

Our Family News

St. William Catholic Church
Champion, Ohio



Third Ed., Vol. 9, Issue 26
May 2023

Welcome New Faces!

NEW PARISH LEADERSHIP MODEL BEGINS MAY 15, 2023

Welcome Father Ryan Furlong and Father Chad Johnson

The diocese continues to deal with the shortage of priests, while also desiring to support our parishes as they live missionary discipleship in new ways. Throughout the diocese, priests are serving multiple parishes. This regional model for ministry not only helps to navigate the priest shortage, it also allows for a more vibrant experience for parish life sharing our gifts and strengths across parishes. Part of the regionalization plan calls for the collaboration of the three parishes in northern Trumbull County – Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and Saint William Parish beginning in July. The three parishes will be served by two priests – Rev. Ryan Furlong and Rev. Chad Johnson. We welcome our new Pastor and Parochial Vicar!

REV. RYAN FURLONG



Rev. Ryan Furlong is the new pastor of Saint William Parish! He was born in Youngstown, Ohio on August 4, 1982, and grew up at Saint Luke Parish in Boardman and Saint Dominic Parish in Youngstown. He graduated from Boardman High School in 2001 and attended Youngstown State University, graduating in

2006 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. From 2006 to 2013, he worked in sales and as a full-time social studies teacher at Youngstown City and Austintown school districts. In 2013, he entered Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Cincinnati and was ordained on August 8, 2020. He served as Associate Pastor of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Boardman from 2020-2022 and was then appointed pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Vienna. He also serves as the Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult

Furlong (Continued on page 4)

REV. CHAD JOHNSON



Rev. Chad Johnson was born and raised in Canton and is the oldest of 8 children. His home parish is Saint Peter in Canton. He attended the parish elementary school and graduated from Saint Thomas Aquinas High School in 2007. After studying theology at Walsh University, he began his formation for priesthood at

Mount Saint Mary Seminary in 2015 and was ordained in 2021. He has spent the last two years at University Parish Newman Center and Saint Patrick Parish in Kent as Parochial Vicar (associate pastor). He is also the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Youngstown. He has enjoyed working with and accompanying young college-aged men and women as they seek to hear the voice of God in their lives. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his friends and family. He is a fan of the works and the world of

Johnson (Continued on page 4)

...FROM THE PASTOR



Growing up I remember one of the Saturday night television staples was the *Carol Burnett Show*. Each week the show featured comedy sketches, musical numbers, and movie spoofs. At the end of the show, Carol would always sing a familiar song to sign off while having her guests sign her autograph book. The song started with:

...I'm so glad we had this time together...

On May 15th I will complete my time as pastor of Saint William Parish as I begin full-time ministry at the Central Offices of the Diocese as Vicar for Clergy and Director of the Office of Worship. These two positions I have had for the past few years (Vicar for Clergy – 2 years and Director, Office of Worship – 11 years) in addition to my responsibilities as pastor of the parish (15 years). I am grateful and humbled by the trust and confidence Bishop Bonnar has placed in me in asking me to take on this full-time position. I am also most thankful for the time I have shared with all of you as pastor. This is the longest I have stayed at one parish and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. As I have said very often, “*Saint William is a special place with very special people.*”

...just to have a laugh or sing a song...

Over the past 15 years there have been many laughs and songs shared! I recall with fondness the many themed Parish Appreciation nights, our 50th Anniversary year, the yearly Fish Dinners, Trunk, and Rummage Sales, and our Parish Picnics along with the usual monthly meetings, gatherings, and events. Always filled with laughter and good times, these events manifest what our faith and parish is all about – the missionary discipleship of Jesus Christ! But most importantly has been our weekly gathering for Mass offering praise and worship to God. Often many have told me, when on occasion they have attended Mass elsewhere, they come back saying, “*it just wasn't the same!*” and it isn't. Our welcoming and engaging spirit is a unique hallmark of our parish...*how blessed and fortunate we are!*

...seems we just get started...

A lot has happened in the last 15 years – remodeled restrooms, new carpeting and flooring, a new belltower and office building, an expanded kitchen, new lighting and sound, demolition of the old office house, a new altar, pulpit, and chairs, and finally, a new parking lot in early May! The projects never seem to end along with the enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, and faith of our parishioners. We get things accomplished, we complete our tasks, and we make our dreams come true! I am proud to leave our parish in a healthy financial position, our building and property in good condition, and our spirit strong. Our parish is vibrant and alive with drive and zeal and for all this and all that has been accomplished... *let us give thanks!*

...and before you know it, comes the time we have to say “so long”...

