

# The **SPIRIT** of St. John's

Spreading the good news of our parish family

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St. John the Baptist Parish Community

Hillsdale, NJ

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Vol. 21, No. 1

July 2017

## **PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

*We parishioners of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church are called by Jesus to be a community of his disciples, growing in faith and worshipping together in Eucharistic celebration. Nourished by God's transforming love and blessed by gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live the gospel message and to witness it to others. Thankful for God's many gifts, as Christian stewards we commit to share our time, talent and treasure in Christ-like service within our parish community and beyond. We seek God's blessing and guidance to be faithful to this mission.*

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

One more year has come and gone in our parish, and, as you will see from the following news articles in *The Spirit of St. John's*, a lot has taken place. We are so proud of the people and activities that show our Christian faith is alive and well here in the parish.

We have welcomed new families, brought new children into the faith through Baptism, joined with young children who for the first time shared the Eucharist with us, celebrated new unions in marriage, seen young people symbolize their maturity in faith through the reception of Confirmation, anointed and prayed for the sick, and prayerfully sent home to God those who have been called. All this has been done through the cooperative efforts of many people. This is the work of the Church. All of our parishioners are called to take part, and we hope more will find ways in which to help.

These following pages give an idea of what has been done, but also challenge us to see those areas of parish life that still need work. Liturgical Ministries, (Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Baptismal Ministry leaders, etc.) always need new hands on deck to serve the needs of the liturgy. The ideas of you, the parishioner, are so helpful in re-vitalizing or creating new ministries. Much has been done and new things are in the making.

We have recently welcomed a new principal to St. John's Academy, **Ms. Suzanne Socha**. We were so fortunate to have **Mrs. Elizabeth Viola** serve here for many years as principal and we have benefited from her guidance and expertise and thank her for her dedication. We now look forward to working with **Ms. Socha** who comes with such great credentials and experience. Be sure to consider the Academy when exploring educational opportunities for your child.

We will be re-organizing our Confirmation program to integrate more fully the responsibility of Christian service into the preparation. Fr. Tad and Mrs. Dee Ford are actively working to expand the Youth Group of the parish which has become much more active in the past few years. Our Social Events Committee makes possible the parish parties and celebrations which punctuate the year. New helpers are always needed. The more help we have, the less each one has to do, and that works out well for everyone! People like the refreshments and socializing that the receptions after the monthly CCD Masses provide. We could use some more help in that area. Don't be afraid to speak to me or Cathy Wollyung about getting involved. **YOU ARE VERY MUCH NEEDED!**

Enjoy, then, reflecting on this past year's accomplishments and venture into the coming year's activities. If you are new parishioners, you are very welcome to find a niche in which you feel comfortable. Check out our **Ministry Guidebook** for a description of the various ministries and who to contact in order to join in. There should be some available at the Parish Center or Rectory if you don't yet have one.

God bless us all as we work to glorify His name!



**FROM THE EDITOR**

The year has gone fast and the time at St. John's is always a busy one. This issue of *The Spirit of St. John's* is again posted on our website. A limited number of paper copies are available in the magazine racks at the Church doors. It is amazing how communication has changed since our first issue November 1996 – 20 years ago! We used to mail a copy to every registered household. I will be forever grateful to our parish "mailers" who helped with every issue. Several years ago new Postal Service regulations for bulk mail and increased costs made the decision to post the newsletter on our website the way to go. Going forward I am unable to continue the current annual format. Greater use of our website would deliver news in a more timely fashion. **I welcome your ideas and suggestions!**

The Ministry Guidebook that Fr. John mentioned is also posted on the website. It is updated every year to coincide with Stewardship weekend which this year will be observed on October 14/15, 2017. Limited copies will be available at the Church entrances. St. John's website is: [www.stjohnhillsdale.com](http://www.stjohnhillsdale.com)



Edna Lord, Editor



## ***ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH STATISTICS***

**July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017**

- As of **June 30, 2017** our registration stands at **2379** households. We welcomed **53** new adult parishioners during the last year.
- **Eight** adults were Confirmed at the 12 noon Liturgy on **June 4, 2017**. They completed the six week Confirmation Study course for adults that was offered during the 2017 Lenten Season. **One** adult was accepted as a Catechumen last year and will continue faith formation during the coming year.
- We additionally welcomed **35** infants through the **Sacrament of Baptism**.
- **First Reconciliation** and **First Eucharist** were celebrated by **82** children at two Sunday Liturgies on May 7 and 21, 2017.
- A total of **563** children were enrolled in the **2016-2017 K-8 Family Faith Formation Program**. The **2017 Summer Program** enrolled **182** children.
- **107** young parishioners received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on May 20, 2017. Two Liturgies were celebrated at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM by Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ.
- **13** couples received the **Sacrament of Matrimony**.
- **37** parishioners were called by God to eternal life. **49 Funeral Masses/Memorial Services** were celebrated by St. John's Clergy.

**The Jubilee Year of Mercy**, formally opened on December 8, 2015, closed on November 20, 2016, the feast of Christ the King. As with all Jubilee years, the Year of Mercy included the use of a Holy Door, a specially designated entrance that has spiritual and symbolic meaning for Catholics. **Our Lady of Mercy in Park Ridge** was designated by the Archdiocese as a **Pilgrimage Church** for the Jubilee Year. Their Holy Door announced the Jubilee Year and invited all to enter and receive the special graces of the Year. Several pilgrimages to Our Lady of Mercy took place during the year.

### **Welcome to our new Archbishop—Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.!**



Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Tobin the 6th Archbishop of Newark on November 7, 2016. In addition to sending a personal letter to parishioners in January, **Cardinal Tobin** met the people of the Archdiocese by celebrating Mass at a parish in each of the Deaneries of the Church of Newark. On May 23, 2017 he celebrated Mass for the parishes of Deanery 2P at Our Lady of Mercy in Park Ridge. Light refreshments were available in the Gathering Space of the Church with a “Town Hall” style meeting following in the Academy Gymnasium. The evening was eagerly anticipated and well attended with many ideas and questions for the Archbishop. **Cardinal Tobin** has been visible in the press and the July issue of US Catholic carried an interview with him by the editors entitled “*Faith in real life.*”

### **Welcome to Suzanne Socha, Principal of St. John’s Academy**

St John’s Academy is pleased to announce the appointment of its new principal, **Ms. Suzanne Socha**, effective July 1, 2017. **Ms. Socha** takes over this role from **Mrs. Elizabeth Viola** who served as principal for 12 years. Faculty, staff, parents and students are excited for the future of St. John’s Academy, a U.S. Blue Ribbon, Middle States Accredited, PreK thru 8 elementary school in Hillsdale, NJ! On June 8, 2017 the Academy held a **Meet the New Principal and Open House** evening. Students and other school representatives were available to give tours of the campus. Pictured are Cindy Good, PTG President; Theresa Henry, President, Advisory Board; Suzanne Socha and Rev. John J. Korbela, Pastor of St. John the Baptist.



**THE TRADITION CONTINUES!**  
**BLESSING OF THE EASTER BASKETS**



The **2nd Annual Blessing of the Easter Baskets** was held on Holy Saturday, April 15 at noon in the Church. While this beautiful Catholic tradition has Eastern European roots, and practiced mostly by Polish descendants, all were invited to customize their own basket to their family's ethnic heritage. An insert for the bulletin was again prepared by Kimberly Gatto with a layout of a Polish Easter Basket to provide information about the custom as well as a guide to assemble the basket. The turnout was larger than the first year with **40** baskets presented for the traditional blessing.

Pictured with Fr. Tad are some of the people who came to have their Easter baskets blessed! Kimberly Gatto's daughter Kristina is on Fr. Tad's right and son RJ is standing in front of him.

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE . . . . .**

- **Pauline Mavridis and Paulina Roche (r.i.p.)** who underwrote the cost of the **2017 Paschal Candle in loving memory of Ernestina Gonzalez**. The Paschal Candle signifies the light of Christ and is lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil. It will adorn our sanctuary throughout the year.
- **Marie and Jamie Rocco**, who underwrote the cost of a new **Ciborium in loving memory of James Rocco**. The Ciborium (sacred bowl) holds 850 hosts and was used for the first time on Palm Sunday. The Ciborium with consecrated hosts is placed in the Tabernacle and brought to the Altar during Mass at distribution of the hosts for Communion. It is returned to the tabernacle at the conclusion of reception of the Eucharist.
- **Fr. Tom Norton** and a silent parishioner who underwrote the cost of 450 copies of an additional song book entitled **Spirit and Song**. Since it was apparent more copies would be needed, the parishioners were given an opportunity to donate a book for \$15 with an inscription on the inside cover in memory or in honor of a loved one. Many generous parishioners came forward to make the song book available throughout the church.

**WITH GRATITUDE ('cont'd) . . . . .**

- St. John's **Rosary Society** who donated the proceeds from their August 2016 Garage Sale that paid half the cost of a new **Telephone System** for the parish. The new system was identified as one of the parish needs in the **Living Stones Campaign**.
- Our **Parishioners** who are participating in the **Living Stones Campaign**. The portion returned to the parish during this year paid the balance of the new **Telephone System**.
- **Our parishioners** who contributed to the **Christmas** and **Easter Flowers** that adorn the Church.

**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**—On November 1, 2016 **Major William J. (Joe) Schneider** received the **Silver Star for gallantry** while commanding an 18 plane bombing mission during World War



II. He received the award from Maj. Gen. Christopher Bence at a ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ. **Maj. Schneider** was assigned to the 310th Bombardment Group and his unit was known as the “Bridge Busters” because they bombed bridges in Italy to slow down the supply lines and the Germans’ ability to provide reinforcements to the Italian peninsula.

- During the mission on February 23, 1945, Schneider was responsible for not only directing the bombardment mission but also the safety of all men in his formation. As it approached the heavily defended rail link at Dogna, Italy an extremely accurate anti-aircraft barrage enveloped the B-25s, severely crippling Schneider’s plane and damaging many other bombers in his formation. Despite extensive damage Schneider led all the bombardiers to drop their payloads on the communications point.
- Afterward Schneider contacted an air sea rescue unit to be continuously updated with accurate bearings of their location and communicated with a fellow B-25 aircrew in his formation and relayed to his pilot vital information to assist with the return flight. During the landing procedure, Schneider assisted the pilot with a successful emergency crash landing and with the safe return of all his crew members.
- **“Joe” Schneider** is well known at St. John’s having been a long time parishioner and active in many areas of parish life. He served on the Finance Council and played a key leadership role in raising funds to build both our church and school. We are blessed to know him and extend to him very heartfelt congratulations on this well deserved award! He was also recognized at the 5 PM Mass by Fr. Tom Norton for his **98th birthday on September 3, 2017**.



