

Three Churches-One Mission for the Homeless

For several years, craft groups in each of the three parish communities have been making or collecting items to keep the homeless and less advantaged warm during our cold winter months.



In the past, St. Joseph's held a Christmas Bazaar to which people would make and donate hand knitted/crocheted items to be sold; any unsold items were donated to the Salvation Army, City Mission, and nursing homes. This activity has often been done by parishioners at home, and COVID made this even more essential. It is hoped that, by making the knitting group part of the Social Concerns Committee, they may be able to get people together, not only for charity, but also for social aspect.

Busy Hooks and Needles, at Our Lady of Grace, started when Deacon Hook served at the parish and his wife started "Carol's Crafters." For the past several years, the group has set up tables in the church hall and sold the items for the Helping Hands Holiday Food Baskets. The items that were left were donated to needy families, the Women's Abuse Center, and the homeless shelter in Saratoga. When COVID hit, everything came to a standstill but now the group is planning to meet again—on Wednesday morn-

ings, from 10 am until noon in Room #2. So far, 2 crafters will be coming, but more will be working at home. The first sale was planned for November 19th, after the 10:30 Sunday Mass.

Donna Lagasse who began Keep Schenectady Warm at Immaculate Conception, is a secular Franciscan whose motto is pray and serve. One day in prayer, a ministry such as KSW came to mind and she began it in 2011. Four other women were part of the original group knitting and crocheting hats, mittens, scarves, and blankets for seniors in cold Schenectady apartments. One of the original members, Pat Clark, is still with the group. When only Pat was left, Donna appealed to the children in grades 1-5 to donate new items for all ages. That year, KSW was flooded with hats, mittens

and scarves. Announcements are posted in the bulletin, and each winter KSW collects more than 300 items. Donna makes sets of a hat and mitten\gloves and places them



in gallon plastic bags with a note that reads: "***A gift for you from KEEP SCHENECTADY WARM, your neighbors who follow Christ's example to love. 'And this commandment we have from God that he who loveth God, Loves also his brother.' 1 John 4:21 The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Glenville, NY.***"

Ministry Updates

Usher and Greeter News

Evangelization and Catechesis



Happy New Year to one and all! Let us pray for peace, good health, and healing from our past year.

We wish to say thank you to all parishioners for adapting to the new way we receive our collection. Baskets are at each entrance to the church and donations can be placed either on the way in (preferable) or out of mass. This enables less ushers needed per mass.

In other news, I am looking to step down from leading this ministry. I will remain an usher and a greeter but wish to step down from leading. I have a document explaining the duties of leading this ministry. I am happy to walk a new person through and will not abandon you. I'll always be here as back up.

Thank you for considering stepping up. In addition, new people to usher or greet are always welcome. It's a great way to be involved if you're going to be at mass anyway.

Love to my church family,
Julie Ashcroft



Christine Goss, Director
Sarah Stygles, Coordinator of Elementary and Family Formation
Caitie Lashbrooks, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Maria Yorkshire, Administrative Assistant

The new staff of our Evangelization and Catechesis Team was introduced in the last Pipeline – but have you had a chance to meet them? Please stop by the Parish Center to say hello and introduce yourself to Sarah, Caitie and Maria!

On January 22nd we celebrated the Sacrament of First Reconciliation with the children of our tri-parish program! We are grateful to Our Lady of Grace for hosting our workshop morning and the celebration of the Sacrament. A special thank you to our dedicated second grade catechists: Katie Dyminksi, Heather Rush, Carol McTernan, Sara Evers, Stephanie Church, Amy Moore. We are grateful to the priests that joined us for Reconciliation: Fr. James Belogi, Fr. Bob Longobucco, Fr. Leo Markert, Fr. Desmond Rossi. Thank you to Patty Neumann for providing music and to Nancy O'Keefe, Mary Salm and Dianne Simpson for volunteering.