A piece of good news is that, although I am ending my term as pastor, I will remain living at the residence on the property. So, in a sense it's not so much “*good-bye*” as it is “*so*”

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

long.” I would like to express a word of thanks and appreciation for all your kindness and support given to me over the last 15 years. So many wonderful and exciting things have happened because of you! I am pleased to turn the parish over to your new pastor, Father Ryan Furlong, and new parochial vicar, Father Chad Johnson, and I am confident that they will continue all the good things happening at Saint William. As for me, I ask for your prayers as I begin my expanded ministry at the Diocese and be assured that I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers daily.

At the end of the song, Carol Burnett would tug on her ear to let her grandmother know that all was fine and well. As I come to the end of my time as pastor at Saint William let me tug on my ear and say to all of you with sincere and heartfelt gratitude....*thank you for the past 15 years and may God bless you, your family, and Saint William Parish...all is fine and well!*

Fr. Balash



PROSPER THE WORK

OF OUR HANDS

by Tina McCue

“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you— oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

A future of hope... these are words that I cling to when faced with any type of change. Changes in life such as my children going off to the military or college, my parents making their journey to heaven, family members moving away, or my beloved pastor receiving a new assignment. I have been down these roads many times, and while I may feel apprehensive about the journey, I forge ahead with sure knowledge that God plans for me a future of hope!

In a few weeks we will say farewell to our beloved Father Balash and welcome Father Furlong and Father Johnson. Many of us have been down this road before. My heart goes out to our families with young children, for I remember how I felt when I was a child and heard my beloved pastor, Father McCarthy, announce that the bishop asked him to move on. Gosh, my sisters and I cried and cried! I remember as a young adult, newly



married, how devastated I was that our beloved Father Crumbley would not be our pastor to baptize our first child. I remember how my children felt when our beloved Father Mike shared with us that it was time for him to retire, for he baptized each of our children and was such a major part of our life. I could not wrap my head around the fact that our youngest child would receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion from “the new priest.” We went through the same emotions when our beloved Sister Jean, Sister Yvonne and Sister Mary Cora were reassigned.

At times like this, I am reminded of how blessed I am to have grown up at Saint William Parish. I learned from my parents and so many faithful parishioners how to open my arms and heart to whomever God called to be our shepherd. These holy men and women have shaped my life and have shaped the life of our parish. Their unique gifts have contributed to our prosperity. Their love of Christ has ensured that we remain a light to each other and to the world.

Father Balash has been a faithful shepherd, mentor, and friend. I will remain ever thankful to him for encouraging me to pursue my dream of parish ministry and then actually hiring me as part of your parish staff. As I prepare my heart to bid him farewell, I also look with joy and hope to what the future holds with our new shepherds. May God continue to prosper the work of our hands.

(Continued from page 1) Furlong

Ministry, Chaplain at John F. Kennedy Catholic School (Upper Campus) and is a member of the Priest Council. His interests include reading, especially sports related subjects, movies, music, and history. He also enjoys getting together with friends for coffee or dinner, as well as spending time with family.

(Continued from page 1) Johnson

J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Cleveland Guardians and Cleveland Browns. He is usually accompanied by Toby, his year-and-a-half old Bernedoodle, who is extremely excited to meet everyone. He is looking forward to meeting all of you as we continue the journey of faith together. Fr. Johnson considers it an honor to be assigned to serve at Saint William Parish, Saint Robert Bellarmine and Saint Thomas the Apostle parishes.

PARKING LOT PROJECT

Our new Parking Lot Project began May 8, 2023, includes new lighting, curbing, landscaping, and pavement. The work is being done by Miller-Yount Paving in consultation with Phillips-Sekanick Architects. The \$300,000.00 project is made possible through previous Fish Dinner proceeds, the Power-Up Capital Campaign, and the recent Super Bonanza Cash Raffle. Thank you for all your support!





NEW PARISHIONERS

The Edwards Family
Charles & Gloria

Christine Cialkowski

Lindsay Dedek

The Gargas Family
Tim & Janice

Robert Kent

Lorena Schroeder

Christa Grabowski

Jean Japuncha

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Louise Badanjek 1935-2022

Anthony Marando 1935-2022

Adrian Hovanic 1932-2022

Barb Bailey 1948-2022

Gregory Kovach 1956-2022

Alan Herrmann 1942-2022

Delores Huncherek 1930-2022

Yvonne Vastag 1947-2023

Amelia Knapick 1930-2023

Shirley Maichrowicz 1932-2023

Edward Radnothy 1935-2023

Brianna Heib 1988-2022

Carol Hovanic 1933-2023

Hubert McKenney 1931--2023

PSR NEWS

by Carol Timko

We welcomed two second graders to the Lord's table on April 23, 2023, for their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to Lily Johnson and Brooke Schwartz (pictured right) In preparation, on Saturday, April 15 our First Communion class along with their families and teachers came together for a Jesus Day Retreat. The retreat began with a prayer service followed by a snack, the children and their teachers participated in a short play from their First Communion lessons while their parents had a parent meeting with Tina McCue. The communicants and their families made

FIRST COMMUNION 2023

Congratulations to:

Lily Johnson
Brooke Schwartz



First Communion banners with their names and symbols such as the cup and grapes for First Communion Day. We read the book "The Weight of A Mass" by Josephine Nobisso, followed by the 5:00 p.m. Mass and shared in a delicious dinner together to conclude a fun and informative day.

