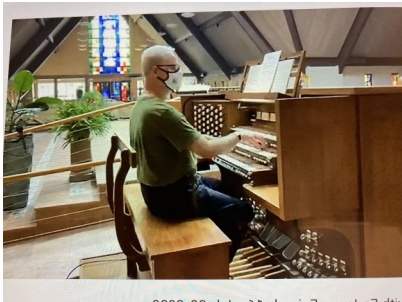




## Fr. Jerry's Tuesday Talks Appeal to All Ages

Every age has been touched by the pandemic, even the youngest among us. Beginning in March, pre-schoolers were no longer attending their day care centers, and elementary students were learning from home. No more play dates, clubs, or after school activities—and no more church. Christine Goss responded to Fr. Jerry's concern that he would lose contact with kids and their parents suggesting that he connect with them in different ways and show them a different side of himself—not in church in his priestly garments but in his home in regular clothes. Originally intended for children, the episodes have been enjoyed by adults as well. Some have even dubbed him "Our Own Mr. Rogers." First called Storytime with Fr. Jerry and later Tuesday Chats with Fr. Jerry, episodes have been recorded by Christine Goss, Bob Vielkind, Paul Buckley, and Tom Bigos. The series premiered on March 31, 2020, and through October nearly twenty episodes have been made available on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Each begins with a prayer, the singing of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

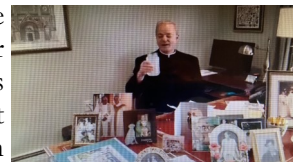
In eight episodes, Fr. Jerry started with the Gathering Space and moved through the church to explain the things that we see but do not know—the ambo, the holy oils, the art. Tom Bigos explained the bells, the Juliet bells named for Fr. Jerry's mother which rang for the first time on Christmas Eve, 2009. We found Fr. Jerry lying on a pew and he taught us about the history of pews, with the term originally meaning "to elevate" because people had to step into them using the kneeler to rest their feet. In one of his favorite episodes, Fr. Jerry was found in the pipe loft cleaning the pipes which are more than a hundred years old and came from a Protestant church.



Another favorite began with Fr. Jerry enthusiastically playing the organ before Dr. Gray demonstrated this

single instrument which can sound like a symphony orchestra.

When Fr. Jerry welcomed us into his office, he was sipping his favorite drink, warm water and lemon. In this episode viewers learned that, according to a Polish custom, the first Christmas card he receives with an illustration of the three wise men is placed over the door. We saw part of his frog collection, the signed picture given to him by his former parish, a cross from Jerusalem—and even his plastic orchid! Children were invited to send their pictures to be placed on his office chair and be his special guests for the day. In the next session, Alex and a Jason were the special guests and we were treated to pictures of Fr. Jerry's family. With 3 brothers and two sisters, he was the baby of the family. When he was the ring bearer at his Uncle Bob's wedding, he wore a tux for the first time. A message to children was, "God gave me good parents, and He gave you good parents too."



In his living room, we saw the little teapot that belonged to his grandmother and was given to him by his mother. This was the inspiration for a message of holding on to memories. A statue of Mary holding Jesus on a donkey with a chipped ear led to the message that nobody is perfect—we all have our little chips. In the secret garden that opens from his office, Fr. Jerry shows us his plants and garden ornaments like the statue of the Blessed Mother and the broken vase that teaches us that even broken things have use. A reading from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudatory Si* teaches the importance of caring for the earth.



## Ministry Updates

### St. Vincent de Paul's Society and the Bethlehem Tree Project: Helping Families for Thanksgiving and Christmas during the COVID-19

It will be a challenge this year for St. **Vincent de Paul's Society** to provide food and gifts to the families that count on our help each year!

**FOOD** - In the past we have relied on the BH-BL schools to provide food to supplement our supply. This year they will be unable to help! We are hoping our church families will be able to help by donating food. The Knights have volunteered to have a food drive.

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS** - It is sad that we will not be able to ask for gifts this year! We are hoping that our church families will donate gift cards in denominations of \$20 from either Walmart or Target. The gift cards will be given to the families when they pick up their food baskets. If you would prefer cash instead of gift cards, please make out your check to St. Vincent de Paul Society. Gift Cards or checks may be put in collection baskets or mailed to the rectory!

**YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED !**

Joan Bunn, St. Vincent de Paul's Society



Due to COVID restrictions, the **Bethlehem Tree Project** will operate differently this year.

We are requesting specific gift cards to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which provides for families during the Christmas season.

