



St. Mary's Blessings

God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

—1 Corinthians 9:8—

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- We have a new pastor!
- We have a new deacon!
- Kairos is coming to St. Mary's!
- WOM Week is spreading throughout the diocese!
- Take a look at our bell!

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Blessed to be here!

There is truly no way that I can say enough times how blessed I feel to have been asked to come and spend the past few months here at Historic St. Mary's as your parish administrator. By the time you receive this newsletter, the announcement will have been made that Bishop Gainer has asked me to go to St. Patrick Parish in York as their new pastor.

My time here at Historic St. Mary's has been a true blessing for me—a wonderful transition from administrative/school work in Rome and chaplain on deployment—back into a parish community. There could have been no better parish community to be with than St. Mary's. Thank you for all your goodness, your service to the parish, and your love of God.

Several people asked me if I would be happy should Bishop Gainer have asked me to stay here at St. Mary's. Certainly! However, I am most happy to go where the Holy Spirit knows that I am needed.

Historic St. Mary's will ever be a dear memory for me—and all of you have helped make that memory so pleasant.

God bless you all!

In Christ,

J. Bateman



Rev. John B. Bateman

Fr. Olkowski assigned as Historic St. Mary's 40th Pastor!



Rev. Brian T. C. Olkowski

Hello everyone,

Before I roll down Cabbage Hill on October 26, I want to share with you a brief word of introduction. I have been your next door neighbor at St. Joseph the past two and a half years, so many of you may already know me. For those who don't, I am originally from St. Joseph in York, though I am familiar with Lancaster having gone to Millersville University. It was there that I finally made the decision to go to seminary and studied at St. Charles Borromeo in Philadelphia for my minor seminary and Mount St. Mary's seminary in Emmitsburg for major seminary. My first two years of priesthood were at Corpus Christi in Chambersburg; then I came here to Lancaster where I was assigned to San Juan Bautista and St. Joseph.

(continued on page 2)

Fr. Olkowski (continued from page 1)

I want to communicate to everyone how very excited I am to begin at St. Mary's. Everything I have heard in advance about St. Mary's speaks to what a wonderful community of faith it is. These assignment changes could not be happening at a more difficult time. Pope Francis, in his recent address to the General Assembly of the UN, said, "We never emerge from a crisis just as we were. We come out either better or worse." This is the critical juncture in which we find ourselves, along with the rest of the world. In the next few months ahead, we will require great faith and trust in almighty God to be creative in proclaiming the Gospel and continuing the mission He has entrusted to us. I am inspired by the knowledge that Our Lord has brought us together in this particular moment and in this particular time. In His Divine Providence, He has chosen us to work together in His vineyard for a reason.

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When we read the lives of the saints, they are usually backdropped by some kind of hardship or crisis happening either from outside the Church or within, or both. The reason these inspire us is to see with what great faith and virtue they were able to bear witness to Our Lord in the midst of trials. Take heart that we serve the same God and have access to the same source of grace that all the saints had. Please pray for me as I pray for you, that we may be the saints of our time, and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, accomplish together the mission Our Lord has given us.

God bless,

Fr. Brian T.C. Olkowski

*Fr. Olkowski;
We look forward to your arrival here at Historic St. Mary's and for your leadership into the future of our beloved parish!*

Meet Our New Deacon . . . Brian Fabian.

Hello Parishioners of St. Mary's!

It is very exciting for me to be assigned to St. Mary's. A Deacon is ordained to serve, and I can't wait to be able to serve the people of the parish, Fr. Bateman and the surrounding community. My wife Michelle and I have been married for 25 years, and we have one daughter, Taylor. Our family grew by one when Taylor married Hector this past August. As you can imagine we have had a busy year as a family. I currently work as the V.P. of Operations for a manufacturing company for which I have worked for 26 years. Michelle and I live in Quarryville and have been members of St. Catherine of Siena parish for many years. Michelle is a cradle Catholic, and I became a convert to the faith 16 years ago. My desire to serve the people of the Church was the start of my journey to be more involved in the parish. Prayer and listening are what led me to the Diaconate. Michelle and I look forward to joining your parish family and meeting each and every one of you in the coming days.