In other news, PSR classes will resume in September with a new time. More information will be sent out during the summer, including registration information.



PSR will be looking for several parishioners to teach in the upcoming year. Please contact Carol Timko (ctimko@stwilliamchampion.org) if you are interested or would like more information about this important ministry.

Our Family News

Is published on the first Monday after the first full weekend in May, and November of every year. Articles and submissions are due three weeks before the publish date. Parish organizations are encouraged to participate and submit materials for publication. Contact the editors or publisher for more information.

Publisher: Dan Robinson ~ drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org
Reporters and Photographers of all ages are needed! No writing experience needed.

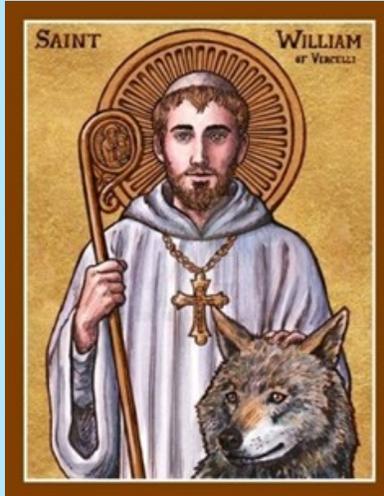
SAINTS OF THE TRUMBULL NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

by Therese Tuttle

St. William was born 1085 in Vercelli, Italy to noble and wealthy

SAINT WILLIAM OF VERCELLI Patron Saint of St. William Parish

parents. At a very young age St. William renounced the world and became a hermit. He built his first hermit's hut on Monte Solicoli and then went to Monte Vergine "Mount of the Virgin." Many were attracted to his life of sanctity and the many miracles he performed. A community was formed, and he became the first Abbot of a church to Our Lady. By 1119 his followers were united in the Benedictine congregation, the Hermits of Monte Vergine (Williamites). After a while, the monks began to complain that St. William's leadership was too strict. He left Monte Vergine. The congregation of Monte Vergine was dissolved, and the monastery was given to the Benedictines of Monte Cassino. Benedictines are



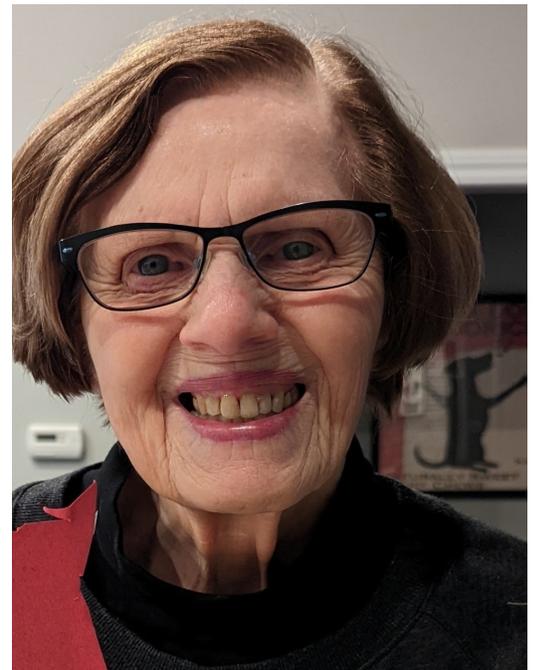
known to wear black but the Benedictines of Monte Vergine honored St. William by

wearing the white habits of the order he founded. Monks of Monte Vergine led a life of penance and austerity. A recorded fact is that monks in the monastery were not permitted to eat meat, eggs, milk, or cheese. If someone violated this regulation, storm clouds would appear, and lightning would destroy said foods. There are records of similar events happening at other monasteries St. William founded. After leaving Monte Vergine, St. William founded a new hermitage on Monte Laceno in Southern Italy. He founded other monasteries throughout Naples and became an adviser to King Roger I of Naples. St. William died at Guglietto on June 25, 1142, his Feast day



Make-a-Difference Day 2023

R.C.I.A.



