

## The Soup Was (STILL) On

Text and Photos by Julie Ashcroft

Our Lenten soup luncheons held in the parish center on Wednesdays after the noon Mass were cut short this season due to the coronavirus pandemic, and social distancing regulations. Under the leadership of Christine Goss, we were able to continue serving, because where there is a will, there is a way!

We had a team of people call folks to ask if they were interested in having soup delivered, and what a response! It was done as a pre-register process and people were signed up via online form. We kept it within a 5 mile radius of the church, and approximately 100 bowls of soup were delivered each of the 3 weeks!

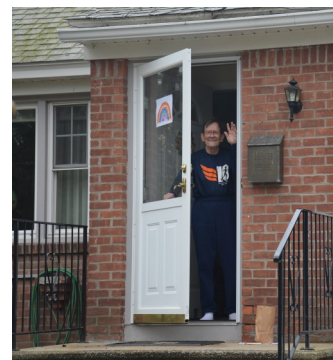
Christine graciously volunteered to make the soup for the first two Wednesdays, with the help of Patty Nally. And Suzi Mongan made it on the last Wednesday. vegetable chowder (a favorite!), hamburger barley, and chicken noodle were the recipes.

Each week a few of us would gather in the parish kitchen and make an assembly line, wrapping bread, ladling bowls of hot soup, and packaging them up. Notes of well wishes were included!

There was a crew of 6 delivery people, including our very own Fr. Jerry! He always proves to be a team player, and this was no exception! We each

had a section of neighborhood mapped out for us. We'd leave the soup at the door, ring the bell, and leave. Many times the parishioner would come out as I was at my car, and wave or blow kisses. What joy to see each other and offer something homemade from the church family!

There have been many blessings emerging from the scary pandemic. This is just one example of what our Immaculate Conception family has been doing to help care for each other during this unprecedented time. God is Good!



Thank you from  
Audrey Hughes



For a soup recipe and more pictures, see Soup, page 4.

## Ministry Updates

### RCIA by Kim Klementowski



RCIA during a pandemic is a bit challenging. Our candidates are a blessing and although I know they are disappointed they have been so wonderful.

With the help of Sean Caron, we have been able to continue our weekly sessions using a Zoom platform and we plan to continue as scheduled using Zoom until further notice. They have also been doing some reading at home and with any luck will be able to finish our review of Bishop Barron's "The Mass."

The Bishop will determine the date that they are brought into the Church and I'm sure that will depend on the pandemic. It could be as early as Pentecost Sunday or it could be deferred until August or September. Nobody really knows at this point. What we do know is that it WILL happen.

Please continue to encourage them and keep them in your prayers.

### Welcoming Committee Postpones Directory



The Welcoming Committee is disappointed to announce that due to the corona virus issues the Parish Family Directory has been put on hold.

Lifetouch will be closed until the middle of June and at that time they will reach out to reschedule dates. Our thought is to try to get similar dates in April and May of 2021. We know many events had to be postponed and want to make sure they are rescheduled before we make further plans.

Thank you, to the many people who signed up for their photo session. We know many parishioners are disappointed. The Parish Family Directory is such a beautiful way to keep our community together, especially in these hard times. Whether it's by looking up a phone number to check in on an elderly fellow parishioner or putting a name to the face of someone we are praying for., there are many wonderful reasons why the directory is important.

Please check future bulletins for updates on the future dates and consider participating in this wonderful event.

### Book Club by Simone McGuinness

Like all the ministries at Immaculate, Book Club has been impacted and unable to meet. So, for our regularly scheduled meeting on April 1, we had a Zoom call with 14 of our members. We will continue meeting via Zoom. It is certainly not the same as an in-person meeting, but will do for now.

We did not discuss our latest book, but rather shared ideas of how we are staying positive in today's climate. Some ideas included: visiting the St Kateri Shrine, praying the Diving Mercy Chaplet every day-3 PM on FaceBook Live, sending notes/cards/photos to reconnect, using Instagram - "many hail Mary's at a time," praying the rosary more often, and telling our loved ones with younger children to watch the video of Fr. Jerry reading to them archived on the ICC FaceBook page.

For those of you looking for books to read, even though the libraries are closed you can still check out ebooks, audiobooks, music, magazines and movies on the library apps of Overdrive, Libby and hoopla. All you need is a library card and a computer. If you have issues, you can email your local library or I can put you in contact with some of our book club members can help you.

