

# LORICA

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PATRICK PARISH, FRANKLIN PA

## PERSPECTIVE

Appreciating the Past  
Savoring the Present  
Preparing for the Future



# Welcome to Lorica

*Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

-From the Breastplate of St. Patrick

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the very first edition of St. Patrick's Lorica Magazine. Lorica is Latin for "Breastplate." The term Lorica can also be translated "body armor." The name of this publication was chosen in honor of our Patron, St. Patrick, who composed a powerful prayer of deliverance by the same name. The "Breastplate of St. Patrick" is a formidable tool in the arsenal of faith and holy religion. It is a prayer of strength and confidence that summons the powers of Heaven against the powers of Hell.



In William Shakespeare's romantic tragedy Romeo and Juliet, the female protagonist, Juliet Capulet, asks: "What is in a name?" She says, "That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet." The

Montagues and Capulets placed great stock in their name brands, and the choice of this title was also given great consideration. It is my hope that this work will be a labor of prayer, a useful tool in strengthening the faith of its readers, and that the articles and stories contained in this magazine will inspire, strengthen, and build up confidence and

community among this publication's readership.

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul speaks of "the breastplate of righteousness" (Eph 6:14) and in his First Letter to the Thessalonians, he speaks of "the breastplate of faith and love" (1 Thes 5:8). What is in a name? It seems that there is much in a name, and I hope that this publication will live up to its name and will be a breastplate that protects that most vital organ within our parish – the heart.

I hope this publication will help you, the reader, to appreciate the storied past of St. Patrick Church, to savor the present work and ministry, and to be inspired by the enriching tales of parishioners of yesterday and today, who are the rings linking present to past. May the Divine Blacksmith, through a process of drawing, coiling, and weaving, create us anew into the armor and breastplate of tomorrow.

In Christ,

*Rev. James C. Campbell*

Rev. James C. Campbell

# BIG APPLE *Seeds*

## PLANTED FOR THE FUTURE



The young woman glided down the aisle arm-in-arm with her parents, as a Bach chorale swelled to fill the sanctuary. The audience filling the pews of St. Patrick Cathedral turned to watch her as she approached the altar to vow her commitment to her new spouse. This was no typical wedding; it was the Perpetual Profession of Vows for the new members of the Sisters of Life. Several young ladies from St. Patrick Parish had the honor of witnessing the ceremony as part of a pilgrimage to New York City in August. Accompanied by Father Campbell and a group of adult chaperones, the twelve girls (ranging in age from 6 to 16) made the trek to experience first-hand the beauty of religious life.

The jam-packed 3-day itinerary began with a ferry ride through New York Harbor. "Seeing the Statue of Liberty from a ship was my favorite part of the trip," noted Amelia Merkel, 11. The following day, the group rose early to make their way to St. Patrick Cathedral to witness the vow ceremony. As they approached the towering Cathedral, the girls were greeted by the sight of dozens of vibrant, joyful young nuns, milling around the cathedral in their distinctive blue habits. Many of the girls seemed awestruck by the solemnity of the occasion. "I liked when their parents walked the nuns down the aisle like a wedding!" enthused Caroline Wachob, 6. Helena Burkett, 13, added that her favorite part was "when the



"It was beautiful. The vows they said were very inspiring."

- Beatrice Kolesar

nuns said their vows to Mother Superior," in a moving scene. This sentiment was echoed by Beatrice Kolesar, 16, who noted, "It was beautiful. The vows they said were very inspiring."

The remainder of the day's sightseeing included savoring the local cuisine ("the chocolate mousse cheesecake at Junior's in Time Square!" was a favorite of Juliette Wachob, 9) and delighting in the eccentricities of city life ("My favorite part was meeting a cat on a motorcycle," mused Willa Merkel, 7), capped off with a rousing Broadway musical. "The Broadway show was so cool!" according to Caroline, and Aniella McNulty, 11, added "I've never been to one before!"

On the final day of the trip, the group visited the shrine and relics of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, who spent many years serving the poor immigrants of New York.

The girls absorbed the details of Mother Cabrini's life during the visit. Juliette was amazed that the saint "was scared of water but still crossed the ocean 27 times." Helena noted that "Mother Cabrini really wanted to go to China to be a missionary, but she never made it" and Agnes Kolesar, 10, added, "But she did what God wanted her to do and fed a lot of poor

children in New York." Isabel McNulty, 13, recalled learning that "her heart was incorrupt," while Sarah McNulty, 9, summed up the beloved saint concisely: "She was very short, and her love for Jesus was very strong."

The whole trip was an eye-opening experience that provided the girls with much to ponder about their own vocations and left them with an inspiring impression of religious life. As noted by Aniella, "The nuns seem so happy when they're praising the Lord!"



