

## The Easter Fire, the Paschal Candle—and Bees

In our religion, fire symbolizes the Holy Spirit, purification and bringing light into darkness. On Holy Saturday, at Immaculate Conception, a fire is started after Morning Prayer, and burns until the start of the Vigil Service when the embers light the paschal candle.

The fire must be lit by natural means, such as flint, steel or tinder and is tended throughout the day by the Knights of Columbus in 90 minute watches. Pictured here are Chuck Meyer and Tim



Zukas. The fire pit, a large bowl encased in stones and covered with a screen, was constructed by Knight Tom Winterburger. Along with wood, palms from previous years are burned.

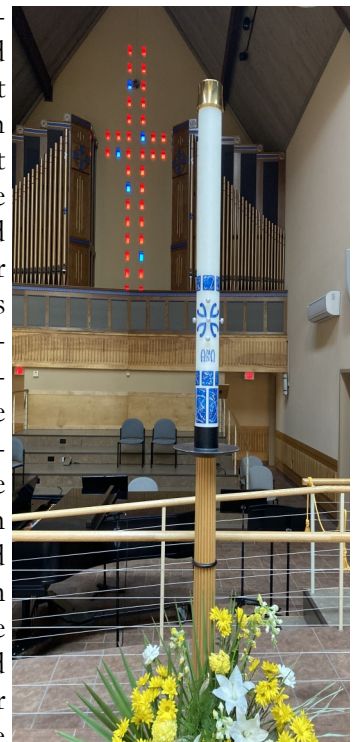
Every year a new paschal candle must be procured. This year, Father Jerry travelled to the Marklin Candle Company in Contoocook, New Hampshire, with Tom and Diane Bigos to pick this one up. (See the Tuesday chat with Fr. Jerry -Picking up the Pascal Candle at Marklin Candle video on our Facebook or YouTube pages.) Martin Marklin owns the business and runs it with his wife and four children. Their candles, which can be found in churches and cathedrals around the world, are hand molded, dipped, and carved in a variety of sizes and designs which can be adapted to the local community, such as the

design for a Native American church. Since the liturgical symbol is the flame, in all designs the eye is drawn upward. The largest candle they have ever made is 5 inches in diameter and 72 inches tall and weighs 60 pounds. They have made candles for three popes--John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis. The design selected by Father Jerry this year is "This Blessed Night." It was donated by Bob and Doris Vogt in memory of Robert Trimble.

Martin brings creativity, along with a knowledge of the faith and spirituality to his creations. He views the candle as a symbol of sacrifice; it gives itself for light as Jesus gave himself, and it still is illuminated after it passes on the light to all the candles carried by participants in the service.

At the start of the Holy Saturday Vigil, the fire

and the paschal candle are blessed and the candle is lit from the fire. With his finger, the priest traces a cross, the letters alpha and omega and the year which are elements of the candle's design. Then he places, five hand-made wax nails in the candle which symbolize Christ's wounds, on his hands, feet, and side. The deacon carries the candle into the church and at the ambo we hear the chanting of The Easter Proclamation, *The Exsultet*.



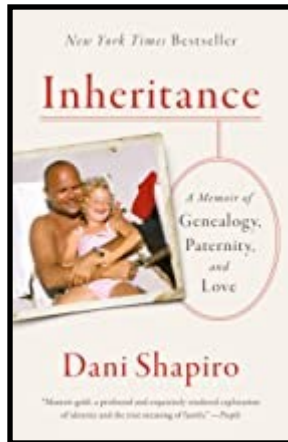
## Ministry Update

### Book Club

By Simone McGuinness

Book Club has settled into our new normal for 2021. We are back reading and discussing books each month. First up in February was The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson - this is a great story set in 1930s Kentucky about the Blue People and the Library Pack Mule Service. In March we read and discussed "Learning by Heart with Miss Duffy" by Dr. Tod Worner, an article about memorizing poetry and the importance of poetry.

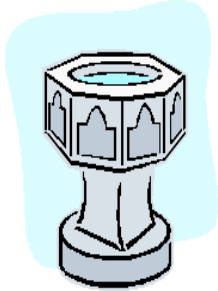
We also picked out our future reads. April 7th's discussion was about Inheritance by Dani Shapiro - an interesting memoir exploring family secrets and their consequences.



We look forward to the day we can meet again in person! If you would like more information about our group, please contact Simone McGuinness at 518-399-9506 or check out our page on the parish website under the Parish Life tab.

## Times of Joy

### Sacramental Milestones



*Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from January 14, 2021 to April 12, 2021. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.*

**Addesa Marie Orlando,**  
child of Michel & Constance

**Micah Cole Egan,**  
child of Aaron & Kara

**Brayson Robert Coons,**  
child of Joseph & Pamela

There were no marriage ceremonies held at Immaculate Conception between January 13, 2021 to April 12, 2021.

