

MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS - 2006



SAINT MARY OF THE
ASSUMPTION
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

OUR GENEROUS GOD SHOWS US A NEW WAY OF LIFE

If a parish is really alive with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, it must reflect God's generous love in its community life. "See how they love one another" was the reputation the early church had among their neighbors. Our own Saint Mary's parish is trying to be a living example of God's love in the world. Although we often struggle to live that love, there are many exciting and profound ways that God's love is already evident.

These pages attempt to express some of the ways that the people of Saint Mary's offer their time, talent, wisdom and resources to serve others. We invite you to take a little time to get a sense of our parish life. Perhaps you might even find yourself being attracted to help in one of these programs or services. We encourage and challenge you to become involved in the ministries, committees or groups that make Saint Mary's such a vibrant and caring committee.

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Michael G. Foley, Pastor
Reverend Kevin Hartford, Associate Pastor
Sister Theresa Lucier, S.P., Pastoral Associate
Sister Roberta Salah, S.S.J., Principal
Deacon George O'Connor
Steve Jubin, Parish Administrator
Robert Daly, Coordinator of Faith Formation
Sandy Piwko, Coordinator Religious Education
Robert Blake, Coordinator of Music
Frances Pratt, Parish Secretary
Barbara Coppinger, Cemetery & Bookkeeper
Kathy Gosselin, Legacy 150 Secretary
Jerry Gosselin, Custodian/Groundskeeper
Ronald St. George, Custodian
Peter Paille, Housekeeper

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Leadership Ministries



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council is the primary leadership ministry at Saint Mary of the Assumption parish. The Council consists of elected and appointed parishioners of Saint Mary's who meet with the Pastor to discuss, plan, deliberate and resolve matters of our parish life. The Council usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are open to all members of the parish, who are encouraged to attend. Parishioners are encouraged to submit suggestions, comments, and questions to the Agenda Committee prior to the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Saint Mary's Finance Committee reviews the preparation of budgets and parish expenditures and offers advice to the Pastor and Parish Pastoral Council on fiscal matters relating to parish life. The Finance Committee meets on a monthly basis and on occasions of special need. Special initiatives from the committee, including tithing and the renewal of stewardship, are also prepared by the committee and brought to the Parish Council for review and approval.

CLUSTER 24 LEADERSHIP

As part of our diocesan planning process Sacred Heart of Jesus, Milford, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hopedale, and St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, Milford have been formed into a "Cluster"...officially referred to as: "CLUSTER 24." Each parish has parish members who work together on shared ministry planning. Areas of collaboration include youth ministry, hospital coverage, the food pantry and a variety of other pastoral services and activities.

PORTUGUESE/SPANISH/BRAZILIAN MINISTRIES

Saint Mary's reflects the rich cultural heritage of the Town of Milford. Included in the rich fabric of our parish are two large Portuguese speaking communities of Continental Portuguese and Brazilians and a smaller Spanish speaking community. We try to support and enhance the unique character and culture of our diverse parish while together we form one parish in our worship of Christ and share many activities in common. Special committees offer guidance and support for these ministries.

COVENANT COMMITTEE

Trinity Episcopal Church and Saint Mary of the Assumption have sustained a covenant relationship for over 25 years. It is the second oldest Episcopal/Roman Catholic covenant in the world. This committee promotes joint efforts that maintain our good faith relationships between these two communities.

FRIENDS OF OLD ST. MARY CEMETERY

Saint Mary's Cemetery stretches forty acres just off Route 495. The old section of the cemetery dates back to the 1830's. The

Friends of Old St. Mary Cemetery is a privately incorporated not for profit corporation whose focus is the preservation and development of the old cemetery. Hundreds of old grave stones have been restored. Many other aesthetic and practical improvements are made each year. The group meets regularly at St. Mary Pastoral Center. They also sponsor a number of cultural and fund raising events throughout the year. The written records and headstone information of the cemetery have all been computerized by a professional genealogist and provide a superb tool for research.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

This parish organization provides material assistance to needy persons in the Milford community. Members of the group often visit those who have special needs and problems, and make every effort to assist them. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is also involved in our town's ecumenical food pantry, and the Winterhaven shelter. Members offer assistance at Thanksgiving and Christmas by distributing food baskets and toys. Many parish families and individuals participate in "The Giving Tree" each Christmas season.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY COMMITTEE

Partners in Charity is the primary funding source for Ministries and Programs for the Diocese of Worcester. The parish Partners in Charity Committee organizes and conducts the fund drive at Saint Mary of the Assumption parish. Assistance with organization, solicitation, secretarial help and publicity are all needed to conduct this ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY PLANNING TEAM