## profiles of marriage

by Rev. James C. Campbell



### *Don and Jean Gibbons*

As Christians we believe that Marriage is not simply a contract but a covenant. It is not simply sacred but sacramental – a visible sign of a hidden reality that gives grace. This is what St. Paul teaches in his Letter to the Ephesians when he speaks of marriage between a man and a woman as “a great mystery” - he is speaking “in reference to Christ and His Church.” Paul, writing in Greek, uses the word “Mysterion,” which translated into Latin is “sacramentum.” In this sense, Marriage is the only sacrament referred to as a sacrament in all of scripture. In everyday language the word mystery means “something beyond human comprehension.” However, in the Greek, it means “that which is revealed but remains concealed.” St. Paul is communicating to his audience and teaching them that “marriage is more than a mere human arrangement.” It is a manifestation of the spousal union of Christ with his bride, the Church. In short, Christian marriage makes Christ’s espousal of the Church, Christ’s love for the Church, visible to the whole world.

The union of man and wife communicates the union between Jesus and the Church - the two are one. They are unique but not separate, united in a mystical bond – a marriage bond. The sacrifice, the gift, the mutual love of husband and wife is a visible sign of Jesus’ love for his bride the Church. And we see this love displayed most profoundly, most powerfully, and most especially upon the Cross. The Cross is the principle expression of God’s love. Scripture says: “No greater love does one have than to lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13). On the Cross Jesus reveals a love that is generous, self-giving, and sacrificial. This issue of Lorica profiles two couples from St. Patrick Church who mirror and reflect the Love of Jesus as revealed upon the Cross and who have carried out the duties of marriage with love and fidelity for over 70 years.

Just outside the town of Franklin up Congress Hill Road where the sound of rushing traffic is replaced by the chirping of birds, there sits a house that was built by a young man, freshly out of the Army, and his father. That young man was Don Gibbons, a laborer, who was just starting his storied career of 43 years at Miller Equipment. The year was 1956. Each evening after coming home from work and eating dinner with his wife and children, young Don would join up with his old man and go to work building his house. An accomplished craftsman and natural handyman, Don’s father knew what it took to build a house and to build it right, and so he insisted that the two of them labor, toil, and work, not just late into the evenings, but every weekend as well. The father and son duo persisted for nearly a year and their work paid off. The result was a formidable brick structure that still stands today. Little did he know that he and the love of his life, his wife Jean, would live there together well into their 90’s.



enjoying each other's company, while maintaining good health and independence, working together in their garden, sharing meals and playing cards.

Over the years Don and Jean transformed that house into a home where they raised their four children: Ron, Lori, Jerry, and Linda. Don and Jean were schooled in the art of Family Life by their own parents Elmer and Helen Gibbons of Rocky Grove and Henry and Hilda Hargenrader of Fryburg. Jean was raised on a farm and helped her father and mother every morning before school. Work held a prominent place in many families at the time; it was one of the hallmarks of American life, and it was certainly a priority in the Hargenrader home. In addition to the chores and duties around the house and the demands of the farm, Jean's father would have to go to work on the oil well at night. As for Jean's mother, from baking and cooking to sewing and making clothes to painting and fixing things around the house - you name it, she could do it. From this tiny little glimpse into Jean's upbringing, it should come as no surprise that, after raising her children, Jean would go to work in the school cafeteria for 23 years preparing meals for children throughout the area and collecting a little pension as well. Don's family, too, was well acquainted with hard work; his father was a machinist at CPT (Chicago Pneumatic Tool) and an avid outdoorsman, while his mother was a dedicated wife and mother. Don's father left him with a wealth of knowledge about the great outdoors along with the skills needed to be an accomplished hunter and fisherman. Both

Don and Jean learned from an early age the value of hard work and the value of a hard-earned dollar. However, it wasn't all work and no play at the Gibbons household, as the couple have countless stories of their years together and the time they spent with their children.

Don recounted memories of the family at Cook Forest, enjoying the outdoors, "bagging about 50 bucks" over the span of his lifetime and fishing streams and lakes throughout the region with his wife. On one memorable occasion when Don and Jean were fishing in Pymatuning they caught 150 crappie, which may be why the limit for catching crappie at Pymatuning today is 20.