## Fire, Candle and Bees continued from page 1

In 2011, the new English translation of the Roman Missal mentioned bees which were in the original Latin version of *The Exsultet*.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father  
accept this candle, a solemn offering,  
the work of bees, and of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most hold Church.

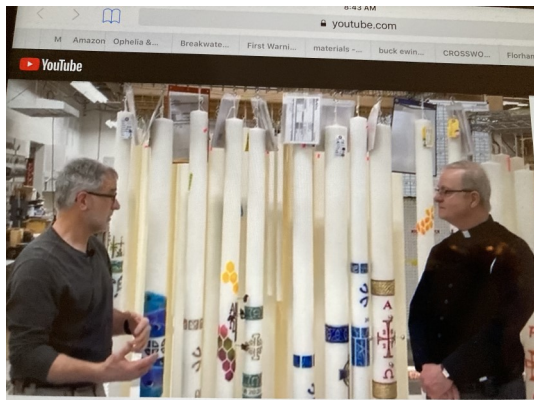
Martin Marklin acknowledges the importance of pollinator bees to agriculture, our food supply, and, of course, his business. The candles he makes are 51 percent beeswax. He has bees on his property, and though a hive of 50,000 to 60,000 bees might produce hundreds of pounds of honey, it produces only one pound of wax. Therefore, he purchases 20,000 to 30,000 pounds of wax each year from around the world. The bees are also important to him for what they represent and can teach us about society. They are migrants, not native to North America. They live in a social community and are selfless in their labor for that community. As Saint John Chrysostom said, “The bee is more honored than other animals not because she labors, but because she labors for others.”

Martin Marklin hopes that when we look at his candle, we see not only its beauty and artistry but also recognize what it represents. From one candle, all are lit, but the candle does not lose its own luminosity. So, in being evangelizers and messengers of Christ, we can share the light of Christ and not give up our own light. And the bees show us how we can live our lives in service to others.

As *The Exsultet* continues:

But now we know the praises of this pillar,  
which glowing fire ignites for God’s honor,  
a fire into many flames divided,  
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,  
for it is fed by melting wax,  
drawn out by mother bees  
to build a torch so precious.

See page 4 for  
hints on planting a  
pollinator garden.



Martin Marklin and Fr. Jerry  
with the paschal candles  
ready for this year’s Vigil  
services.

## An Update on Our Story on Fast Fashion

In an article in the October, 2020 *Parish Pipeline*, “Parishioners Raise Awareness of the Abuses of Fast Fashion,” we highlighted Lynn Kersch and her daughter Bridget who advocated for Slow Fashion instead of Fast Fashion—for purchasing ethical brand clothing items from thrift shops and upcycling them—refashioning or giving the clothes a makeover so they become something new.

In an article in *Parade Magazine*, April 11, 2021, it was noted that “11.3 million tons of textiles went into landfills in 2018.” The article suggested that purchases could be made from an online second-hand store like thredUP or Patagonia’s Worn Wear clothing made from recycled items. Also, Levi’s and Madewell give discounts to consumers who turn in a pair of jeans before buying a new pair.

Cheers to Lynn and Bridget for being on the front line of this earth-wise effort.



## Creating a Bee-Friendly Garden

As bees are important to Martin Marklin’s candle-making business, they are important to our food supply. Bees are necessary for the fertilization of up to 90% of the food grown world-wide. Pollinator gardens support bees, along with birds, flies and butterflies, by supplying pollen and nectar to guarantee that they will keep pollinating crops to grow our fruits and vegetables.



Some pollinator plants for the Northeast are amsonia, columbine, coneflower, obedient plant, milkweed, blue lobelia, cardinal flower, gaura and rigid goldenrod.

Many resources for planning and growing a pollinator garden are available in the Internet. Locally, Pollinator Gardens in Public Spaces is a program sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Schenectady County Master Gardeners. Nearby, there is an established pollinator garden at the Niskayuna Town Hall solar array and a newly-planted garden at Indian Meadows Park.



## Meet Eileen and Frank Zilinskas

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.



So much has changed for many in this year of the pandemic. There are many parishioners who have continued to volunteer for the ministries at Immaculate Conception. Some have taken on new roles. The open position of trustee was filled by Frank Zilinskas. He and his wife, Eileen, are both actively serving our parish. Frank also agreed to share a couple of his beautiful paintings, seen on page 6, which are so much more outstanding in full color.

Eileen and Frank Zilinskas have been parishioners of the Church of the Immaculate Conception since 2014. They joined the parish after moving back to the area, having lived in Georgia for most of the previous 44 years.

Eileen grew up with her brother and 3 sisters in Tribes Hill, NY, about 6 miles west of Amsterdam. She graduated from St. Mary's Institute, along with a number of other Immaculate Conception members. She went on to graduate from Albany Business College and then went to work for the Internal Revenue Service in Albany.

Frank was raised in Amsterdam and graduated from W. H. Lynch Senior High and from Farmingdale State College on Long Island, after which he began work at Mohasco Industries in Amsterdam.