## **PARISH OUTREACH**

- **The Annual Mass of Anointing of the Sick** was celebrated on Saturday, October 22, 2016 in the Church. The anointing takes place during Mass to remind us it is the whole church which asks the Holy Spirit to strengthen and support those suffering from any kind of illness. A complimentary luncheon was served in the Parish Center after Mass. Sr. Mary expressed grateful thanks to the adult volunteers, Sr. Ellen and students from the Academy who helped to make a memorable day for our parishioners.
- The **Ministry to the Sick & Homebound/Parish Visitors** provides spiritual and practical support to our homebound and/or sick parishioners who are unable to attend Mass or perform daily errands. Sr. Mary McFarland, Marilyn Golusinski and a number of our Eucharistic Ministers, assist in bringing Holy Communion to parishioners at home, hospitals and nursing homes. Additional volunteers known as **Parish Visitors** help the infirm by food shopping, emergency cooking and transportation to Mass, medical appointments or parish meetings.
- The **Ministry** delivers Christmas and Easter plants to those parishioners who are unable to be out and about. **115** Holiday Mass Cards with plants were delivered this past year. **28** additional Mass Cards were sent to former parishioners who no longer live in Bergen County. At Thanksgiving cards are sent to our homebound and sick parishioners.
- St. John the Baptist hosted the **Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** on Sunday evening, November 20, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Church. Parishioners from the Christian Churches of Hillsdale came together in a prayer service of Thanksgiving. The joint choirs led the assembled in song. The tradition of bringing a non-perishable food item for the Helping Hand Food Pantry was continued. The food along with the monetary donations collected were presented during the service. Refreshments were served in the Msgr. Morris Parish Center at the conclusion of the service.
- The **Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service** was nominated for the category of Outstanding Volunteer EMS Agency by the NJ Department of Health for 2016. **Captain John Beatty** attributes the nomination to the fact that the Hillsdale Corps answers an average of over 900 calls yearly, with 45 members riding one day a week and one weekend a month. They also serve surrounding towns with mutual aid when needed.
- The **25th Annual Kids' Fishing Contest** sponsored by the **Friends of the Pascack Brook** took place on April 15, 2017. All children between the ages of 4 and 16 are invited to fish the Pascack Brook between St. John the Baptist Church in Hillsdale and Brookside Place in Westwood. This year **104** trophies were awarded for sizable trout. In addition, every child leaves with a prize. To honor the founders of the Friends of the Pascack Brook—**Neil Hering** and **Fred Winkler**—two trophies were awarded in their memory.

## **PARISH OUTREACH (cont'd.)**

- On November 5/6, 2016 a special collection was taken at the weekend Liturgies for the **people of Haiti** who had recently suffered the effects of a terrific hurricane. The collection was marked for the **St. Luke Foundation for Haiti** and the funds were sent directly to a Fr. Richard Frechette, a Passionist priest who studied and became a medical doctor to specifically help the people of Haiti. He is assisted by Fr. Enzo Del Brocco, an Italian priest ministering there. They run the **Foundation** to keep the clinic and services they provide up and functioning.
- A Rally for the **8th ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE** was held on February 23, 2017 at 7:30 PM in the Msgr. Morris Parish Center. The **Rally** officially launched the Annual Event, scheduled to be held at Pascack Valley High School on May 20-21, 2017. It is sponsored by the American Cancer Society to represent hope in that those lost to cancer will not be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported and that one day cancer will be eliminated.
- The **HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY** held an Open House on Sunday, April 30, 2017 from 3-5 PM to celebrate its **25th Anniversary** of "Helping our Neighbors." **The Open House was held in "Appreciation to the Community for its support and volunteerism."** The local press covered the Open House and the Borough of Hillsdale Council recognized the Pantry at their meeting on May 9, 2017. In addition to remarks by Council President, **John Ruocco**, an engraved plaque was presented to the Trustees and Church representatives in attendance.



- As many people know, the **Pantry** was founded in 1992 with a Boy Scout looking for a community service project to satisfy the requirements of the Eagle Scout rank. The need became known and the **Helping Hand Food Pantry** was established. They were given space in the Hillsdale United Methodist Church. In 1998 the Hillsdale Clergy Association announced the formation of a **Cooperative Ministry** of the four Christian Churches. Pictured are the Trustees of the Pantry Board. Roy Kohan is holding the anniversary banner!
- St. John's continues to support the operations of the Pantry with nearly **70** volunteers, many who have been helping for years. In addition to helping during open hours, several do supplemental shopping and others are on hand to receive the many food drives that are held for the Pantry. St. John's also participates in the **Annual Turkey Drive** for Thanksgiving, held last year on November 19, 2016. The parish is currently represented on the Pantry Board of Trustees by **Jodi Soluri** and **Valerie Schroeder**.

## ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY—2016-2017 ACTIVITIES, HONORS

- **The U.S. Department of Education** named St. John's Academy a "**National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.**" Criteria included overall excellence as well as test scores which placed Academy students in the top 15% of schools nationwide!
- **National Catholic Schools Week** was held January 29—February 4, 2017. Students from the Academy spoke at the weekend Masses about receiving a Catholic education and invited all to visit and learn more about the school at one of the open houses during the week. Theme for 2017 Catholic Schools Week was "**Faith, Academics and Service.**" A special Liturgy was held at St. John's on February 1 to celebrate **Catholic Schools Week.**
- A new program was added to the Religion curriculum for 2016-17 called "**Virtues in Practice.**" Lessons for each month will highlight a different virtue along with a study of the lives of the saints most connected with the particular virtue.
- **Ciara Donegan** received the Archdiocese of Newark Schools Office **Outstanding Catholic School Graduate Award for 2017.** Every Catholic elementary school was asked to nominate an eighth grade student who excels academically and displays Catholic values. **Ciara** was chosen by the Academy faculty and administration for being an example of Christian values. The awards were presented at a special liturgy and ceremony at the Archdiocesan Youth Center in Kearny. Pictured above with Ciara (center) are Fr. Tad Jank, St. John the Baptist Parish; Mrs. Betty Viola, Academy Principal and parents Carrie & Fred Donegan.



- Dan Cannon, VP of TD Bank and son, Brendan presented the Academy with a check for **\$5200 from the Bank's Affinity Program.** Pictured L-R: Kaitlyn Grifonetti, Mrs. Viola, Maureen Murray, Brendan & Dan Cannon, Paul Scarduffa, VP/Retail Market Manager, TD Bank; and Theresa Henry, President, Academy Advisory Board.





- **Maureen Murray** was presented with the **William Mundhenk Award** at the Academy's 2016 Christmas Concert. This annual award is given to an 8th grade student who best exemplifies the qualities of an all-around Academy student. This includes school spirit, dedication, work ethics, good friend and excellent character. **Maureen** is pictured here L-R: Mrs. Betty Viola, Principal; Larry & Viola (r.i.p.) Mundhenk, Maureen, sister Margaret Murray and parents Elizabeth and Robert.

Robert. They are parishioners of St. Anthony's Church in Northvale.

- Students from 18 grammar schools competed in math, science, history, religion, spelling, art and technology at **St. Joseph's Regional High School Scholastic Olympics** on October 20, 2016. SJA 8th grade students **Ciara Donegan** and **Alex Angione** won first place for Religion and Science respectively.



- Academy students in grades 5-8 participated on January 31, 2017 in the **National Geography Bee**, using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. Students from thousands of schools in the nation participated. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject and increase public awareness about geography. SJA students **Drew Welsh**, **Amenia Bazzanella** and **Christopher Dolan** won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively.
- This year's **Spelling Bee**, moderated by Mrs. Joan Mitchell, had three winners. **Niki Bayati**, grade 4, won 1st place; **Kate Grzybowski**, grade 5 took 2nd place and **Mark Festa**, grade 5 won 3rd place.
- St. John's Academy students were invited to participate in the Archdiocese **1st Annual STREAM Project**. (**Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Mathematics**). This year's focus was the United Nation's **15 Sustainable Development Goals**. SJA Junior High students developed prototypes and brochures for presentation at the **STREAM EXPO** at the Academy Gym on February 16, 2017. Information sheets and a photo on the projects was sent to the Archdiocese with our 4 groups of finalists!

- The **SJA Red & White Tricky Tray GALA** was held on April 5, 2017 at the Rockleigh Country Club. Over the last **18** years, this annual event has evolved into the biggest fundraiser for the benefit of the Academy. The total raised this year was over **\$95,000—\$6000** more than last year! The event was sold out which means 600 attendees enjoyed cocktails, dinner and dessert. For the third year, Westy Storage in Norwood donated a unit to house the prizes as they arrived and also donated a basket. Tickets for over 500 prizes valued from \$50 to \$5000 were placed in baskets.

School Dads delivered the prizes to the guest tables. Special thanks to the GALA Committee for a job well done!



Pictured are: **Kathy Rizzi, Margaret Steffens, Laetitia Zicchinella, Brenda Laux, Dr. Mariliza Tong, Andreia Wynne and Nick Santorini.**

- The **8th Grade Fashion Show** was held on February 13, 2017 at The Estate at Florentine Gardens. All of the student models looked stunning!
- The **Annual Christmas Concert** was held on December 14, 2016.
- The **10th Annual Fine Arts Festival** was held May 10-11, 2017. The Evening Art Gala on May 11 included a performance by the school band and chorus at 6:30 pm. Every student exhibited art work completed during the year.
- The Academy **Drama Club**, under the direction of **Joanne Ramella** presented "**The Lion King**" with performances by 7th and 8th grade members. It opened on April 6 with three evening performances and an afternoon production on April 9. It was reported in the local press with credit to the students who presented the play's characters.
- SJA students participated in the annual **Walk-A-Thon for Technology** on May 19, 2017.
- 8th grade students **re-enacted immigration through Ellis Island in the late 1800's**.
- The **Prayer Partner Program** is unique and special. It is a privilege that pairs kindergarten students with 8th grade students. During the year prayer partners attend Mass together, celebrate holidays together and work on special activities.
- The **5th grade Eagles** won the **Group 4 Parochial School Basketball League** championship against Corpus Christi in an exciting game that finished in a score of 23-21!

## ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY CLASS OF 2017



The Academy's Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation Ceremony were both held at St. John the Baptist Church on June 13, 2017. Rev. Sean Manson, Pastor, Our Lady Mother of the Church was Celebrant and Homilist at the 9:00 AM Liturgy. Concelebrating Pastors included Rev. John Korbelak, St. John the Baptist; Rev. Msgr. Frank Del Prete, St. Gabriel the Archangel; Rev. Alexander Barbieto, Church of St. Andrew. The Mass was followed by a Breakfast, Award Ceremony and slide show for the 8th grade graduates and their parents.