May God bless you all!

Deacon Brian and Michelle Fabian



Michelle & Deacon Brian Fabian, their daughter, Taylor, and her husband, Hector, with Bishop Gainer after the ordination on September 12.

**We welcome you to St. Mary's,
Deacon Brian and Michelle!**

That Man Is You.

By Joe Clupp

In March of 2020, we had to suspend *That Man Is You* due to Covid restrictions. During the remainder of the semester, we tried to continue with a Zoom version, which drew about ten men each week. Over the

summer we met a few times to discuss the plans for this year and finally concluded that TMIY must go on. If Bob Cybulski can run a WOM Week with 75 kids, we surely can run TMIY with 20 to 25 men and remain safe!

However, there are some changes that were required to make it happen. Temperature checks and Covid questions are required. Social distancing and masks are the norm, and unfortunately Ed's breakfasts also took a hit, as we had to adjust how we served food. But we did it! On September 12, 15 men gathered to participate in *TMIY—The Vision of Man fully Alive*, which is year four in the program.

For those who are counting you might say, "But this is only our third year!" Right you are, but we decided to jump ahead to year four because of the new programming it provided. Steve

Bollman, the founder of Paradisus Dei, guided us each week of the 26 weeks of the first two years of the series.

Going to year four is like getting a mini-parish mission each week with eight other speakers.

...there are some changes that were required to make it happen.

That includes Fr. Dave Pivonka from Franciscan University, Jason Evert and even ex-Mafia hit man, John Pridmore.

Each of the presenters, in his own way, will help men to discover authentic Christian freedom and enter a deeper relationship with Jesus through the Eucharist and the Word of God. Because the talks are not part of the contiguous talk, men may join in at any time along the journey.

The other great part is that the folks at Paradisus Dei have come up with improved methods to do a virtual class, and so we plan to run a Zoom class on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in addition to the traditional class on Saturday mornings at 6:15 am. So, if you are still thinking about TMIY, you can still join us. Whether you attended in the past and want to



Dr. Frey at TMIY.



TMIY social distancing with John Claus as MC.

return or if you are just starting out with TMIY, it is easy to participate, and we have options for you to meet your schedule and comfort level in returning to group environments. If you want more information or would like to register for TMIY, contact Joe Clupp at joe@stmaryslancaster.org.

Rectory Driveway Modification.



A lot of destruction was required for the reconstruction of the corner around the driveway to make pulling out of the rectory driveway safer.

A Deep Bench!

By Stephanie Sands

Occasionally, as the choir headed up to the choir loft for a 10:00 am rehearsal before the 11:00 am Mass, we would see our head organist, Mike Bitts, quietly and patiently working at the organ bench with a young student, Cody McSherry. Mike would jokingly say, "I'm training my replacement." Luckily, Mike is still with us at the 8:30 and 11:00 am Sunday Masses, but Cody is now in rotation at the Saturday, 4:30 pm Mass, along with Will Young and Ben Miller. Who are these

We are blessed and thankful to have four wonderful organists at St. Mary's!

expressivity of the pipe organ. In the Spring of 2019, he started studying with Marc Cheban in Wilmington, DE. Marc plays the organ at Longwood Gardens among other places. Will currently studies with our former organist,



Cody McSherry

Steve Sauer. Will's first public performance was recently at St. Mary's on the Feast of the Assumption. He enjoys finding new combinations to make the music expressive and finding new ways to play using the pedals. He finds the range of emotions in the different sounds of the organ very satisfying. He plans to major in

Ornithology, but would like to enter organ competitions when he has studied longer, and plans to keep playing the organ as a sideline for extra income.

newer guys and how did St. Mary's end up with FOUR organists when most churches struggle to find ONE? Their stories follow in this article. Mike's story will be told in the next newsletter.

