



## September—an Exciting Time for Our Parish

The opening of the new kitchen in the Parish Center . . .



The kitchen project planning was started in March 2016 with a committee of 10 parishioners, representing ministries that use the kitchen. A wish list was developed and design plans were reviewed. Work started on May 17, 2016 with a projected completion date of September 1, 2016. Part of the project was the updating of the septic system to include a 1,000 gallon grease trap and the removal of asbestos flooring in the kitchen. Much of the work done in the kitchen was to bring the kitchen up to the required code, and all equipment purchased also had to meet specific code requirements. Our kitchen design and equipment came from Saratoga Restaurant Equipment Sales. Upon completion, our kitchen was inspected by the town and the county, and the food service permit was issued. Our kitchen will be inspected on a yearly basis. We were blessed with an excellent general contractor, Walter Schmidt and his crew of conscientious and dedicated tradesmen. Please stop in to see our new kitchen.

### and the Parish Picnic

Our parish picnic, God Bless America, was held on September 11, 2016. Over 500 people enjoyed the food, the music, the photo booth, the camaraderie of our parish family and the beautiful picnic weather. Did you try our Church chili? Deacon Mike Melanson provided a lively and meaningful music program including a tribute to the 9/11 tragedy. The highlight of the picnic was the amazing flag cake entirely made of cupcakes. Not only was it beautiful but very delicious too! Many thanks to all who worked so hard to provide our parish with a fun fall gathering.



The Mongan family—Patrick, Gene, Suzi, Aidan, and Jack—joins in the fun.

## Ministry Updates

### Faith Formation, by Madeline Fretto

Classes in Faith Formation began on Monday, September 26, and we are all so happy to be back. The summer was great, but it is always wonderful to have the children and their families back in the building. We have a few new Catechists to welcome to our family: Emilie Hathaway will be our new Kindergarten Catechist, Patrick Ziegler will be teaching the sixth grade, Katie Dobies is now the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Home Study catechist, Melissa Calhoun will be a Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechist, and her sons Aiden and Liam will be helpers, and last but not least, Katie Hathaway will be Mrs. Wemple's 4<sup>th</sup> grade helper. We are so happy to have all of these wonderful volunteers join our Faith Formation family.

Our building just keeps getting better and better. Last year we had brand new bathrooms installed, and this year we are so lucky to finally have our brand new kitchen. In addition to the kitchen, Fr. Jerry had two of our larger classrooms painted cheerful colors. Now we have yellow and blue classrooms instead of the grey concrete classrooms, which changes their look completely. Thank you Fr. Jerry.

This year in Faith Formation we will be focusing on the "Beatitudes," the eight blessings Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount. This message from Jesus is one of Humility, Charity and Love, which can help us all to live a life of happiness. We will highlight one of the Beatitudes during the season of Advent as well as the season of Lent. Throughout the year the children will come to know what it means to be Blessed, and also learn the attitudes that followers of Jesus should have.

Another exciting event in our program is that 5 of our children in the Rainbow Class will be preparing throughout this year to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring. Cathy Terwilliger and Berenice Ormsbee have been their catechists for many years and are delighted to take part in the

preparation of this beautiful sacrament. We also welcome Katie Igoe to the Rainbow team this year. We now have 7 students in this class, who are blessed to have 3 amazing catechists to spend this year with.

And so we begin another wonderful year in Faith Formation with the help of 37 Catechists and 11 youth assistants. We have many exciting events planned for the children this year and without the help of these amazing volunteers it would not be possible.

Please keep the children, their Catechists, and helpers in your prayers throughout this year. May God bless you.



## Ministry Updates-cont.

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) by Kim Klementowski

This ministry helps guide seekers along their faith journey, teaches them about our Catholic faith and assists them in receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation) enabling them to be full members of our Catholic faith and our wonderful parish.