The Graduation Ceremony was held at 7:30 PM in the Church. Rev. John Korbelak gave the Opening Prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by *Samantha Sloane* and *Timothy Cuffe*. The Salutatory Address was given by *Caitlin Brannigan*. The Address to the Class of 2017 was given by *Kara & Joseph Grifonetti*—Class of 2011. Awards were presented by 8th grade teacher Eugenia Absalom and 8th grade teacher and Assistant Principal Sharon Gallagher. Diplomas were awarded by Elizabeth Viola, Principal; Rev. John Korbelak; Rev. Sean Manson; Rev. Msgr. Frank Del Prete and Rev. Alex Barbieto. The Valedictory Address given by *Kimberly Pienkawa* followed the awarding of diplomas. The Final Blessing was given by Msgr. Del Prete.

Awards presented included the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill Award**, presented to *Michael Zaza*; the **Ellen Sue Wuebber Award**, traditionally presented to the Class Valedictorian, was presented to *Kimberly Pienkawa*; the **Martin J. Schaeffer Fireman's Citizenship Award** was presented to *Kendall Williams*; the **Sr. Rita Miriam Award for Music**, sponsored by Our Lady Mother of the Church, was presented by a Church representative, Mrs. Irma Chazotte and awarded to *Carol Laux*; the **Michelle Collier Writing Award** was presented to *Kimberly Pienkawa*; the **Eileen McCabe Award** was given to *Kelly McKenna* and the **Laura Carey Memorial Award** was presented by Maris Carey and awarded to *Gabriella Karz* and *Alexander Angione*. In addition to these awards our graduates were offered scholarships up to **\$63,000**.

**44** 8th grade students graduated in the Class of 2017. **24** are members of St. John's Parish. **Congratulations** to: *Alexander Angione\**, *Michael Arencibia*, *Rebecca Beltram*, *Caitlin Brannigan\**, *Jessica Certo\**, *Amelia Cevoli*, *Thomas Comeau*, *Dylan Dometa*, *Timothy Cuffe*, *Ciara Donegan\**, *Mia Fazio*, *Lindsay Feger*, *Colin George*, *Kaitlyn Grifonetti*, *Margaret Imperiale*, *Gabriella Karcz\**, *Carol Laux\**, *Benjamin Long*, *Lauren Lugo*, *Quinlyn Maloney*, *Matias Mancheno\**. *Michelle Marino\**, *Kelly McKenna*, *Matthew Molta\**, *Maureen Murray\**, *Marco Nazor*, *Anais Olivier\**, *Vasilios Patentas*, *Kimberly Pienkawa\**, *Michael Poulos*, *Daniel Rendo*, *Luke Rizzi*, *Keith Roberts\**, *Dominic Santucci*, *Samantha Sloane*, *George Talarico*, *Maximillian Thomas*, *Jason Tong*, *Kyle Towey*, *Michael Turco*, *Isabella Villatora\**, *Frank Weihenig*, *Kendall Williams\** and *Michael Zaza*. **\*Denotes NJ Honor Society**

## **CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION (CCD) PROGRAM**

- The Parish **K-8 Children's Faith Formation (CCD) Program** enrolled **563** children for the 2016-2017 year. This includes all three programs—Summer, Sunday morning and Faith @ Home. The 2017 Summer Program for 2017-2018 enrolled **182** children consisting of 14 classes. Each child will return monthly for a class followed by participation in the 10 AM Sunday liturgy, September through April 2018.
- The CCD Program sponsored two fundraisers during the past school year. On October 22/23, 2016 a drive for **Table to Table** was initiated. Parishioners were invited to participate in the **"Bag a Lunch Project."** Brown bags were distributed in Church for parishioners to donate the cost of a lunch in the bag. Over \$2500 was collected and sent to **Table to Table** to help in feeding the poor of New Jersey.
- The second fundraiser held during Lent also focused on providing food to those in need. All parish families were invited to participate in **Feed Our Neighbors**. Each grade in the three CCD programs were assigned specific items to bring to Church. The drive continued during the month of March. Donations were delivered to the **Helping Hand Food Pantry**.
- The 2nd grade Sunday CCD Catechists and students organized a **"Christmas Gift of Love"** for **Olivia Vanderhoof**, a 2nd grader who began treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in October. All CCD families were invited to contribute a gift from the list of activities that Olivia enjoys and/or gift cards for iTunes, restaurants and supermarkets. Olivia's 4 year old sister was also included in the collection. The gifts were delivered to Olivia and her family on the Feast of the Epiphany. Thanks to 2nd grade Catechists Tara Nocella and Samantha Hannigan for organizing the **"Christmas Gift of Love."**
- During the 2017 Summer Program the Junior High students and Catechists organized a **Food Drive** for the **Helping Hand Food Pantry**. Two students visited the other summer classes to explain the project. Each grade was assigned a specific food item. On the last day of the Summer Program several Junior High students and one of the Catechists had a full car load of donations to deliver.
- Last year's **Christmas Eve Liturgy** at 4:00 PM featured a group of **Angel Dancers**, girls from the CCD programs. They were taught by an instructor from a local dance studio. The dancers opened the liturgy, dancing up the aisle to the Sanctuary and then moving to the Creche. Following the dancers was the procession of the Creche figures carried to the manger by parish families. Fr. John then blessed the Creche and the Manger.



- On Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017 the Sunday CCD Students led the procession into Church which included an enactment of **Jesus' entry into Jerusalem**. They were joined by children from the other CCD Programs. Classmates wearing garments of the times lined both sides of the center aisle waving palm branches in welcome. 1st grader **CJ Sardella** rode the donkey in the procession which was built last year by parishioner **Nick Orlando**.

- **ST. JOHN'S PLAY GROUP** gathers on Thursday mornings in the Bishop Sheen Library/ Media Room in the Parish Center. September through May, from about 10:30—12 Noon parents and their little ones (birth through preschool) can share playtime within a Christian community. Nursing Moms are welcome! Activities include age appropriate songs, crafts and stories. Simple snacks may be brought into the Center such as bottles and sippy cups. PLEASE no peanut or tree nut products. The Group currently is looking for a leader to coordinate activities. Contact Cathy Wollyung in the Parish Center at 201 666-2707, Ext. 217.
- **GOD'S TOTS** is a Bible based program for 3-5 year olds. The program runs most Sundays during the 10 AM Liturgy from September through June. It is held in the Parish Center Library. The bible readings for that Sunday are used. The program needs volunteers to lead the readings and aides to assist. Adults and Teens are invited to contact Cathy Wollyung in the Parish Center at 201 666-2707, Ext. 217 for further information.
- **NOTE: A beautiful Toy Chest built by parishioner Nick Orlando is available for use by the Children and Moms who wish to participate in the above programs.**
- **COZY CORNER KNIT/CROCHET GROUP** consists of a casual weekly gathering of parishioners who enjoy creating handmade items for themselves and others. Some of their projects include **Baby Afghans** for St. John's Respect Life Baby Shower and **Prayer Shawls** for Women's Cornerstone Witness Presenters. They also make items for people in need. Donations of clean, new yarn is accepted, especially Homespun and Pound of Love. For additional information contact Mary Ellen Breen at [mmbreen@optonline.net](mailto:mmbreen@optonline.net) or call her at 201 666-3832.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FIRST COMMUNICANTS—2017

*"Whoever comes to me will never be hungry" John 6:35*

Damien M. Adamek	Gianna Graham	Gabriel Miskovic
Anthony J. Ambrosio	Frank J. Gavina III	Louis Moscatello
Rebecca Angliongto	Courtney R. Greve	Ian Mottershead
Gabriel I. Arcieri	Hudson R. Grier	Ryan Nocella
Grace A. Ariyan	Mateo Grippo	Olivia Ocampo
Jaden Arregui	Isabella Gucciardi	Tyler Parks
Jenna Arregui	Aiden Hall	Valentina S. Passanante
Brady Babcock	Brendan Haller	Magali Perez
Justin M. Baker	Justin Hanna	Allison Pichardo
Annabel Barra	Ryan T. Hannigan	Dayami Ramirez
Sofia J. Barrera	Bridget Held	Mikaela Rega
Sophia E. Bianchi	Ciaran F. Henry	Cameron Roche
Kate Blasberg	Sean Jennings	Joseph Saco
Brooke M. Bocchino	Natalia Karcz	Gabriela J. Segalas
Grace Brodsky	Casie Kerber	Lia S. Senande
Alexis Burchell	Drew M. Kirby	Matthew J. Simone
Cassidy Burke	Olivia G. Kleman	Nicholas Slopey
Colin Cahill	Cole H. Klouda	Monica Stein
Victoria Caporale	Amelia L. LaFontaine	Kiera Sullivan
Caitlyn P. Dalton	Shane P. Lamon	Olivia G. Vanderhoof
Chloe DeSimone	Matthew LoDestro	Stella Vassallo
Ryan E. Escobar	Riley Marino	Isabella Vega
Keira Flanagan	Anthony Martinez	Ariana Velez
Emma Fowler	Ashley Marusic	Liam Verdicchio
Evan Gallucci	Gianna H. Mauriello	Tristan Wilkins
Alison R. Garcia	Colin McNeil	Rachel N. Zawadzki
John Paul Gaudio	Kiera M. Merkel	
Victoria Ginestra	Addison Mezzina	



## **BLESSING OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS BY THE COMMUNITY**

**82 children received their First Holy Communion at the  
12 noon Liturgy on May 7 and 21, 2017**

***Loving God, on this First Communion Day, may these our children continue to come to your table to be fed for the rest of their lives. We ask you to fill their hearts with love for you and for one another. Bless their parents as they continue to form these children into good and holy followers of your Son, Jesus, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.***

The First Communicants and our parish community would like to thank all who had a part in preparing our children for their First Holy Communion. Coordinators *Stefanie Streeter* and *Vincenza Bruno* extend grateful appreciation to our Clergy, Pastoral Staff, St. John's Academy Principal, 2nd Grade Teacher and Catechists, members of the Baptism, Liturgical Worship and Music Ministries, First Communion Banner makers and Scheduler.



**FIRST COMMUNION BREAKFAST**—The St. Thomas More Council #2188 of the Knights of Columbus again hosted a **Communion Breakfast** for all the First Communion Candidates and their immediate family members from St. John the Baptist and St. Andrew Parishes. It was held on **Sunday, February 26, 2017** at the Council Hall in Westwood. Thank you to the Council for recognizing this important step in our young peoples' faith journey.