The Tri-Parish Youth Ministry is the collaborative effort of Saint Mary of the Assumption and Sacred Heart of Milford, and Sacred Heart of Hopedale. High school students, young adults and adults come together to assess the needs of our youth. The Tri-Parish Youth Ministry Team then plans and forms subcommittees for implementation of the activity and evaluates if needs were met. Activities are spiritual, service and social in nature.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This new committee will coordinate the efforts of the parish for eliciting the support of member's TIME, TALENT and TREASURE. Saint Mary of the Assumption parish has a long history of institutional tithing, giving 10% of our Sunday collection each week to the needy. There is also a rich tradition of offering service and talents to respond to a variety of needs in the parish and community. The Stewardship committee is being asked to coordinate and expand these efforts. We hope to have more of our families formally attempting to tithe in the care of the church and the poor.

Liturgical / Sacramental Ministries



LITURGY PLANNING TEAM

Leaders from the many Liturgy ministries meet to review and prepare for the liturgical life of the parish, especially for the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

LITURGY SETTINGS COMMITTEE

This creative and hardworking group designs and decorates the liturgical settings throughout the year. Artists, gardeners, carpenters and many just willing to give physical labor make this committee one of the most impressive in the parish.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Assistance is offered to parishioners after a death in the family. The Parish Center is offered free of charge. Parish members offer assistance in setting up family gatherings after a funeral.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION FOR ADULTS

Adults over the age of twenty-one who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and who meet the necessary requirements, are offered a process of preparation each Lenten season.

CONFIRMATION YOUNG ADULT RETREAT TEAM

Adults, young adults and peer ministers work on the planning and presentation team for four retreats each year for youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

CONFIRMATION WORKSHOP TEAM

Adults, young adults and peer ministers work on the planning and presentation team for a series of workshops held in the winter/spring for youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PRE-CANA MARRIAGE PREPARATION & COUPLE TO COUPLE MINISTRY

Married couples assist in the preparation of other couples receiving the sacrament of matrimony. Retreat days are offered twice a year and regular individual sessions are offered on a regular basis. Several couples with special training work on a couple to couple basis in marriage preparation.

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, SICK AND BEREAVED

Spiritual support is provided by communion calls, hospital visits, church bulletins and support groups. Social support is offered by a core of recruited and trained volunteers. Parish visitors are volunteers who visit the sick, homebound and bereaved on a regular basis. Volunteers provide assistance, lead prayer services in nursing homes and social activities.

ADULT SERVERS FOR FUNERALS

These adults assist at the celebrations of funerals as servers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and lectors.

ALTAR SERVERS

This group of boys and girls (grades four and up who have received First Eucharist) assist the priest at liturgical celebrations. While serving they are being nurtured in developing a love for the liturgical celebration of the Mass.

LITURGY OF WORD FOR CHILDREN

This new ministry provides a special presentation of God's Word at the 10:30 AM Mass each Sunday for children between the ages of three and seven. Music and Drama are special components of this ministry.

CHILD CARE AT MASS

Certified babysitters provide care for smaller children at the 10:30 AM liturgy on Sunday

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

These ministers, who have already been confirmed, help distribute communion at Mass. They also bring the Eucharist to those who are homebound and in hospitals or nursing homes throughout the Milford community.

LECTORS

The role of the lector is to proclaim the Word of God at Sunday masses and special services. Confirmed men and women are welcomed into this ministry.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) welcomes all inquirers to the Catholic community and prepares them for full communion and reception of the sacraments.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN (RCIC)

St. Mary's offers courses for children from age seven who are not baptized, are being received into the Catholic church or who have missed receiving a sacrament at the usual age.

SEXTONS

Sextons prepare the Church to welcome those coming to worship services. They organize the collectors for the offering and assist in making the church ready for the services.

BAPTISMAL ROBE MINISTRY

Members of this ministry sew the robes that are presented at infant Baptisms to each child as they are welcomed into our community in their new life in our Lord Jesus Christ.

DUST BUSTERS / ALTAR LINEN MINISTRY

Members of these two groups work diligently behind the scenes readying the church for Mass by dusting and polishing and washing and ironing the altar linens.

Religious Education/Faith Formation Ministries



CATECHIST TEACHER - GRADES K THRU HIGH SCHOOL

Teaching is a great way to examine and strengthen your own faith. We provide you with all the materials and necessary support.