Eileen and Frank met in Saratoga in 1965. They started dating in May, became engaged in July and were married on November 27 at Sacred Heart Church in Tribes Hill. More than 55 years later they both agree that they are almost through the trial period.

Less than a year later, Frank received his draft notice and was inducted into the U.S. Army in September. He was trained as a Combat Medic and although this was at the height of the war in Viet Nam, through God's grace, Frank was to serve as a medic at Valley Forge Military Hospital treating war casualties and later at the Syracuse Induction Center. During that time Eileen worked for the Social Security Administration until the birth of their daughter, Erica, in 1967.

After leaving the Army in 1968, Frank returned to Mohasco in Amsterdam, to begin a career in computer systems development and later, computer and software sales. Job opportunities led the family to move to Atlanta, to Southern California and then back to Atlanta. During his career Frank flew more than 1.6 million miles on Delta Airlines.

In 1998, Eileen and Frank became the 13th family to join a new mission Church in Roswell, GA. The other Churches in the area (one was 4 miles away, the other less than 7 miles away) were facing significant growth problems and the Archdiocese of Atlanta purchased land and created a campus on more than 90 acres to house the new St. Peter Chanel parish, a new Queen of Angels Elementary School, a new Blessed Trinity High School and a new St. George Retirement Village.

See Frank and Eileen Zilinskas, page 7

Paintings by Frank Zilinskas



## Frank and Eileen Zilinskas, Continued from page 5

Eileen and Frank were very active in the new parish, serving as Sacristans and Eucharistic Ministers. Eileen was co-chair of a ministry to conduct Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration which coordinated adoration guardians for every hour of every day except for when Mass was being celebrated. She also participated in ministries for Funeral Receptions, for cleaning Altar Linens and was part of a team that prepared Deanery luncheons. Frank served on the Parish Council for 3 years, participated on the parish Habitat for Humanity team, was a weekday lector and member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society.

After retiring from the computer industry in 2007, Frank was offered a full time staff position as RCIA Coordinator at St. Peter Chanel. During that time, in that position, more than 200 Candidates and Catechumens came into full communion with the Catholic Church. Frank also conducted annual 5 week Catholics Returning Home classes for people who had been away from the Church and were interested in returning.

In 2013 and 2014, Eileen and Frank had a house built in Charlton, NY and moved back to be closer to family. Their daughter and son-in-law, Erica and Rob Bienick, live in Clifton Park. Frank's brother and his family live in Glenville. Eileen's brother and sisters and their families all live in the area as well.

At Immaculate Conception, Eileen and Frank have served on the committee for the Morning of Service, the Church Picnic, and the art exhibit at the Talent Show in the refurbished Parish Hall. They also bring the Church mailings for Easter and Christmas to the Business Mailing unit at the Post Office in Albany. In July of last year, Fr. Jerry appointed Frank as Church Trustee.

In pre-COVID times, Eileen and Frank enjoyed traveling. They have visited Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Ireland, Vancouver, Montreal and multiple islands in the Caribbean. In the U.S, they've been to Alaska, Hawaii, and countless cities on both coasts and at points in between. Eileen has also visited Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina (it was Yugoslavia at the time) and stayed at the home of one of the visionaries. She also traveled to and served as a hospital volunteer at Lourdes. She spent an afternoon with a woman named Jean Fratel who was one of the authenticated miracles of healing at Lourdes.

Eileen enjoys cooking, gardening and reading. Frank spends time painting and reading. While living in Atlanta his work was sold by a local gallery. He was also asked by the Pastor of St. Peter Chanel Church to create a portrait of the little-known saint. The 48" by 60" portrait was blessed by the late Archbishop Donahue and now hangs in an entry room to the Chapel. One of Frank's still life prints is part of the collection of Rev. Jerome Gingras.

Since COVID began, travel has been eliminated but bird-watching has increased. Last spring Eileen and Frank got to watch a family of bluebirds grow and they saw all 5 fledges leave the nest. More recently, a barred owl has been visiting the back yard and spending the better portion of the day taking his afternoon nap. A photo of this owl was printed in the Times Union a few weeks ago.

Eileen and Frank feel specially blessed to have found Fr. Jerry and The Church of the Immaculate Conception. "We are very grateful to this community for being so welcoming and to the wonderful volunteers and staff who do so much to make Immaculate Conception so great!"

## Rev. Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

Born in France, Thomas Merton was an American Trappist monk, theologian, scholar, writer, poet, and social activist. He was ordained on May 26, 1949 and given the name Father Louis. From 1941 until his death, he was a member of the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani in Kentucky. He wrote more than fifty books mostly on spirituality and social justice as well as essays. His most famous work is his autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain*.



“A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying [God]. It “consents,” so to speak, to [God's] creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree”

Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*

In this thirtieth 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:

**July 17-18:**  
Distribution of the next issue of the Pipeline  
**July 7:** Submissions due