**FIRST COMMUNION OUTFITS DRIVE**—The annual collection of **First Communion Day outfits** was another HUGE success! **100** children received dresses, suits, jackets, headpieces, shoes and/or monies that were donated to help make their day one to cherish. Many outfits were generously donated by the Archdiocese of Newark. Outfits were first distributed to local children and then to children at St. Rose of Lima Parish and to New Community in Newark and also to Oasis, a haven for women and children in Paterson. A letter of thanks from St. Rose of Lima closed with the following statement: *"St. John's Parish has been extremely generous in providing communion outfits for our children. Please extend our most profound gratitude to your parishioners for their act of kindness."*

**SPECIAL MASS AND RECEPTION**—The entire Academy student body celebrated with our First Communicants at a special Mass on May 23, 2017 in St. John's Church. Fr. John Korbela was Presider and Homilist. A breakfast for the Communicants and their parents followed Mass in the Msgr. Morris Parish Center. It was hosted by the 1st grade parents.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CONFIRMATION CLASS 2017**

***“Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”***

On May 20, 2017 St. John the Baptist Church warmly welcomed **Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark**, who celebrated two special Liturgies at 10 AM and 2 PM during which the **Sacrament of Confirmation** was conferred on **107** youth.

Matthew Addvensky	Rylie Driscoll	Thomas Maloney
Raven Albert	Dylan Driscoll	Jamie Mandano
Nicholas Amato	Thomas Dunn	Justin Martin
Emily Arosemowicz	John Earls	Haleigh Marzano
Jacob Aversa	Jillian Ebersen	Cole Matuszewski
Luke Barden	Jack Flanagan	Emily McAuliffe
Rhianna Barry	Devin Flinn	Allison McGuire
Kayla Barry	Michael Foti	Tara McNiff
Marissa Becker	Tamson Foudy	Jacqueline Metz
Juliana Betsy	Timothy Gallagher	Richard Mizzoni
Frank Bonanno	Isabella Garabo	Giovanna Moralishvili
Emily Bonner	Michael Garay	Amelia Moran
Brendan Broesler	Sean Garcia	Matthew Mugno
Katelyn Carcich	Aisling Geraghty	Steven Murno
Caitlin Carlson	Harrison Graizzaro	Madison Murphy
John Castellanos	James Gunther	Amanda Nelson
Olivia Catalano	Kate Henderson	Justin Nicita
Daniella Cividini	Julia Henderson	Ryan Novakowski
Meghan Costello	Richard Henderson	Daniel Oliveri
Colleen Coyle	John Henni	Zachary Olson
Nicole Crea	Aubrey Jackson	Caitlin O’Sullivan
Colleen Curtin	Shawn Jencsik	Emma Palamidis
Dominick Damato	Erin Jennings	Michael Parisi
Giovanni DeGiglio	Samuel Jones	John Patalano
John DeMartini	Matthew Kalil	Carlos Perez
Samantha DeMayo	Cameron Kennedy	Andrew Pinto-Shaw
Peter Desimini	Michaele Kissane	Carli Piretra
Tara Devaney	Justin LaFrance	Patrick Prendergast
Matthew Diminno	Jessica Livingstone	James Prior
Christina Dolce	Peyton Lutz	Jenna Ravennati

**CONFIRMATION CLASS 2017 (cont'd.)**

Madison Richards  
Nicolas Rizzo  
Maria Ruehl  
Katherine Sandt  
Robert Saul  
Zachary Schneider

Brianna Smith  
Aidan Soldiviero  
Mitchell Sorreta  
Julia Spadafino  
Joshua Straight  
Nicole Tarabocchia

Jordan Tatis  
Ava Tirri  
Marcus Truscio  
Megan Viganola  
Sean Wertheim



**Our Parish Community rejoices with our youth who received the Sacrament of Confirmation! Thank you to the parents of the Candidates for their spiritual support, guidance and love as their children continue their faith journey as fully initiated Catholic Christians.**

- Thank you to **Archbishop Manuel A. Cruz** for being with us on this Celebration Day and conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation on our youth. Thank you to St. John's Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Music Ministry—Cantors, Choir and Instrumentalists, and to our Liturgical Ministers and Decorators, and to all who helped make our Confirmation Liturgies memorable.
- Thank you to St. John's Confirmation Ministry led by Mrs. Margaret Manley, Coordinator; Core Team member Robert Personette and to the **15** Adult Facilitators listed below. Thank you also to the many community leaders and volunteers who mentored these wonderful young people during their service ministry.
- **Adult Facilitators:** Kathleen Bonner, Eileen Devaney, Elisabeth Dolce, Donna Garabo, Linda Geraghty, Amy Gunther, Christina Jennings, Barbara Livingstone, John Marzano, Tammy Medzadourian, Daniel Moran, Kathleen Nicita, Kathryn Personette, Jonne Rizzo and Barbara Wertheim.



## BOY SCOUT RELIGIOUS AWARDS

**Boy Scout Sunday** was observed at St. John's 10 AM Mass on February 12, 2017. Scouts were invited to attend the Liturgy together and wear their uniforms to witness the *Duty to God point of the Scout Oath*. The scouts and their leaders were recognized and congratulated at the Mass.

Later in the same day scouts who had earned religious medals this year attended a special service at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Receiving the **Light of Christ medal** were: *John Paul Gaudio, Ciaran Henry and Gabriel Miskovic* from Pack 91; *Mark Butler and Justin Baker* from Pack 331. The **Parvuli Dei Award** was given to: *Evan Marusic, Tyler Minneker, Evan Minneker and Gabriel Guzman* from Pack 331. *Jake Marusic* of Troop 91 earned the **Ad Altare Dei Award**.

Thank you to **Gerry Beattie**, Boy Scout Leader for the above information. Any boys from 5th grade to seniors in high school interested in camping, hiking, canoeing and learning about scouting are invited to join. Adult leaders are also invited to assist with the activities. Call Gerry at 201 446-1703.

Note: **Pack 91** is sponsored by St. John the Baptist Parish. **Pack 81** is sponsored by the Hillsdale United Methodist Church. **Pack 331** is sponsored by the American Legion Post 162 of Hillsdale, Woodcliff Lake and Old Tappan.

## GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

**Girl Scout Sunday** was celebrated at St. John's on Sunday, March 12 at the 10:00 AM Mass — the actual birthday of Girl Scouting. It is always celebrated on the Sunday that falls before March 12 and, in the case of 2017, it turned out to be the same day!

The purpose of observing this annual birthday is to emphasize that the girls take the Girl Scout Promise seriously: *"On my honor, I will try to serve God."* Daisies, Brownies and Girl Scouts were all represented and received a blessing at the conclusion of Mass. The Girl Scouts of Hillsdale provided refreshments following Mass.



**Group photo taken by Girl Scout Leader  
Janice Schmidt**

## **GOING FOR THE EAGLE!**

Several parishioner boy scouts are going for the Eagle Scout rank in their Troops. They are **James Berlamino** (Troop 206 sponsored by the River Vale Police Officers Association), **Antonio Sgarella**, **Thomas Arcaro, Jr.** and **Quinn Arcaro** (all in Troop 108, sponsored by the Hillsdale United Methodist Church), **Matthew Killian** and **Matthew Addvensky**, (both in Troop 91, sponsored by St. John the Baptist Parish) and **Patrick Breen**, (Troop 109 sponsored by the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Hillsdale).

**James'** project involves organizing Blood Drives in the area for Community Blood Services of Montvale. One has already been held at St. John's on June 24. Another is scheduled for November 18 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the River Vale Community Center. He recently held a car wash in River Vale to raise funds for refreshments and printing costs.

**Antonio** has undertaken two projects at St. John's Parish Center to qualify for the rank. The Bishop Sheen Media Center and Library is being renewed with a new coat of paint and new carpeting. The Vianney Room will also be painted. To raise funds for these projects Antonio organized a Bowling Night at the Montvale Lanes on August 4 from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The night included shoes, pizza and beverage for \$25 per person.

**Matthew Killian** will be designing and installing a Wedding Garden on the west side of the Church which will provide an excellent place for picture taking and gathering after the ceremony. To raise funds for the materials needed, Matthew has scheduled a Car Wash at St. John's for Troop 91 on September 9 from 1:30 – 4:00 pm.

**Matthew Addvensky** will be working to improve the nature trails at Beechwood Park in Hillsdale. Broken or warped panels on the trail will be replaced and certain sections leveled off. In addition he will add four benches and 12 bat houses to the park.

**Tom Arcaro** will be renovating the Hillsdale United Methodist Church Sunday School space in the basement of the Church to "give the kids a friendly environment to learn and grow." He recently held a garage sale to raise funds for the project.

**Quinn Arcaro** will be carrying out a project at Sapienza Gardens. He has already put down most of the woodchips in the trails. On a recent weekend trailhead signs, benches and bat houses were built and flowers planted.

**Patrick Breen** hosted a Free Concert at St. Joseph Regional High School in August to promote his musical instruments drive. Instruments will be donated to a non-profit organization called **Hungry for Music**, a charity that helps underserved children with an interest in music. If you missed the concert, instruments in **ANY** condition may be dropped off at the Hillsdale Public Library.



**Pack 91** of St. John's Academy held its **Pinewood Derby** on January 20 in the Holy Family Room. Webelos II Den Leader Steven Laux officiated with the help of Den Leaders Juliana Heafy and Kevin Miskovic. Cub scouts in all dens participated. Winners for Tiger, Wolf, Webelos I and II are: *John Bayati, John Paul Gaudio, James Pakal-nietis* and *Will Feins* respectively.

Volunteers from the Hillsdale Fire Department and Hillsdale Ambulance Corps paid a visit to St. John's Academy during a monthly meeting of **Pack 91**. The scouts looked over the emergency vehicles and learned fire safety, first aid and what the volunteers do during emergency calls. **Pack 91** would like to extend their gratitude to the dedicated volunteers for the fine work they do for the community. **Photos courtesy of Theresa Henry**



**Pack 81** Cub Scouts of Hillsdale attended their Blue & Gold Dinner in June. They were awarded their badges for meeting all their requirements for the year. Each den performed a skit to entertain the audience. Pictured L-R: *Joseph Vargas, Dominick Scozzafava, Philip Seto, Marc Monti, Aleksey Trust, Jacob Berin, Joseph Weiss, Andrew Li, Elan Berin, Colin Cahill*. In back of the scouts are Cubmaster Peter Cahill and Hillsdale Representative Rich Curran.