When he was nine years old, Cody McSherry, son of Pat and Dianna McSherry, began his pipe organ studies with Mike Bitts. Cody is now 17 and a senior at Lancaster Catholic High School. He enjoys the wide range of colors and sounds of the pipe organ, but his main instrument is accordion, which he started playing

when he was 5 or 6 years old. He continues to study and performs at Accordion Societies and Festivals throughout the country. He performed a solo accordion concert at the Kennedy Center in 2018.

Additionally, he plays piano, harp, hammer dulcimer, mallet percussion and guitar. He hopes to become a Professor of Classic and Ancient Languages but will always keep music in his life as a sideline.

Will Young, a home-schooled sophomore, is the son of Joel and Kristin Young. He started studying piano with his mother when he was seven years old. He also studied the viola, but he fell in love with the versatility, uniqueness and



Will Young



Ben Miller

Ben Miller is a weekday morning producer for WGAL news. If you watch daily between 5:45-7:00 am, you will see

his work. Ben's grandmother and great-grandmother both played the organ at church, so he grew up with it and always liked the power of the instrument. He began his piano training in kindergarten where he was found to have perfect pitch and he could play by ear. In 2008, he started playing the organ, and because he already knew many Catholic hymns he could play them by heart. He was eventually offered a position playing at a Protestant church and he had to become a "legitimate" music reader because the music was not familiar to him. Practicing organ everyday during that summer and playing two Masses a month greatly increased his skill. In addition to St. Mary's, Ben is organist and Director of Music at Christ Lutheran. He attends St. Leo the Great Parish and is in their choir. He finds playing at a Protestant service very structured, so he enjoys the freedom to improvise a bit during Mass.

We are very blessed and thankful to have four wonderful organists at St. Mary's!



St. Mary's Lector Ministry

By Anne DeLaurentis

St. Mary's has always enjoyed a variety of voices to proclaim the Word of God at Masses. The Lector Ministry is open to adding a few new strong voices of dedicated parishioners to proclaim the readings at weekend Masses. You must be willing to prepare readings for the Masses, serve at one Sunday or Saturday Mass each month (sometimes less), attend a training session, and be open to learning to proclaim the various styles and types of readings in a way that is appropriate for that type of proclamation.

Please call Ann DeLaurentis at 717.471.1238, or email her at annde Laurentis@gmail.com, if you have questions or are interested.



Addiction Resource Ministry.

By Pat Stratton

The St. Mary's ARM (Addiction Resource Ministry) has been busy planning for the upcoming year and attending virtual instructional workshops on faith ministries for parishes. We are hoping to build a strong ministry at St. Mary's creating a safe space for parish members to reach out for guidance and education. Over the next year we will hopefully be hosting a workshop, "Addiction and Family Systems: How do we care for our loved ones and ourselves?" Please check the bulletin in 2021 for dates and times. We are also hoping to start a weekly Al-Anon meeting at St. Mary's.

We are always looking for new people on our committee, bringing fresh energy and ideas. Please consider joining us in helping to reduce the stigma surrounding substance abuse and to create a safe space for all. For more information please contact Pat Stratton at 717.419.6921 or Margaret Sanders at 717.405.4064.

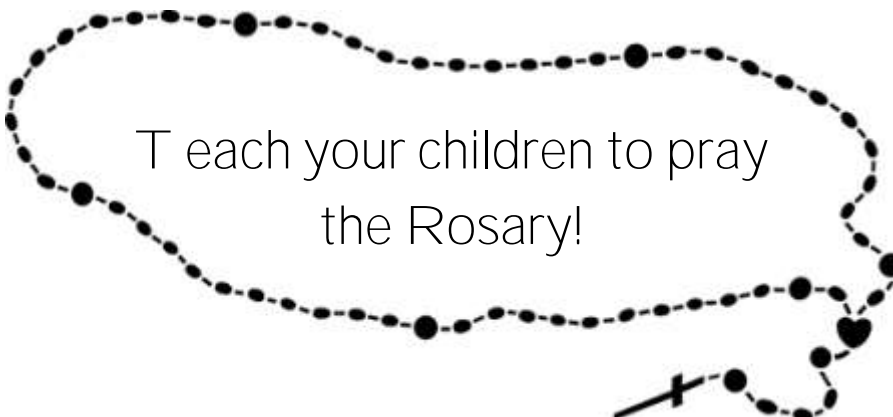
Please consider joining us in helping to reduce the stigma surrounding substance abuse . . .

