better aware of and better acquainted with all of the varied ministries we're so fortunate to have here in our parish. We also wanted to provide a way to give back by offering time and talents to existing or perhaps new ministries for parishioners who might want to become more involved in our parish life.

So, how did we get to this point in May? Let's go back to the beginning ...

The idea of a Ministry Fair was introduced by Fr. Foley in the Spring of 2014 at one of our Liturgy Committee meetings. Fr. Foley felt a committee was best for the planning of this special parish event. Since I had been to a Ministry Fair at St. Mary in Shrewsbury several years ago, I volunteered. Tom Schonoff also volunteered to help, followed by Jo-Ann Bafaro. Next, we placed a notice in the bulletin and soon Linda and Jim Mulcunry volunteered to help. We were on the way in our eight month journey.

We came to our first committee meeting in September with our list of ministries ~ we soon found that when we counted Liturgy ministries, parish life ministries and all the other activities the parish was involved in ~ we were actually at over 35 ministries and activities. Did you know that? We were surprised! Next, we discussed all the various aspects of a Ministry Fair. Since I had been to a Fair at St. Mary, I knew the layout for the Fair in the parish hall, I knew there was a ministry booklet for parishioners, there were light refreshments, drawings, etc. and the Fair was held on a weekend – both Saturday and Sunday – after each Mass.

We thought it best to focus on the information needed for the ministries booklet first and focus on the Fair itself later. By starting with the booklet, we could become more knowledgeable regarding the parish ministries and activities and we could have the ministry leaders involved from the beginning. We

were provided with contact info for the ministry leaders, Tom created a form for ministry descriptions, we divided up the number of ministries and activities among the committee and we were on our way to getting in touch – by phone, e-mail and in person – with each of the ministry leaders – another step in our journey.

So, for October and November we worked with the ministry leaders. As the forms came back, Linda reviewed them. During this same timeframe, I got in touch with a friend, Rick Vacca, at St. Mary, who put me in touch with Kelly Paulina. Rick also sent me some great information about previous ministry activities at St. Mary. I contacted Kelly and she spent over two hours of her time with me at the church and at the parish center, giving me additional ministry info.



Around this time, a lovely color photo in the Catholic Free Press showed St. Rose of Lima ministry activities. The photo showed parishioners carrying beautiful ministry banners down the aisle at Mass. We liked the idea of the banners. So, next I contacted St. Rose to see where the banners had been made. I spoke with Ernie Rivard and learned that the banners had been made by a parishioner specifically for St. Rose. Ernie also spent much time speaking with me about the many things being done in regard to parish ministries. A special thank you to Rick, Kelly and Ernie for helping us along our journey.

By mid-December, as we left our last committee meeting before Christmas, we had a draft of our ministry booklet for Ellie and a wealth of information about Ministry Fairs and ministries activities in general, and we felt we were well on our way - little did we know what was coming in early 2015!

CONTINUED ON P. 5

BEING AN ALTAR SERVER

Have you ever wondered if you wanted to be an altar server at Mass? The one thing that you need to do is wear the correct clothing. First, you have to wear a plain white robe with regular clothes under it. Remember to wear a red laced up belt on your waist. Next is a cross around your neck.



Secondly, there are important jobs to help the priest. For example, you need to get the holy water and the holy bread. Another job is to get the wine that is God's blood. Also, you get the Holy Bible and give it to the priest. The last thing I want to tell you about are the rules that the altar server needs to follow. For example, you have to sit quietly on the altar. Also, another rule is to use your own singing voice. Another rule is to say your prayers for God. Another rule is you have to stand with the other

altar servers. When the priest stands, we stand up.

Do you think you may like to become an altar server? Being an altar server is very important because you have to help the priest.

Matthew Frost, parishioner



Where Are Our Young People and Families?

*T*he question has been asked so often by so many in recent months. It seems that after 50 or so youngsters celebrate their First Communion we seldom see them or many of their families at Sunday Eucharist. Following the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, many of the 50 or so young adults are seldom seen at Mass. Why are they not present? It is a good question to ask but painful for the priests and all the teachers, who have prepared our young people for the sacraments, to answer.