“IT IS HEARTWARMING” St. Vincent de Paul Society Says “Thank-You”

It was heartwarming, realizing how many organizations and individuals helped St. Vincent de Paul's Society provide food baskets and Hannaford gift cards for 84 families at Thanksgiving, and food baskets, Hannaford gift card and Target/Walmart gift cards for 99 families at Christmas! As a result, 250 children enjoyed gifts for Christmas! We wished you could have been with us to observe the families' joy, appreciation and relief when they received their Thanksgiving and Christmas food and gifts!



We could not have done this without:

Father Jerry's love and encouragement,

Fran, Kathy and Michelle, who tirelessly and patiently, coordinated all requests,

Chris Bellrose who is always willing to help,

Our Ladies of Charity Schenectady Vicariate,

Cheryl Bach, from BH-BL High School, who coordinated the financial help and food we received from BH-BL school families and staff,

The BH-BL Interactive Club, with the assistance of Superintendent Patrick Mc Grath and Cheryl Bach, for their help in packing the food boxes,

The Buildings and Grounds staff from BH-BL Schools, who delivered the boxes of food,

All the volunteers who organized and sorted the cans of food, help pack the boxes, and helped distribute the boxes of food,

The men who helped deliver the food to the cars,

Jill Viscusi, from Target, who facilitated the purchase of gift cards,

Kari Macintosh and Miranda from Hannaford Market who are always finding ways to help us,

Cub Scout Pack 84 for collecting and donating food,

The BH-BL Business and Professional Association who adopted a family and provided food and gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas,

Dr.Coppola, DDS and office staff for adopting a family,

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for adopting a family and contributing food, and

The generous monetary and/or food donations we received from

- The Rosary Altar Society

- The Knight of Columbus

- Our Lady of Grace's Helping Hands and OLG families.

We are also so blessed to have such generous and kind Immaculate Conception Church families, who always support us in helping needy families, by providing food, money and gift cards throughout the entire year!

On behalf of all whose lives are touched by your kindness, enjoy a joyous new year!

Joan Bunn

A reminder that St Vincent de Paul's Society is always available to help families with food, gas cards, rent or National Grid payments. If you need help, call the parish office , 518 399-9168. We could not help families without the generosity of our church families!

More “Heartwarming” Expressions of Holiday Generosity

Bethlehem Tree Project Marks Successful Year of Giving



Thank You! . . .for your continued generosity in support of the Bethlehem Tree Project.

The donation of gift cards and monetary donations from parishioners and the Knights of Columbus were distributed between

- the St. Vincent de Paul Society
- St. Mary’s Outreach Center , which provides services to the homeless, and
- The independent living program at the Equinox Center of Albany.

Church funds were also added to the contributions received.

We are hopeful that we will be able to return to the purchase of actual gifts in the future.

Enjoy a peaceful and healthy New Year!

Vivian and Lynn Swank

We Whisk You a Merry Christmas—Book Club Drive

Every November Book Club chooses a group to support for a service project. This year we chose to have a kitchen supply collection to help the women at the City Mission Family Life Center transition to living independently. We are overwhelmed with the generosity of so many. Thank you for supporting “We Whisk You a Merry Christmas”.

Simone McGuinness



Morning of Service Proceeds Despite COVID

Immaculate Conception's sixth annual Morning of Service was held on November 6, 2021. Sadly, with COVID restrictions in mind, the offsite and onsite activities were scaled back. Since indoor sites like nursing homes and Heritage Home for Women were unable to participate, offsite activities were only those that could be done outdoors. Forty-six volunteers worked at Anchor Diamond Park, Indian Meadows Park, Joan Nicole Prince Home, St. Anthony's Cemetery, Rebuilding Together Saratoga, and the YWCA.