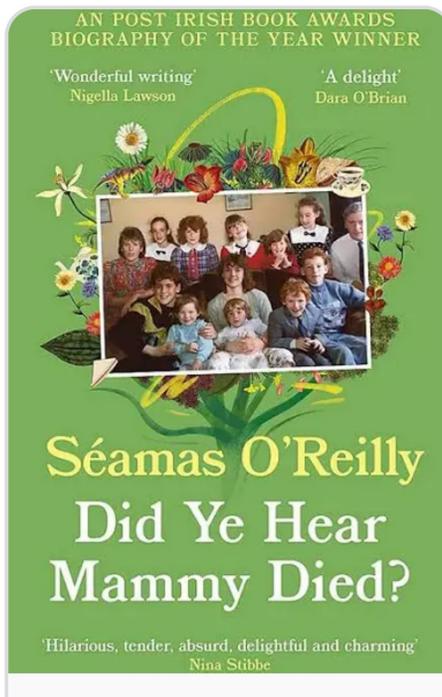
R.C.I.A. 2023

Mrs. DarLena Tuttle

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION

by Cathy Poponak

A great book has the power to take us to places other than where we are physically. So, at the same time some of our fellow parishioners are touring the Emerald Isle in June, the rest of us can escape to Ireland while reading Seamas O'Reilly's memoir "Did Ye Hear Mammy Died?" An instant best seller in Ireland, and one of NPR's best books of the year, "Did Ye Hear Mammy Died?" is a book about an Irish Catholic family of loud, argumentative, musical, sarcastic, grief-stricken siblings shepherded into adulthood by their widowed father. Seamas O'Reilly tells the story of losing his mother when he was five, leaving him, his ten siblings and their beloved father in their sprawling



bungalow in rural Derry to carry on without her. It is described as being hilarious, tender, absurd, delightful, and charming. This book is written with such skill as to render it unforgettable.

Our summer book discussion will be held on Wednesday, June 28 at 6:00 p.m. at St. William. The book is available at the library, local bookstores, and Amazon. Discussion is open to both men and women who enjoy reading and reflecting on a good book. Please bring a snack to share and your own favorite beverage. Pizza will be provided. Bring a lawn chair in case the weather is favorable enough to sit outdoors. There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

And as the Irish say: May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go!

MUSIC MINISTRY

by Pat Maciejewski

What a joyous time of year – Spring! The Alleluia's of Easter Sunday continue to ring and fill our hearts with joy. As Bob Hurd puts it in his OCP 2020 song, *Alleluia! He Is Risen*, "our hearts are ablaze with your Spirit; may we live the risen life. Let us serve one another. Make us sacraments of your love, O Christ."

The youth of Saint William did just that on Easter Sunday with their participation in the Easter entrance procession and their music preparation and singing for Mass. Thank you to the parents of these children for instilling in them service and ministry! Pictured are: Avery McClusky, Kaidan Horm, Mia Mackiewicz, Veronika Joseph, and visitor Magnolia Farley. It makes our hearts ablaze with Christ's Spirit to hear these wonderful voices. The youth also sang two selections entitled: "Jesus Is Risen From the Grave" and "Oh, How Good Is Jesus Christ!" partly sung in Spanish.

Our Easter liturgies would not be complete without the participation of all our cantors, adult choir, folk group, and instrumentalists. Many of them have shared their talents at our holy celebrations for many years and we continue to be blessed by their dedication and service to our community.



Our prayers and good wishes are for Father Michael Balash as he moves forward in his ministry at the Diocese. St. William Music Ministry has learned a great deal from you about celebrating and singing good liturgy! Thank you for being a true pastoral presence in our parish community.

We welcome Father Ryan Furlong and Father Chad Johnson to our parish as Shepherds of the Trumbull North Catholic Community. We look to your future leadership to guide us and continue to fill us with the love of Christ as we serve one another with joy. Let us enjoy our summer with rest and relaxation!

Blessed Mary, pray for us! Saint Joseph, pray for us! St. Thomas the Apostle, pray for us, St. Robert, pray for us! St. William, pray for us!



The Eucharist Retreats

by Tina McCue

Over the course of the 2022-2023 Catechetical Year, Saint William has offered three retreats focusing on the *Eucharist: Bread of Life* as presented by Joshua J. Whitfield's Little Rock Scripture Study, *Alive in the Word* series. On September 17, 2022, our journey began in *The Desert: Covenant and Sacrifice* as we reflected on the journey God's people made through the desert after being released from slavery in Egypt. "Here – in covenant,



blood, and feast – Moses, his companions, and seventy elders of Israel see God. God is present to them. It is feast. It is communion." (Whitfield, p.10) As we gathered, we shared stories about our Mt. Sinai moments, moments in our life when God felt truly present to us. This brought the image of Eucharist, our communion with God as we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In this action, we confirm our

commitment, our covenant, to live in the image and likeness of God as revealed through Jesus Christ.