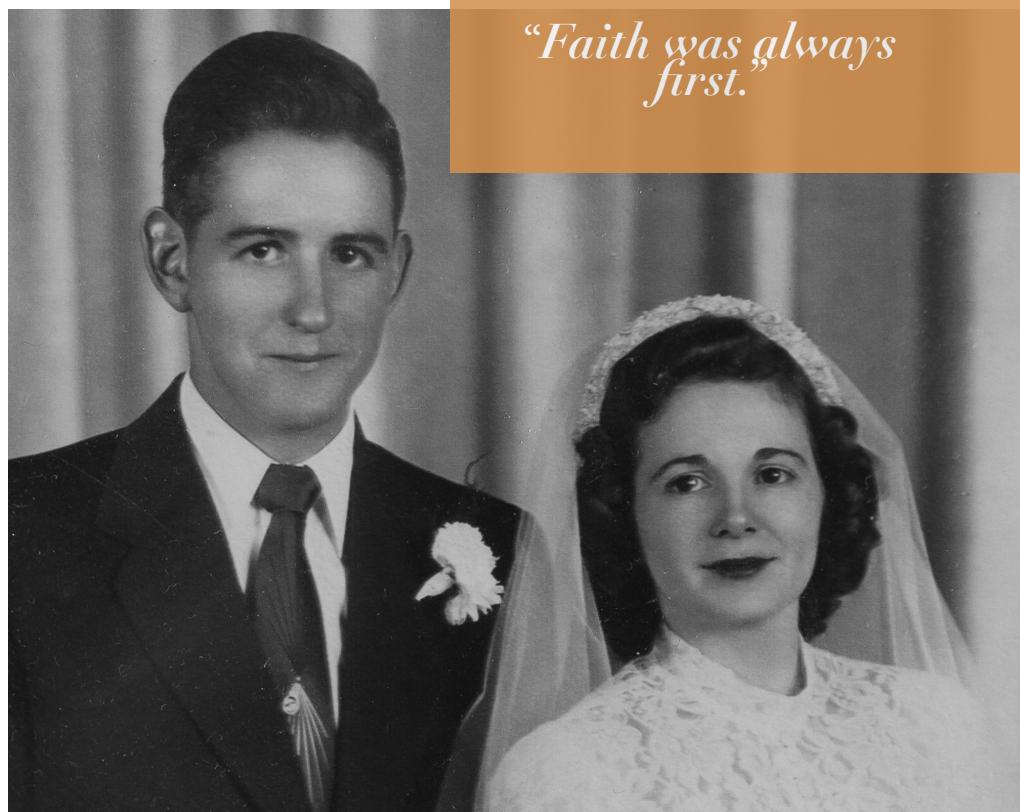
Don and Jean have lived a life of joy and

sorrow; having lost their son, Jerry, in his early 20's, and living to see their family grow to include 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. The two have been married 71 years and, when asked what the secret recipe was to a long and happy marriage, Jean jokingly acknowledged that you must live long and that fresh vegetables from their homegrown garden helped them to do just that. Then she said, "We always got along, never fought, had the patience of Job, and a deep admiration and respect for one another." To conclude she added a bit of advice, "Never go to bed angry and try to do things together."

"Now," she said as she wrapped up the interview, "faith was always first. We never missed Mass. I say my daily rosary and we pray our night prayers every night."

It was evident, sitting in the kitchen and smelling the 50 jars of freshly-made spaghetti sauce that Jean had started making at 4:00 a.m. that day, that the Gibbons knew a thing or two about secret recipes and the ingredients necessary for a flourishing, life-long, and loving marriage together. It was truly a delight to converse with Don and Jean in their home. While driving away and seeing that old brick house on Congress Hill Road fade away in the rearview mirror, one thing remained clear as day, and that was the realization that Jesus was the rock foundation of that house built 70 years ago and still standing strong today.

*"Faith was always first."*



## ***Jack and Betty Adams***

It was the early 1950's and a post-war spirit of optimism swept across the nation. Nowhere was this spirit more vibrant than middle America. Small towns throughout the north were hustling and bustling, and family-owned businesses were going strong. The streets were lined with classic cars manufactured by Mercury, Ford, Buick, Oldsmobile, and Chevrolet. Downtown was thriving with mom-and-pop stores and restaurants, while ethnic neighborhoods competed with one another to display their heritage, pride, and patriotism. Storefront windows were large and showcased the latest toys, clothing, and mechanical novelties. This was the atmosphere when a young Jack Adams stood on his front porch in Rocky Grove on a sunny afternoon and watched as the American flag waved in the wind and a parade passed by his house. He watched as notable figures drove slowly down the street waving to the crowds, fire trucks honked their horns, and the marching band played their instruments and performed their favorite pieces for the spectators who sat outside in lawn chairs, on porch steps, and on the street curbs.

Just then Betty Snyder, a young majorette dressed in uniform, passed by his house performing her technical dance

routine while twirling her baton and throwing it into the air. Her presence and elegance seemed to captivate the young man who stood there admiring her talent and vowed to marry her someday.

