

How to Usher During a Pandemic, 101!

By Julie Ashcroft and Jeanne Behr

A devoted group of parishioners took a crash course in ushering during the pandemic, and they passed with flying colors!

By the time we opened our doors for live masses on Father's Day weekend in June 2020, we had already gathered approximately 40 people, both formers and new, willing to usher in this new style. Our ushers were literally ushering folks to their seats. Hence the many jokes and references to requests for seats with a view, or to enjoy the show, as if in a concert hall! In some ways, it was nice, because it was a way to say hello and greet people personally.

The guidelines were determined by our reopening committee regarding how parishioners would sign up for mass and what rules would be in place for social distancing. The ushers were key in implementing these guidelines. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that out of all the ministries at church, the ushers were affected the greatest with changes due to covid. Several trainings were held in the church for ushers who would cover both daily masses as well as weekend masses.



The greeters from pre-covid times became ushers as we were no longer handing out worship aids and bulletins. Conversely, ushers were certainly greeting people and therefore our separate duties morphed into one.

Once we opened and discovered that the plan in place was working but needed tweaking, it meant more training and communication among us between what worked and didn't work. I cannot stress enough how adaptable and willing this group has been. They would regularly offer suggestions which improved the system. And they would listen to my recommendations and implement my changes. There were so many details to consider! But they never gave up on us. Week after week, they showed up and gave it their all. Was everyone happy with us? Probably not, but our faithful parishioners kindly went along with what we were doing. We were trying to maintain some normalcy as well as keep everyone safe from coronavirus while attending mass.

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Ministry Update



Keep Schenectady Warm

Our congregation supported **Keep Schenectady Warm** during the pandemic as generously and faithfully as they have in years past. We were able to donate more than 300 items to City Mission's supply of gloves/mittens, scarves and hats for babies, children, men and women.



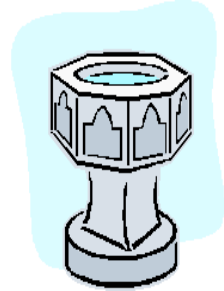
In the thank-you note from City Mission, they noted that the warm accessories were given along with warm coats to their clients. The blankets were given to the elderly who live near the mission.

In addition to the new items from a store, our brothers and sisters in Schenectady received lovingly hand-crafted warm garments to chase the cold away.

Let's remember that misfortune/hardship can visit anyone; let's thank God for the privilege to lend aid to others in trouble.

Donna Lagasse, Keep Schenectady Warm

Times of Joy Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from February 2, 2021 to June 30, 2021. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

- Brayson Robert Coons, child of Joseph & Pamela
- Teagan Olivia Montgomery, child of Jared & Jacqueline
- Westin Rheid Patrick Bezio, child of Brandon & Kayla
- Annabelle Mae Bottino, child of Nicholas & Leslie
- Vivian Melody Craft, child of Charles & Jeven
- Avery Grace Godlewski, child of Michael & Alicia
- Kennedy Anne Katz, child of Walter & Nicole
- Payton Jill Galarneau, child of Kyle & Emily
- Carmella Jean Estaris, child of Clifford & Cailin
- Nicholas Edmund Coffey, child of John & Danielle

Marriages —April 13, 2021 to June 30, 2021

There were no marriage ceremonies performed during this time.

Ministry Update

Friends in Deed

We are happy to report that Friends-in-Deed will be starting up social activities again.



This summer, ICC is hosting its 2nd “Summer Nights” series, and we invite you to join us! The Tuesday evening dates for this summer are July 13th, 20th, 27th and August 3rd, and it goes from 6 till 8 PM. Each night will have a cookout, with hotdogs and hamburgers provided, while you bring a dish or dessert to share. There will be a featured game each week

(Kickball, Pictionary, Olympic Challenge and Volleyball), as well as other activities. ALL ages are welcome!! You don’t have to participate in any of the activities to have fun; just come and enjoy the good food, summer weather and togetherness. Everything will take place in the open field behind the Youth Center/garages.

If you have an idea of another fun or social event that you’d like to do this year, please get in touch. We’d love to hear from you! We can do road trips, gatherings right on the church campus, attend local events....there are many things to do, and anyone is welcome! Contact Cindy Peterson with questions or ideas at 518-630-9323 or email at: ICCFriendsSocial@gmail.com.

For the service side of Friends in Deed, see page 5.



**This Year's Parish Picnic—
Welcome to the 50's and the 60's!**

Save the Date

2021 Immaculate Conception Parish Picnic
September 12, 2021
Noon to 2:30 p.m.

This year's theme is the 50's and the 60's.
More information to follow.
Do you have a classic car or a muscle car that
you are willing to bring to the picnic?



