



# PARISH NEWSLETTER

## SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

SPRING 2019

### WHO MADE THE INVITATION?

By Reverend William E. Foley, Pastor

Shortly after Christmas Day, I took a much needed break – the first since the difficult days of the summer. As I walked through the beautiful snow-filled woods of New Hampshire, the Lord, in a sense, “got into my boat.” I did, indeed, rest; but, he gave me an idea which came to fruition yesterday. He told me that gathering of the parish in September for a “Town Hall” was needed and successful; but I still need to “put out into deep water.” He asked me to gather the lay and clerical leadership of the parish to share our goals and work more ardently to get more engagement in the ministry of the parish from those who belong to this community of faith.

Recently, members of the parish staff, pastoral council, school advisory board, and finance council met for about three hours to reflect on our identity as “body of Christ,” to share our goals, and to discuss our mission. I could not be more impressed with the energy and genuine concern for their parish expressed by the 40 or so people who met! Whose idea was it? Not mine! When one genuinely encour-

ters the divine, there is a sense of awe and unworthiness. Isaiah was performing his priestly duties in the temple. I am reminded of the day over 44 years ago when I spoke with a priest about being a priest. I came into the Church. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed. My eyes teared up as I began to realize that I had just taken a huge step towards my childhood dream of doing what the priest does at the altar. Little did I comprehend then the entirety of this vocation!

As Bishop Barron expresses it so well, like our Jewish ancestors and friends, we are “called out” of the world to gather the nations to follow the Divine Master, the Good Shepherd, who leads us safely to the Father. This is our identity as “Church!” My role in the process is to “stir into flame” the gifts of the Spirit that have been bestowed upon you. That gathering was one concrete example of that movement of the Spirit bringing us to greater unity. I am awed and grateful to have a part in this process. Once purified by the burning coal, Isaiah said: “Here I am, send me!” St. Paul described to the Corinthians

the essence of the gospel when he described “handing on what had been handed to him.” The Latin word for the expression is “traditio,” from which we get “tradition.” The “tradition” Paul was entrusted to “hand on” is a living person – the Risen Christ, who wants us to share in divine life.

A concrete expression of that life is the love, of which we hear in St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. Love, as defined by Paul in that eloquent discourse, is willing the good of the other as other. In other words, it is the very mystery of the cross made concrete in our everyday lives. Those who gathered with me yesterday were like the apostles in the boat with Jesus. Our efforts as individuals and small groups to recruit others and to proclaim the gospel have been frustrating; but there seemed to be renewed energy and hope in this larger coming together of leaders. Have we been touched by God? I think so! May the Spirit continue to lead us into deeper waters where there are even bigger fish!



Artwork by Nathan, 3A



Artwork by Annie, 3B



Artwork by Maggie, 3B

ON THE PAGES  
OF THIS ISSUE



Artwork (Self-Portrait) by Jack, Second Grade

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# RCIA: MEET THE FUTURE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

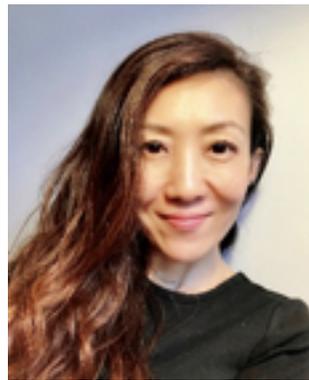
By Tammy J. Flippo, Director of Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

The community of the faithful plays an overwhelming role in catechizing the RCIA participants for they provide the example to see and learn from. Thus, on behalf of our future new members, please join us in the celebration of the RCIA rites and further, continue to pray for these men and women as they now prepare for the Rite of Election on Sunday, March 10th.



**LILIAN FALUYI**  
CATECHUMEN

Lilian was born in New York but her parents are from Africa. She is currently living the single vocation and works locally as a Project Analyst.



**PRISCILLA RAY**  
CATECHUMEN

Priscilla was born in China. She and husband, Greg, are members of Blessed Sacrament. They have two children, ages 5 and 8, who attend our parish school.



**WHITNEY AMON**  
CANDIDATE

Whitney is a TV reporter. She and husband, Christopher, have one daughter, age 2, and a son who was born December 2018.