SUBSTITUTE CATECHIST AND ASSISTANT CATECHIST

Having a teacher absent from class creates problems for the students and other teachers. We realize that it is sometimes impossible for a teacher to attend every class session, which is why we like to have several volunteer teachers on a stand-by basis. For those with less experience, you may also serve as a helper or assistant to a trained teacher.

MILFORD CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Saint Mary's and Sacred Heart Parishes sponsor this Catholic School for more than two hundred and eighty students from preschool through the sixth grade. Milford Catholic Elementary School provides a truly Christian setting to learn and grow. The school provides an alternative learning environment by including Catholic Christian beliefs and values into our daily teaching. Our faculty, our communities and the parents of our children are deeply committed to maintaining a high quality education in an atmosphere of trust and faith.

LITTLE ANGELS PRE SCHOOL

As part of the Milford Catholic Elementary School System this pre school program is sponsored by Sacred Heart and Saint Mary of the Assumption parishes in Milford.

INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH FORMATION

GOF-Growing In Faith Together - A community/Church based learning process of sharing and support for children, teens, young adults and adults-one person to multi person families. Quarterly sessions build upon a strong catechetical foundation

GENERAL OFFICE HELP

Someone is needed to answer the office phone during class sessions. You may work while your child attends his/her class session. We also need help periodically collating and stapling booklets for our Sacramental Celebrations.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

We have many children who have very special needs because of learning or physical disabilities. If you have training in the care of special needs children we would be very grateful for your assistance as a consultant or teacher.

CATCH UP CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

St. Mary's offers courses for children from age seven who have missed receiving a sacrament at the usual age. Special arrangements must be made with the Director of Religious Education.

ADULT/YOUNG ADULT FAITH FORMATION

- *Advent, Epiphany and Lenten Journey of Faith* - Three seasonal reflection and faith sharing processes for adults. Ideal for beginners, no registration required, just come and grow together! - *Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Parish Novenas and Prayer intentions* - *Theology of the Body Course* - An advanced formation to appeal to those who have foundational knowledge, especially to meet the wishes and needs of those who have come through parish formational processes. - *Mini Workshops* - to focus on what the Church really teaches (and not just on what the media tells us) on hot button topics such as Euthanasia, Capital Punishment, Stem Cell Research. These will be open to the parish and tri-parish area. - *Three Spiritual Fruits* - A discovery of faith: Walking in the footsteps of Jesus and Mary, for all newly and previously Confirmed members of the Church.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This August week long program involves several hundred small children, youth, young adults and adults in an experience of fun and learning.

Music Ministries



ADULT CHOIR (ENGLISH)

The choir adds meaning to the celebrations and liturgies with songs and praise. They are accompanied by organ and other instruments.

ADULT CHOIR (PORTUGUESE)

Our adult Portuguese Choir sings at the 9:15 a.m. Mass each Sunday and for special festivities.

CONTEMPORARY SINGERS

This group presents contemporary music that is accompanied by a variety of instruments including guitar, keyboard, and percussion.

WOMEN'S SCHOLA

This long established music ministry is composed of women voices and is accompanied by piano and violin. The group has a wide range of music including traditional and contemporary pieces. The schola alternates with the 4U young adult group on Sunday evenings.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CHOIR

The children's choir sings at holiday Masses and at other special occasions throughout the year.

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN

This ministry helps children learn how to pray with song at the 10:30 AM Liturgy each Sunday.

4 U YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY

This exciting ministry of youth and young adult musicians developed out of the Tri-Parish Youth Ministry. The group is featured at the 2004 National Charismatic Conference. This ministry is open to a wide variety of musical instruments and vocal accompaniments. The group includes a strong spiritual formation component

CANTOR MINISTRY

Our Saint Mary family is blessed with an extraordinary number of exceptional leaders of song. These cantors lead our people in song at most of our worship services. Their presence is a joyous invitation to our people to enhance their prayer by joining in song.

FUNERAL CHOIR MINISTRY

The care of those who have suffered the loss of loved ones through death is significantly enhanced by the funeral service. A group of skilled singers have made an outstanding commitment to enrich these times of grief by offering their services at funeral liturgies.

MARRIAGE CONCERT MINISTRY

Twice each year couples preparing for weddings at St. Mary are invited to participate in a special concert of wedding music to assist in the preparation of their special day.

