



St. Patrick Parish

Church

Matters

NEWS ENCOURAGING FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

www.stpatsfarm.org

SPRING 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

Spotlight: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
page 2

100th Anniversary Celebration
1921 – 2021
page 3

During the Pandemic
page 4

Education News
page 5

Names of First Communion Class
2020
page 6

SAVE THE DATE
Homefront

COOKBOOKS FOR SALE!!
Knights of Columbus
page 7

A Letter from the Monsignor
page 8

“100 YEARS OLD!!” St. Patrick Anniversary Celebration

by Maureen Sposato



has said that he will say a Mass at St. Patrick to celebrate the anniversary and the dedication of the new church building.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Early New England Catholics, mostly French and Irish, were under the diocese of the Reverend John Carroll, Bishop of Baltimore. There was no resident priest in Connecticut until the Reverend Bernard O’Cavanaugh was appointed pastor of Connecticut’s first Catholic Church, which is now St. Patrick St. Anthony in Hartford. The first masses in Farmington were celebrated in parish-

ioner’s homes, most notably the Flood home on Farmington Avenue and the Rice home on Mountain Spring Road.

The parish was first registered in the diocese in 1861. In 1868 Fr. Christopher Duggett was appointed pastor and organized the parish under the name of St. Patrick’s Church Society of Farmington. He purchased a brick building, a former clock shop, from the Cowles family that was located on Route 4, between Main and Garden Streets, and services were held there for over 50 years.

The Chapel of the new church was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1919. According to an article in The Hartford Times, “The new chapel is of beautiful Gothic design and will accommodate 400 people...the interior is so arranged that a view of the sanctuary can be seen from every pew.”

The cornerstone was laid in 1921, and the completed building was officially dedicated on June 11, 1922. Men of the parish prepared the land, built the foundation and basement, and hauled the fieldstone from farms and stone walls in the West District area of town. The church is the



(Continued on page 4)

Spotlight on RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Welcome to the Church

The Easter Vigil held a very special significance for Morena Mendoca Havira and Steven Redmer as they became members of the church and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. The sponsors who accompanied them on their “Journey of Faith” were Steven Havira and Christiana Ankiambom.

According to Eileen Dignazio, director of religious education, “Our New Catholics, Morena Mendoca Havira and Steven Redmer are now in the **Period of Mystagogy**, which is the period where they learn that conversion is a life-long process. They and their sponsors will continue to attend the 9:00 a.m. Mass together and then go to the Parish Office for an hour-long class to discuss both God’s Grace in their lives and the next phase of their faith journey.” The Easter Vigil is only the beginning of a commitment to a lifelong discovery and living out of the Christian message. Mystagogy, a Greek word meaning, “mystery,” includes the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost, as the New Catholics gain a deeper understanding of God’s Word, the Sacraments and what this commitment may mean for their lives. They will be invited to participate more fully in the life of the parish, so that their faith may continue to be nourished – and the faith of the St. Patrick Community may be enhanced by the witness of its newest members.

Morena was baptized as a baby in Brazil, which is common,

but her family chose to practice their faith at home, rather than going to church. “When I met my husband, Steven, who is my sponsor, I started going to Mass with him and his family and we decided that our wedding would be in the church and with the desire of having the Mass format,” she said. “Because of him I became a true Catholic.”

Morena thought that the RCIA program was amazing. “Eileen is so passionate and she taught us about the Catholic teachings with so much heart and I am very grateful for having this education now. I believe it was meant to be at this time of my life because I was able to understand and appreciate the beauty of the Mass and the blessing of being Catholic,” she added.

Steven said that he was not very active in the Protestant faith as a child. He went to Church School as a boy and to a few services on special occasions, such as weddings and funerals.

“My sponsor, Christiana Ankiambom, is a very good friend whom I met on a dating website. We have a relationship. She was instrumental in getting me thinking about re-energizing my faith, and I found that the Catholic faith followed the teachings of Jesus most closely,” he explained.

“Please continue to pray for Morena and Steven as they continue on in their faith journey,” said Mrs. Dignazio.



