



PILGRIMAGE

Stories of Faith Building in the Heart of Maplewood since 1914

The newsletter of the Parish of St. Joseph, Maplewood, N.J.

Summer 2024

News Briefs

First Communion, Confirmation



On Saturday, May 11, a group of our young parishioners received First Communion. Many of them returned to the church on Sunday May 12 at the 9 and 11:30 a.m. Masses for the May crowning (photo above).

On May 28, the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred by Bishop Manuel Cruz (photos, Page 3).

The parish's Religious Education Program helped to prepare these young people for the sacraments.

Family Pride Mass

On June 23 at 4:30 p.m., we celebrated our annual Family Pride Mass to affirm that we welcome all of God's people here at St. Joseph's.

The guest speaker was Fr. Lionel Pacheo, a Passionist priest.

The joyous celebration included music by our church choir, local singers and musicians, followed by a reception in the church.



On May 17, Parish teenagers came together to assemble "Blessing Bags" filled with travel-sized toiletries and some basic foodstuffs to be distributed to those in need in our local communities.

Young Parishioners Make a Difference

PBJs and Blessing Bags

By David McGrath

More than two dozen teenagers in the parish donated their Friday evenings on two separate occasions this spring to provide assistance for those in need in local communities.

The Blessing Bags initiative was designed to engage the entire parish, particularly our young people, in an effort to provide essential hygiene items and some basic foodstuffs for those in need at Newark Penn Station and the Irvington Bus Terminal.

All parishioners were encouraged

to donate travel-sized hygiene items, including combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and soap. The response was overwhelming.

On Friday, May 17, nearly two dozen teenagers came to the church to help sort the items and assemble them into more than 100 Blessing Bags — over-sized zip-lock containers that were donated for distribution to in both Irvington and Newark.

At the same time, the teens put together peanut butter and jelly

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Ministry Spotlight

Washing, Ironing the Purificators for Mass

By Mary Beth Walsh

The Purificator Ministry, is an excellent Ministry to join if you want to support all of our beautiful liturgies.

When one receives the Precious Blood from the Chalice at Mass, the Minister of the Chalice hands you the cup to drink from.

When you hand it back to the Minister, she or he carefully wipes the side of the Cup you just drank from with a small, white linen cloth, then rotates the Cup one quarter turn, and offers it to the next person in the Communion line.

This process is repeated for each communicant, and the small, white cloth used to wipe the chalice is called a Purificator. Each time the Precious Blood is offered at a liturgy, a clean Purificator is used for each Chalice. Each week, we use at least a dozen



Purificators – more for funerals, weddings and other services.

Volunteers sign up to take home, wash and iron the Purificators on a monthly basis. There is a notebook in the Sacristy where you can sign up. Joan Walsh, our church Sacristan, will be happy to explain this ministry to anyone interested.

We use Purificators, and take special care of them because as Catholics we believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the

bread and wine consecrated during Mass. Once the wine becomes the Precious Blood during our Eucharistic offering, Ministers of Communion are exceedingly careful not to spill a single drop.

There are three different clothes that comprise our Altar Linens, the Purificators, the Corporal, and the towels. It is important that all of them are clean and ready for each celebration.

Parish Teens Make Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches Those in Need

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sandwiches, again with donations from parishioners. The young people worked diligently and quickly at several work stations in

the front of the church. Within a short time, they had made 120 sandwiches, which were donated to a food bank in Elizabeth.

In June, there was a second peanut butter and jelly sandwich event at which another group of teenagers gathered with additional food donations and assembled more than 100 additional sandwiches which were also donated.

On May 17 (above, right) and June 21 (right), parish teenagers donated their Friday evenings to the task of assembling peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for distribution to those in need in area. The teens assembled more than 220 sandwiches during the two sessions.



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Around the parish . . .



May 28 - Bishop Manuel Cruz (left, above) came to St. Joseph's to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on this year's candidates (right).



April 13, Canticles for Life HIV/AIDS Benefit Concert - Since 1997, the Triad Arts Ensemble has sponsored the Canticles for Life concert series to raise awareness and funds to benefit charities concerned with the quality of life for persons with AIDS and the remembrance of lives lost. This year the organization held two concerts, including an April 13 performance at St. Joseph's. Canticles Chairperson Ginny Johnston conducted the 30-voice Triad Vocal Ensemble

(above, center), which featured a mix of styles including traditional anthems, pop arrangements, and brand new works. The Dan Crisci Jazz Trio offered several instrumentals, including original selections from Dan's recent recordings. Abbie Gardner, an award-winning singer-songwriter/dobro player, also performed a selection of her songs. Additionally, panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt were on display (above, left and right).



Flag Day Concert - Red, white and blue were the colors of the day June 14 when St. Joseph's Choir presented its annual Flag Day Concert in the church. The choir

performed a wide variety of patriotic favorites. Afterwards attendees were treated to an All-American reception featuring hot dogs, lemonade, and apple pie.

St. Joseph's Welcomes Deacon Mike Cavallo

By Matthew McGrath

Deacon Michael Cavallo's ministry is built on a foundation of volunteerism.

Before his ordination to the Diaconate in 2017, he had been a religions education instructor, a lector, and a Eucharistic minister. Volunteering, he says, is the way Catholics can build their parishes.

"I definitely feel it is critical for people to volunteer in their parish in order to build a church that is vibrant in the community," Deacon Mike said.

Deacon Mike was assigned to St. Joseph's earlier this year. His previous assignment was at St. Michael the Archangel in Union, and he also serves part-time at Corpus Christi Parish in Saint Augustine, Fla..

The following interview was edited for length and clarity:

Q. How have you sought to find a balance between your personal life and your ministry?

A. I remember being at the church so often my mom said, "You might as well move your bed to the church." As I got older, there needed to be balance because I had a job, got married and started a family, but I made time to be involved in my parish as that was important to me. When I became a deacon, my children were already grown, so it does, at times, require a balancing act, but it is much easier.

Q. How has your personal life informed your ministry?

A. Having professional life and married life experience has been instrumental as a deacon. When people come to me I can relate, for the most part. And when it comes to married

life, having been married, and having a family, has been helpful when counseling a couple who are preparing for marriage or may be experiencing marital issues.

Q. How important was your lay work to your discernment of your vocation?

A. I really got involved in my parish after 8th grade. I started working part-time at the rectory office and the new youth ministry. It was in this youth program where my love for service to God and His people really took off. I began to see the work they did and said to myself: "I think this is something I really would like to do."



Architectural Corner

The late parishioner Bernard A. Flanagan made an extensive study of the architectural features of our church. In this and future issues of *Pilgrimage*, we will feature the work that he left us.

— Photos by Wilbur Henry



The tabernacle (left photo) located in the sanctuary is the wooden, gold-plated receptacle in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. It is decorated with a Chalice and a Host, as it references the Holy Eucharist. There are also winged symbols which represent Christ's messengers, the Four Evangelists. They are: Matthew, a man; Mark, a lion; Luke, an ox, and John, an eagle. The altar (above) is made of veined white marble with three marble supports. The center support is decorated with artwork reminding us that Jesus loves all the children of the world.