**SCOTT BOELKE**  
CANDIDATE

Scott is native to Washington, DC. He is self-employed and has one son from a previous marriage.



**MACKENZIE CLARK**  
CANDIDATE

Mackenzie was born in Hawaii and is a sales trainer. She and her husband, Peter, have a 15-month-old son and are expecting another child in August.



**COURTNEY EVANS**  
CANDIDATE

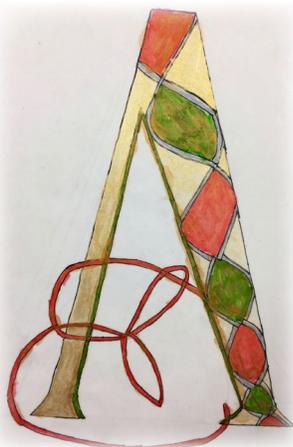
Courtney is from Winston-Salem, NC, and is currently living the single vocation. She works locally as a realtor/ investor.

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**RICH VITALE**  
CANDIDATE

Rich is from Oakland, CA, and works locally as an educator. He and his wife, Suzy, recently joined Blessed Sacrament Parish.



Artwork by Astrid, Seventh Grade



Artwork by Lily, Third Grade

## AN UPDATE FROM THE YOUNG FAMILY MINISTRY

By Eli Angelo

Since its inception in September 2015, the Blessed Sacrament Young Family Ministry (BSYFM) has welcomed 50 families with young children between newborn and 6 years old to our membership. The goal of this group is to bring together any parent(s) with little ones to feel like they have a supportive community of friends who understand the demands that young children bring. When our members get together, everyone has an opportunity to share stories of parenthood and ways to inspire and raise our children in the Catholic faith.

The group's calendar includes a number of annual events. Every October, BSYFM organizes a Trunk-or-Treat to provide the youngest members of the parish a fun and safe way to participate in Halloween. Our costumed littles meander through the decorated cars collecting candy and their Pumpkin Prayers while their grown-ups have a chance to socialize and sip hot apple cider. During the year, members are able to volunteer with their little ones to attend the Senior Center's Halloween party and St. Nicolas party to join the seniors in their celebrations. In the spring, BSYFM hosts an Easter event where our little ones listen to a story about Palm Sunday and partake in an Easter egg hunt where they receive the jelly bean prayer. Last year, each little one received a keepsake miniature donkey

to remind them of the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem.

This January the Young Families Ministry welcomed its members to its first event celebrating the Epiphany. The children decorated crowns to wear as they listened to Tomie dePaolo's "The Story of the Three Wise Kings" and then created their own stars of Bethlehem. Parents watched and chatted while enjoying Galette de Rois (King Cake) to celebrate the occasion. We end each year with a casual family Bar-B-Q to welcome summer and give everyone a chance to be together in a relaxed atmosphere.

BSYFM events can be found in the parish bulletin and on the parish website's calendar. If interested in joining the mailing list, please contact Anthony and Elizabeth Angelo at [bsyoungfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:bsyoungfamilies@gmail.com)

The Young Family Ministry is currently working with the Parish Council on ways to expand our impact and invite new members to join our group. One of our goals is to create new service projects that would allow for members to attend with their littles ones and feel like they are contributing to the community while promoting service to their children.



Photos courtesy of Young Family Ministry

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# THE HEART OF A HERO

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By Conor Hardy

*“How wonderful it is to have a heart, and as little as it is, use it to love God.” – St. Jean Marie Vianney*

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One day, when I was a youth of 17 years old who relished in wonder of woods and the world, platforms for dreams of adventure and heroism – as every youth, young and old, have – I wandered through the library of my high school to its second floor. It was there as I browsed across the shelves, judging books by their binders and titles and authors, that my eyes curiously settled upon a biography with an old black and battered cover. I pulled it from the shelf and opened it up. An image of a man with cheery dear eyes



and a kindly smile met my own. On the opposite page were phrases in large, bold print:

***To be saved, we must know,  
love, and serve God. Oh,  
what a beautiful life!***

***A pure soul with God is like  
a child with its mother.***

***Oh God! Oh God! How Thou  
has loved us! See the power  
of the priest; out of a  
piece of bread the word  
of a priest makes a God.***

Such expressions resonated deeply within my heart and appeased its searching. I remember crouching over this book, flipping through its pages and being totally immersed in the stories of this man long enough for my neck to strain, signaling me it was time to leave and try to catch the bus! I lankily leaped down the stairs to the front desk and checked out the *The Curé D’Ars: A Pictorial Biography*, by Right Rev. Rene Fourrey, Bishop of Belley for the first time of many thereafter. So it was that I came to know of St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney.