Morena and Steven Havira



Welcoming our new Catholics Christiana Ankiambom, Steven Redmer, Morena and Steven Havira



Christiana Ankiambom with Steven Redmer

UPDATE ON MEATLOAF MINISTRY

The Meatloaf Committee is hoping to be able to resume activities this May (or June) with a meatloaf collection weekend. Parishioners will be advised as soon as all the logistics are worked out.

For more information contact Lorraine Stec at (860) 508-9650 or bacistec@comcast.net



COME ONE! COME ALL!
100th Anniversary Celebration
1921 – 2021



Held Sunday, May 16th
Farmington Mini-Golf

St Patrick Church Mini Golf Family Day
 Sunday May 16th, 2021 - 12:00 – 2:00
 Round of Miniature Golf & Ice Cream
 Only \$12 per person
 Prizes
 Please email or call the office to let us know you're coming.
 Bring the family and have some fun!
 Rain Date - TBD



1038 Farmington Ave. (Route 4)
 Farmington, CT 06032



St Patrick Parish Strawberry Festival
 Church Grounds
 Sunday June 13th, 2021 11:30–1:30
 Strawberry Shortcake \$5.00
 Kids under 5 free
 Please email or call the office to let us know you're coming.
 Bring the family and have some fun!
 Rain Date June 27th, 2021

Sunday, June 13th
Strawberry Festival

Sunday, September 19th
Farmington Gardens
4 – 7 p.m ~ \$50 per person



St. Patrick Church
Farmington, CT
Centennial Celebration
1921 - 2021
 Sunday, September 19, 2021
 4:00 to 7:00 pm
 Farmington Gardens
 999 Farmington Ave. Farmington
 Food - Music - Cash Bar
 Raffle
 Ticket Price \$50

100
 ANNIVERSARY
 CELEBRATION

PLEASE HELP!

We would like to do a “pictorial history” of St. Patrick for a display at the 100th Anniversary party. If you have any old (or new) pictures of the church or events, Baptisms, Confirmations, weddings, parties, etc. we’d love to have them. Please put your name and contact info on the back and we promise to take good care of them!

Please drop them off at the Parish Office, mail them to Maureen Sposato, 24 Colton St., Farmington, 06032, or email them to me at maureensposato@gmail.com.

MANY THANKS! SEE YOU AT THE PARTY!

During the Pandemic *by Maureen Sposato*

The Covid-19 Pandemic brought challenges to everyone. Never before had churches, schools, restaurants and sporting events been closed or cancelled. Monsignor Barry worked hard to keep everyone connected by live-streaming Masses weekly through Facebook and the website. He also hosted several live-streamed "Ask the Pastor" sessions where he answered questions on many topics.

When the Archbishop allowed churches to be reopened in July, all sanitization and distancing measures were taken: parishioners had to wear masks; HEPA filters were installed; every other pew was blocked off; and safe-distancing tape was applied. Now that restrictions have been somewhat re-

laxed, the church continues to be sanitized every day. According to Monsignor "You're safer here than anywhere else!"

Education classes continued in different forms (see article); there was a children's ice cream party and a Halloween event; and several parish women, led by Patricia Moran, put together a "quarantine" cookbook featuring recipes from parishioners.

And, of course, construction continued on the beautiful new addition to the Church, scheduled to be finished by the end of the year.



Monsignor screening Mass



Halloween "Trunk or Treat"



"100 YEARS OLD!!"

(Continued from page 1)

only Arts & Crafts building in the Archdiocese of Hartford, and includes exposed chestnut beams and 14 beautiful stained-glass windows that were made in Germany. One of the pews was donated by Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis while a student at Miss Porter's School. A plaque with her name can be seen on a front pew.

In 1976, Pastor James J. Conefrey modernized and refurbished the church and the church hall to be in keeping with the liturgical reforms mandated by Vatican Council II. Much of the marble from the beautiful old altar was used in the sanctuary, the baptistry and the pulpit. The church held a rededication ceremony on November 28, 1976, with Fr. Conefrey and Pastor-emeritus John A. Kelly as con-celebrants along with Bishop John Hackett.