Indian Meadows volunteers



YWCA-ready for volunteers



Rebuilding Saratoga Together volunteers

Onsite activities were completed in the volunteers' homes using kits that had been prepared by team leaders. One hundred forty six volunteer participated and created the following:

- 88 Rosary bracelets which were donated to the Dominican Retreat House for sale in its gift shop,
- 17 pom pom scarves, 23 hats, and 62 hat/scarf sets for Bethesda House and SICM,
- 42 blankets for Glendale Home and our home bound,
- 25 cards and letters for Double H Ranch, and
- 72 holiday cards for the military, given to the Air National Guard for the military in Antarctica.



Cards and notes for Double H Ranch



Rosary bracelets



Blankets



Hats and scarves



Cards for the military



Thanks to all who gave their time and talents in keeping the spirit of the Morning of Service going in these difficult times. Special thanks to the team leaders for both onsite and offsite projects. We hope that the 2022 Morning of Service event can go on with a full slate of offsite and onsite activities.

Jeanne Behr and Marge Rizzo, MOS co-chairs

Spotlight on Andrea and Pete Sheridan 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 with suggestions of future subjects for this feature.

Peter and Andrea Sheridan have been parishioners of the Church of the Immaculate Conception for 46 years. They grew up in the area and have remained here.

Peter graduated from St. Bonaventure and Andrea from Rosary Hill, which is now Daemen College.

Both are retired teachers. Peter taught Social Studies at Scotia Glenville High School for 35 years. He also served as Chairman of the Social Studies Department for 14 years. Andrea taught at St. Mary's School in Ballston Spa for 18 years.

They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Their 2 sons live in the area and their daughter is on Long Island. They especially enjoy going to their grandchildren's activities.

They are both active in the church and in the community. Peter started the Greater Capital Region Track and Field and Cross Country Hall of Fame. He enjoys officiating at track meets. Andrea enjoys golf, her book discussion groups and making homemade greeting cards with friends.

Both have been active throughout the years volunteering at Immaculate Conception. Andrea has taught religious education in the past and has been a member of the choir. She is presently on the Resurrection Ministry at church and has served as a team leader for the Morning of Service. Peter has been a lector and an usher.

In the community, Peter helps out at the Colonie Summer Track Meets and the City Mission. Andrea volunteers at Birthright.



They are a well-traveled couple. They consider themselves fortunate to have attended 4 Summer Olympics. Of course, their focus was track and field. They have traveled through Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. Andrea missed the Africa trip. Peter and his daughter climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. They miss the traveling during this pandemic.

We at Immaculate Conception are fortunate to have people like Peter and Andrea who give their time to help those in need and volunteer for ministries as they have been needed throughout the years.

Knitting, continued from page 1

Donated items all go to Schenectady residents, via the City Mission and the Salvation Army with the request that the items be given away without charge. KSW is a ministry in which many parishioners participate: some knit or crochet, some shop and share. Donna's husband Ron is the official delivery man. Many small and adult hands help to load his car for deliveries—all in the effort of keeping the poor of Schenectady warm.



These three groups in our parish communities are each unique and special but they share a mission to care for the poor and needy. Our area is fortunate that such a caring spirit exists among us.



Times of Joy
Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from October 3, 2021 to January 20, 2022.

We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

- Elsiana Robin Ramirez, child of Stephen & Samantha**
- Catalina Marie Schultz, child of Donald & Kanyanat**
- Annabelle Linda Meenan, child of Christopher & Christine**
- Cebhionn Aine McGuinness, child of Thomas & Chelsea**
- Lennon Emery Blair, child of Dave & Christine**
- Cillian Donald Nally, child of Luke & Elizabeth**



These couples were married between October 3, 2021 and January 20, 2022. We wish God's blessing upon them.

- Kelsey Piel to Daniel Fischetti**
- Kaitlyn Chartrand to Kehli Peek**
- Natalie Lanza to Andrew Van Vranken**

Trunk or Treat 2021



In this thirty-third 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:

April 30-May 1:
Distribution of the next issue of the Pipeline
April 19: Submissions due