Not one to slouch around and waste time, young Jack quickly identified the young woman and found out that she would occasionally stop by the ice-cream parlor on Fridays after school. With his mind made up and his confidence bolstered by a supporting cast of friends, young Jack pulled off the heist of the century, broke into his own piggy bank, and decided to buy some ice-cream or a soda for a girl he hadn't even met before. When Betty entered the shop, the local ambulance was put on notice as Jack's heart seemed to stop momentarily and the clammy handed boy shuffled across the room and introduced himself as "Jack Adams, the guy that's going to marry you someday."

After a few double dates with Judy Reed and Tom Gibbons, two or three horse shows, and a few drive-in movies (which were interrupted by an eager attendant, who nervously paced by the line of cars knocking on windows when he'd catch people hugging too closely

Her presence and elegance seemed to  
*captivate* the young man



in their vehicles), Jack and Betty were ready to take the plunge, to dive in, to tie the knot, and get married.

The 20-year old Army MP fresh out of high school and home from Germany proposed to the 18-year old Betty Snyder, who accepted his proposal with her now legendary golden smile and tears in her eyes that sparkled a little more than usual that day. The two got married at St. Patrick Church in 1953. Little did the couple know just how big a role that Church would play in their lives and the lives of their six boys. Yes, you heard that correctly, Jack and Betty would go on to have six children together and all of them were boys.

They always went to church and Jack even became Catholic for Betty. To this day he claims that his choice to become Catholic is the best thing he ever did, not just for Betty, but for himself and for his family.

Jack and Betty started their new life together atop of the Knights of Columbus Hall. The two cleaned and cared for the facility and assisted at almost every event. In return, they were able to live in the small apartment upstairs rent-free until Jack was able to save enough money to build their first house at 440 Liberty Street in Franklin.

Jack worked as a machinist for over 20 years at CPT (Chicago Pneumatic Tool) and then at Joy Manufacturing for 17 years. In addition to his work as a machinist, he'd paint houses in the evenings and opened a bicycle shop in town. He remembers when St. Patrick's erected their new gymnasium in the 1950's and the countless games he coached as the St. Patrick's boys'

basketball head coach. He has fond memories of the team's travels to Meadville, Oil City, Greenville, and Grove City to play against their opponents. Jack also mowed grass for the parish during those years and still holds the record for all-time miles with a push lawn mower.

Betty taught dance, which turned out to be a lucrative endeavor as the young girls were more than eager to come to her house and take lessons with her six handsome boys, who would assist as dancing partners for the young ladies in training. Around the time that her husband was coaching boys' basketball, the school needed someone to teach Phys. Ed., and they approached Betty with an offer she couldn't refuse, "low pay with heavenly benefits." Betty taught gym class for the next 10 years, which brings with it an indulgence of 30,000 days from Purgatory.

Jack and Betty have many happy memories of their married life together, camping at Kinzua, boating, skiing, swimming with the children, going to dances at the K of C Hall where they dressed up for one dance as a dog and dog trainer. They enjoyed going to each other's dance recitals, basketball games, and even golfing.

When asked to sum up their marriage of over 70 years, Jack said that it was "all joy" and that he "couldn't have asked for a better wife." For her part, Betty said, Marriage is "great", but she said, "it's better together." Now in their 90's, Jack lives at home while Betty is a resident at the Caring Place. The two have 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren and are very grateful for all the blessings of Married Life.



"It was all *joy*."

- Jack Adams

# Conversations

St. Patrick parishioners may have noticed several new faces around lately due to a whopping 17 new Catholics joining the parish in the past year. Before they were able to join the Catholic faith, the new members were required to graduate from the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA); an intensive course of study based on a 20-part video series and individual lessons taught by Fr. Campbell. Father noted that the number of new converts “certainly seems unique,” adding, “I would be surprised if any other parish in the diocese had as many come through RCIA last year.”

The RCIA graduates confirmed this year include Jason Crawford, Harley & Robin Moore, Debra Kapp, David Stierheim, Scott Russell, Terry O’Neil, Diana Simon, Allison Hartle, and Sarah Merkel. Several children were also baptized and confirmed, including Ronan and Maeve Hartle, Katherine Rugh, Neveah Gay, and Ethan, Eli and Elliot Crawford.

For some of the converts, the choice to become Catholic was a lightbulb “aha!” moment. David, an automation engineer, “felt drawn by God.” Others took a more meandering path. Diana, a homemaker, was “a self-described agnostic” when she met her Catholic husband. After a decade of observing, reading and asking questions about Catholicism, Diana says she “finally came to the humbling, and yet somehow reassuring conclusion that I had previously figured the world all wrong.” Sarah, an environmental consultant, was raised in the Presbyterian church and put off converting for many years even though her husband and children were Catholic. Despite starting RCIA with little knowledge of Catholicism, she notes that “as my knowledge has grown, so have my love for and interest in Catholicism. It’s been a very happy surprise.”