A Story of Gratitude.

My name is Margaret, and I am an alcoholic. It took me forty years to find my way to sobriety. When I did it was with a bolt from God in a closet where I was pouring vodka into orange juice at 7:00 am in the morning. Shortly thereafter I put myself in Rehab for 28 days. When I left there, I became an active member of AA and learned everything I know about spirituality. That journey eventually led me back to the Catholic Church of my childhood, where I have found hope and peace. I'm participating in this ministry because I think it's time for me to give back to God and to my faith with the gratitude I feel for being saved. I know that there is still a lot of fear, shame and guilt surrounding addiction. My hope is that our church can offer a safe and understanding place where addicts and those who love them can find the understanding and resources they need to work towards sobriety.

By being involved in this ministry, I hope that we can create awareness for the congregation and community about this deadly disease and offer them a path forward without judgment or stigma.

As AA says: "Do you want to give up everything for one thing? Or do you want to give up one thing for everything?" Hope and faith can work miracles.



Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among
women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us
sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

From the Parish Manager.

By Tina Skubon

This month we will have had four pastors in sixteen months . . . after having just one for seventeen years! While the office staff has been challenged by all the changes, we can see that each pastor has blessed us in numerous ways. Fr. Bateman as our administrator has been such a joy with whom to work. He's a holy priest who loves the people and enjoys being an administrator. You can't beat that combination in my humble opinion! And now we are blessed once again in having Fr. Brian Olkowski assigned to us as pastor. Fr. Olkowski is also a holy priest who is looking forward to serving the people of St. Mary's. Let's all show him the warm hospitality for which St. Mary's is known.

- **Weekly Communications.** Fr. Bateman resumed the weekly emails sent to all parishioners for whom we have an email address. They include the coming Sunday's bulletin (in a minimized format). If you are not receiving these, please let our office know so that we can update our database. In addition, Fr. Bateman re-instituted the Question of the Week. This is based on the previous Sunday's Gospel reading and is a beautiful way to keep the Gospel alive during the week. The discussion can be done in your home or with friends, and all meetings at St. Mary's begin with the Gospel reading and the Question of the Week.
- **Weddings.** Oh, our poor engaged couples! Some are rescheduling their ceremonies once, if not twice. Others are having a small wedding and will celebrate with a large reception at a later date. Please keep them all in your prayers.
- **Assistance to Parishioners and Local Community.** Until the end of August, it was illegal for landlords to evict their tenants for not paying rent. Also, utility companies could not terminate electric or gas for a while. As a result, requests for assistance were almost non-existent, and we have only helped seven people since April. The number of requests has been steadily increasing
- **Parish Campout 2020!** Another wonderful campout at Codorus State Park. For the first time, there were more RVs than tents. We had campfires and daily Mass with Fr. Leo. We biked, kayaked and just relaxed. The temperatures were high, but it was comfortable under our shaded campsites. Watch for next year's dates!
- **Women's Winter Shelter.** The shelter was extended by almost two months last spring due to COVID-19. It was a good year, and many women were served. There are always improvements that are needed, but we make progress each year. It is a good ministry, and we begin again December 7.
- **Legacy Project.** Two outstanding items: Some of the concrete is pitting in various places. Also, the paint on

two of our new southern exposure doors continues to bubble, and all of the attempted remedies are not working. We continue to work with CH&E on both of these issues.