Call Mike Groves at (518) 424-3585
or Bob Kerker at (518) 399-3746.

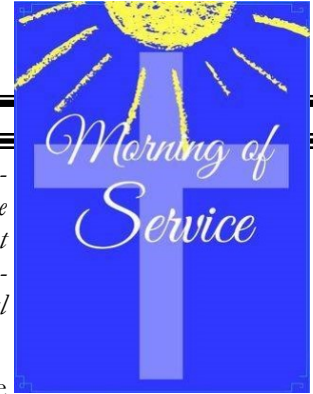


Ushers, continued from page 1

Did we succeed? I respond with a resounding YES! And after 11 months of the restrictions, we are now ready, based on CDC, NYS, and the Diocese, to begin to ease up. But this also means more communication on what the ushers need to do. Once again, our duties have changed! Ushering remains a work in progress.

A big thank you to all the ushers for the last 11 months, and beyond. My compliments on a job well done! I wish you many blessings because you have blessed this parish tremendously!

Morning of Service—from 2016 to the present



On November 5, 2016, Immaculate Conception held its first Morning of Service. The activity was under the umbrella of the Stewardship Committee and was driven by the motto to “Serving Christ and Our Community with Love, Mercy, and Humility.” That first year, we served at 16 off site locations, including nursing homes, shelters, and soup kitchens. Seven on-site projects included, super-hero capes for the Children’s Hospital, patriotic wreaths for veterans, rosary bracelets, welcome bags for Ronald McDonald House, and cat beds for the animal shelter. As suggestions were made by parishioners and as needs changed, the sites we served that first year have been modified though several of them remain on our list for this year.

In order for Morning of Service 2020 to be held, significant changes had to be made. Many off-sites like nursing homes and soup kitchens were unable to accept volunteers, so only the Regional Food Bank and outdoor projects were possible. On-site projects which were previously done in our parish center were all completed by the volunteers in their own homes. Kits for projects such as holiday cards for the military, hats and scarves for Bethesda House, bibs for Northern Rivers were put together by team leaders, and picked up at the Parish Center and delivered back when completed.

It is important to recognize that every agency that we have served has universally praised the work of our volunteers and welcomed us back:

“The crew came in and did an awesome job painting the corridor.” (YWCA)

“It was a blessing to again be included in the Morning of Service! Many of the meals they prepared have been enjoyed, and the chores were a HUGE help. Thank you again for blessing us with your time and talents.” (Jack’s Place)

“Thank You for Coming Out! We appreciate the generosity from the community! Thank you for all you did for our home.” (Joan Nicole Prince Home)

“Thank you for including the Town in your Morning of Service event. We appreciate the efforts of volunteer groups such as yours to help maintain the wonderful trail systems in our parks.” (Glenville)

“The park committee was very appreciative of their efforts. Clearing the drainage swale was an important part of our park maintenance program and they did a beautiful job.” (Ballston)

Success like this cannot have been possible without the hard work of many—MaryAnn Johnson, Janice Zaengle, and Jeanne Behr who have served as event chairs during several years, many committee chairs, team leaders, our rectory staff, and, of course, volunteers.

Building on this past and looking to the future, the ***Morning of Service - Our Church Family Serving Together*** will be held on November 6th. Both on-site and off-site projects are being planned for the day. If you have never participated before, consider joining us this year. If you have joined in one of our more than the 20 projects in the past ---maybe you cleaned a park, visited a nursing home, made a blanket, or helped to create scarves and hats for the homeless--you know how rewarding the activity is.

Besides working with parishioners from St. Joseph and Our Lady of Grace to plan the day, we are hoping to expand the event to other organizations within the community that we haven’t reached out to as well as provide different onsite projects for families and children to participate in. Perhaps some suggestions could be; a reading opportunity for our youths, reach out to adoption agencies, or animal shelters. We are sure there are other service opportunities/ organizations out there that we haven’t tapped into.

We are looking for your input, from not only parishioners of Immaculate Conception but also from Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph’s who are interested in giving back to society. We need some brainstorming out of the box ideas to grow this event. Every community is more than an assortment of buildings and businesses; it’s a collection of dreams and hopes of its citizens. The fact is that faith-based organizations have long been integral to the safety network of services and resources in most communities, from church-sponsored emergency food pantries to affordable housing. If you have questions or ideas to share, contact Jeanne Behr at (518) 495-5644 or Marge Rizzo at (518) 248-0979.