The needs of the other organizations which we provide gifts for will be addressed as follows:

**-St Mary's Outreach in Albany** (provides for the homeless): Parishioner donations will be used to purchase a Visa gift card.

**-Equinox in Albany:** "Heart Warming" project - We will ask for specific gift cards around Valentine's Day to benefit Equinox.

**-Birthright** (provides clothing items and diapers for newborns): We will ask for specific gift cards to benefit Birthright around Easter.

Purchasing the requested gift cards, many of which can be found at supermarkets, will make shopping easier for all during this unusual time. Gift cards or checks may be put in the collection baskets or mailed to the rectory.

Thank you in advance for your generosity .... stay well.

Vivian Swank, Bethlehem Tree Project



## Ministry Updates

### Kinghts of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary by Diana Byron

Lent began on February 26 in 2020 and as Catholics we started preparing ourselves for Easter. The start of Lent is also the time when the Glenville Council of the Knights of Columbus put Fish Fry Fridays into operation. This event encompasses six Fridays prior to Good Friday and it is one of the biggest fundraisers that the Knights of Columbus sponsor. As members of the Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary our involvement in the Fish Fry Fridays is to help and support the Knights. Every year we look forward to this fundraiser because it raises a lot of money to support many organizations through charitable contributions. It is also a wonderful time for the Ladies' Auxiliary to get together outside of our monthly meetings. Our assistance before, during and after the dinners is appreciated and we enjoy the camaraderie.

If 2020 were a regular year, the Ladies' Auxiliary would be doing all these activities and much more. Unfortunately, 2020 had other plans in store for us. We, as the Ladies' Auxiliary were able to meet in February and in March. Two Fish Fry Dinners were completed, and the response was terrific. Then COVID-19 arrived in New York and it was relentless and harsh. New York had to go into lockdown and the effect was devastating. On March 13, the last Fish Fry Friday was held and that one had to be drive-thru only. Several dinners were sold on that day but eventually no more dinners could be held, in-house or drive-thru.

March came and went and so did April, May, and June; no meetings, no fundraisers, no end of the year picnic where we could gather and reflect upon the accomplishments of the year. We do not meet over the summer.

During the pandemic we felt as if we were isolated from each other, but we were never alone. If anything, I believe that we became closer to God and were able to reflect upon the goodness and the talent that God has given us. We may not have met as a group, but we could support each other spiritually by praying for each other and supporting each other through the power of prayer. As we have been promised, we are not alone.

September 2020 just like every September is the begin-

ning of a new year for the Ladies' Auxiliary. Normally we meet the first Tuesday of the month at the same time that the Knights of Columbus meet which is 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. We are not able to meet in person but through technology we can meet virtually. We meet using Zoom and although I am technically challenged, thanks to the help of my husband Mel, we have been able to hold two Zoom meetings. The time for the Zoom meetings is 6:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM. Once we return to in person meetings, the meetings will resume during the 7:00 PM time slot.

Our virtual meetings are like our in-person meetings. We have an agenda which includes scripture reading, sharing and discussions along with a business meeting. COVID-19 is still with us and there is the possibility a second surge will be coming but this pandemic has not stopped us. Recently the Knights of Columbus were able to sponsor a Chicken Barbecue and there is another Chicken Barbecue scheduled for October 16. It will be a drive-thru again and there will be members of the Ladies' Auxiliary helping at this barbecue. A few of us were able to assist at the September barbecue.

Soon, there might be the possibility of meeting in person but in the meantime we will meet virtually. I am in hopes that as time goes by, we will be able to not only support the Knights with their projects but to continue to do some of the projects that we have done in the past. I am hoping that in December we will donate gifts to Catholic Charities and the Bethlehem Tree as we have done before. I am also hoping that in January 2021, we will start talking about the 2021 Fish Fry Fridays.

If any woman in the parish is interested in joining the Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary, please contact Gerry Havasy, President or me, Diana Byron, Vice-President. Our contact information is as follows:

Gerry Havasy: gmhavasy@yahoo.com;(518) 406-5675

Diana Byron:mbyron1@nycap.rr.com;(518) 346-8954

All women in the parish are welcome.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Diana L Byron

Fr. Jerry, continued from page 1

After several episodes in the church and some in the rectory, Fr. Jerry is now talking about the stained glass windows. Sometimes ideas come from conversations with parishioners, like the episode in which he talked about the loss of a pet and whether pets can go to a heaven. No matter the subject, Fr. Jerry's presentation is not only informative but also engaging. At the beginning of an episode, he connects with each viewer by speaking directly into the camera and saying something like, "You came back. I'm so glad to see you." He

also got the idea from Blues Clues to ask questions of the audience making each person feel that he is in a conversation with Fr. Jerry. He tries to make the sessions fun, and it is obvious that he is enjoying them himself.