- **Convent Chapel.** Just a reminder that if you haven't seen the renovated convent chapel yet, please feel free to come by to visit it. Once COVID subsides, we look forward to using it for various parish and liturgical events.
- **Our Neighbors.** On September 22, we participated with Water Street Mission's *Reverberate*, an annual worship evening that includes many churches in our county.
- **COVID-19 Guidelines.** We continue to follow the diocesan guidelines by requiring masks and social distancing at our Masses, meetings and events. This, of course isn't easy, and there have been some divisions in our church community because of it. I pray that the policies will be eased soon, but in the meantime, I heard some wonderful advice . . . *When we struggle with wearing a mask, offer it up for reparation for the sins of our tongues.*
- **Courtyard Parking.** This is a gentle reminder that with the successful completion of Phase One of the Legacy Project that makes our church handicap accessible, our schoolyard was designated for those with mobility issues only – *during the weekend Masses*. For some, this has been a big change, and we especially appreciate your support to those people whose coming to Mass can be a bit more challenging.

All of our office staff loves to serve you, the people of St. Mary's. If there is anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to let us know.

tina@stmaryslancaster.org
717.392.2578



From the Facilities Coordinator.

By Amy Patton

Buildings and Grounds: As expected, the last few months have been relatively quiet in terms of projects. However, we continue to schedule the following essential services:

- Elevator: maintenance and inspections
- Fire: fire alarm and fire extinguisher inspections
- Kitchen: fire suppression system inspection, grease trap cleanout, ice machine and hood/vent cleaning
- HVAC: preventative maintenance
- Pest control: regular monthly service
- Plumbing and electrical: as needed

Repairs and Replacements: During a climb to the ceiling to determine repairs needed to the church bell, the technician took and shared these incredible photos. Check out the plank walkways and the bell's inscription! 105 years old! Good news, the beams are solid, in great condition and no water damage was detected. However, the external bell striker needs to be replaced.

The inscription on the bell:

THIS BELL DONATED BY
FRANK AND MARY DOUGHERTY
IN MEMORY OF THEIR DECEASED PARENTS
SEPTEMBER, 1915.
REV. T.F.X. DOUGHTERTY, RECTOR

Since my last update, the carpet on the second floor of the convent building has been replaced as well as the school's exterior door by the wooden ramp in the school yard. Also, the carpets in the sanctuary and choir loft were professionally cleaned, protected and sanitized.

- External bell striker and installation—\$4,150—includes a flexible scheduling discounted rate for installation if work is done while the company is in the area for another project
- Carpet cleaning—\$521 (donor-directed project)—completed September 2020
- Second floor convent carpet replacement—\$2050 (donor-directed project)—completed January 2020
- School exterior door replacement—\$2400 (donor-directed project)—completed April 2020

Thank You: Thanks to all for participating in our first parish fire drill in the church! Overall, the exercise was well-received. We will adjust as needed and continue to improve our evacuation procedures.

A special 'thank you' to the WOM crews! They worked hard and made an incredible impact. They spent time weeding, picking up trash and debris, washing the shelter beds, even polishing silverware!

A newly formed ministry met in August and will continue to meet monthly to clean the rectory. The teams started in the formal dining room, butler's pantry and kitchen. The objective of the ministry is to thoroughly clean the rectory building, concentrating on specific spaces and/or tasks that are not completed by the regular cleaning crew. Special thanks to these volunteers as well.



Souled Out Youth News

Hold My Hand!

By Bob Cybulski

We started with Adoration on September 12. We reflected on a couple of questions like: "Does God love you even when you mess up?" "Do you feel that God is distant?"

We got some great feedback from all small group discussions on the reflection questions from Adoration. We squeezed in a little four square and football!!! We ended with prayer circle.

My prayer: "As I prayed about youth group tonight, I realized that I can't stop you from being hurt, I can't stop you from being sad or depressed, I can't stop you from feeling anxiety, I can't stop you from being bullied, I can't stop you from feeling that you don't measure up to who you want to be...so... what can I do? I can give you a gift, one that I constantly forget to use, but it's simple.