A Meet-and-Greet was held on September 12<sup>th</sup> for those interested in coming into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. We do have some candidates coming through, and our team is hard at work on polishing their presentations. This year we are meeting on Monday evenings in the parish library.

If you, or someone you know, has never been baptized and would like to receive the sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), we are ready, able and willing to help you through the process without any pressure. If you or someone you know, was baptized in another faith but would like to come into Full Communion with the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, we



can help them through this process as well. If you are currently a Catholic but for some reason have missed the sacrament of Confirmation, give us a call.

If any of these situations apply to you, please feel free to talk to Fr. Jerry, Deacon Mike or me (Kim Klementowski) or call our parish office at 399-9168. On behalf of our entire RCIA team, we welcome you and are eager to be a part of your journey. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**Contact:** Kim Klementowski: 384-2234; [kdklem2@gmail.com](mailto:kdklem2@gmail.com)

### The Welcoming Committee is looking to grow!

The Welcoming Committee's goal is to make all parishioners feel welcome. We are currently hosting a New Parishioner Breakfast twice a year, implemented our 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Directory, and recently purchased a Welcome Kiosk. Our hope is that all will enjoy Church of Immaculate Conception and discover all the different activities and ministries the parish has to offer and the love and friendliness of its members.



**If you enjoy getting to know new people and assisting them in learning about our parish, this may be the ministry for you. We meet the last Tuesday of each month.**

Contact: Sandy Lowe: 885-7339; [slowe1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:slowe1@nycap.rr.com)

## Ministry Updates-cont.

### Respect for Life Ministry

October is Pro-Life month. The Respect for Life Ministry is keeping busy in its mission to promote respect for life from conception to natural death:

- **Fortnight for Freedom** - We prayed two patriotic rosaries for our country's leaders on the front lawn of the church as part of this U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual June 21 through July 4 event. This year's theme was "Witness to Freedom."

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/index.cfm>

- **Theology of the Body** - A complete vision for humanity – a people fully alive! It incorporates the beauty and purpose of the human person made male and female. Theology of the Body proposes that the body makes visible an invisible reality, and through it men and women find joy, hope, freedom, and fulfillment. Presented in conjunction with the Adult Faith Enrichment ministry, this 8-week course returned to our parish this summer. Participants learned St. John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person, through an engaging video followed by group discussion.

<http://theologyofthebody.net/>

- **40 Days for Life** - Ongoing through November 6, a world-wide program of prayer, fasting and community outreach to end abortion returns to Schenectady.

<https://40daysforlife.com/schenectady>

- **Pro-Life Sunday** - October 2— Ministry members and friends handed out pro-life information and provided an information table in the gathering space after the weekend Masses.

- **Spiritual Adoption** - Individuals "spiritually adopt" in prayer an unborn child in danger of abortion. We will follow mother and baby for 9 months until we celebrate these babies' births. Watch the bulletin for more information on this program that will start in January.

<http://www.spiritualadoption.org/>

If you think these activities are worthwhile, consider joining us at our meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Watch the bulletin for meeting announcements.

Contact: Larry Smith: 384-0882; JPJTSmith6@msn.com

### Stewardship Committee

Stewardship. 1 : the office, duties, and obligations of a steward. 2 : the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care <stewardship of natural resources>

When we hear the word “stewardship” in relation to Church, we probably think of the series of time, talent and treasure talks that were given each October. While the talks haven’t been presented in recent years, we are still a Stewardship Parish. The Stewardship Committee focuses on the time and talent portion only – something that we all have regardless of our current financial situation.

In the last four years, the Stewardship Committee has been responsible for:


- Hospitality. We started by asking ministries to host a weekend once a year to draw attention to their ministry and provided assistance when needed, but Julie Ashcroft took over the responsibility of hosting about two years ago. Her team of about 12 volunteers and has been very successful – so much so they have been asked to provide hospitality at different Parish events.
- Bakers’ Dozen. Mary Beth Frewin coordinates this group of volunteers who have been baking cookies for hospitality after the 5 p.m. Mass on Hospitality weekends as well as some other Parish events.
- Welcoming. Sandy Lowe leads the welcoming component of stewardship. This team has been responsible for planning and hosting twice-annual new family breakfasts, laying the groundwork for letters to parents of the recently-baptized, and working closely with Maria Yorkshire to make the parish directory a reality.