On November 12, 2022, our second retreat brought us to *The Synagogue: Food and Drink*. Imagine for a moment that you are one of the followers of Jesus who first heard his proclamation "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." (John 6:51) When I put myself in their position, I cannot help but wonder if I would be one

of the many who walked away at this point – who found it just too hard to comprehend the "Word became flesh." (John 1:14) We are privileged to know the rest of the story, that Jesus "is revealing something new: God in the flesh – sacrificed, risen, and shared - becomes living bread." (Whitfield, p.25) I jotted down some notes from speaker, Bette Lloyd, as she talked about recognizing the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. "While the visible element of bread



does not change, the invisible element becomes Jesus. The deepest identity of Jesus can change the deepest identity of each of us as we become what we eat." Wow! – what a profound way to experience communion with Jesus Christ!



Our retreat wrapped up with Retreat 3 on February 11, 2023 with a journey to *The City: Discerning the Body*. We listened to witness accounts of how their deepest identity is fleshed out by serving others in our community. Inspired by the words of Saint Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless all people now," we come to realize our

responsibility as members of the body of Christ. I am reminded of a quote from speaker Felicia Mooney, "Christ's hands were scarred in service to others. Are your hands scarred in service to others? Christ's feet were blistered in service to others. Are your feet blistered as you step into his shoes?" Food for thought as we are nourished by the Body of Christ.

NEW MASS TIMES BEGAN MAY 7, 2023 AT SAINT WILLIAM

As part of the collaborative effort among Saint William, Saint Thomas, and Saint Robert parishes, a new Mass schedule will be implemented at all three parishes. The new Mass times will begin at Saint William on May 6-7, 2023

<u>Saint William</u> Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:30 a.m.	<u>Saint Robert</u> Saturday: 6:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m.	<u>Saint Thomas</u> Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:30 a.m.
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Note: You can attend any location and your contribution envelope will be returned to Saint William Parish.



PSR – FROM THE TEACHER’S DESK

by Melanie Zappia

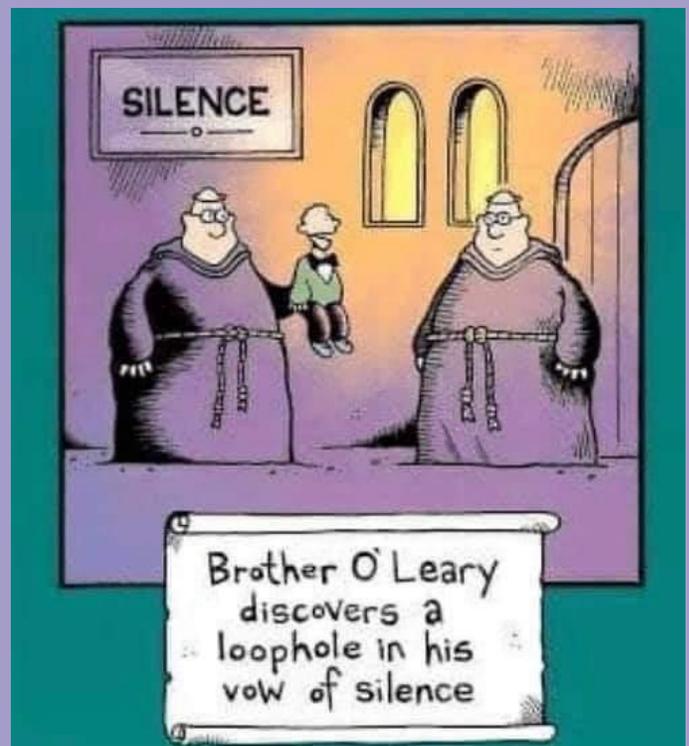
On March 5 the PSR students and teachers celebrated a very special event, our Fourth Annual Prayer Partner Reveal! Despite how many times I have participated in this event, I still feel the same level of excitement that I did that very first year! The kids are usually anxious and nervous because they are meeting someone new, while the adults are excited to meet the child they have been corresponding with and praying for throughout the school year.

We began in the Sanctuary and met our prayer partners, we spent some time getting to know each other. We then traveled to the Social Hall where we continued to learn about each other and share stories between the prayer partners and their families. Each table had a conversation cube, as well as a questionnaire to help facilitate effective communication. It was enjoyable spending time getting to know each other. The partners then worked together to create a special prayer craft that outlined the hands of each partner connected in prayer. My partner Mia and I stopped by each table and asked the partners to share something they learned about the other with the group. Afterward, we made our way back to the Worship Area for a very special prayer service. The evening concluded as we gathered in the Social Hall once again to share a meal.