*I*t seems obvious that religion and weekly church attendance is not important in the lives of many of our families. When some are asked why, their responses run the gamut from “work hours” to “sports events” to “boring liturgies” to the need for sleep, or “my parents won’t bring me”, to the abuse crisis, to “I don’t need to go” to “none of my friends to” to “I don’t have time” and on and on. I wonder what Jesus feels as He reflects on His love for us in His suffering and dying and waits for our response.

CONTINUED ON P. 4

How Blessed We Are!

How blessed we are to have our Catholic Church and faith. Without it, we would be like boats without rudders or sails, and thus without direction or strength. Our Church and our God help us to make informed, conscientious decisions based on an inner connection to a power greater than ourselves. Despite the popular culture telling us so, the world does NOT revolve around us.

How blessed we are to belong to a faith that cherishes all of life, even if it doesn't match a preconceived notion. Here at St. Anne, my family is witness to the love and support shown to our son, Matthew.

How blessed we are to belong to a faith that gives suffering meaning and lets God decide when it's time for us to join Him.

How blessed we are to be able to receive forgiveness from Jesus Himself in the person of our priest. What better person to restore our state of grace?

How blessed we are to have our Lord present to us in the Blessed Sacrament at Mass or in the

Tabernacle. What a joy it is to be able to spend time with Him!

How blessed we are to belong to a church led by holy priests, deacons and dedicated lay ministry.

How blessed we are to be able to listen to Catholic radio such as Relevant Radio 550AM. Download the app and listen any time!

As a convert to the Catholic faith, I am amazed at the richness and endless sources of love and inspiration that we have available to us. From Pope Francis to our Blessed Mother Mary and the rest of our saints to the Divine Mercy of Jesus, we are blessed with divine direction, love and healing. As long as we live, we will never exhaust our sources of hope and help.

We are blessed to be members of the St. Anne's community and to be able to worship our loving God in a place where He is present to love and forgive us.

God bless St. Anne's Church, its religious, and its parishioners!

Jeff Frost, parishioner

WHERE ARE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES? . . . CONTINUED FROM P. 3

Jesus Christ has given us the church so that He can be present to us as we make our journey through life. Jesus nourishes us with the sacraments, His Word, and Eucharistic celebrations so that we can cope with life's challenges. There is no one who does not recognize the lack of respect for life seen in the violence exploding all around us, expressing concern for themselves and their families. And yet, in absenting ourselves from weekly worship, we miss that generous dose of formation in the dignity of every person and the values that enrich our commitment to love, forgive, and serve others.

Let us all take a moment to thank God for our faith and our blessings and gather for that one hour a week that can make a difference in our personal world and in the world around us. Jesus invites us to Mass for these few moments each week. Let us remember His words to us: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life within you" and "Could you not watch one hour with Me?" and then just maybe the world will be a bit closer to the peace we so desire.

See you in church – I'll save you a good seat! (If anyone reading this has thoughts to share, please let us know.)

In the New Year, it was our intention to focus primarily on the Ministry Fair right away. But, January came with cold and ice, we tried changing the date but we had to cancel our first committee meeting. Our next meeting scheduled for two weeks later also had to be cancelled - a blizzard was coming. We were still working on the Fair, but from home, by phone and e-mail with each other, Ellie and the ministry leaders. After the first blizzard, we still thought we were in good shape and on our way but again, little did we know what February had in store - cold, ice, mountains of snow and in some cases sickness! Again, thank goodness for e-mails!

March brought somewhat better weather, and we began meeting on a weekly basis. We set the dates for the fair - May 16 and 17. Next, we worked on marketing to 'get the word out' about the Ministry Fair ... inserts in the bulletins, speakers at Masses, brainstorming with ministry leaders, etc. We planned and finalized all the fun things involved with a Fair - the refreshments, giveaways (church magnets), drawings and prizes for attendees, balloons and decorations, posters and volunteer sign-in sheets for each ministry. Jo-Ann organized a scavenger hunt for kids. We also borrowed six banners from St. Rose for our Fair to be used at Mass and in the parish hall.