See Stewardship, page 6



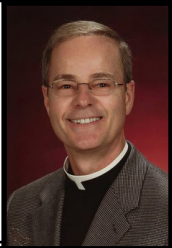
**Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones**

*Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from June 30, 2016 to October 9, 2016. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.*



Nico John, child of Amber & Richard DeSimony  
 Rowan Emma, child of Mario & Leanna Guerra  
 Evelyn Marie, child of Joseph & Sara Evers  
 Lorenzo Jionni, child of Leonel & Jessica Segura  
 Jacoby William, child of Thomas & Sara Vautrin  
 Ivy Rose, child of Morgan Montanye  
 Logan Charles, child of Brian & Katelyn Seaback

**Ask Fr. Jerry—  
 Holy Smoke!! Why is  
 incense used at Mass?**



**Answer:**

While walking my dog Grace the other day, I could smell the smoke from burning leaves. The sweet smell triggered some memories of my youth. My father would have me and my siblings rake the yard, then he would burn the leaves in front of our home. I loved the smell of the smoke and the fierceness of the fire, but I was also sad to see the colorful leaves turn to ash.

Something both beautiful and terrifying was at work in the burning of the leaves. Mysterious and fascinating. Very much like our faith; like the Paschal Mystery. It's all about life and death (on the cross). Christ's gift of himself on the cross was both terrifying (as death is) and fascinating (as life is) because through Jesus, God brought about mercy, forgiveness, and compassion for the world. The cross evokes - just as does the smoke, or incense in church - death and life, especially the death and life of Jesus.

In liturgy, incense takes on a theological significance in addition to its daily experience. Incense in liturgy evokes images from Scripture: the cloud of smoke God sent to liberate the Israelites from Egyptian slavery; the incense used in the Jerusalem Temple (Exodus 30:34-38), God's instruction to Moses to make a mixture to burn like incense as a sign of God's presence; prayers rising to God like incense (Ps 142); the gift of incense that one of the Magi presented to Jesus at his birth.

In the liturgy, incense evokes God's presence, inviting the assembly to engage with God in new ways through prayer. God, if you will, showing God's presence through a steady stream of smoke and fragrance. We use the incense on high holy days around the altar, over the Gospel Book and gifts of bread and wine, at funerals around the caskets of our loved ones, and at the blessings of the Advent wreath, Christmas crib and Paschal Candle. Although incense is rich in history and symbolism, over the years some people have become sensitive to its use. Consequently, the use of incense has been diminished.

May our prayers rise like incense before our merciful God.

*These couples were married between June 30, 2016 and October 9, 2016. We wish God's blessing upon them.*

Samantha Boulant to Stephen Ramirez  
 Erin Sauer to Thomas Lavertu  
 Katherine Filak to Daniel Byron  
 Shannon Archer to Sean Diminick

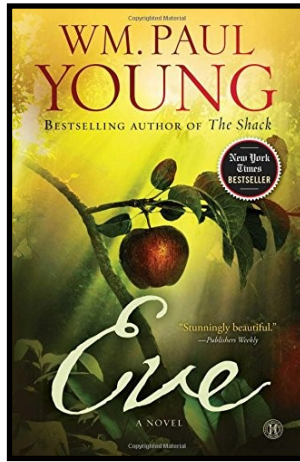
## Book Review: *Eve* by Wm. Paul Young

Reviewed by Kim Klementowski

Wm. Paul Young is the author of two #1 New York Times bestsellers, *The Shack*, which was the subject of a parish-wide book discussion and *Crossroads*. For those of you who have not yet read these two books, I highly recommend them. I also recommend his latest book *Eve*.