It is an interesting thought to consider that, in a culture and time in which our society praises and preaches comfort and pleasure, what was most appealing to me about St. Vianney was that the challenge he proposed for attaining happiness was living a life of sacrificial love. He made himself a victim of love by his zeal for Jesus Christ and the well-being of souls. He used to say as an adolescent, “If I were to be a priest, I should want to be a good and holy priest after God’s own heart and win ever so many souls for Him.” Here was a true hero. Amidst so many adversaries and quarrels between peoples throughout generations, here was a man who recognized the real enemy of humanity: sin and Satan. Being aware of the dignity of his sonship to God the Father made at the gift of his Baptism, he became a mediator between God and man through following his call to the priesthood, and introduced souls, through sacrificial love, to their caring Creator and the Author of their life.

Through the years since then, I had my own experience of adventures through college, different jobs as a DC police officer and 4th grade teacher, eventually to where I am now at JPII seminary. It was a great blessing and joyful surprise then to see an email regarding the visit of St. Vianney’s heart at the seminary! Through the consideration and hard work of the Knights of Columbus and courtesy of the current curé de Ars, the relics of St. Vianney’s heart and chalice were to be

present at JPII seminary for 4 hours on November 17, 2018. What a privilege it was to sit before the heart of the man who inspired the dreams of my youth. It was like being reunited with an old friend I had not talked to in a long time.

Here was the heart nurtured by a mother, for whom he had such affection that he could not refer to her “without crying” for teaching him, at such a young age, to learn his prayers and begin his relationship with God. It was this same heart that burned with fervor at the gentle whisperings of the Holy Spirit or by drawing near to the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Here was the heart that had been beating on through the blunderings of the French Revolution and its persecution of the Catholic Church, on through the rigorous fasts and penances compelled by love for God and souls, on through the onslaughts and violent attacks from the Evil One, on through hours and hours in the confessional, on through to his old age until at last death gifted it to stop, allowing Jean Marie to enter into the eternal rest with his Beloved God. Here it was before my heart and the hearts of my brother seminarians, who all have also felt, along this earthly pilgrimage, a similar flame and fire of love for Our Creator, silently reposing not far beyond in the tabernacle.

*The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see the priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ. – St. Jean Marie Vianney*

*Conor Hardy, Blessed Sacrament parishioner, former police officer and teacher, is now a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington. He is currently Second PreTheology at St. John Paul II Seminary. This blog post was originally published on the DC Priest website: [www.dcpriest.org](http://www.dcpriest.org).*

# REMEMBERING MONSIGNOR DUFFY

*The following is the homily Monsignor John J. Enzler delivered at the funeral Mass for Monsignor Thomas M. Duffy, who passed away last October. Monsignor Duffy served as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish for 24 years (1981-2005).*

Your Eminence, Your Excellencies, my brother priests, women religious, family, friends and parishioners of Msgr. Thomas Duffy. Today we offer condolences to Msgr.'s family, his sister Dorothy and his Nieces and Nephews; Kathy, Tom, John, Diane, Barbara and Chris and his Great Nieces and Nephews, Claire, Eileen, Molly, Paige, Catherine and Jack.