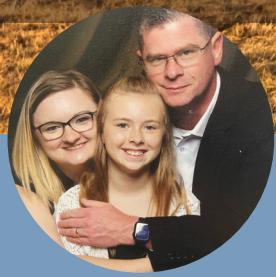
**Allison Hartle (Mother of 2)**  
Interests: Coaching soccer, travel, reading

*The sense of community that my family and I have gained from being a part of St. Patrick Parish is the most meaningful to me. I also appreciate the religious and faith-based structure that the Parish has provided for my children and me.*



**Debra Kapp (Mother of 2)**  
Interests: physical, mental and spiritual health

*The kindness, friendliness and acceptance of the congregants has had the greatest impact. The nature of group efforts to serve the church and the community provide ample opportunity for fellowship and service. What a great group of people!*



**Terry O’Neil (Father of 1)**  
Interests: work, family, cooking, serving my parish & community  
*My learning does not have to end after RCIA. There is so much to learn and to give of myself. St. Patrick parish, Fr. Campbell and Deacon O’Polka not only saved my life and soul, they have given me a whole new life that I can be proud of and share with my family.*

# with the Converts

For Terry O'Neill and Debra Kapp, visiting a number of churches helped them realize that Catholicism was the clear choice. Consultant Debra explains, "I knew very little about Catholicism and had been visiting a broad variety of churches." She decided to join St. Patrick after "being exposed to the vibrant congregation and numerous opportunities to express my faith." After studying history and other religions, security professional Terry determined that "we are the one true church that Jesus Christ himself started. Who else can receive communion every single day but Catholics?"

For attorney Allison Hartle and Scott Russell, a retired auto mechanic, embracing Catholicism stemmed from a deep-rooted personal history with the faith. Allison, who attended Catholic school and often accompanied her grandparents to Mass, became Catholic "because I wanted to provide my children with the spiritual and religious example that I desired for them." Scott's mother and grandmother were Catholic, so he "grew up with the Catholic faith" and catechism "reinforced what I already knew."

All agreed that the individual guidance provided by Fr. Campbell during RCIA was illuminating. Debra noted that the format "tailored the instruction to me" while Sarah found that it "dispelled many of the misconceptions that Protestants have about the Catholic faith." Diana appreciated the insights from Father Campbell's homily compilations, and Allison was engaged by the historical aspects.

Terry's depiction of his new faith likely resonated with all the new Catholics: "The most meaningful aspects have been receiving the Eucharist...and the sacraments; actually seeing and noticing the positive changes it has brought to, not only my life, but my family's."



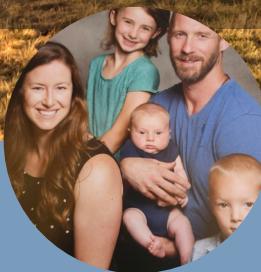
**Sarah Merkel**  
(Mother of 3)

Interests: Travel, reading, meditation, home repair  
*I love that there are so many opportunities to live our faith and experience God daily, through adoration, daily Mass, Holy Hour, and all the special ministries.*



**Scott Russell**  
(Father of 2)

Interests: NASCAR and dirt track racing, cooking, working on cars  
*Working in the kitchen at St. Patrick has been meaningful. I enjoy meeting everyone and being with the guys in the kitchen.*



**Diana Simon**  
(Mother of 3)

Interests: Gardening, hiking, raising farm animals  
*Taking part in communion is the most meaningful aspect of parish life for me.*



**David Stierheim**  
(Father of 2)

Interests: Family, home improvements, motorcycles, antique cars  
*Since joining St. Patrick, my prayer time has grown and become more meaningful.*

St. Patrick School  
*honoring*  
 its history

by Dr. John Karian

**Father James McCloskey**  
 along with the Sisters of Mercy  
 commenced operation of the  
 Sacred Heart Academy, as it was  
 once called, on September 3, 1894.



St. Patrick Church members had raised \$14,000 and, along with the collective contributed labor of its own skilled craftsmen, opened doors to 162 girls and boys. The Church had been dedicated twenty-four years earlier, in 1870.

Indeed, this was a unique point in the history of the United States of America. Then-President Grover Cleveland continued in efforts to heal the 44 states from the devastating social and economic effects of the Civil War which had ended just three decades earlier. Thousands of European immigrants, chiefly from Ireland, Italy and Poland, in addition to Civil War soldiers, were moving to Northwest Pennsylvania,

and Venango County in particular, to participate in the great economic boom unleashed by the discovery, production and refinement of crude oil. Henry Ford's dream of a "Model T" was two years into the future.