**Pack 81** Webelos Cub Scouts visited the Hillsdale Fire Department and toured the Hillsdale Ambulance. They had an informative first aid and safety discussion. They were amazed by the equipment on the ambulance!

**Photos courtesy of Diane Scozzafava**





Hillsdale Girl Scout **Troop 318** recently bridged from Cadettes to Seniors. The girls have been together since kindergarten when they began their scouting journey. Pictured on the bridge are *Kiera Foster, Josie DeRosa, Delia Stiles, Julia Scozzafava, Julia Wrenn and Leah Kay*. The bridge is located on St. John's property and was renovated in October 2011 by parishioner Michael Killian for his Eagle Scout project.

Two girl scouts in **Troop 318** earned their **Silver Award** this year—**Julia Scozzafava** and **Josie De Rosa**. Both girls selected projects to benefit pets in need—see below.

**Julia's "Take Action"** project revolved around the issue that animal shelters do not get enough funding or donations for their cat and dog populations. Her goal was to make 30 pet beds for three animal shelters. She hosted three bake sales to raise funds for the materials she needed for the beds. The community was very receptive to her idea and supported her. She shared her project with the seniors at the Riley Center in Westwood and taught them how to make the beds to help the shelters.



**Josie** partnered with the Closter Animal Welfare Society (CLAWS) and the newly opened Pet Supplies Plus store in Hillsdale. She held a pet food and supplies drive in the store and collected products totaling nearly \$750. Josie said "I wanted to work with CLAWS because they help find homes for stray or abandoned animals and they also have a food pantry that provides pet food and supplies to financially struggling families."

**Above photos courtesy of Diane Scozzafava**

## **ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP—THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

- The **Youth Group** kicked off its new season on September 25, 2016 with a Tiki themed BBQ & Bonfire party. It was an activity filled evening with food, games and music. Teens in 8th through 12th grades attended the event and were provided an opportunity to reconnect with friends and to form new friendships.
- Among the events planned for October was a movie night and a pumpkin carving activity. Prizes were awarded for the scariest, silliest, most traditional, most original design, biggest and smallest pumpkins. In November the group met at the Paramus mini golf facilities for a fun night. They also held its first ever **"Friendsgiving" potluck supper**. Each member was asked to bring a dish to share and optionally a friend to the meal. The event proved to be so popular that it will be added to this year's schedule.
- In December the Youth Meeting Room in the Academy was decorated in preparation for the **"Winter Wonderland"** themed Christmas party and gift exchange. **Youth Group** also organized its annual fundraising event, selling Christmas cards featuring the decorated altar space at St. John's from the previous year's Christmas Season.
- During the Easter break the Youth Room was given a much needed fresh coat of paint.
- The **Living Stations of the Cross**, an artistic rendition of the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, was presented by the **Youth Group** on Good Friday. Members dedicated many weeks of intense practicing at the Church and the production was outstanding. Among the event's attendees were families and friends of the Young Actors who came out to support the group.



**Jesus is sentenced to death**



**Jesus is crucified**

### **YOUTH GROUP (cont'd.) - THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

- In May 2017 **Youth Group** took a bus trip to Six Flags/Great Adventure to join other youth for the **22nd Annual New Jersey Catholic Youth Rally**. The group designed matching T-shirts for the event. The day concluded with an evening Liturgy celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark.



**Thank you to Youth Ministry Coordinator, Dee Ford and Spiritual Moderator Fr. Tad Jank for their dedication to our youth. Additional thanks to Fr. Tad for the photos included here!**

### **ST. JOHN'S MINISTRIES FAIR—2016**

- St. John's Stewardship Council sponsored a **Ministry Fair** on Sunday, October 30, 2016 as part of **Stewardship of Time and Talent Weekend**. The Fair was open after the Sunday Masses for people to visit and take in the different ministries of the parish. During the Masses on both Saturday and Sunday, parishioners gave a brief talk regarding his/her Stewardship of Time and Talent. Commitment cards were also available in the pews for parishioners to complete and return either to the Stewardship Council or in the Sunday collections.
- Each Ministry provided an informational table with a poster or banner prominently displaying the name of the ministry along with brochures or materials which highlight their activities. Sign up sheets were available for anyone wishing to join a ministry and/or receive further information. Ministry representatives were also on hand to answer any questions. Refreshments were provided after each Mass.

## **MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

### **MINISTRIES SERVING WORSHIP**

Several parishioners have been added to the roster of **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**. They are: *Maria Black, Carolyn Dentato, Patricia McHugh and Patricia Morrissey.*

There are also a few new **Readers**— *Shannon Cullo, Ann Donfield, Alex Sabastiani and John Ruocco.* The **Junior Reader** program continues to grow. Joining the program that began last summer are: *Zachary Martucci, Bennett Scalia, Hannah Schultz and Christine Vitale.* The Junior Readers will continue to be heard at the 10 AM Mass during the year.

**Luigi Vitale** is the current Leader of the **Altar Servers** at St. John's. He held a training session in the spring and we are happy to welcome **8 new Altar Servers**. They will be training during the summer and will be scheduled in the fall. Welcome to: *Caitlyn Annunziata, Joseph Annunziata, Jorge Benson-Cervantes, Robert Gatto, Billy Iannazzo, Destiny Svorec, Jack Svorec and Lainey Svorec.*

### **ALTAR SERVER RECOGNITION**

At the 5 PM Mass on June 3, 2017 **three Altar Servers** were recognized for their service at St. John's as they prepare to begin college. They are: *Joe Carlson, Kyle Masotti and Jake Schroeder.*

**Joe** has been a server since elementary school. As a senior at Westwood Regional High School, he was part of the technology and swim clubs. **Joe** was in Westwood Boy Scout Troop 350, has volunteered at the local food pantry and served Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless. Prior to Hurricane Sandy, **Joe** also volunteered at the Ocean County Library as a reading buddy for children ages 5-7. He will be attending West Chester University in Pennsylvania this fall.

**Kyle** has been an altar server since the 7th grade. He says that serving has truly strengthened his connection with God and made him realize the importance of faith. He graduated from St. Joseph Regional High School in Montvale where he learned to be a faithful man and how to survive in the world today. **Kyle** will be attending SUNY Maritime College in Throggs Neck, NY where he will earn a degree in Marine Operations. This will help him to pursue his goal of becoming a cruise ship captain.

**Jake** has been an altar server for 8 years and graduated from Pascack Valley High School. He played Lacrosse and was a member of the Indians Football team, winning two back-to-back State Titles. **Jake** will be attending The University of South Carolina in the fall to study Sports Management.

**THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES IN YOUR COLLEGE STUDIES!**

## **HUMAN CONCERNS**

- The Annual **Christmas "Giving Trees"** were placed at the Church entrances on the weekend of November 20, 2016 with suggestions for store gift cards pinned to the trees. A special **Thank You** message was placed in the bulletin which read: **"The Human Concerns Ministry would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the parishioners of St. John's who donated so generously to the 'Giving Trees' this Christmas. Thanks to your kindness we were able to assist many families in making this a happy holiday season. May God bless you and grant you peace in the New Year."**
- The generous Christmas gift cards for food, clothing and gasoline as well as cash donations enabled the ministry to provide assistance to seven parish families and to parishioners at St. Rose of Lima in Newark. In addition, the ministry will also be able to provide emergency financial assistance for rent, utility bills, food and clothing throughout 2017 to parish families in need.
- During the past year **Human Concerns** gave \$1,000 in charitable donations and \$9,400 in food card donations. Due to the generosity of St. John's Academy families who collected the food, Thanksgiving dinners were distributed to families in the parish, in the Pascack Valley area and St. Rose of Lima in Newark. During the year seven parish families received food assistance. At Christmas \$7,365 was donated to Human Concerns and \$9,100 was distributed to families in the parish, in Hillsdale and St. Rose of Lima.
- **Family Promise of Bergen County** held their **Annual Super 50/50 Cash Raffle** to benefit homeless working families on February 25/26, 2017. A maximum of 1000 tickets were to be sold at \$100 each. St. John's has supported this raffle for a number of years, with several winners coming from the parish, including this year! **The Family Promise** program gives hope to struggling families in the area. Ministry members continue to support the program through preparation of meals and onsite assistance as needed.
- **KIVA Micro Loans**— A few years ago **Human Concerns** began to provide micro-loans to needy entrepreneurs through KIVA Microfunds—an online non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the needy worldwide. **KIVA's** mission is "to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty." **Human Concerns** started in 2014 with \$200 and increased the amount to \$525 a year later. To date **53** loans have been made to people all over the world, including Central America, South America, Africa and Southeast Asia. As loans are repaid the money is lent out again, maintaining the same amount in loans. Of the 53 loans, **31** have been repaid to date.

## **GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY**

- Our **Good Shepherd Ministry** was founded in 1998 to raise awareness and to assist those suffering with HIV/AIDS. Their activities include providing dinner once a month for 6-8 residents of Harrison House in Paramus. Parishioners have also been generous in filling the residents' Christmas Wish List. The ministry sponsors awareness days such as AIDS Compassion Sunday, World AIDS Day and participation in the NJ AIDS 5K WALK held in the spring. The walk supports N.J. Buddies of Hackensack who provides services for people living with the disease. Through fundraising they also donate to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers AIDS Task Force.
- The Ministry leads the Stations of the Cross during Lent with readings reflecting an individual's journey with the disease, beginning with diagnosis to resurrection with Christ. It is a very moving journey that raises awareness.
- Although great progress has been made in treating the disease, there are still over 38,000 New Jerseyans battling HIV/AIDS. More needs to be done to cure the stigma associated with it.
- New members are welcome to join the ministry. Help is also needed with the preparation of dinners and with AIDS Compassion Sunday in the Church. Call *Kerry Ganter* at 201 666-0435 for further information.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY—VOICES THAT CHALLENGE**

- Members participated in the second **Annual Walk for Life** with our Respect Life Ministry. (See page 29).
- Information on a number of ongoing issues was made available through an insert and/or the weekly column in the bulletin. Some of the issues covered were Human Life and Dignity, Faithful Citizenship, Poverty, Human Trafficking, Sustainable Environmental Goals, Religious Liberty, Acts of Mercy for our Common Home, Just Peace and Non-Violence, Migrants, Refugees and the DACA Program and a Moral Federal Budget.
- Awareness Days on many of the above issues are communicated to encourage advocacy for pending legislation at the state and federal level. An insert entitled "*How to Talk about Religious Liberty*" was made available in connection with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops **6th Annual Fortnight for Freedom observed June 21-July 4, 2017.**