If you are looking for some new reads, take a look at the Book Club page on the church website <https://www.icglenville.com/book-club> We have listed future reads, books we have read and suggested reads.



Listed below are some titles that provided memorable discussions. In Book Club we read all genres of books and study them with a Catholic lens. [A Man Called Ove](#) by Fredrik Backman: The power of community - the novel has been made into a movie.

[The Dumbest Idea Ever!](#) by Jimmy Gownley: A young adult graphic novel. Graphic novels are a new genre of books that are interesting, visual reads.

[The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto](#) by Mitch Albom: Think Forrest Gump on a journey with 20th century musicians.

[Something Other than God](#) by Jennifer Fulwiler: Jennifer is an atheist turned Catholic who now has a Sirius XM radio show and a stand-up comedy show.

Deb Hadley "My Amazing Life" (video clip): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8Fhu\\_C6NSs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8Fhu_C6NSs) Deb has a powerful message that can resonate with all of us.

[Little Women](#) by Louisa May Alcott: Considered the first feminist novel - rereading this story with a different lens can be fun and insightful.

[Inside the O'Briens](#) by Lisa Genova: Lisa Genova author of [Still Alice](#) brings us the O'Brien's, navigating Huntington's disease with grace and grit.

If you have any questions about Book Club, books we have read or information about using your library card let me know. [simone.mcguinness@me.com](mailto:simone.mcguinness@me.com)

Stay safe and healthy. Happy Reading!!!

# Ministry Updates

## Pastoral Care by Rachel Winters

Here is what Pastoral Care Ministry has been providing our parishioners during this COVID 19 pandemic...

- \*Delivering soup on Wednesdays during Lent
- \*Phone Tree...contacting many parishioners over 80 years of age...checking in with them, verifying if they need any assistance with shopping or other matters
- \*Weekly grocery shopping and other errands
- \*Providing Easter dinners to parishioners without families nearby
- \*Personally calling the people I usually visit, if needed
- \*Visiting with my folks through their door or windows
- \*Sending cards and notes
- \*Bringing lunch to their house or apartment and sitting 6 feet away and sharing a meal with them
- \*Continuing to work with the Eddy Care Teams for Alzheimer's support for families dealing with a loved one with Alzheimer's and now unable to get out of the house
- \* Simply being a listener to family members and the parishioner I visit

So looking forward to when I can visit everyone again and give them a hug!!

Thanks, Rachel



*Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from January 6, 2020, to April 9, 2020. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.*

Mia Grace Kelly, child of Patrick & Jaclyn

Nicholas Michael Puglisi, child of Daniel & Taylor

Belle Marie Nally, child of Luke & Elizabeth

Justus Michael Scheffler, child of Kyle & Grace

Skyler Ruby Griffiths, child of David & Allison

Amelia Elizabeth D'Amario, child of Santino & Britani

## Mardi Gras Photos by Julie Ashcroft



More photos on page 4

## Soup, continued from page 1

### Hamburger Barley Vegetable Soup

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**Ingredients:**

- 1 ½ lbs. ground beef
- 6 cups water
- 3 beef flavored bouillon cubes
- 2 cups sliced carrots
- 1 ½ cups coarsely chopped onions
- 1 ½ cups coarsely chopped celery
- ½ cup coarsely chopped green pepper
- 1/3 cup barley
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper (black)
- 2 bay leaves
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 28 oz can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 8 oz can tomato sauce


**Prepare:**

- In a 5 quart Dutch oven, brown beef – drain.
- Stir in all remaining ingredients.
- Bring to a boil.
- Reduce heat, cover and simmer one (1) hour or until vegetables and barley are tender.
- Remove bay leaves and serve.
- Makes 10 (1 ½ cup) servings. For Soup Lunch multiply by 15.




### Mardi Gras Photos by Julie Ashcroft











## How Do They Do That? Tom Bigos and Christine Goss Keep Us Connected



During these times when we cannot physically be in church, we have been watching services on our iPads, our televisions, and our phones and have been both strengthened by our continued participation in the ceremonies and amazed at the people and technology that makes this viewing possible. For us, at Immaculate, the people behind the scenes are Tom Bigos and Christine Goss.