When PSR staff first came up with the Prayer Partner concept, I imagined it being like our Angel Tree during the Christmas season. Like selecting an Angel ornament with a special request from a child in need, the Prayer Partner Project allows willing adults in our parish to partner up with a child from our PSR program. The two partners correspond back and forth throughout the school year, sharing well wishes, drawings, and prayer intentions. The ‘catch’ is that the prayer partners are a secret until the Reveal Party! The kids get such a big kick out of this program, and it’s

been a positive experience for the adults too!

The goal of this partnership is not only to teach the children how to pray for others they don’t know, but also to unite in the fundamental beliefs of our Catholic faith. It is important to encourage our children to help others through kindness and prayer. It is equally important to encourage our adult parishioners to communicate and teach our faith to the younger members of our church. It gives me a feeling of peace knowing that even for a few short hours we shared part of ourselves. I hope that I may have made a positive impact on my prayer partner, and she may take that experience and share it with others for years to come. Our parish is blessed with some of the kindest, caring, and most generous patrons I have ever known, and I am blessed to have been a member my entire life. If you have not already participated in our Prayer Partner



SAINTS OF THE TRUMBULL NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

by Therese Tuttle

St. Robert was born 1542 A.D. in Montepulciano, Italy, third of ten children and great nephew of Pope Marcellus II. He was dedicated to almsgiving, prayer, meditation, fasting, and mortification of the body. St. Robert entered the newly formed Society of Jesus in 1560 and after his ordination, he was the first Jesuit to teach at Louvain where he became famous for his Latin sermons. In 1576 he was appointed to the chair of controversial theology at the Roman College, becoming the Rector in 1592; he went on to become Provincial of Naples in 1594 and Cardinal in 1598. St. Robert was dedicated to his calling and to education. He was the author of a three-volume *Disputations on the Controversies of the Christian Faith*. Particularly noteworthy

SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE Patron Saint of St. Robert Parish



are the sections on the temporal power of the pope and the role of the laity. St. Robert

incurred the anger of King James I of England and King Henry III of France by showing the divine-right-of-kings theory unsound. Among St. Robert's many acknowledgements and activities, he became theologian to Pope Clement VIII, preparing two catechisms which have had great influence in the Catholic Church. The last major controversy of St. Robert's life was when he rebuked his friend Galileo in 1616. He delivered the reprimand on behalf of the Holy Office, which had decided that the heliocentric theory of Copernicus was contrary to Scripture. St. Robert Bellarmine died on September 17, 1621, his feast day.

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS

Saint William Youth Ministry teens presented the Way of the Cross during the Lenten Season 2023. This beautiful production on the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Mary was a spiritually uplifting gift to the people of St. William. Used with permission from the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers of the Baltimore Province. Thank you St. William Youth Ministry for this beautiful production.



(l to r): Kyle Haynie, Mario Humenik, Joseph Kusmerek, Faith Brugler, Kayla Haynie, Taylor Kuhn, Nate Goldner, and Bryce VanHorn

A SPRING MARY GARDEN

by Sarah Boyle

Although spring officially begins in March, I often think of the actual start as Easter. After a long dreary winter, spring always brings so much anticipation and hope for the future. The yearning and waiting through Lent for Jesus's resurrection is now here and with it comes an abundance of joy. The same is true for the season of spring. Even the smallest bloom of flowers demonstrates new life and brings much joy.

This year my children and I started a new spring tradition, "A Mary Garden." I am always trying to figure out fun and intriguing ways to teach my children

about the Catholic faith. A Mary Garden is a very simple spring activity to honor The Blessed Virgin Mary. Furthermore, the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady which is a great time to make this garden.

What you need:

1. A pot (I used terracotta pots I already had)
2. Flowers (I let each child pick the flowers for their own pot that reminded them of Mary)
3. Potting soil
4. A Mary statue (we thrifted ours at a local antique store).

Every morning when they water their flowers, we talk about Mary and pray for her intercession or say a

decade of the rosary. It's just another way to live out our faith daily and to build our domestic church. I hope that if others decide to plant their own Mary Garden that it will inspire peace, creativity, and prayer.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2023

Saint William teens collected donations after every Mass on Super Bowl Sunday weekend, February 11 & 12. Non Perishable goods and monetary donations were collected as part of the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring program. Non-perishable goods were given to the St. Vincent DePaul food pantries at St. Mary & Joseph Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. In the photo above, Kayla Haynie and Taylor Kuhn display the generosity of Saint William Parishioners. Thank you!



*“To receive the ‘new blessing’ we long for,
we have to let go of the ‘old blessing’ of what once was.”*

~Very Reverend Michael D. Balash. Homily April 24, 2023.

Inspired by the words of Father Balash, please mark your calendar and plan to attend Welcome Weekend for our ‘new blessing,’ Father Ryan Furlong.