"If you are comfortable, please reach out and ask Jesus to hold your hand as you are going through good or bad times. Please remember to ask Him to hold your hand when you feel sad or glad or angry or ready to cry or happy or bullied.

"Please Lord just hold my hand and guide me through each minute of each day!"



Kairos is Coming to St. Mary's!

Last year, we had seven juniors attend Kairos with St. John Neumann. Each of them had an awesome experience! So, we are going to offer our juniors and seniors two opportunities to go to Kairos in 2021. We will be teaming up with Fr. Josh and McDevitt High School on January 15-17. If you can't make it to that date, we are teaming up with St. John Neumann on February 5-7. Please check your emails for upcoming details. If you are a junior or senior, please consider this amazing retreat!

Graduating Seniors.

Each year, we recognize our graduating seniors and their great accomplishments...here are some for 2020:

Abigail Claus will be attending Saint Vincent College to major in nursing. St. Mary's memories: WOM Week, youth group, Steubenville, VBS, Community Meal volunteering, music ensemble for Mass.

Isabella Hayes will be attending Seton Hall University in a six-year joint program for a BS in Biology and a Doctor of Physical Therapy. St. Mary's memories: Catholic Heart Work Camp, WOM Week, youth group, altar serving, Christmas decorating.

Colin Morrisette graduated from Manheim Township HS, deferred admission to Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology until fall 2021. St. Mary's memories: altar serving and Community Meals.

Abigail Nagle will be attending Lebanon Valley College to study Physical Therapy and Spanish this fall. St. Mary's memories: Catholic Heart Work Camp; participating at Community Meals and the Giving Tree.

Molly Nagle will be attending Elizabethtown College to study Occupational Therapy. St. Mary's memories: serving meals to the homeless, Catholic Heart Work Camp and youth group.

WOM Week is Spreading Throughout the Diocese!

On Monday, September 28, the Diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis hosted a WOM Week Training Session provided by Bob Cybulski. Many of you know Bob or have heard of WOM Week. WOM Week has been extremely successful in the Lancaster area. The Diocese would like to see it spread to other parts of the Diocese of Harrisburg...north, south, east, and west. After a greeting and blessing from Bishop Gainer, Bob had the floor, or in this case, the Zoom screen.

Historic St. Mary's Church has hosted a Works Of Mercy (WOM) camp for 20 years. The camp attracted over 60 teenagers this summer while being supported by over 40 volunteers delivering Works of Mercy to many locations throughout Lancaster County. How does it work? What are the reactions of the teens? Who is served? How can you bring the camp to your church? What are the details? All these questions and more were answered by Bob.



Youth Group washing the beds from the Women's Winter Shelter.

All Aboard!

By Joe Clupp

In 2017, my wife Amy and I decided to see the US by rail. If you ever have the opportunity to do it, know that it is a great way to travel. We boarded Amtrak's Pennsylvanian Line in Lancaster and headed west around the Horseshoe Curve and transferred to the Capitol Limited in Pittsburgh. Then off to Chicago overnight, where we picked up the Empire Builder to go up through the northern plains and the Cascade Mountains to Seattle.



We were off to San Francisco for a few more days and finally headed through the Rocky Mountains on our way to Denver and back to Chicago and home. Perhaps the most memorable thing about the trip, in addition to all the great scenery, was the people we met.

Traveling by train provides for a much more cordial way to interact with people than by plane! Although there were many on the train we did not get to meet, those we did meet were memorable. We had dinner with a couple that was getting off at Glacier National Park to go camping. There was the software developer, from Washington, headed to San Jose on the Coast Starlight. There was the mother and son who had sailed from Great Britain to New York and now were traveling by rail to Seattle to go onto a wedding in Vancouver, B.C.

I thought of that trip recently when I attended the viewing of a friend who recently passed away. Like all the passengers on that real-life rail trip, he boarded the train of my life several years ago and now it was his STOP. I enjoyed our conversations and his example and friendship, which played an important part in my spiritual growth. I will miss his joyful smile and his outlook on life, even in the darkest times.