Spotlight on Rear Admiral Timothy Zakriski by Annette Botsford

This Spotlight feature was originally published in the April, 2020, issue of the Pipeline. Since our church attendance was limited at this time, and fewer parishioners had an opportunity to read about Rear Admiral Zakriski, we decided to reprint it in this issue.



I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Tim Zakriski of our parish and he agreed to share some of his background and experiences.

Rear Admiral Tim Zakriski, retired, is a Schenectady native and has been a member of The Church of the Immaculate Conception since it was established. He attended religious instruction here and re-

members some of the sisters who taught in the school of religion. Being of Polish heritage, his family originally attended St. Mary's Church on Eastern Ave. in Schenectady and later moved to Glenville. He is strong in his Catholic faith. His sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Bob Vielkind are active members of our parish.

Tim is a Niskayuna High School graduate. After high school, he attended Hudson Valley Community College and studied architectural technology. Following graduation there, he worked in the construction industry with several contractors and consultants. Subsequently, he studied at Union College and received a degree in Civil Engineering. He is a registered professional engineer in New York.

After graduating from Union, looking at a potential career change, Tim enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and subsequently accepted a commission in the Navy Reserve, as a Civil Engineer Corps officer. A period of growth in the Naval Construction Forces required him to increase his level of commitment significantly and therefore balance his time between his fulltime job as an engineer with the NY Department of Public Service, his Navy work, and family. Over time, the naval career became more demanding as the Navy became more reliant upon its reserves to meet unexpected requirements. Tim found himself on assignments in places such as Guantanamo Bay, Panama, Germany, Finland, the Balkans, Bahrain, Diego Garcia,

Africa, Kuwait and Iraq. At the height of the Bosnian Civil War he was placed on active duty and assigned to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees where he was responsible for engineering related to maintaining main supply routes, water and power supply, and providing humanitarian aid for refugees.

Over a decade later he was again returned to active duty where he served a year in Iraq supervising the reconstruction of the Iraq Naval Base at Umm Qasr. After retiring from both his Navy and civilian careers, he took a job with FEMA as a technical specialist in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. Subsequently, he became active in the New York Naval Militia (the maritime arm of New York's Military Forces) and in 2018 was promoted to Rear Admiral and made Commander of the Naval Militia by the Governor. Tim retired from all service in 2019 and now spends his time at the gym, saltwater fly fishing, and focusing on completing numerous long overdue home projects and repairs.

Tim maintains his consulting company, Aero Engineering, providing professional engineering services to industry, government, and the military.



See Rear Admiral Zakriski, page 7

Real Admiral Zakriski, continued from page 6



Tim and his wife Kathy have two sons. Their older son Tim, is a Navy aviator, is married to a naval aviator, and they have a newborn son. Their younger son Joe was recently married and runs a Jujitsu academy in Glens Falls. When the boys were growing up, Tim coached his sons in ice hockey, and Little League/Babe Ruth baseball. He also served as president of Schenectady Youth Hockey.

It is no surprise that Tim is patriotic, and has traditional values. He appreciates that our parish music director Dr. Bill Gray and Father Jerry recognize important national holidays in our closing mass hymns. Tim maintains a positive attitude toward life; after serving in some of the most impoverished and war-torn areas of the world, he takes little for granted and appreciates even the smallest freedoms that we enjoy here in America. He attempts to share the importance of maintaining a positive attitude with others; one of his favorite quotes is "People may not remember everything you said or did but they will always remember how you made them feel." He is an advocate of what he refers to as inter-generational responsibility.

Tim believes that our youth are the future of our nation and we must help in every way we can, as parents and role models, by providing examples of compassion, fairness, guidance and leadership. One of his favorite documentaries is a DVD entitled "Irreplaceable – What is Family?" of which he has

purchased multiple copies and provided to parish members. Tim concluded our discussion by sharing a poem that expresses his philosophy.

The Bridge Builder

BY WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

*An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"*

*The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"*

Source: *Father: An Anthology of Verse* (EP Dutton & Company, 1931)



Catholic Poet Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

Joyce Kilmer was an American poet, journalist and literary critic who praised nature and his Roman Catholic faith in his poetry. He was killed during World War I, at the age of 31, when he was struck by a German sniper's bullet.

In recognition of his most famous poem "Trees," in 1936, a 3800 acre forest in North Carolina was re-named the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest.

I think that I shall never see
 A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
 Against the sweet earth's flowing
 breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
 And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
 A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
 Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
 But only God can make a tree.



Dawn Redwood tree in Central Park, Schenectady
 Photo by M. Rizzo

In this thirtieth-first 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
- 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:

October 16-17:
 Distribution of the next
 issue of the Pipeline

October 7: Submissions
 due