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY (cont'd.)**

- Social Justice and Respect Life Ministries jointly sponsored the Stations of the Cross using the Maryknoll reflections “**The Way of the Cross Continues . . . .**” The **2017 Lenten Reflection Guide—A Journey with Gospel Nonviolence** from Maryknoll was also made available during the Lenten season. The focus this year was based on the Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference held in Rome in April 2016.
- The Ministry held two **Fair Trade Sale/Community Order Events** in November 2016 and June 2017. Both events offered a variety of representative products available for same day purchase along with catalogs for easy ordering. Both events were successful. **Fair Trade** promotes human dignity by ensuring fair wages, decent working conditions and long-term trading partnerships. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and their non-profit partner SERRV work together to provide high quality, fairly traded handcrafts and gourmet food items from struggling farmers and artisans all over the world.
- The Ministry publicized **Habitat at Bergen Comes to Pascack Valley** with information about a **Habitat ReStore** opening in Westwood and plans to construct four homes in the Township of Washington on Jefferson Street. Two homes will be made available to veterans and two are earmarked for Habitat families. Construction will begin once the property is cleared for building.
- The **Habitat ReStore** held a Grand Opening on Saturday, August 19, 2017. The **ReStore** is a non-profit home improvement store that sells new and gently used home furnishings and construction materials to the public at a fraction of the retail value. It provides a sustainable funding source for the **Habitat Bergen Affiliate**. Donations of furniture, household items, plumbing/electrical fixtures and other construction materials are welcome. They also have a variety of **Volunteer** opportunities available in the operation of the store. The store is at 121 Carver Avenue in Westwood (located in the former Marty’s Shoes store). For questions or further information, please call 201 500-5009 and ask for Catherine.
- **Social Justice** continues to support **First Friends of NJ & NY** in responding to their semi-annual drives for stationery supplies, stamps and phone cards for the undocumented immigrants held in detention centers and jails in New Jersey. The drive is known as **STAMP OUT DESPAIR** and flyers are posted on the bulletin boards and mentioned in the weekly bulletin. Thank you to our parishioners who have supported the drives.

# Respect Life!

- The **Second Annual WALK FOR LIFE** was held on Saturday, October 8, 2016. It was sponsored by the Respect Life and Social Justice Ministries of St. John's and St. Andrew's. **New Hope, Inc.**, an outreach organization for single mothers and their babies, hosted the walk which began at St. John the Baptist and ended at St. Andrew's with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. The **Knights of Columbus Color Guard** of the **St. Thomas More Council 2188** led the walk along with Fr. Tadeus Jank of St. John's and Fr. Alex Barbieto, Pastor of St. Andrew's. It was a beautiful day and the walk raised awareness about the sanctity of life.
- Members of **Respect Life Ministry** joined the **Annual Right to Life March** held in Washington, D.C. on January 27, 2017. Buses were made available by the Archdiocese of Newark, St. Elizabeth's in Wyckoff and St. John the Evangelist in Bergenfield. Information was distributed through the parish bulletin for those who were interested in going.
- **LIFENET—20/20 PROJECT** was initiated in the fall of 2016 by **LIFENET** and the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark along with members of pro-life groups across the state. It is a collaborative, ongoing effort to ban abortion past 20 weeks, post fertilization in New Jersey. In May 2015 the House of Representatives approved a bill that would ban abortion at 20+ weeks in all 50 states. It was blocked in the Senate. New Jersey's version of the bill, known as the "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" has been introduced in the Assembly and the Senate. **LIFENET** has asked parishes to help with Prayer and to sponsor monthly Masses. Individuals and parish ministries are invited to join this effort.
- The **Annual Baby Shower** was held beginning May 5 through May 14, 2017. Decorated playpens were located at the Church entrances for donations of NEW clothing, bottles, baby wipes, disposable diapers, baby formula and gift certificates. In addition to generous donations from parishioners, the parish **Cozy Corner Knit/Crochet Group** created **50 baby blankets** for the shower. The gifts were delivered to New Hope, Inc. and Siena House for distribution to first time single mothers.



Joan Saoud, Mary & Tony Yorio



Marilyn Laquidera, John & Lou Ann McGlinchey



## ST. JOHN'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- The Society's **Annual Memorial Mass** was celebrated at the 8 AM Mass on Sunday, September 11, 2016. **46** departed members were remembered. Relatives and friends were welcomed to the Mass and to a continental breakfast in the Parish Center.
- The **Holy Hour of Adoration**, sponsored by the Holy Name and Rosary Societies continues on the second Thursday of each month except during Lent and Advent. Special intentions are included such as Respect for Life, Religious Liberty and others that are timely and appropriate.
- The Holy Name **Annual Clothing Drive** was held on Saturday, October 15, 2016. Members were assisted by several Confirmation Candidates who helped to accept the donations, load the truck and assist in the delivery of the clothing to St. Andrew's in Westwood. A big thank you from the HNS to all who donated clothing and to the young volunteers: *Jacob Averna, Dominick Damato, Michael Parisi, Timothy Lonergan, Nicolas Rizzo and Joni Medzadourian.*
- The Society again purchased and distributed **250 Keep Christ in Christmas** magnetic bumper decals after all the Masses on the weekend of December 17/18, 2016. Over the last five years, the Society has provided **1500** magnets to St. John's parishioners.
- Several members were on hand to set up the **Nativity Creche** at the Hillsdale Avenue location on December 10, 2016 and to dismantle it on January 14, 2017. Some minor repair work is needed in the wooden structure.
- Holy Name Men attended a weekend retreat at the **Loyola House of Retreats** in Morristown on November 18-20, 2016. Later on March 4, 2017 HNS members and other parishioners attended the **Archdiocesan Catholic Men's Conference** at Seton Hall University.
- The **Holy Name Society** led the **Stations of the Cross** on the first Friday of Lent.
- The **Annual Entertainment Raffle** winners were drawn after the 8 AM Mass on Sunday, June 11, 2017. For the second year the winners are parishioners of St. John's and Hillsdale residents. **Robert Meyer** won the first prize of 2 tickets to a Broadway Show and **Joseph Bisi** won dinner for two at a restaurant of his choosing. The Society's **Annual Communion Breakfast** took place immediately following the drawing at the Iron Horse in Westwood. Three recently deceased Holy Name men were remembered at the breakfast; namely, *Eugene Molli, Edward Powers* and *James Rocco.*

### HOLY NAME SOCIETY (cont'd.)

- Speakers at the monthly meetings included *Deacon Jack Gray*, who talked about the 2016 Parish Survey; *Kenneth Ralph*, Counselor of Law at the firm of Bruno and Ferraro; and *Kerry Ganter*, who spoke about the Parish Good Shepherd Ministry which she chairs.
- The **Bergen County Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies** meet quarterly at different locations. The December 10, 2016 meeting was held at St. John's, beginning with celebration of the Mass at 8 AM followed by the meeting in the Parish Center.
- The **Holy Name Society** supports the ministries and activities of the Parish from their fundraising efforts. This year Human Concerns, Good Shepherd, Sick and Homebound/Parish Visitors each received a \$300 check to support their activities.
- Several members attended the **HNS Spiritual Directors' Dinner** on April 27, 2017. Deacon Al Ganter is the Spiritual Director for St. John's Holy Name Society.

### ST. JOHN'S ROSARY SOCIETY



- St. John's **Rosarians** celebrate the Blessed Mother Mary through prayer, observance of special feast days and participation in the spiritual and social activities of the parish. The first Sunday of each month is **Rosary Sunday**. Members attend the 8AM Mass with recitation of the rosary following in Mary's Chapel. Their **Annual Communion Breakfast** was held in May in the Parish Center.
- The **Rosarians** hold a meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to cover business items and perhaps hear a speaker or view a movie. Plans are also made for trips which are open to all parishioners. This past year they saw "**Cabaret**" at the Bergen County Players Theatre in Oradell.
- A pilgrimage to the **National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima** was sponsored by the Rosary Society. The Pilgrimage celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions to three young children tending their sheep. The bus fare of \$25/person round trip to Washington, NJ left from St. John's at 8:00 AM on June 13 with over 30 people. There were several priests available for confession before the Mass celebrated at 1:00 PM. There were hundreds of people there in honor of **Our Lady of Fatima** and it was quite inspirational to be part of the devotion.

### **ST. JOHN'S ROSARY SOCIETY (cont'd.)**

- The **Annual Crowning of the Blessed Mother** took place at the 12 Noon Mass on May 7, 2016. The Feast of **Our Lady of the Rosary** was also observed at the 12 Noon Mass on the first Sunday of October 2016 with a bouquet of roses presented for blessing and placement in Mary's Chapel.
- Together with the Holy Name Society the Rosarians sponsor a **Holy Hour of Adoration** on the second Thursday of ten months of the year at 7:30 PM in the Church.
- Every year The Rosary Society presents a gift of **Rosary Beads** to each child receiving their First Holy Communion.

### **MARTHA & MARY'S MINISTRY**

- The Ministry is open to parish women of all ages who are drawn together in prayer, service and social interaction to build a sense of community, friendship and faith fellowship. Activities are scheduled at various times during the year and are well publicized. The ministry also supports a **Divine Mercy Prayer Group** which meets in front of the Blessed Sacrament Monday-Friday at 9 AM for 30 minutes to pray the Chaplet.
- Some of this year's activities included a Count Your Blessings evening, an evening of Reflection about the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother, a Faith Dipped Chocolate evening of games, fun and encouragement to sweeten your faith. A Soup Supper was held during Lent on March 10, 2017 at 6:30 PM preceding the Stations of the Cross in Church. A free will offering is taken each year and donated to a ministry or community organization. This year it was presented to the Livingstone Family whose daughter Jessica is undergoing treatment for a rare brain illness.
- For further information on the **Martha & Mary's Ministry**, contact *Kathy Breitenbach* at [kbreitenbach@stjohnhillisdale.com](mailto:kbreitenbach@stjohnhillisdale.com) or *Mary Ellen Breen* at [mmbreen@optonline.net](mailto:mmbreen@optonline.net). Information on the **Divine Mercy Prayer Group** may be obtained by contacting *Marisol Culshaw* at 201 666-1508.



- Members of the **Knights of Columbus St. Thomas More Council 2188 Westwood/Hillsdale** enjoyed a very busy year! At the October 13, 2016 **Holy Hour** of the Holy Name & Rosary Society the **“Silver Rose”** was on display in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The **“Silver Rose”** Pilgrimage is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and dates back to 1960.

Beginning in March 2016 six Silver Roses began a journey across North America from Canada to the United States, concluding on December 12, 2016 in Monterrey, Mexico on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. From September 25-October 23 the Silver Rose was on display at parishes throughout the Garden State.