I'm sure many of us growing up have heard the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden—how the serpent tricked Eve into eating the forbidden fruit and then Eve persuaded Adam to eat of it as well....or did it really happen that way? Could it be that Adam needed a fall guy and Eve was convenient? Was there even a serpent?

In this fictional story, the ancient prophecies foretell of a young teenage girl who has been given a special gift, one that could possibly change the entire world. No, this girl is not Mary...her name is Lilly and she is to be a witness to creation and new beginnings. The problem is, Lilly thinks God and the story of Adam and Eve are just



fairytales....until she comes face to face with Mother Eve who tells her, "I have always loved you, and you have always been worthy of my love."

Lilly endured a horrific life on earth but she doesn't remember much of it. She is one of 12 young women and 1 man that were washed up on the shores of an island. But the island isn't in our world or the next...it's in between. Lilly is the only survivor but the people on the island know she is the one who was promised.

With a little help from her friends, she is able to go back in time and witness the birth of Adam and the birth of Eve. She has the ability to change the outcome, but first she has to change the way she views both herself and the larger world.

I won't tell you how it turns out...that's for you to find out. It's a very creative story, one that I think you will enjoy very much as long as you remember, it's just a story.....

### Stewardship, continued from page 4

- Parish Pipeline. The parish newsletter was an idea that came from Stewardship and Marge Rizzo volunteered as Editor. Marge has been very effective in obtaining articles from ministries, interviewing and reporting, and getting the newsletter produced four times a year. She currently has a couple of volunteers who help with photographs and proof-reading.
- MardiGras. We have been hosting this event for our Parish family for the last four years and everyone seems to enjoy the evening out with friends and family. Lynn Winterberger has volunteered to coordinate the next one on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.
- Parish Day of Service. After Kim Klementowski suggested a parish day of service at one of our meetings, Mary Ann Johnson and Janice Zaengle volunteered to coordinate what is turning out to be an amazing response to the call to stewardship.
- We assist ministries in preparing descriptions and handouts for their ministry that can be used at hospitality weekends and other

events. We share information and answer questions at new family breakfasts, helping new parishioners decide where to share their time and talent. We also anticipate holding a ministry fair next year.

We work quietly to bring people together, to build community, share ideas and information, and become better stewards of what has been entrusted to us.

Matthew 25:21: *Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!*

Our committee meets in the Library at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month between September and May – and meetings rarely run longer than an hour. We welcome new members.

Contact: Judy Brodeur: 399-4065; jbrodeur12@gmail.com

## Meet the Staff: Michele DeLorenzo, Assistant to the Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

Michele DeLorenzo has been the Assistant to the Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation for eight years. Growing up in a family where volunteering in church was the norm, and having had a wonderful, religious experience as a child in a Catholic elementary school, working in a church environment is natural for Michele. And she feels blessed to be able to share with the children in our Faith Formation Program the things from her own religious education that impacted her.

Rather than the daily religion class she had as a child, Michele is conscious of the fact that they have just one hour fifteen minutes each week with the children, so what they do has to be meaningful. To accomplish this, Michele develops and works on the projects that unify and give relevance to the religious program. For example, one of her favorite projects helped the children to learn about empathy by walking in another's shoes. After reading a story, they received a paper shoe representative of the shoe the person in the story would wear. They prayed for the person and then brought these shoes to the Alleluia Mass to culminate the project. A Lenten project started out as 10,000 Prayers for Haiti. Each week the children received a different prayer printed on a paper dove. They prayed using the dove and returned their dove at the end of the week to be posted in the building. The program was certainly successful when, instead of 10,000 Prayers for Haiti, the children had prayed 200,000! In another Lenten project, children received a flower on which was written the name of another student in their class for whom they should pray for the week. Also, each Holiday season, the children participate in a giving program, called "Stocking Sweetie." Each class gives gifts to a person whose name has been provided by Rachel Winters. Besides the work that goes into these projects, Michele creates the colorful and meaningful bulletin boards that decorate the classroom building, substitutes for absent catechists, and helps organize the class schedule, which includes 30 classes on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, all classes beginning with a prayer in the gym.