In this difficult time, Fr. Jerry has given not only our children but also our adult parishioners a gift. We have shared calm and relaxing times and heard messages of family, respect and love for everyone, the environment, and all God's creatures. It is a time to look forward to with the consistent message that no matter our problems, God has us in his hands.

## Ministry Updates

**Youth Ministry – Catechesis – What’s New?**  
By Christine Goss

In a response to concerns surrounding Covid-19 and in an effort to best meet the varied needs of our families and teens, we have expanded our program and for the first time given families of youth in grades 7 – 10 three models of formation to choose from for the upcoming year.

**Option 1 – In-person Mini-Courses**  
Youth gather in the Parish Center in-person in small groups to learn about one specific faith topic that they select. Each topic meets for three consecutive weeks with a catechist leading the conversation. This model has been the model we have had in place for the past several years.

**Option 2 – Completely Virtual E-Learning**  
Utilizing a new platform designed by respected Catholic Publisher, St. Mary’s Press, youth who select this model will complete six modules of Catholicism 101. The e-learning modules are interactive and self-paced, giving participants the flexibility of setting aside time to focus on their faith formation as it fits into the rest of the schedule of their lives. After each module, participants will have a virtual session to break open what they learned, to answer any questions that they may have and to come together in prayer.

**Option 3 - Family Foundations of Faith**  
The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly teaches the importance of recognizing parents are the primary educators of the Catholic Faith for their children (CCC 2223, 2226). This model of formation will be parent led and done primarily within the at-home context. Youth Ministries has curated and created a list of suggested activities that they will complete at home, on their own schedule, as a family. The expectation of this model is that families complete 8 of the activities over the course of the year. After each activity, each Youth Ministry participant will email in a short written or video reflection about how they grew in faith from the experience.

**Our Confirmation Preparation Program** will continue in gathered sessions to allow candidates the opportunity to be together, to grow in faith and community as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Spring 2021.

We are incredibly blessed here, at our Parish, to have the facilities, space, support and technology to offer families these alternatives. Thank you for your continued support of the youth of our parish.

For more information about Youth Ministries or to find out how you can be more involved, please reach out to Christine Goss, Director of Youth Ministries at 518-399-9203 or [youth-ministry@icglenville.com](mailto:youth-ministry@icglenville.com)

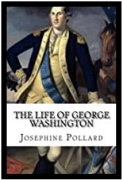
**Book Club** by Simone McGuinness

What a ride this Spring and Summer have been! Book Club changed to Zoom meetings in April and has continued to meet weekly. A shout out to our Book Club for learning to Zoom!!! In the beginning it took us over 20 minutes to get everyone logged in with screens, video and audio adjusted - we could have been a Saturday Night Live skit - “Church Book Club Ladies on Zoom”. Now our meetings begin promptly and we enjoy the camaraderie, even though we are not in person.

Our group has been focusing on Good News each week, as well as a discussion question. We have anywhere from 9-15 women on each call. I think all would agree that our Book Club has been a wonderful support through the pandemic.

We are anxious to return to whatever our new normal is going to look like, and are making plans to move in that direction. As of September 1st, we are now meeting on the first and third Wednesday of the month. The first of the month we are reading and discussing an online short story, and the third of the month we have a reflection and social time with our members.

Here are the short stories we have read:  
 August - ‘George Washington’s Boyhood Rules’ from Josephine Pollard’s book  
 September - ‘God Sees the Truth, But Waits’ by Leo Tolstoy  
 October - ‘The Student’ by Anton Chekhov



When we finally can meet in person, and it is easier to access materials from the library, we will return to books. In the meantime we continue to be creative and look for new ways to explore reading, as well as support one another.

**Blessing of the Animals**



Fr. Jerry blessed 36 animals in a drive-by format on October 4. Donations were collected for the Animal Protective Foundation. Certificates were given to each family and a photograph, taken by Julie Ashcroft, was sent to each family. The event was coordinated by Rachel Winters.

See page 8 for additional photos.