- On December 10 the Council organized a **Christmas Bus** trip to Manhattan with stops at Bryant Park and Rockefeller Center. The bus with seating for 50 was full and the tour was enjoyed by all.
- The Council sponsored a **Super Bowl Party** on Sunday, February 5 at The Estate at Florentine Gardens. In addition to the game, there was a Starting Line Buffet and another at HalfTime, Dessert, Beverages and an Open Bar. A 50-50 raffle was also included. Proceeds from the event were sent to the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the Gary Sinisi Foundation for Veterans and to the Council’s Charity Fund.
- The Council’s **Annual Golf Outing** took place at the River Vale Country Club on June 12, 2017. It began with breakfast at 6:45 AM and concluded with lunch at The Estate at Florentine Gardens. Cost per golfer was \$150; Hole Sponsor was \$100. Monies raised to support the Council’s Scholarship, Charity and Operating Funds.



- Together with St. John’s Respect Life Ministry, the Council held a **Baby Bottle Drive** in January and February 2017. The empty bottles were distributed after all the Masses on January 21/22 and collected during the weekend of February 11/12. A total of **\$2,066** was raised at St. John’s for **Several Sources Shelters** and **Siena House**. Both organizations provide hope, assistance and shelter to pregnant teens, needy families and homeless women and children. Siena House also provides temporary residence for families seeking suitable and affordable housing. Pictured L-R: Sr. Mary McFarland, Pastoral Associate and representative of Siena House; Autumn Winter with baby Savannah; Sarah Hastings from Several Sources and Joe Bisi, Grand Knight for St. Thomas More Council 2188 Westwood/Hillsdale.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (cont'd.)**

- From April through November the Council sponsors their **Friday Night Dinners** at the hall in Westwood. The dinner is very popular and the monies raised provide funds for the Council's charitable activities/contributions. It is pretty much sold out and the food is delicious—cooked by the Knights themselves!



- As part of its efforts to promote **Vocations**, the Council provides annual monetary support to Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Newark. Shown L-R is Grand Knight Joe Bisi, Seminarians Diego Navarro Rodriguez, Anthony DiStefano, Jesus Carlo Marino, Gabriel Perdomo Jimenez and Deputy Grand Knight Frank Mariconti.

- The Council annually awards **\$1000 scholarships** to students entering college or already attending college. Recipients are chosen from children or grandchildren of Council members, members of the parishes served by the Council or other worthy students proposed by a member of the Council. The scholarships are given to recognize the educational, community, social and religious accomplishments and contributions of the particular students. This year's recipients are *Matthew Gallagher* and *Brielle Soluri* from St. John's Parish.; *Leanne Guarnieri* and *Molly Costello* received the award from St. Andrew's Parish.

### **WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE 2017**

- **A One Day Retreat** was held on Saturday, April 29 in the Msgr. Morris Parish Center. A team of 14 put the event together, led by Co-Chairs *Sharon Scalia* and *Gabriela Cervantes*. The day began at 7:00 AM with breakfast and concluded with the celebration of Mass at 7:00 PM in the Church. Presider and Homilist for the Mass was Fr. Tad Jank.



- **38** women attended the Retreat which included **15** candidates attending for the first time. All came away feeling renewed and energized in their faith.

- Next year's Cornerstone Retreat Co-Chairs are *Nadine Timpanaro* and *Suzanne Pearson*. Information and date to come—tentatively Fall 2018.

## PARISH EVENTS

- **ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL** The **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts Festival** was held on June 9, 10 and 11, 2017 with events presented in the Church and Msgr. Morris Parish Center. The Festival also celebrated the **90<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the parish to be observed on **September 29, 2017**. A large sheet cake was served at the Saturday night dinner.
- On Friday evening, June 9 at 7:30 PM Soprano Marie Marquis gave a recital in the Church accompanied by Jason Wirth, Pianist. Saturday, June 10 featured a Gala Dinner with Live Cabaret at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center. An Opera and Broadway Concert at 8:00 PM in the Church completed the evening. On Sunday, June 11 at 1:15 PM a Children's program was offered in the Parish Center which included a dance recital, magic, balloon artistry, face painting, food and fun. The final event of the weekend was held at 3:00 PM in the church with the return of Brielle Dulee Perez, concert pianist. The charge for each event was \$20.00 per person with reservations only required for the Saturday night dinner. The charge for the children's program was \$10.00.
- Many thanks to **Roberto Sabastiani**, Music Director and **Cathy Wollyung**, Executive Producer for arranging the 8th Arts Festival at St. John's. In addition, many, many parishioners who volunteered their time and talents were acknowledged in the Festival programs.
- **ARS MUSICA CHORUS** This very talented Chorus held three performances at St. John's during 2016-2017. The first was on November 18 at 8 PM in the church with a presentation on **Little Solemn Mass**. On December 9 they performed **Messiah** and the third concert held on June 2 featured **Grant Us Peace**. St. John's is happy to welcome this musical Company who give such inspirational performances.
- **2nd ANNUAL CAR RAFFLE** Tickets for the 2nd Annual Car Raffle were sold in the spring with the drawing of the winner taking place on Mother's Day, May 14. Fr. John drew the winning ticket after the noon Mass and the winner was parishioner **Anne Moore**. She was beyond delighted since the car she was driving was 17 years old! Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the growth of Programming and Ministries at St. John's.

## **PARISH EVENTS (cont'd.)**

- **ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER CELEBRATION** was held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 in the Msgr. Morris Parish Center immediately following the 5 PM Liturgy. The cost of \$30 per person included the traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner, beer, wine, coffee, tea and assorted beverages. Irish soda bread and marvelous desserts were provided by those attending. The evening was sponsored by the Pastoral Council. Parishioners and friends enjoyed the food, music and, of course, the Irish step dancers. A good time was had by all.
- **HVAS BEEFSTEAK DINNER & TRICKY TRAY** The Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service held their 3rd Annual Beefsteak Dinner & Tricky Tray event on May 13, 2017 at 6 PM in the Parish Center. Since this was the day before Mother's Day, the theme for the evening was: **Treat Mom to a Steak Dinner!** In addition to food and beverages, there was a DJ, a Tricky Tray and 50/50 raffles. The evening was sold out at 200 tickets purchased at \$45.00 per person. The proceeds were for the benefit of their **Ambulance Fund**.
- **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Beginning in September 2016, members of St. John's Book Club met almost monthly for discussion on the most recent book the group selected. They included: **The Lake Season, Up From Orchard Street, Christmas Bells, Girl Waits With Gun, The Nightingale, Pilgrimage: My Search for the real Pope Francis and The Ship of Brides**. Anyone interested in joining this active Book Club may contact *Angela Ruocco* at 201 664-8690.
- **MONDAY MORNING MOVIES** The new season of spiritual movies began in September with a showing of the **Reluctant Saint**, a chronology of the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Following movies included **Mother Teresa**, our newly canonized saint; **A Time For Miracles**, the story of Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American born canonized saint; **Events at Garabandal**, the Blessed Mother's appearances to four young girls in Spain; **Queen of Peace** tells the story of events in Medjugorje which are ongoing; and **The 13th Day**, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima.

## **PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (cont'd. from page 6)**

- **KEN RALPH** was appointed to the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education in September 2016. He fills the seat vacated by Al Murphy, Jr. and his term is through December 2017. Ken and his family are 20 year residents of Hillsdale. Their twins recently graduated from PVHS and one daughter is in her senior year there. **Ken** is familiar with the entire school system and has been active in the community for many years, including St. John the Baptist Parish.
- **ELISABETH RALPH** has committed to join the girls lacrosse team at Wofford College in South Carolina next year. She is the first Pascack Valley athlete from her sport to reach the Division 1 level and one of the first female lacrosse players ever at Wofford. This spring PVHS needed her to be an offensive leader so she moved from defense to midfield and scored 72 goals.
- **JOSEPH GREEN** was sworn in as a Hillsdale Police Officer at the August 8 Council Meeting by Mayor Doug Frank. **Joe** graduated from St. John's Academy and Pascack Valley Regional High School. He received a degree in criminal justice from Rutgers University and graduated from the police academy in May 2016. For the past year he worked as a Class 2 special officer in Cape May City, and is also certified as a telecommunications officer/dispatcher.
- **SHANNON CULLOO** was Class Valedictorian at the June 15, 2017 graduation ceremony at Pascack Valley High School. She was also one of five members of the Class of 2017 to have been named Commended Student in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Finally, **Shannon** was a valuable member of the Indians Basketball Team who won the North 1, Group 3 Championship game this year. (See photo below)



Basketball Team members and parishioners of St. John's are: *Nicole Alvarado, Nicole Arden, Kate Carlson, Colleen Coyle, Shannon Culloo, Kyra Gynegrowski, Kelly Petro, Amanda Plasencia, Brie Smith, Jenna Szabo and Toriana Tabasco.*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (cont'd.)

- **NICK METZ** was named a winner in the **36th Annual Congressional Art Competition** for 2017. The Congressional is one of the most prestigious youth art competitions in the country. **Nick's** photograph **"At the Edge"** features a child at the edge of a body of water. He was the winner in New Jersey's 5th congressional district. His work will be displayed for a year at the U. S. Capitol. **Nick** also received \$12,000 in scholarship funds to the Savannah College of Arts and Design which he will attend this fall. Among additional honors was recognition as a Commended Student in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program and a \$2500 scholarship from the Ridgewood Art Institute.

- **TIM GALLAGHER** joined the Manhattan Concert Productions' Masterwork Festival Chorus singing Mozart's Requiem at **Carnegie Hall** on March 11, 2017. The Chorus, comprised of singers from across the country, was accompanied by the New York City Chamber Orchestra. **Tim** attends Bergen County Academies.

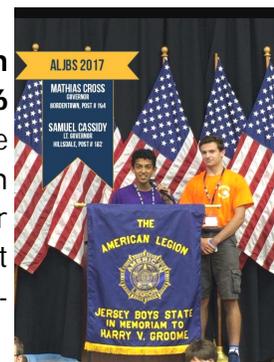


- **MARY KATE VICECONTE** was also one of five members of the Pascack Valley High School Class of 2017 to be named a Commended Student in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Students are recognized for exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.



- **OLIVIA DUNNE** was selected to represent **Team USA** in an international Gymnastics competition. She was one of five junior girls going to Italy for the City of Jesolo Trophy competition. She was part of the gold medal winning USA team. **Team USA** finished almost 14 points ahead of second place team Italy. She heard the news while training at the National Team Camp in Texas. **Olivia** felt it was the next step in her Olympic dream. Her coach feels she "has the talent and drive to take this as far as she wants to go, and in the next three years, make a World Championships or Olympic team."