We made it through March and April, and May brought excitement and anticipation. I remember Tracy Flynn telling me it will all come together, it always does. Thanks Tracy, sometimes you just need someone to tell you that. Our Ministry Fair did come together and it was a resounding success! Fr. Foley was pleased and we had more attendees than we could have hoped. But most importantly, we had over 100 volunteers sign up to offer their time and talents to St. Anne's parish ministries - many new volunteers and many current volunteers for additional parish ministries and activities.

I would be remiss if I did not thank those who helped to make our Ministry Fair a success (and besides I really WANT to say thank you!) so here goes...thank you to Fr. Foley for all your assistance and your prayers for this parish event, to my colleagues on the Ministry Fair Committee Team - Tom, Jo-Ann, Linda, Jim and Ellie, to the Ministry

Leaders (every ministry/activity in the parish was represented at the Fair - just great), to Tammy and Marie Mastro and the Social Committee for the refreshments, and to many people behind the scenes - Judy Goselin, Pat Morrissey, Joe Zecco, Gary Dency and Mike Harding. Thank you to friends from my previous life in the world of banking, Carol Guertin at Guertin Graphics for a great deal on the magnets and to Joe Gardner at Curry Printing for a great deal on the Ministry Fair posters and who also donated all the colored paper for the posters. Thank you to many of our local Shrewsbury friends and neighbors, several of whom are also parishioners at St. Anne, who donated gift certificates and gift baskets as prizes in our drawings at the Fair - BGood, Clay Time, Firestone, Lakeside Bar & Grille, Papa's Hardware, Great Clips and Marathon Sports. Special thanks to Nick McAuliffe of Sherwin-Williams Paint who donated everything for a 'Paint a Room' project, and to Steve Genatossio at Sneakerama who donated a gift card for the Fair and 15 boxes of sneakers to St. Anne's Human Services.

And thank you to everyone in our parish family who attended our Ministry Fair. We hope you enjoyed it and that you found it beneficial. If you have any questions or weren't able to attend the Fair and would like more information or a copy of the Ministry Fair booklet, please feel free to contact Ellie Smith, ellie.m.smith512@gmail.com or me, Peggy Olson, maireaad7@verizon.net.

As I told Fr. Foley, I feel blessed and proud to have been part of this experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the journey!

Thanks again to all!

Peggy Olson
Ministry Fair Committee Chairperson





TO OUR CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

Katherine Hallice served the parish as an altar server and as a CCD teaching assistant. She will attend the University of Rhode Island and major in Elementary Education.

Kaitlyn Hester served the parish as a CCD teacher and kindergarten program director. She will attend Westfield State University and major in Elementary Education.

Rebecca Lee served the parish as an altar server, a lector and as a CCD teaching assistant. She will attend Salem State University.

Craig Mendonca served the parish as an altar server, lector and medical clinic volunteer. He will attend the University of Connecticut and major in Physiology and Neurobiology on a pre-med track.

Tyler O'Keefe served the parish as an altar server, and helped out in the food pantry and thrift shop. He will attend the University of Connecticut or Worcester Polytechnic Institute and major in Physiology and Neurobiology.

Nicholas Oliva served the parish as an altar server and helped out with parish events. He will attend Brock University in Canada and major in Finance towards receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Justin Vlass served the parish as an altar server, a Eucharistic minister and volunteered at Camp Sunshine. He will attend Norwich University and major in Criminal Justice.



TO DANIEL MONOPOLI AND KATIE MONOPOLI, St. Anne's Parishioners who are members of *The Regatta Players*, a Shrewsbury-based theater group. Dan and Katie just wrapped up performing in, directing, and choreographing *The Wedding Singer*. We look forward to their next production! For more info, log on to www.regattaplayers.com.