## RCIA—Celebration of the RCIA Sacraments of Initiation

By Kim Klementowski, Photos by Julie Ashcroft

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Glenville celebrated the RCIA Sacraments of Initiation. We welcomed two new Catholics into our parish family as our catechumen Kelly Benkoski received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist and our candidate Bill Heilman received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Pattie Steeves completed her sacraments of Initiation with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

When the pandemic forced churches to close and sacraments to be delayed back in March, the RCIA team was able to continue via weekly Zoom sessions thanks to the help of two of our more technical RCIA team members Sean Caron and Maria Morris-Groves. We were able to finish our preparation and keep in touch on a regular basis right up to the celebration of the sacraments on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

The mass, celebrated by our beloved Pastor, Fr Jerry Gingras was made so beautiful by Fr Jerry's special touches. It was very evident that the Holy Spirit was among us that morning.



Fr Jerry Gingras baptizes catechumen Kelly Benkoski as her sponsor Cindy Carter looks on.

Fr Jerry Gingras administers the sacrament of Confirmation to Pattie Steeves as her sponsor Addolorata Pauze looks on.



Fr. Gingras administers the sacrament of First Eucharist to candidate Bill Heilman as his family looks on.

## Parishioners Raise Awareness of the Abuses of Fast Fashion

When Bridget Kirsch was studying in Germany last year, she elected to do a project on fast fashion. She was interested in fashion, had even sewed some of her own clothes, and was considering a career in the fashion industry, so she wanted to find out about any dark side to the business. What she learned encouraged her to become an advocate for those who toil in sweat shops around the world to make clothing that is less expensive and poorly made.

Often taking place in third world countries, this unethical production in the sweat shops is a violation of human rights. The shops are subject to fires, and the workers earn as little as 5 cents a day even though their days are very long. Moreover, the system is detrimental for the environment: it takes as much water to make one tee shirt than the average American uses in a year.

Armed with this information, Bridget and her mother Lynn have begun to think about clothing in new terms, not of Fast Fashion but of Slow Fashion. This involves thrifting or first seeking out thrift shops for ethical brand clothing to buy. They have learned that, just like full price stores, these have their specialties. One may cater to people who like trendy clothing while another caters to shoppers who like more traditional wear. Thrifting does take effort, and even when the shopper finds the right store, there might be some frustration since the inventory can be unpredictable. When you do find items that you like, the process of upcycling begins—refashioning or giving the clothes a makeover so that they become something new.



See Fast Fashion, page 7

## Spotlight on Maria Yorkshire by Annette Botsford

In this *Pipeline* series, we hope to familiarize parishioners with those among us whom we see often but know little about. Readers are invited to contact Annette Botsford at [abotsfor@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abotsfor@nycap.rr.com) with suggestions of future subjects for this feature.

For this issue, I am writing about someone I'd love to meet in person someday. Now, many of us rely on remote meetings. So, I have come to know a bit about Maria Yorkshire via technology. It is clear that she is a very warm, caring and humble person.

If you are new to Immaculate Conception, you may have met Maria as the Co-Chair of the Welcoming Committee. She has been a Youth Ministry Catechist for about 12 years and is also an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Additionally, she is on the Stewardship, picnic and Morning of Service Committees.

The main focus of the Welcoming Committee is the two New Parishioner Breakfasts held each year. The breakfasts were wonderful with lots of homemade breakfast dishes and awesome fellowship with our newest parishioners. She really misses these gatherings and commented that she has made many lasting friendships from these events. She and the Welcoming Committee were in the process of creating a new Parish Family Directory when the pandemic hit. They hope to start again in Spring 2021. She has also helped out at Confirmation receptions, decorated for Mardi Gras and has recently begun helping with the parish Facebook page.

Maria was born in Germany where her parents lived while her dad served in the Army. When she was 9 months old the family moved back to Syracuse where her parents grew up and most of her extended family lived. She has one younger brother. She comes from a big Italian Catholic family. Maria recalled many wonderful memories of family times with Sunday Mass and big family dinners.

When she was 7 years old, her father got a new job at General Electric and off they moved to Schenectady. There they joined St. Helen's Church (now St. Kateri) where Maria made her First Eucharist and Confirmation. Her parents were very active in the church. She gives her "love of service to the church" credit to her parents. They were both very active in the church.

She graduated from Linton High School and had planned to study to be a travel agent or a cruise director (laughingly, she says, "like Julie on *The Love Boat*"). While working at her first job at Brooks Drug Store, she met her husband and



they were married 10 months later in 1985. Maria and her husband Gary have been married for almost 35 years. Their only child, Joshua was born in 1995 after much praying for a child. The three family members are presently working from home. They feel blessed to have their jobs through this difficult time.