- **SAM CASSIDY** was elected **Lt. Governor at the 2017 American Legion Boys State** held the week of June 18, 2017. He was elected by the **956** boys who attended and was sworn in by former Governor Christie Todd Whitman. **Sam** will be a senior this year at Pascack Valley High School, plays on the football team and will be the incoming Senior Class President. The American Legion Boys State is held each year at Rider University. **Sam** was sponsored by Post 162 of Hillsdale-Woodcliff Lake-Old Tappan.



**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!**

**EMERSON**

**07632**

Susan & Thomas Gibbons, 126 Demarest Ave.  
Lysandra & Steven Lora, 176 Sanford Avenue\*  
Kathleen & Raymond Trochanowski,  
15 Overlook Avenue  
Eilish & Steven Viggiani, 24 Bolling Street

**HACKENSACK**

**07601**

Lizbeth Marin/Green, 225 South Main Street

**HILLSDALE**

**07642**

Nicole & Jay Avondoglio, 69 Windham Road\*  
Jessica & Alexander Brown, 118 Large Ave.\*  
Vanessa & Jason Caldwell, 51 Orchard Lane  
Brenda & Dave Candelaria, 135 Oakland St.  
Anita & Javier Contreras, 58 Magnolia Ave.\*  
Julie & Brian Czop, 33 Carlyle Place  
Karina & Vincent Downey, 161 Evergreen St.\*  
Riham Makhoul & Sergio Gambino,  
235 Pascack Road  
Estela Montes & Antonio Garcia, 12 Orchard St\*  
Araceli & Oscar Hernandez, 93 Patterson St.  
Grace & Doug Mueller, 12 Hopkins Street\*  
Ashley & Greg Oxnard, 255 Cambridge Road  
Nicole & Chris Rozewski, 107 Central Avenue  
Erica & Tony Russo-Sauer, 36 Yesler Way  
Kathryn & Igor Soukhanov, 29 Trinity Place  
Francine & Gerald Torino, 61 Buff Lane  
Kristen & Clinton Voltman, Jr., 81 Queen Ct.

**LODI**

**07644**

Angela & Jose Valle, 53 Saint Joseph Blvd.\*

**RIVER VALE**

**07675**

Kate & James Dalton, 695 Wicklow Way  
Meghan & Joseph Filacanevo, 537 Wittich Ter.  
Jennifer Kearney, 597 Thurnau Drive\*  
Enza & Joseph Sardella, 665 Woodside Ave.  
Amy Vasel, 607 Surgent Road

**TWP. OF WASHINGTON**

**07676**

Lyndsay & Kelly Krenn, 596 Cross Street  
Lisa & Nicholas Pavlou, 629 Valley Court\*

**UPPER SADDLE RIVER**

**07458**

Cara & Justin Lake, 42 Sunflower Drive

**VALLEY COTTAGE, NY\***

**10989**

Christine & William Brodsky, 350 Boxberger Rd  
\*We apologize for not including in July 2016

**WESTWOOD**

**07675**

Donna Cone, 20 Valley Avenue, E-2  
Lisa Cone, 7 Valley Avenue  
Michael F. Daly, P.O. Box 497, Westwood, NJ\*  
Ann Marie Funk, 500 Center Ave., #217  
Dawn Momot, 44 Roosevelt Avenue  
Jacqueline & Brian Tofel, 15 Oakland Avenue  
Nancy & Kevin Widmayer, 117 Harding Ave.

***Please take a moment to extend a personal  
welcome to new neighbors on your street  
or in town!***

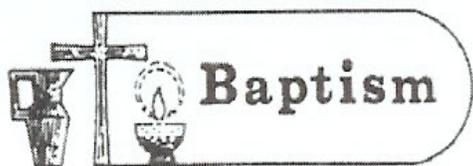
***\*After June 30, 2017***

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*The following children were baptized at St. John the Baptist during the months indicated. Welcome to our parish family!*

**July 2016:** Luca Vincent Chiello, Nicholas John Luciano, Jr., Mikaela Merino Mancheno, Lucy Estelle Rosica. **September:** Viviana Marie DeBartolo, Amelia Jennings, Brooke Arya Valentine. **October:** Luke Matthew Acebo, Ashlynn Rose DiMaria, Joseph Ryan Marchiano, Stella Rose Marmora, James Thomas Salvatore, Oliver George. **January 2017:** Jake Nolan Black. **February:** Hannah Angliongto, Owen Robert Bedarbis, Jack Parker Cowlshaw, Seraphina Maria Puccio, Eva Diane Robalino, Isabella Carmela Passanante, Jeffrey Burchell. **April:** Isabella Marie Hastings, Rylie Shea Mullaney, Emma Skye Oxnard, Hailey Paige Sardina. **May:** Audrey Eleanore Green, Carter William Koenig, Juliette Rose Large, Nicholas John Soukhanov. **June:** Isabella Antonnia Balzano, Efrain Mateo Cabrera, Ryder Jason Caldwell, Ella Christine Filacanevo, Claire Adeline Filacanevo, Abigail Kathleen Rozewski. **July 2017:** Gabriel Vincent Dy, Nathaniel Wolf Gee, William Richard Jansen, Luke Thomas Lorello, Julia Majewski, Benjamin Joseph Tofel, Olivia Marie Vargas. **August 2017:** Charlotte Elizabeth Brown, Julia Theresa Ferro, Brendan Boris Peros.

*Thank you to Virginia Gray for sending the names of our newly baptized children.*



## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

*Congratulations to the following couples who were married at St. John the Baptist July 2016 through August 26, 2017.*

Tracy Rose Hering & Brendan Michael Roche—July 9, 2016; Jamie Kenitz & George Blacido—July 16, 2016; Rebecca Gela & Darrin Vangelakos—July 23, 2016; Sandy Amaral & Joseph Daniele—August 6, 2016; Cristina Spagnoli & Peter Rickett—August 27, 2016; Christianne Spencer & Andrew Gunn—September 3, 2016; Jennifer Heslin & Kevin Duffy—September 10, 2016; Laura Simchick & Nicholas Smerina—October 21, 2016; Kathryn Carey & Gregory Doonan—December 3, 2016; Laura Filon & Alex Yeaw—April 23, 2017; Shannon Kirk & Chris Daly—April 30, 2017; Rachel Guyt & Anthony Jurjevic—June 10, 2017; Maria David & Daniel Zayas—June 25, 2017; Riham Makhoul & Sergio Gambino—August 26, 2017

*Thank you to Jenifer Carvelli, Wedding Rehearsal Coordinator for assisting in the wedding day preparations.*

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Several parish couples attended the special liturgies at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart for 5, 25 and 50th wedding anniversaries. Celebrating 25 years on April 30 were **Amanda & Ed Addvensky; Liz & Greg Di Lorenzo; Jim & Catherine Domville and Linda & Frank Parisi.** On May 7, **Virginia & Jim Abrams** attended the liturgy for 50 year celebrants. **And to all couples who celebrated a wedding anniversary during the last year—**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## IN LOVING MEMORY

***We remember the parishioners listed below who have been called by God to Eternal Life July 2016 through June 2017.***

Patricia Ayers, Arlene Begen, Ksenija Beverin, Robert Bradshaw, Felix Brady, Lisa Branch, Salvatore Cacace,\* Thomas Connellan, Lisa Connors, Rose Mary Daher, Anthony D'Alessandro, Elizabeth Dehn, Nicolas Dentato, Jeraldine Dickinson,\* Barbara Doll, Rose Forese, Sigrid Frawley, Ernestina Gonzalez, Patricia LaFrance, Alfred Latronico, Donald J. Lostumbo,\* Mary Ann Lyon, Gladys Maher, James Matto, Salvatore Mirabella, George Molta, Francis Monteleone, John Mueller, Viola Mundhenk, Mary Nemes, Mary Picariello,\* Edward Powers, Barbara Puglisi, James Rocco, Dominic Santucci, Grace Schwartz, Veronica Spindler, Beatrice Strohmeier, James Vanderwalk, John Wagenhofer,\* Robert Wertalik,\* Eileen Wynne and Peter Wynne.

***\*After June 30, 2017***

***"We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them until we have conducted them by our prayers into the House of the Lord."***

***St. Ambrose***

## FUNERAL PREPARATION WORKSHOP

The Priests of the Parish, Bereavement Ministry and a representative from Becker Funeral Home sponsored a workshop to help people know what to do when a loved one passes away. It was held after the 12 noon Mass on October 2, 2016 in the Parish Center. It helped to answer questions about the options available and what needs to be done first.

## ST. JOHN'S BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Grateful thanks to **Mary Musella** and **Marilyn Golusinski** who extend themselves to family members suffering the loss of a loved one. It is such a difficult time and yet arrangements need to be made. **Mary & Marilyn** assist with the necessary preparations for the Wake Service, Funeral Mass and other needs as requested by the family.

The Bereavement Ministry sponsored the **Annual All Souls Mass of Remembrance** on November 2, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Church. The names of those buried from St. John's, as well as those names that have appeared in the bulletin are remembered at this Mass. A **Novena** for departed parishioners, family and friends was held by the parish November 1-9, 2016.

The Ministry also sponsored a special **Mass of Comfort** on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 12 noon. The Mass is celebrated for the families and friends of the Community of St. John the Baptist who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Refreshments were served following Mass in the Parish Center.

***"Blessed are they who Mourn for they shall be Comforted."***  
***Matthew 5:4***



**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**69 Valley Street, Hillsdale, NJ 07642**  
**201 664-3131**  
**[www.stjohnhillsdale.com](http://www.stjohnhillsdale.com)**

<b>Msgr. Morris Parish Center</b>	<b>201 666-2707</b>
<b>St. John's Academy</b>	<b>201 664-6364</b>
<b>Human Concerns</b>	<b>201 664-3131</b>
<b>Faith Formation</b>	<b>201 666-2707</b>
<b>Fax Number</b>	<b>201 664-0772</b>

### **POPE FRANCIS' 50th WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE**

In his Message for the **50th World Day of Peace** on January 1, 2017, entitled "**Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace,**" Pope Francis urges families, faith communities, government leaders, and the international community to practice nonviolence and work to build a just peace. Gospel nonviolence is not passive; it entails active strategies such as peace building, conflict transformation, restorative justice, and unarmed civilian protection. Seeking a just peace means preventing conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

*Let us pray . . . O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need. Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required . . . "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Mi 6:8). Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity. Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Copyright 2016 Therese Wilson-Favors.*