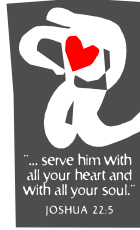
BRAZILIAN MUSIC MINISTRY

Dynamic, exciting, spirit-filled are just a few of the words that describe the music ministry of our Brazilian community

SPANISH MUSIC MINISTRY

Community participation characterizes the music prayer of our Spanish speaking community

Special Ministries, Programs and Services



12 STEP SUPPORT GROUPS

There are several support groups which meet in our Parish Center. Although not sponsored by our parish, we are happy to have them meet without charge in our facilities. We recommend attendance for those who may benefit from these following programs: Alcoholics Anonymous (men's, women's and teen groups) Narcotics Anonymous (adult, pre-teen and teen groups) Group schedules may vary so please call the Rectory in advance at (508) 473-2000 for the day and time of the meeting you are interested in attending. If there is a support group you are interested in or belong to, but don't see listed above, call us to arrange space for your group to meet.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

A number of small groups meet on a weekly basis for Bible study, discussion of moral issues and prayer.

BOY SCOUTS

St. Mary's sponsors its own Boy Scout Troop which offers a full range of activities for boys throughout the year.

BROWNIES

This program for younger girls is a regular guest in our parish center for weekly activities and special events.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Grief support after the death of a child

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age, and to provide information to help others to be supportive.

CUB SCOUT - PACK 4

The Cub Scouts gather together boys ages 6-10. Most den meetings are held in the scout room in the parish center and pack meetings are held once a month in the dining room. For more information, please contact the Youth Minister or Knox Trail Boy Scout Council.

MINISTRY WITH THE DEAF

The 10:30 AM Sunday Mass is offered with signing on a regular basis. Assistance is provided for special activities upon request.

GIRL SCOUTS

Our pastoral center is the home of many activities for the Girl Scouts in Milford

DIOCESAN CONFERENCES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Each year the Diocese of Worcester sponsors special conferences for Men and Women throughout Central Massachusetts. These inspirational days provide a wonderful opportunity for personal renewal

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MINISTRIES CONVENTION

Join with Catholics from around New England at the Catholic Ministries Convention sponsored by the Diocese of Worcester. This is an opportunity for all adults, including young adults and adolescents, to learn more about our Catholic faith in today's complex society

HANDS TO WORK (KNITTING AND PRAYER)

Our Hands to Work knitting group has been a great success! We're making prayer shawls, preemie caps, bunting, and booties.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society that was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

MINISTRY FAIR

This fall event brings together all the ministries, programs and services offered at the parish. Parishioners can meet with and discuss these activities with those already involved.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

A novena to the Miraculous Medal is held at 7:00 P.M. the first Monday of each month at Saint Mary's in the lower church. Our Lady has bestowed favors to thousands of people since this novena started in 1930, which was 100 years after Mary manifested the design of the Medal to Saint Catherine Labouré. Please join us for this time of prayer in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

IRISH FESTIVAL

Just prior to St. Patrick's Day each year the Friends of Old St. Mary Cemetery sponsor a fund raiser celebrating our Irish Heritage. Entertainment, food, games and shopping make the occasion a wonderful event. Volunteers for all the activities are needed.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

Providing regular contact with the parish community and opportunities to offer a variety of care to those who are sick or homebound is the work of this ministry. Training is offered by parish nurses to help visitors be more aware of potential needs for those they visit.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA FESTIVAL

The Saint Mary Portuguese community celebrates this great feast mid-May each year. Special Mass, food, games and a beautiful candlelight procession through the streets of Milford mark this wonderful event.

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Sign Language classes are offered on a weekly basis for those interested in developing this skill for communicating with those who are hearing impaired.

TRI PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY - YOUTH - ADULT ADVISORS

The Tri-Parish Youth Ministry is the collaborative effort of Saint Mary of the Assumption and Sacred Heart of Milford, and Sacred Heart of Hopedale. High school students, young adults and adults come together to assess the needs of our youth. The Tri-Parish Youth Ministry Team then plans and forms subcommittees for implementation of the activity and evaluates if needs were met. Activities are spiritual, service and social in nature.

SCOUTING RELIGIOUS AWARDS

Saint Mary's sponsors and supports the Religious Awards Program for scouts. Preparation for many of the awards is offered through the parish.

WINTERHAVEN SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

The Winter Haven Shelter founded and originally located in St. Mary's Parish Center and now located at 10 North Bow Street in Milford, provides daily necessities for some of the homeless in our area. The Shelter is run by the Blackstone Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Parishioners may volunteer their services by preparing meals, supervising the Shelter overnight, as well as sharing their talents in many other ways.

DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, located on Exchange Street, is an ecumenical ministry run by volunteers from St. Mary's as well as representatives from area churches and synagogues. Volunteers are needed to sort food items, pack bags of groceries, and process client information. Volunteers are also needed to deliver food to the Pantry that our parishioners generously bring to weekend Masses.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND GENERAL SERVICE

Throughout the year St. Mary's offers a number of special events, such as the Ministry Fair, that require many volunteers. This is usually a one-time commitment and encompasses a variety of skills. Many volunteers are needed to assist with our annual fundraising activities for the Bishop's Fund for Charity and Education. We can also use help preparing large parish mailings and other secretarial activities.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

The Respect Life Committee distributes pertinent pro-life literature in the parish. The committee is also involved in diocesan and statewide pro-life programs regarding such issues as abortion, euthanasia or physician assisted suicide. The Pro-Life Committee sponsors the annual Parish Bake Sale and baby-showers.

HAITIAN MINISTRY

As part of the Haitian Coalition of the Diocese of Worcester, Saint Mary's Parish has been twinned with Sacred Heart Church of La Caie, Haiti. Over the past few years, groups of adults and young adults have worked on projects in Haiti with their Youth Ministry counterparts. The parish provides a tithing each month to assist with these special projects. Milford Catholic Elementary School has also been twinned with a school in Haiti.

TELEVISION MINISTRY

Over the past several years, the parish has been training a team to broadcast Sunday Masses from the Church. The building has a direct broadcast link to the local cable studio. Masses are broadcast in English and Portuguese by a team of trained technicians from the parish to assure the quality of the transmissions.

BABY SITTING MINISTRY

Baby sitting is offered during many special events and at the 10:30 am Mass each Sunday.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Skilled parishioners regularly review all parish properties and facilities and oversee repairs and improvements.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

One of the growing needs within our community is a healthy ministry to directly support the needs of young adults between the ages of 18 and 35. While many are very active in the ministries of the parish, there is still a need for more focused support. This is an area in which we hope to grow in the coming year.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Classes are offered each year for those who speak Portuguese as a first language but would like to learn to improve their English.

DAY OF PORTUGAL

This celebration of culture, food, music and dance honors the elderly Portuguese in our community



For further information on many of these ministries, programs and events go to the St. Mary Web Page at <http://www.stmarymilford.org/> Look under "Ministries, Programs & Events"

Leadership Ministries

Parish Pastoral Council
Finance Committee
Cluster Leadership Team
Portuguese-, Brazilian, Spanish Ministries
Ecumenical Covenant with Trinity Episcopal
Friends of Old St. Mary Cemetery
Saint Vincent de Paul Society - Caring
for the Poor
Partners in Charity
Tri Parish Youth Ministry Planning Team
Stewardship Committee

Liturgical / Sacramental Ministries

Baptism Preparation Team
Confirmation
Bereavement Committee
Confirmation Preparation for Adults
Confirmation Young Adult Retreat Team
Confirmation Workshop Team
Marriage
Pre-Cana Marriage Team
Reconciliation - Confession
Pastoral Care for the Elderly, Sick and Be-
reaved
Altar Servers
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
Lectors
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
Rite of Christian Initiation for Children
(RCIC)
Sextons
Baptismal Robe Ministry
Dust Busters / Altar Linen Ministry

Religious Education Ministries

Catechist Teacher - Grades K
Thru High School
Substitute Catechist and Assistant Catechist
Milford Catholic Elementary School
Little Angels Pre School
Generations of Faith Project
RCIA Inquiry
General Office Help
Children with Special Needs
Christian Initiation for Children
Adult Education Ministry
Vacation Bible School

Music Ministries

Adult Choir (English)
Adult Choir (Portuguese)
Contemporary Singers
The Women's Schola
Children's Holiday Choir
4 U Youth Music Ministry
Cantor Ministry
Funeral Choir Ministry
Marriage Concert Ministry
Brazilian Music Ministry
Spanish Music Ministry
Music For Children Ministry

Special Ministries, Programs and Services

12 Step Support Groups
Adult Small Groups
Boy Scouts
Brownie's
Compassionate Friends
Cub Scout - Pack 4
Ministry with the Deaf
Day of Portugal
English as a Second Language
Girl Scouts
Diocesan Ministries Convention
Diocesan Conference for Men
Diocesan Conference for Women
Hands to Work (Knitting and Prayer)
Knights of Columbus
Ministry Fair
Miraculous Medal Novena
Irish Festival
Sick and Homebound Ministries
Our Lady of Fatima Festival
Sign Language Classes
Tri Parish Youth Ministry - Youth
Tri Parish Youth Ministry - Adult Advisors
Scouting Religious Awards
Winterhaven_Shelter for the Homeless
Daily Bread Food Pantry
Support Groups
Special Events and General Service
Respect Life Committee
Haitian Ministry
Television Ministry
Young Adult Ministry
Babysitting Ministry
Facilities Committee