Father Furlong's first Mass as pastor of Saint William Parish will be the



weekend of May 20 at 4:00 p.m. and May 21 at 10:30 a.m.

The Women's Guild cordially invites you to attend a reception after each Mass to welcome and meet Father Furlong.



Mark your calendar and plan to attend the letting go of our ‘old blessing.’

Father Balash's last Mass as pastor of Saint William Parish will be the weekend of May 13 at 4:00 p.m. and May 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Father Balash will be back to visit and celebrate



Mass with us on May 27 at 4:00 p.m. and May 28 at 10:30 a.m.

The Women's Guild cordially invites you to attend a reception after each Mass so that we can give Father Balash a proper goodbye.



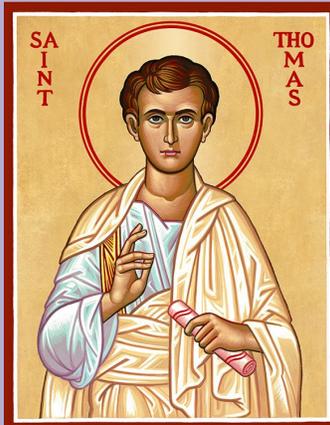
SAINTS OF THE TRUMBULL NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

by Therese Tuttle

St. Thomas was born a Jew and became one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus.

St. Thomas was also known as Doubting Thomas because he initially doubted the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He also was called Didymus. His birth and death date in unknown. He lived before the formal establishment of the Catholic Church but is recognized as the patron saint of architects. St. Thomas first speaks in the Gospel of John. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus. Thomas says: “Let us also go, that we may die with him” (John 11:16). At the last supper, when Jesus told His Apostles that He was going away to prepare a place for his followers, so that one day they may join him there. Thomas pleaded: “Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?” (John 14:5). The Apostles received assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. St. Thomas is best

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE Patron Saint of St. Thomas Church



known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Jesus. His

unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas." (John 20:24-29). St. Thomas is also mentioned as being present at another Resurrection appearance of Jesus - at Lake Tiberias, when a miraculous catch of fish occurred. It is believed that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost, St. Thomas was sent to convert the Parthians, Medes, and Persians to Christian faith. He ultimately reached India, carrying Christian values to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas." It is commonly accepted that St. Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck St. Thomas instead. St. Thomas's feast day is celebrated July 3.

MOSQUITO LAKE'S BIG BIRDING WEEKEND

by Cathy Poponak

"Every bird, every tree, every flower reminds me what a blessing and privilege it is just to be alive." ~ Marty Rubin.

Take some time out of your busy schedule for a weekend of bird watching activities at Mosquito Lake State Park on May 19 and 20. Birding activities include guided hikes, pontoon and kayak excursions, photography 101, bird house building, and so much more. Whether you are an experienced birder or a beginner, a child or an adult, there is something of interest for everyone. Some of the birds you might see are the Prothonotary Warbler, Wilson's Snipe, Purple Martin, Eastern Bluebird, and the Barred Owl.

You might see some familiar faces from St. William there too. Park naturalist Jason Lee has been organizing this event for months and will be on hand to answer questions throughout the weekend. Theresa Craiger and I will be leading a walk along the bluebird house trail, opening the boxes, and allowing people to view nests, eggs, and hatchlings. Theresa's husband Steve will conduct the prothonotary program. If you take a pontoon excursion, Chuck Poponak will be your pilot.

So, mark your calendar for May 19 and 20, check the Mosquito Creek State Park webpage at <http://tinyurl.com/lakeprograms>, and click on the big birding weekend for the complete itinerary.



**Mosquito Lake's
Big Birding Weekend**

When: May 19-20th 2023

Where: Mosquito Lake State Park

What: A weekend of bird hikes, pontoon excursions, photography programs, live bird exhibits, and much more for the beginner or any level of birder.

For more information, check the park program webpage at tinyurl.com/lakeprograms and click on the Big Birding Weekend



...FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

by Therese Tuttle

The cold snowy months were short and sweet, leading to an early spring. My flower gardens are blooming with new young flowers and the trees are budding. It is time to start planning camping trips, summer vacations, and various outdoor parties. This wonderful weather has inspired me to start my spring cleaning.



The Women's Guild ended the long cold winter months with the March meeting in which Louise Crump presented us with her personal paintings as well as other impressionists' paintings. In April, officers were nominated and voted on; and the program that evening included a fascinating presentation



Spring is Early – Hallelujah

by Marissa McIntyre Farris about the Titanic.

This year the Women's Guild hosted a "Purse Bingo" event on April 20. The event sold out well in advance and the evening was a fun and exciting success. The results will be presented at a future WG meeting. New officers have been sworn into their position during the May 3 meeting. The event was held at Enzo's Restaurant on Elm Road.