His passing made me think about some of the others I have traveled with. Some of them were with me for long stretches of the journey of life, and some were only there for only a few stops before getting off. One of those who was only on the trip for a few stops was a co-worker named Donna with whom I worked over thirty years ago.

I was not happy about where my train was headed. It seemed that all I could see out the window was old junk yards and trash heaps along the rail line. The Cascades and Rockies were nowhere to be seen. In the few months that I worked with her, she made a great impact. While I was always a grump (and still can be, just ask Amy) she was always joyful. It was more than just always being carefree, but the joy she found in knowing Jesus. I came to realize that I wanted that joy in my life. She, perhaps without even knowing it, helped change the direction of the train I was on. Instead of heading toward the

backside of a big city with all its trash heaps and junk yards, I was now headed in a new direction. Oh, not to say that rough spots are not still there occasionally, but there has been a definite change in scenery. I have not seen her since the few months we worked together, and I heard that she passed away about four years ago. I never did get to tell her the impact that she had on my life by her joyfulness that she shared because she knew Jesus.

During this time of dealing with the pandemic and all the unrest in our country it can be easy to only see the overfilled dumpsters and junk yards lined with rusting heaps of old cars and pickup trucks. Know that every day we are aboard someone else's train, even if only for a few depot stops. Like Donna and my friend Steve, we have experienced Jesus. In reception of the Eucharist at Mass, at Adoration, in His Word and in our hearts. As we ride along those rails we can remain unnoticed, or we can add to the blight or we can bring joy by sharing our faith in Jesus who loves us. Someday, perhaps, we will meet again, all those whose trains we had the privilege of boarding. As C.S. Lewis said, "Every contact you make with everyone you meet will help them or hinder them on their journey to Heaven," a fellow passenger told me. Let us use our opportunities to help each other on our journey.

The Assumption, Our Patronal Feast.

Who would have thought that we could give such honor and praise to Our Heavenly Mother as we did this year amid this pandemic? First of all, Fr. Bateman reached out to Bishop Gainer and requested permission to celebrate the feast of the Assumption, our patronal feast, on Sunday (August 15 fell on a Saturday).

We honored Mary most gloriously. The Marian Altar plus another altar devoted to Mary were abundantly decorated with vases upon vases of spring blooms. All the candles on the high altar were lit in honor of Mary Assumed into Heaven. Many people came to Mass dressed in blue, Mary's color. Trumpets enhanced the music at Mass. In addition, as a parish, we prayed a twenty-four-hour Rosary with all the time slots filled.

So, why is this feast so important? By the power of God, Mary was assumed into heaven, body and soul at the end of her earthly life. From the writings of the early Church fathers, Christians believed this, but it wasn't until Pope Pius XII, in 1950, officially defined it as a Dogma of faith.

That means that the Church officially recognizes this belief as true and necessary part of our Catholic beliefs about Mary.





Our most recent Confirmation class with Bishop Ronald Gainer just before the pandemic hit.



Second graders after receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.



Christine Weaver putting her sheep in the pasture after going to Confession.



Samuel Patrick and Sebastian Manley holding their lambs from the Good Shepherd.



Sebastian Manley receiving his First Holy Communion from Fr. Brian at an outdoor Mass in the schoolyard.

Kateri Hong is all smiles after receiving her First Holy Communion!



Joey Hollister and Fr. Brian pose for a photo after his First Holy Communion.

Gabriel Fink received his First Holy Communion from Fr. Pistone.



Rylin McDonnell standing outside the church after receiving her First Holy Communion.

Fr. Bateman gives Christine Weaver her First Holy Communion.



Baptisms go on during the pandemic. Pictured is Stella Marie Santiago on her Baptismal day, September 6, 2020 with Father Bateman, her parents, Calvin and Ashley Santiago, and her godparents, James Avenoso and Celeste Kuratnick.

