

More Activities with Our Welcome Back Initiative at Plainville-Wrentham Catholic Parishes

Several committees of parishioners have been working on a variety of plans to celebrate this year of returning to involvement in our parishes and communities. This "Welcome Back Initiative" (WBI) in St. Martha Parish and St. Mary Parish is a network of events, activities, and improvements we are implementing at various times through the end of the year. And stay tuned to learn about "**The Big Event**" *this fall* and more announcements to come, but **here is what's coming up this month...**

Don't Miss our Open Air Concert Series co-sponsored by Sunday Experience Team & WBI

This Sunday, August 8 at 2pm, is *one of the last dates* in our Open-Air Concert Series, featuring our own group **Joyful Noise** - Jeff Johnson, Cindy Tuminelli, Dean Winslow, and Sally Winslow - blending their voices and instruments through a variety of folk, contemporary, and pop music as well as original melodies. This *family friendly event* will feature a range of music from the Beatles to Lori McKenna and Brandi Carlile, old movies to James Taylor, folk music from the 60's and 70's up to recent Grammy winners. Come enjoy a show that will gladden your heart and leave you humming, singing, and smiling! Refreshments available! Seating under the pavilion or bring a lawn chair/blanket to *Plainville's Telford Park* (rain or shine).

Next Family Fun Days: Aug 15 at St. Martha, Aug 29 at St. Mary

In honor of the Year of St. Joseph, the patron saint of families, our collaborative is welcoming all the families back to our parishes with a series of **St. Joseph Family Fun Days**. *Beginning at 10:00am August 15th at St. Martha - and at 9:30am August 29 at St. Mary - we are having monthly family-friendly Mass followed by outdoor FUN.* This includes a bouncy house, lawn games, bubbles, treats for everyone, and more! (Rain date: usually the following Sunday.) Come and give thanks that we can all have fun **TOGETHER!**

Senior Connections

We are continuing our efforts to support our senior parishioners - both those who have returned and those who can't be here in person. Our first event is Wednesday August 18: join in the smaller attendance at 9am Daily Mass at St. Mary then stay for a "Coffee and Chat" in the accessible Parish Hall. Also follow us on FaceBook ([St. Martha Facebook page](#) or [St Mary Facebook page](#)), or tune to our [Plainville Wrentham Catholic YouTube](#) or [Wrentham Local Religious Programs Channel](#) (Verizon 36 or Comcast 98) for local Masses, rosary, prayer group, and more!

For Teens and Children

If you are an Altar Server: We are excited to have you return to serving at the altar! We are planning an Altar Server Refresher training meeting for altar servers in the early fall, but *if you and your parents are ready for you to return to serving now* (with a few precautions), please contact the parish office to let us know. A priest will schedule your first Mass and meet with you before it for a short review.

Our teens had a fun **High School Rafting Adventure** last Sunday! Watch for the first fall gathering for high school teens in our Plainville-Wrentham Parishes, and future activities for middle school, too!

In Case You Missed It...

YOUR SUPPORT Is Bringing EXCITING IMPROVEMENTS to Our Churches - church doors have been refinished and parish center/rectory re-shingled at St. Mary, and exterior painting will start soon at St. Martha. For more on how your contributions are helping spruce up our churches, see a recent column on the [many repairs and capital improvements](#) taking place at both parishes' properties.

Finally, if you haven't read the beautiful [Sunday Mass Letter from Cardinal Seán](#), please click the link to see how he provides positive reasons for coming to Mass, as well as explains how the in-person Mass obligation *does (and sometimes does not) apply*. * **Why not let the positive reasons take precedence and come to receive the grace and strength of Christ in the Eucharist?**

*Please [contact your parish office](#) if you would like to have a Communion Outreach minister bring the Eucharist to your home. We have restored this ministry and are happy to extend it to anyone who is still not able to come to Mass. Of course, priests can also visit for Confession or Anointing of the Sick in these situations.