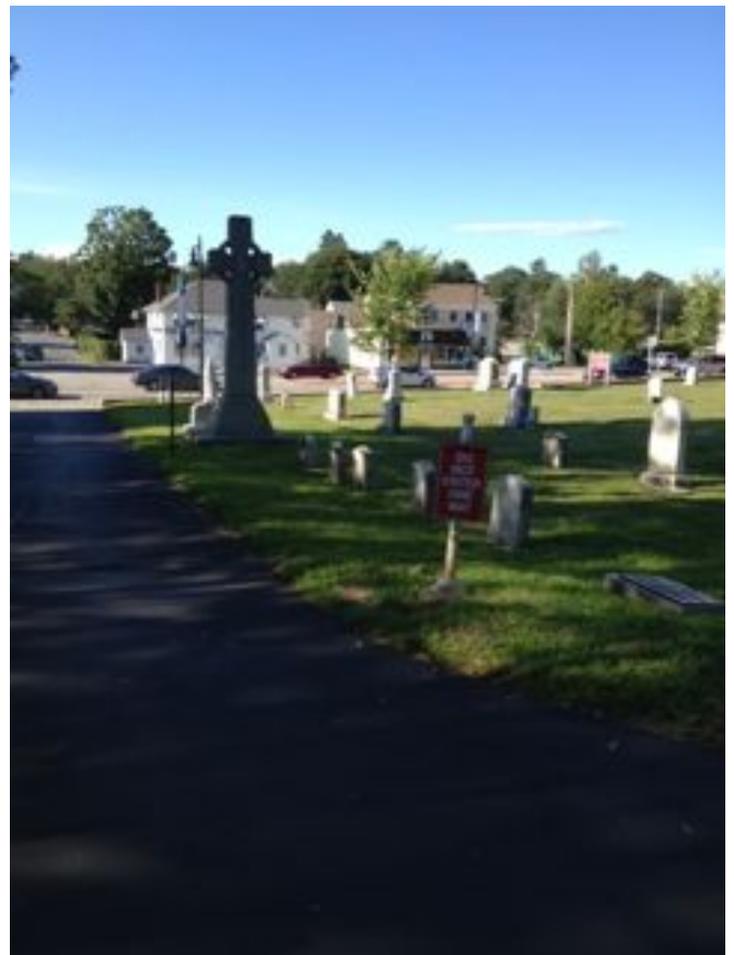


The Sisters of Mercy

The Sisters of Mercy celebrated 150 years of ministry in Worcester and the Diocese on October 18, 2014. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Robert J. McManus at Christ the King Church followed by a luncheon at Maxwell Silverman's Restaurant. Mayor Joseph Petty issued a proclamation declaring October 18, 2014 as **Sisters of Mercy Celebration Day**. As part of the celebration on October 17, 2014, the Mercy Sisters and associates celebrated an afternoon pilgrimage to the sites where their sisters are buried, with a ritual of naming and leaving a red rose at each gravesite. The pilgrimage included a visit to St. Anne's Cemetery in Shrewsbury. There, in the shadow of Fr. John Power, the first pastor of St. Paul's Cathedral who purchased that land for a Catholic cemetery, rest the first seven Sisters of Mercy. Also, a recently installed plaque was blessed by Fr. John Foley and Fr. Paul O'Connell. The plaque reads as follows:

On October 24, 1864 Sisters of Mercy first arrived in Worcester. In 1867 they opened a hospital for women in the vicinity of 111 Shrewsbury Street. For the past 150 years the Sisters of Mercy have continued to minister to the people of the Worcester area in education, health care and social services. The Sisters buried in these adjacent graves were among those early ministers.

The sisters' names and dates follow. Thus closes a chapter of history, but the Spirit of Mercy is timeless.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015:

50 of St. Anne's young adults were confirmed at St. Paul's Cathedral.

25 of St. Anne's children received First Holy Communion.



CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

Our unprecedented winter has left us with a \$79,500.00 shortfall. We hope we might rekindle a spark of your Christmas spirit to alleviate some of the winter's burden. Our Christmas in August is a simple way to duplicate your amazing generosity at Christmas time. If you can help, please place your gift in the Sunday collection basket or send it by mail to the rectory. Thank you for your ever-present generosity and support!

**SAVE THE DATE
ITALIAN NIGHT
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 17
DELICIOUS FOOD,
MUSIC,
50/50 RAFFLE
GREAT FUN**