Sr. Mary Cecilia Keeney was the Superior, Principal, and Grade 7 and 8 teacher. She, along with six other Sisters, had arrived by steam engine to live in the "Convent School" complete with four classrooms and a small Chapel. The Sisters of Mercy continued to serve as Principals for the next century. Complementing the ordered Religious were lay principals and faculty choosing to serve and sacrifice to maintain the school's Parochial ethic despite the attraction of the competing



Catholic education has aimed to *fortify*

financially-lucrative public school system. Mrs. Carol Long was St. Patrick's last principal and served 21 years until her retirement in 2019.

It is in this setting that some thoughts on Catholic education should be expressed. Catholic education has aimed to fortify and supplement the child's home formation of their spiritual, social, and ethical capacities in addition to providing the classic academic curriculums (the 3 R's, Science, Music, History, Civics, and athletics). This holistic approach has been employed successfully to the thousands of students who had attended, and will in the future, attend classes in a Parochial environment.

It was in June 1896 that the first six students graduated from the Sacred Heart Academy. No doubt that besides signing their diplomas, Sister Mary Cecelia gave the graduates the admonition to go forth and "Know, Love, and Serve God to Achieve Eternal Life." These words have served as the guiding beacon through the lives of the thousands of students that have followed, despite the ever-changing currents of the popular culture and history itself.

Increasing school enrollment followed in the post-World War II baby boom. It had become necessary to convert existing building space for more classrooms. This was accomplished by then-Pastor Father Urban Barrett by purchasing property nearby on Liberty Street for a Sisters of Mercy Convent. This increased focus on elementary education along with rising costs,

space, and accreditation requirements for a high school curriculum, prompted the closure of the high school, and renaming of the school from the Sacred Heart Academy to Saint Patrick School. Dion Auditorium was added in 1956 to expand physical education programs and allow students to participate in the Diocesan inter-scholastic activities.

Despite war (Alumni have served and died in all the major conflicts), financial calamities, pandemics, and seismic demographic dislocations, the Alumni of St. Patrick School have gone forth to contribute positively to society as individuals, family members, community leaders, educators, and professionals in virtually every vocational endeavor.

*In the summer of 2019, Saint Patrick School merged with Venango Region Catholic Schools and St. Patrick School ceased to exist as a legal entity. In the fall of 2020, it was decided that the student body would attend classes at Saint Stephen School in Oil City. From 2020 until the present the school building sat vacant. As a result, the Parish Council and the Finance Council, under the direction of Father James Campbell, voted unanimously to adopt a path of sustainability which involved the elimination of the old school structure along with the adjacent office building.*

# a family's *Roots run deep* at St. Patrick School

by Cindy Supak

When Father James announced at a town hall meeting that St. Patrick School would be torn down my sister Kathy looked at me and asked, "Are you ok?" She knew how much that school meant to me. I said no and cried all the way to my car and went home. I am a 4th generation parishioner of St. Patrick Parish. My family roots run deep at that school. My parents went to catechism classes there. My great grandparents were around in the 1890's when that school was brand new. I like to think that they had some part in the construction of the school. Maybe they contributed financially or maybe they volunteered in some way. But I know my family history and I surely know they prayed for the children who would benefit from a Catholic education. And now it was coming down.



Over the months before the school was torn down, I was sad and upset. After hearing all that was wrong with the building, I knew that the committee was trying to do what was in the Parish's best interest, but my heart still hurt.

After the school was down, it took me weeks before I could even look at that empty space. I made Rich park way down Liberty Street, not in the parking lot, so I wouldn't have to walk past it. I don't believe that St. Patrick's was just a building of bricks, wood, and glass. Very much the contrary. Our Mother Church has a rich patrimony which she preserves and treasures. This is evident in her vast collection of art and architecture. The school as well as the church here at St. Patrick's are so many jewels and gems, a gift from past generations and part of St. Patrick's family heirloom. What happened inside that building formed my life and made me the person that I am. I am a proud 1967 graduate of St. Patrick School.

It wasn't just math and science and history that I learned there. I learned respect for others. I learned that every person matters. But most of all I learned a love of God and a deep love of my Catholic faith. When the time came to send our daughters to school there was no question where they would go. They too are proud St. Patrick's graduates, Erin in 1994 and Kelly in 1997. They learned respect and a love of the Catholic faith, too. Both are married and have children. When it came time for their children to go to school, they chose to send them to a Catholic school, and I know it's because of their experience at St. Pat's. I give credit to what they learned at that school to how they are living their lives today. I give thanks to all the teachers who taught them. They still tell stories about their St. Patrick school days.

The bricks and wood and glass are gone (well, not all the bricks – I swiped a few) but St. Patrick School remains in the hearts and souls of many people who went there.