The annual Marian Devotion Banquet was held on May 7 at 12:00 p.m. featuring great food and a fun CAKE WALK. In late May/early June, the organizational committee will meet to plan for the

upcoming 2023-2024 year. If interested in joining a committee or helping with one of the many events hosted by the Women's Guild, please contact one of the officers or the parish office for more information so someone can explain how you can be a part of something wonderful.

IMPORTANT: The Trunk Sale has been cancelled due to parking lot construction. Looking ahead to August we look forward to the Parish Picnic, August 13. Have a fun, safe, and wonderful summer and remember all women of the church are members of the Women's Guild – no need to join, just come and have fun!

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

by Lynn Vastag

Back in the 1960's I first started working at Packard Electric (now Delphi, APTIV) in Warren, Ohio. At that time Packard Electric provided electric parts for General Motors cars and about 80% of the 10,000+ employees were female. As we did our repetitive jobs every few minutes and while the conveyor belts moved around in front of us, we would discuss numerous subjects to pass the time.

"What's for Dinner" was a question that came up every single day. Everyone listened carefully for ideas or recipes as we took turns bragging about last night's menu or what's planned for tonight's dinner. Many of us were regularly held in awe as we listened to a small Italian lady, close to retirement age, as she described the many delicious, homemade meals that she made. She happily said she would teach us how to make her famous "Sauce and Meatballs" if we would like. Of course, we all said "YES!"

Not long after, on a Saturday morning, a small group of us met at her home for a cooking lesson. It was a new experience for many of us as we took turns stirring sauce and rolling and frying meatballs. Then, much to our great surprise, a wonderful aroma filled the air and it was time to feast on the most delicious meal we couldn't believe that we had made.

I use the exact recipe to this day and have never changed it! One thing that I am certain of is that the coworker that shared this with me so many years ago would be delighted that I am sharing this recipe with you. I truly hope that you enjoy this delicious and easy recipe. The meatball recipe makes a lot of meatballs so I always double the sauce recipe. You won't be disappointed...it is that good!



SAUCE

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 2 small cans tomato paste
- 1 (#1 13oz) can tomato sauce
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- ½ tsp dry basil
- ½ tsp dry oregano
- 1 tsp white sugar
- ½ cup parmesan cheese

1. Chop onion and garlic, brown in large pot in 2 Tbsp olive oil.
2. Add basil and oregano. Mix and heat for 2-3 minutes.
3. Add 2 small cans of tomato paste. Stir until hot.
4. Fill each paste can 4 times with cold water and add to the pot. Stir.
5. Add 1 can tomato sauce, 1 tsp white sugar and ½ cup parmesan cheese. Stir.
6. Cook on medium heat for 2 hours. Stir occasionally.
7. Add meatballs and cook for 1 hour.

MEATBALLS

- 2 # ground beef
 - ½ # ground pork
 - 2 eggs
 - ¼ tsp each: salt, pepper, oregano, garlic salt, parmesan cheese, and dry parsley
 - 1 cup breadcrumbs
 - 1 tsp water
1. Make medium size meatballs.
 2. Brown in a frying pan, then bake in oven 15-20 minutes on 300°.
 3. Drop in sauce and cook for 1 hour in sauce.



CONFIRMATION 2023

Kyle Haynie, Ty Horm, Bishop Bonnar, Father Balash, and Mario Humenik

REMEMBER WHEN...?!?!?!?



Do you remember when the church building was so new that large lawns of grass wrapped all the way around the building? How about when the south side of the building didn't have a kitchen? Now that we are on having a new parking lot installed do you remember when the parking lot was gravel...and lots smaller?

These pictures, and a few others, were found in an envelope in the old office building. They were discovered behind some woodwork in a closet when the building was being torn down. How fun it has been going through these photos! I had forgotten some of our history...including the full size baseball

field behind the church building. I can remember playing kickball on there before Monday night CCD back in the 1970's.

If you have any stories you would like to tell, let's talk. I am always ready to hear a good story and we just might have a great article for a future newsletter. As always, pictures are happily scanned and printed in newsletters for everyone to walk down memory lane. Call Dan Robinson at 330-847-8677.



VBS: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God



We will be On a Roll with God at Vacation Bible school! This party includes exciting new music, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories that will help children turn to God for all they need and join God in providing for the needs of others.

VBS Food Truck Party is for children ages 5 through 11.
The Party Runs from June 12 – 16, 2023 9:15 a.m. – Noon
at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 3020 Reeves Road, Warren

Registration deadline: June 1, 2023. Cost \$10.00 payable to Blessed Sacrament Parish. Children in grades 6-12 are encouraged to apply to be part of the VBS team! See Mrs. McCue for an application.



<http://www.stwilliamchampion.org>

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St. William Catholic Church

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