Both Tom and Christine believed that we were in a unique position compared to many area parishes when it came to tackling the challenges of “virtual church”:

- We have solid infrastructure, a strong WI-FI connection for the camera\phone doing the stream, to make streaming feasible. We literally just upgraded the equipment in the Parish Center and the church in late February and early March to provide a much better signal.
- We have a solid website and Facebook page ready to communicate with people.
- We have a pastor that was very willing to give this a try.
- We have a staff with a vision of what “could be” rather than being paralyzed by what was happening around us.
- We have a beautiful physical church space with a layout that made it easy to translate church onto the web.

Christine was very familiar with Facebook live. She set up a private Facebook group to “test” what it would look like to live stream Mass. It was literally perfect.

Then sound became a challenge. When they tested a stream using our church's sound system, the audio sounded very far away and a bit echoey. Tom talked with the company that installed and supports our church system and they confirmed that there was no way to feed audio directly into the camera/phone. But a portable system from the Flicker room placed about 3 feet from the phone mic gave the effect of having everyone standing very near the phone, even though they can't be. Using many wires left over from another sound system, they were able to create 2 wired mics... 1 at the ambo for all the readings, and 1 at the cantor stand. The Flicker room system also came with 2 wireless mics. Dr. Gray uses the handheld wireless mic and he is able to move it from organ to piano because they found some old "boom" mic stands. Fr. Jerry uses a very different headset than what he was accustomed to. This headset clips over both ears and wraps around the back of his head and is configured so that he cannot "accidentally" turn the mic off. All of those mics then feed into the amplifier/speaker that sits on a tripod right next to the camera therefore giving the desired audio effect.

The sun coming through the skylight was another challenge. The bright sun hitting the camera washed out the entire picture. Christine first held a clipboard over the camera to block that sun, but you can imagine that it got painful. Now 2 stepladders on either side of the camera with long pieces of wood on the top step create a "roof" over the camera that blocks the sun.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> live stream Mass was the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – March 22, 2020. Christine and Tom had no idea how people would respond, if they would watch. That video has now been viewed over 5,900 times! Christine says, “It was very clear, very quickly that people were seeking God – looking for a community of faith, something to connect too and we were in a position to offer those connections.”

They quickly decided to live stream Daily Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 9am. Typically between 130-160 people watch Daily Mass live and each Mass has been viewed well over 1000 times. After the first week, Christine started also bringing her computer into the church. During live streams she can post Mass responses, offer Peace, encourage people to share the video to invite others to worship with us and offer some quick technical help. They added the “storytime” with Fr Jerry, praying the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Lenten Reflections by Fran Rossi Szpylczyn– all of which have been incredibly well received.

Our Facebook followers have more than doubled in a month. Christine and Tom are seeing comments from people all over the country - and the world! Easter Sunday over 650 devices watched the live stream of Mass – that's devices – who knows how many people were behind each screen?

Christine and Tom are working incredibly hard to engage people by responding to all Facebook private message and comments/questions that get posted. In addition, Facebook is being used to support and encourage one another – they are accepting prayer intentions via Facebook that get added to our prayer basket, making a gratitude wall, and posting pictures of Palm Sunday Doors, and Easter DIY Stained Glass. They have many more ideas to build connections in the weeks ahead.

Tom and Christine started hearing from people who do not have Facebook that they wanted to be able to watch Mass, so they started a YouTube Channel and now upload a recording of Mass onto our YouTube Channel. They also filmed and posted Stations of the Cross on YouTube.

Finally, Christine would like to offer help if anyone is having technical issues with Facebook or has a question. She is primarily working from home, but checks voicemail and email regularly. ([cicyouth@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cicyouth@nycap.rr.com))

Our entire parish community is grateful to have Tom and Christine to keep us in touch with our church and its ceremonies. To paraphrase Christine—we were all looking for something to connect to and they offered us those connections.

## Spotlight on Rear Admiral Timothy Zakriski 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.



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

remembers 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 intergenerational 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)



## Our Doors on Palm Sunday, photos by Julie Ashcroft

Many followed Fr. Jerry's suggestion on Palm Sunday that they decorate their doors with something green---



In this twenty-sixth 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 11-12:**  
Distribution of the next  
issue of the Pipeline

**July 1:** Submissions  
due