Sharing my thoughts and feelings and writing these words down has been a healing experience for me, and if you are a St. Pat's graduate you will surely understand.

To conclude, I thank God and all the people who made St. Patrick School what it was. For the lessons I learned and the memories I cherish will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Seeing our beloved and cherished school no longer there is difficult and sad. However, St. Paul offers us some consolation in words written to the First Century Christians of Corinth. He urges them not to be discouraged. He acknowledges their suffering and affliction. Lastly, he instructs them to "look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18).

# Feeding the Hungry

## *A Corporal Work of Mercy*

by Heidi Lucia

**HISTORY:** In 2004 when Monsignor John Herbein wanted to start a parish Food Pantry, he asked Maloy (Beach) Shrout to be a key player in its creation. Along with Ken Kudlac and their team, Maloy worked with Second Harvest to set up a pantry. About 30 families arrived on the first distribution day. Enrollment quickly climbed to over 100 families.

In 2009 Shawnee Novak and Barb Miller took over managing the Pantry and increased revenue with donations from the Eagles, Elks, and VFW.

Debbie Drayer took the reins in 2015 and, along with Suzanne Chytil and a board of directors, now oversees the food pantry's operations. Today, they serve over 200 families each year. The Food Pantry recently relocated to the Knights of Columbus Hall on upper Liberty Street. Debbie secured two \$5,000 gifts from Komatsu to help with moving and the cost of a new freezer. The Knights contributed their labor for the remodeling.

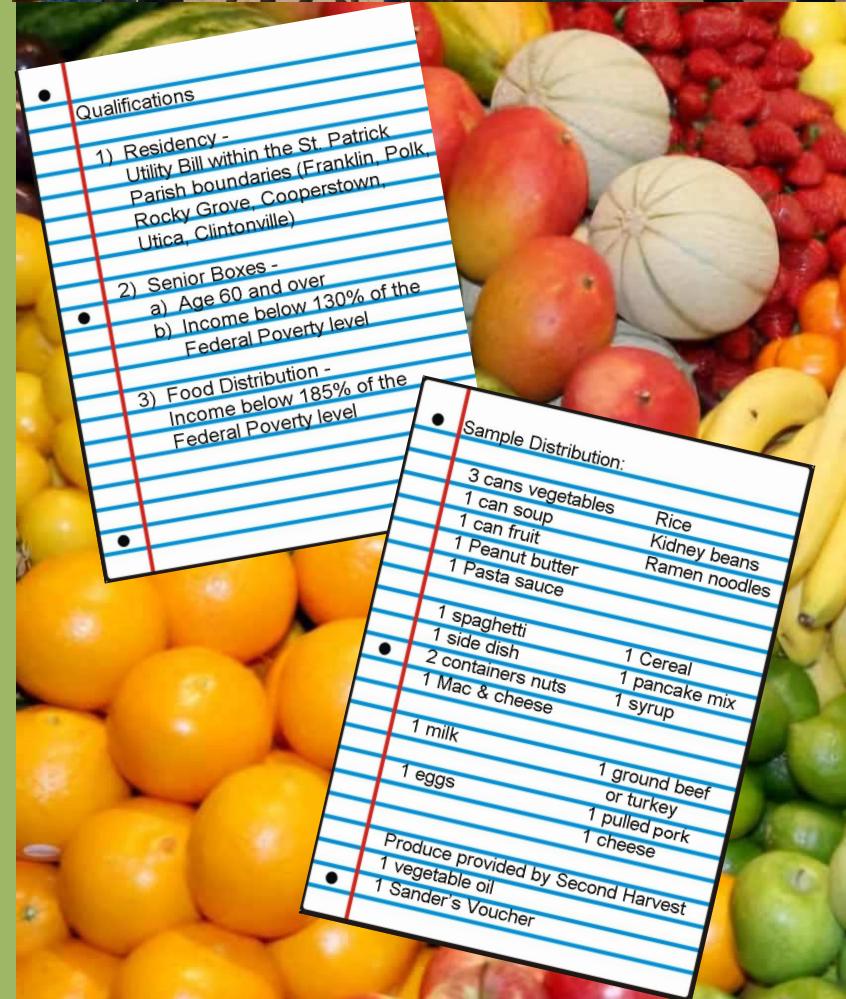
**DISTRIBUTION:** The Second Harvest truck arrives on the second Thursday of the month and distribution is set for the following Saturday.

**BUDGET:** The rent for the pantry space is the biggest expense at \$1,600 per month, and, right now, the church is paying that. The Second Harvest expenditure averages less than \$600 each month, and the monthly vouchers to Sander's Markets cost approximately \$1,300. Recently a \$5,000 annual county grant was received which helps to pay for the Second Harvest delivery each month. With special government programs like TFAP, the pantry is able to keep costs down.