Growing up in Rotterdam, Michele attended St. Adalbert's Elementary School and graduated from Notre Dame High School, in the last all-female class before the school merged with Bishop Gibbons. She then went on to earn a degree in marketing from Hudson Valley Community College. She worked for a company that sold and serviced X-Ray equipment, leaving this career when her daughter was born.



Michele and her husband, to whom she has been married for 25 years, have a daughter who is a junior at Siena College. Michele likes spending time with family and friends, gardening and decorating. The family enjoys traveling; Disney World is a family favorite--they've been there eighteen times.

In talking with Michele about her job, it is obvious that she loves what she does. She calls those she works with a "beautiful family." She works closely with Madeline Fretto, the Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, who is also her sister-in-law, calling her "wonderful" to work with because she always puts the children first. They share ideas that grow into the projects and programs that are so meaningful to students. Father Jerry, the catechists, the amazing parish staff, and parents all make the church a "happy place." But what she most appreciates is seeing the children in the program grow and change as they take what they learn and practice their faith. This is largely possible because Michele brings enthusiasm and dedication to the job every day helping to create a program that is relevant and meaningful to the children.

### Lynn Winterberger's Butterscotch Gingerbread Cookies

#### Ingredients

3 cups flour  
 2 teaspoons baking soda  
 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon  
 1 1/2 teaspoons ginger  
 3/4 teaspoon cloves  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1 cup butter or margarine  
 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar  
 1 large egg  
 1/3 cup light molasses  
 1 (11 ounce) package butterscotch morsels

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, and salt.
3. Beat butter, sugar, egg, and molasses until creamy. Gradually beat in flour mixture until well blended. Stir in morsels.
4. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets.
5. Bake for 9-11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

(Recipe originally available at [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com))

## Our First Parish Service Day Is Almost Here!

In January, about thirty parishioners met in the Flicker Room to discuss the feasibility of holding a parish wide service day. Why should we have a service day? What would it look like? Who would be involved? Where would it be held? When should it happen? How would we make it happen? One thing that was obvious from that meeting was the enthusiasm for holding a parish service day. In subsequent meetings all of the questions posed were answered, a mission statement was written--serving Christ and our community with love, mercy and humility--and planning was begun.



Under the leadership of co-chairs MaryAnn Johnson and Janice Zaengle, committees were formed, meetings were held at least monthly, and countless hours were put in by many people. Now the First Annual Immaculate Conception Service Day is almost here. Over 400 parishioners have signed up to volunteer on the morning of November 5 in one of seventeen off-site projects and nine on-site projects. Each project group will be led by a team leader, who will act as a liaison between the planning committee and the members of the group and guide the volunteer activity. All team leaders for off-site projects have become familiar with the agencies they will be visiting and have contacted their team members. Those team leaders who will be leading on-site activities have also contacted members of their groups and will have familiarized themselves with how to make the items that will be donated, procured supplies, and prepared the items to be assembled by the volunteers. These items will be created and donated to such agencies as Ronald McDonald House, Sunnyview Hospital, the Animal Protective Foundation, and the Children's Hospital.

On the morning of November 5, volunteers will gather in the church for a prayer and "sending forth" by Father Jerry, and will then proceed to their volunteer activity. By the end of the morning, our parishioners will have given over 700 hours of service to the community. While the agencies will benefit from these hours of service given to them, the participating volunteers will also experience the personal reward of "serving Christ and our community with love, mercy and humility."

In this twelfth 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 14-15:**  
 Distribution of the next  
 issue of the Pipeline  
**January 3:**  
 Submissions due.