Subsequent pastors, Fr. Thomas Quinn, Fr. James Pilon & Fr. Mark Flynn began to realize the need to enlarge the building and bring it up to code by installing accessible bathrooms and an elevator. Under Fr. Mark Flynn, the Church purchased and began to update the house at 100 Main St. as the new Rectory. The old rectory was repurposed as office space for parish business, church ministries and Religious Education.

The current pastor, Monsignor Thomas Barry began working on a list of priorities for the Church buildings that was given to him when he arrived at St. Patrick in 2011, including

available options for elderly and handicapped access. He believed that the solution must stand the test of time. "I love this building, the architecture is unique in the Archdiocese, and we must make it adaptable for the parish now and in 2032," he said. "Now that we have decided that this Church will be the focal building of our parish, we must take measures to ensure that it will meet the liturgical, educational, and pastoral needs of our parish community – not just now, but in the future. These are important issues to me, and they should be to you," he said. In April 2018, plans for the new building and parking plans were approved by both the Historical Society and the Planning and Zoning Commission, and capital fund raising began that fall. Ground was broken for the new addition in October 2019 with completion expected in late 2021.

So now it's time to be a part of this year's anniversary celebration, which will include movies on the lawn; the strawberry festival & mini-golf events; a celebration Mass with the Archbishop; a dinner on Sunday, September 19th and other events. Monsignor Thomas Barry wants everyone in the parish to be involved now that the danger from the pandemic is less. "We want to get families back and get people back as a community again. We'd like to see a broad-based level of parishioner participation during this exciting anniversary year," he said. Details on the events are listed inside.

Education News

By Eileen Dignazio, Director of Religious Education

The Covid-19 Virus impacted the Religious Education Program and challenged the manner in which classes needed to be conducted for 2020-2021. Since the Farmington schools were unavailable to use, it was necessary to be flexible and creative. As a result, a few classes were in-person and met outdoors in good weather and then later in the church with CDC guidelines followed. The following measures were used to ensure the safety of the children and the volunteer staff: sanitizing of the church; a special HEPA air filter was installed; windows were open even in the winter; masks were worn; temperatures were taken as children entered the building and hand sanitizing upon entering the church. Children were spaced three to a pew, six feet apart, and in every other row.

The usual method of distributing materials also needed to be changed and catechists were no longer allowed to pass out materials. Children were asked to bring their own pencils and booklets to be used each time the classes met. The catechetical materials were bagged in Family Bags and either picked up at the Parish Office by parents, or delivered to the mailboxes of the families unable to come to the office to pick up the ma-

terials. This was done for three sessions and worked well with the adapted manner of distribution. It was important for the children to have their materials and that made it imperative to distribute them in the way that best fit the needs of the families. All was done to ensure the safety of the children.

Classes for Sacraments, grade 1, and grades 3 – 10 were held using Google Meet. This was definitely a challenge for those of us who had to learn how to formulate the class rosters online and teach remotely. The students were engaged and responsive to the lessons presented. The instructors and parents for the online Google Meet classes were challenged by the new platform, but, in the end, it was a very good format for classes.

Registration for fall classes will begin after classes end in May. We are hopeful that the addition to the church will be completed in time to have classes in the fall, using the classrooms that are planned. If there are any delays, we will use the same format as this year until it is available for use. More information will follow in the church bulletin, which is now online on the church website: www.stpatsfarm.org.



RCIA candidates masked for Mass and lesson.



Old church hall



New building



Church Matters
Spring 2021

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Names of First Communion Class 2020



Antonio Aleixo

Ava Autunno

Catherine Bannon

Annabelle Bernier

Thomas Coccomo

Michael DeFilippo

Bridget Delaney

Michael Delaney

David Elsener

Kourtney Formica

Andrew Grenier

Aleksandra Hogan

Annmaria John

Zachary Kiley

Chase Lagano

Emma Mahoney

Maya Mansfield

Cyrus Minard

Devlin Morrell

Blake Nelson

Mia Nguyen

Jovan Ortiz

Vincent Pellegrino

Luke Plona

Emma Rabitalle

Noah Raphael

Jordyn Relunia

Catalina Rodriquez

Timothy Rourke

Ella Royce

Beniamin Salazar

Benjamin Schipper

Gracie Taylor

Abigail Trottier

Sofia Vieyra

Theodore Walker

Molly Wilson



Molly Wilson with her parents

New Parishioners:

The Andros Family
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Brown
The Chaput Family
Mr. & Mrs. Krzysztof Chmielewski
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Dahlstrom
The Diaz Family
Mrs. Mary Jo Dunn
The Dzierlatka Family
Dr. & Mrs. Roger El-Hachem

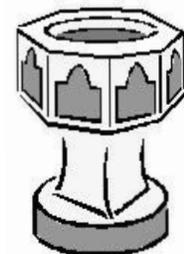
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Vannieuwen-huyze-Fraley
The Fontana Family
Emily Garner
Jillian Giardini
Phil Guglielmo
The Junger Family
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Langevin
Mr. & Mrs. Howard McWilliams
The Norton Family
Carolyn Nowack
The Poulin Family

The Robinson Family
The Sperry Family
The Sullivan/Burbank Family
The Szymanski Family
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Tenazas
Paul Winar

Brynley Hope Langevin
Noah Maurice Ouellette

Baptisms:

Eli Cristian Russe
Norah Krupa St. Pierre
Charles Alberto Carey



SAVE THE DATE

HOMEFRONT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021
(tentative)



Attention: Homefront: I wanted to touch base and let you know I spoke with Homefront and they have decided to move forward with projects in September for families in need. The current plan is that Saturday, September 11th would be the work day. They have a list of safety requirements we would need to follow to protect the homeowner as well as volunteers as we move forward out of the pandemic. For more information or to participate, email me, Joanne Dumais, at ajdumais@comcast.net or call me at (860) 674-8627.



COOKBOOKS FOR SALE!!

Secrets from the Confessional and other Culinary Delights – Part 2

\$35.00

*Designed and published by members of the
Parish during the Pandemic!*

To place an order, call the Parish Office:
(860) 677-2639



Knights of Columbus



Knights of Columbus after putting up the Christmas trees

Mike Blum with Myles Hubbard, Trustee at St Justin and St. Michael Parish and board member of Malta Food Pantry, at the food pantry with a small portion of the 330 pounds of food the Knights of Columbus delivered in March



Church Matters

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A Letter from the Monsignor

Dear Parishioners!

If you have been coming to church regularly or visiting our parish website you have been able to see that work on our addition is actively progressing week by week. When completed, this addition will be the result of much hard work on the part of many fine parishioners, fulfilling decades of expectations, years of prayers and also outstanding financial support. Two building campaigns were never anticipated for this addition but became necessary when so many proposals from our sub-contractors came in over the original estimated budgets.

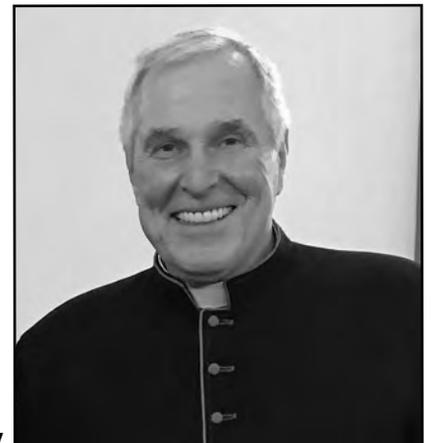
With this message I wish to remind our parishioners that we still have a way to go to meet these increased costs. While I ask for the continued prayers I am also asking for additional financial support especially from our parishioners who have not yet made a pledge or a gift. If you are one of these parishioners please pray over my request for your support. I am sure God's grace will motivate you to participate according to your personal means.

I really need to mention again that the completed addition will bring many pluses long needed in our parish. This ad-

dition will allow us to offer better pastoral programs to meet the needs of our parishioners. I pray that the astounding generosity of the original 400 families that supported our original church will be matched by the generosity of our parishioners in 2021 – 100 years later. I also look forward to the event in September marking this centennial anniversary. I also hope it will mark a successful finish to the campaign.

With Easter blessings
and prayers,

Monsignor Barry



Monsignor Barry