**PARISHIONER SUPPORT:** If you are interested in helping to unload, pack, or distribute food or donate food items, please contact Sue Keelan who coordinates the volunteers. Donations to the pantry may be made out to St. Patrick Charity Account and sent to the church at 952 Buffalo Street, Franklin, PA 16323

*For I was hungry and you gave me food.*

*(Matthew 25:35)*





**During the month of November  
the Church has traditionally  
prayed for the souls of the  
faithful departed.**

And this practice of praying for the dead can be seen in 2 Maccabees 12:44-46. After a long-fought battle, Judas Maccabees, the head of the army, prepares to bury the dead and discovers that the soldiers who lost their lives on the battlefield that day had “Idols” tied around their necks. Therefore, Judas sees this as a punishment for their infidelity to the covenant. But he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin. Therefore, he offered a sacrifice and prayed for them.

Similarly, in 2 Tim 1:16-18 St. Paul prays for his departed friend: “May the Lord grant mercy to the family of Onesiphorus because he often gave me new heart and was not ashamed of my chains...May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day.” This only makes sense if he can be helped by prayer.

Prayers for the dead are found inscribed on tombs in the catacombs, ancient underground Christian cemeteries. The practice of praying for the dead was universal among Christians.

In short, if the Jews, St. Paul, and the early Christians prayed for the dead, we should have no fear of praying for them as well. Praying for the dead presumes an intermediate state of purification. It is impossible to aid souls in heaven (they have no need), and equally impossible to aid souls in hell (they have no hope). Praying for the dead presumes souls in a middle state where prayers, penance, and sacrifices can benefit them, and there is such a place – we happen to call that place, Purgatory.

This is made evident in Mt 12:32: “And whoever speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven either in this age or in the age to come.” Jesus implies that some sins can be forgiven in the next world. Sin cannot be forgiven in Hell. There is no sin to be forgiven in Heaven. Any remission of sin in the next world can only occur in Purgatory. So we pray for the souls who are there.

Eternal Father,  
I offer You the most Precious Blood  
of Your Divine Son, Jesus,  
in union with the Masses  
said throughout the world today,  
for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory,  
for sinners everywhere,  
for sinners in the Universal Church,  
those in my own home, and within  
my family. Amen.

~St. Gertrude the Great

**Pray for the Blessed Souls in Purgatory**

# Saint Patrick Cemetery Honoring the Dead

by Heidi Lucia



Saint Patrick Cemetery, which today spans six acres, has been the sacred burial place for deceased parishioners since its dedication in August of 1870 at the same time as the consecration of the first wooden church here.

Over 400 veterans, who served during our country's wars and peacetimes since the Mexican War, are buried there. The Catholic War Veterans Post 1741 erected a memorial in 1953 as a fitting tribute to the many veterans who served.

St. Patrick Parish owes a debt of gratitude to Mike Kiesel who has taken care of the cemetery for years.. Mike says, "It was a privilege and an honor to do the job I did to help our families as they buried their loved ones."

Due to health issues, Mike has passed the torch to Ernie Axton and a large team of volunteers. Ernie is in charge of mowing and maintenance as well as the task of arranging burials.

In the fall of last year, volunteers set out to complete a major restoration of the cemetery grounds. An initial group of volunteers cut limbs from overgrown trees, pulled out old rhododendron bushes, and cleared areas of overgrown brush. Roy and Alisa Balash have been coordinating efforts to repair the water damage done to the chapel. Dave Miller, with some volunteer help, has been working on the repair and straightening of the gate and the fence around the perimeter which was originally erected in 1935.

An army of volunteers, too numerous to mention, pitched in and participated through the adopt-a-section program which has been a huge help in keeping the cemetery looking its best.

Lee Oniboni, who oversees the Cemetery board and acts as supervisor, put it this way, "The cemetery has special meaning for all the parishioners, especially those who have loved ones buried there. It is a work of love and a sacred duty and responsibility for our generation to maintain it."

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#### **Upcoming Holiday & Holy Day Masses:**

All Saints Day, Nov. 1: 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

All Souls Day, Nov. 2: 9:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28: 9:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, Dec. 9: 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 4:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25: 10:00 a.m.

New Years Day, Jan. 1: 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

#### **Upcoming Youth Group Events:**

Cool Springs Corn Maze: Oct. 27

Buffalo Street Lanes: Nov. 17

Cemetery Wreath Laying: Dec. 14

Christmas Caroling: Dec. 22

St. Thomas More Center Brunch: Jan. 4

Ice Skating & Swimming @ MARC: Feb. 23