Parish Census

Baptisms

Brooke Marie Shehan
 Jack Warren Maher
 Christiana Kate Ama Conduah
 Rose Elaine Weitzel
 Graham Mulligan Reese
 Connor James Huber
 Benjamin Oliver Kerr
 Anna Kathleen Baker
 Austin Jacob Meehan
 Bennett Lee Nowak
 Stella Marie Santiago
 Marcelo Dominic Sosa
 Monica Alice Miles
 Crew Daniel McShea

Deaths

Phyllis Graceffa
 Helen M. Dennis
 Gerald D. MacLean
 Giuseppina "Pina" Tarallo
 Elbert Gay
 John B. Groff
 Carol A. Keen
 Mary R. Kemp
 Elizabeth R. Fralinger
 Helen R. Hoffman
 Rita Boyd
 Julia Gottschall
 Richard "Dick" E. Buckwalter
 Joseph F. Dennis
 Rita R. Corsi
 José Marshall
 Rachael Wywadis
 Norma O'Connell
 Dorothy "Dot" Rebman
 Catherine Burkholder

Marriages

M/M Brian O'Neill (Maria Roselli)
 M/M James Sonnon III (Emily Beiter)
 M/M Robert Cybulski III (Sarah Davis)
 M/M Michael Campeggio (Lauren McFadden)
 M/M Michael Horrell (Valerie Kozachuk)
 M/M Nathaniel Flickinger (Cassandra Langone)
 M/M Brian Bakey (Jenell Abram)
 M/M Colin Butler (Victoria Chirico)
 M/M Brian Horne (Molly McCracken)
 M/M Thomas Decker (Jessica Eosso)
 M/M Timothy St. John (Marisa Klein)
 M/M Sebastian Nieves (Stephanie Lopez)
 M/M Caleb Gabner (Justine Gaylor)

New Parishoners

Louis & Anita Wakefield
 Federico & Karlla Brigatti & children Gabriele & Erminia
 Kathryn Bennett
 Clavin Santiago & Ashley Avenoso & daughter Stella
 Brian & Emily Dunne
 Francis & Christiana Conduah & daughter Christiana
 Martin & Adriane McShea & son Crew
 Jason & Erin Reese & son Graham
 Harry & Alicia Forster
 Bryson Velletri
 Lee Vivian
 Joseph Keller
 Stephen & Judith Nichols
 Paul & Stephanie Dydek
 Dina Henry & daughters Rhiannon & Bianca
 Charles & Suzanne Davis
 Victoria Lorenski
 Rosalba Finazzo
 Dextin Orme
 Brian Lynch
 Candice Delgardio
 Sean & Caitlin Bednarz & children Maia & Brooks
 John & Lynda Bennett
 Damien & Philomene Kabera and son Alvin
 Deacon Brian and Michelle Fabian

Outdoor Mass during the pandemic.

You can try, but you can't keep the people of St. Marys from attending Mass, even if it's outside and you have to bring your own chair.

Here Fr. Brian is celebrating Mass on the first Wednesday outside Mass.

With the breeze in that area, the candles just did not want to keep burning! We remedied that in the following weeks with battery-operated candles!





**HISTORIC
ST. MARY'S CHURCH**
EST. 1741
WHERE HEAVEN EMBRACES EARTH

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www.stmaryslancaster.org

Change Service Requested



The month of October is dedicated to the
Most Holy Rosary.

Pray the family Rosary—your family will be blessed by your
faithful devotion to this beautiful prayer.

Historic St. Mary's Church
Mass & Confession
Schedule

Monday through Friday
12:05 pm

Saturday
4:30 pm (Vigil)

Sunday
8:30 am and 11:00 am

Holy Days
5:30 pm (Vigil)
12:05 pm and 7:00 pm

*Free parking is available in the Steinman Park
Garage for all weekend Masses.*

Confessions
Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm
Friday afternoons from 12:30-1:30 pm
Saturday afternoons from 3:30-4:15 pm