For 31 years, Maria worked for a Title Insurance Company. In 2016, she decided to do something new and feels blessed to be working as Program Secretary for Catholic Charities Senior & Caregiver Support Services. She loves all their programs and helping the seniors and caregivers in our area.

With the little spare time that she has, she loves to scrapbook, make crafts, read, cook and bake. Her favorite thing to do is to spend time with her family. The pandemic has kept them from many family birthday parties, holidays and regular visits. They have been using Skype a lot, but she misses giving her parents a big hug.

See Maria Yorkshire, page 7

### **Maria Yorkshire,** continued from page 6

She began her volunteer work at Immaculate Conception after seeing a bulletin blurb about “prayerfully considering becoming a Youth Ministry Catechist”. She met Christine Goss and the rest is history... This is a calling for her that goes back to when her mom and dad were catechists. She was in her dad’s class at church in middle school. During class, she remembers talking to friends, passing notes back and forth and not paying attention. Her dad loves to remind her of that when she mentions a particularly tough class she is teaching. Her first Youth Ministry class was her son’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. Those “kids” are now 25 years old and some are married. She loves when a student remembers her and loving her class.

After a 5 month break from in-person mass, she is back and has served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist when needed.

Like many of those who give their time and talent to our church, Maria is humbled by being asked to be spotlighted in this issue. She feels that so many parishioners do so much for our parish and she is in awe of them.

In Maria’s words:

“I am so grateful for the many people I have met over the years. Immaculate is such a welcoming parish. I usually attend Saturday 5 PM Mass and every week there were many people with hellos, how are yous, hugs and concern if someone wasn’t there and I miss that very much! Father Jerry is so supportive and faith filled and we are blessed to have him as our Pastor. The livestreams, Tuesday Chats with Father Jerry and Fran’s Reflections have been such a source of comfort during these difficult times. I thank everyone involved in bringing them to us.”

### **Fast Fashion,** continued from page 5

Where can each of us begin to be more clothing responsible? First we can limit our wardrobes to what we need and assess our own closets for items that have not been worn in at least a year. Lynn suggests reversing the hangers when we wear an item. After a year, we can make an assessment of the items on hangers that have not been reversed. At that point, Lynn and Bridget suggest donating and recycling them through thrift and next-to-new shops from which they can hopefully be upcycled by the next wearers. When we want to purchase new items we can then invest in quality clothing, like a special cashmere sweater, that will last a long time and has not been made in a sweat shop.

### **Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones**



*Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from April 9, 2020, to October 9, 2020. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.*

**Skylar Marie Bikowicz, child of Ryan & Cassandra**

**Grayson Everett Larcum, child of Jonathan & Zahia**

**Eden Giulia Cianfarani, child of Dante & Heather**

**Maren Noelle Blair, child of Dave & Christine**

**Giovanni Cruz Iati, child of Jonathan & Stephanie**

**Ryan William Vedder, child of Steven & Jessica**

**Georgia Jean Centifanti, child of D James & Rachael**

**Dominic Michael Tyron, child of Jeremy & Alicia**

**David Michael Coffey, child of John & Danielle**

*This couple was married between April 9, 2020 and October 9, 2020. We wish God's blessing upon them.*

**Natalie Horgan to Kevin McCann**

At this point, Bridget and Lynn are spreading their message by word of mouth, but they do intend to use social media in the future. Also, Bridget plans to make instructional videos on how to upcycle. Bridget and Lynn are at the start of a trend that will have broad appeal across generations as people understand that it is less expensive, kinder to the environment, and more ethical. With their knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment to the cause, there is little doubt that Bridget and Lynn will be successful in convincing many people of the merits of Slow Fashion.



# Blessing of the Animals



The Creature of God  
 Otto

who is cared for and loved by  
*Rachel Frank Stala Colina*

has been joyfully blessed  
 in celebration of the feast of  
 St. Francis of Assisi

in the presence of the Catholic community of  
 the Church of the Immaculate Conception  
 gathered this fourth day of October, 2020  
 in Glenville, New York

by  
*Fr. Jerry*

In this twenty-eighth issue of the *Parish Pipeline*, some of our ministries have updated their activities. Immaculate Conception is fortunate to have many more ministries which will be highlighted in coming issues. For a complete list of ministries,

- see the church website: <http://www.icglenville.com>
- contact Maryann Haskell, 399-6706, e-mail [maryann.haskell@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.haskell@gmail.com)
- fill in the information below and drop it in the collection basket. You will be contacted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following ministry/ministries:

**January 16-17:**  
 Distribution of the next  
 issue of the Pipeline  
**January 5:** Submissions  
 due