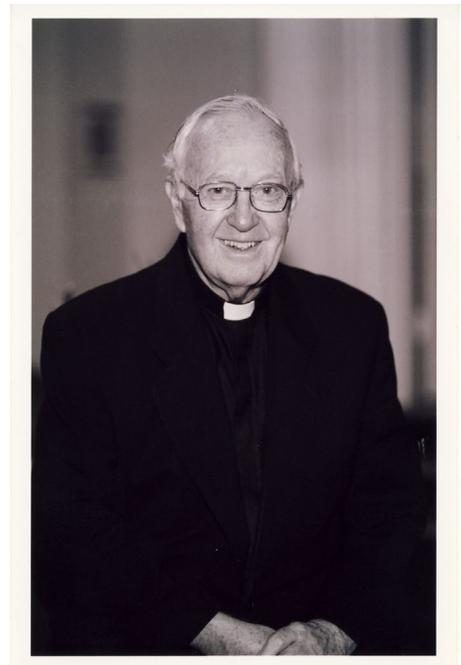
I first met Msgr. Duffy, even before he was Pastor here at Blessed Sacrament. I was appointed to the Priest Personnel Board as a young priest representing the younger clergy of the diocese. It was then, and still continues to be, my favorite committee, on which I've ever been asked to serve. I was overwhelmed by the goodness, dedication and care of the priests who were chosen to represent their age group to the Archbishop on Priest Personnel. Msgr. Duffy, Msgr. Beattie, Msgr. Arthur, Msgr. Gerhart – all had a commitment to the priesthood, the good of the archdiocese, the welfare of the people in our community and a deep concern for each and every priest. It was edifying to listen to them share their thoughts and concern for our Church and the priests who were called to serve.

That was in 1977 – four years later in 1981, Msgr. Corbett, a beloved Pastor here at Blessed Sacrament died of a very difficult cancer. I remember it as if it was yesterday, coming to a meeting here on this campus, to discuss who we might recommend to be the next Pastor. Before deliberations began, the bishop announced there was no need for consultation. Msgr. Duffy had been chosen by the Cardinal to lead Blessed Sacrament and we all responded with enthusiastic applause. That began Msgr. Duffy's 24 years of service to this great parish. At the same time, Msgr. Duffy took on other roles as a member of the Council of Priests, a Consultor, a Dean, a member of the Board of Education, and the Priests Retirement Board, as well as a liaison to the Maryland Catholic Conference. But, if you asked Msgr. Duffy who he was or what he was about – he was a Pastor. He had al-

ready been an associate Pastor at St. Stephen and St. Thomas the Apostle, was a founding Pastor of St. Raphael's parish in Rockville, and spent a year as Pastor in Residence at North American College.

Msgr. Duffy was known here on Chevy Chase Circle as a man of absolute goodness and kindness. He was an intellectual who was so well read and used those reflections in his homilies. He was a man of prayerfulness and good judgement. He had huge pastoral skills and was able to build a consensus through collaborative efforts with all. As someone who served right after the Second Vatican Council both at St. Raphael's and at Blessed Sacrament, he invited and encouraged the laity to take their proper role in the Church. One of Msgr.'s best gifts was to deal with a very progressive constituency on one side and a very traditional constituency on the other. He was able to bring together very divergent views for the good of the parish and the good of the Church. It was often noted that the politicians and the commentators in the parish were on different pages but they were all under the same umbrella when it came to their faith. Who was the glue? And what made that work – Msgr. Tom Duffy. To sum up . . . Msgr. was special. He had gifts and talents that many of us would like to have. He always used them well for the good of the Church.

Where did Msgr. get all of this? Why was he so successful? I believe the answer is in the readings chosen for this celebration. The first reading from Isaiah talks about a mountain scene where there is no more death and people gathered at the great banquet table of the Lord. The second reading from Philippians tells us "our citizenship is in Heaven." Msgr. Duffy lived by those principles. He didn't allow the little things – nor the big things – to take away from his belief in the Resurrection. With that wisdom, guided by his belief in God and the afterlife, he rarely got caught in the everyday battles that many of us succumb to, far too often. He had a vision of Heav-



en, his eventual destiny, and it guided how he lived, who he was, and how he lived as a shepherd among his people.

The Gospel reading from John Chapter 6, speaks so clearly about the Eucharist – Msgr.'s great love. Jesus says clearly that anyone who "eats My flesh and drinks My blood will live forever." The Eucharist was the most important part of Msgr.'s day. How many thousands of times did Msgr. preach from this ambo, calling his parishioners to live by the word of God? How many times did Msgr. Duffy raise the host and the chalice at this altar in celebration of his belief in the Bread of Life – Jesus truly coming to us? When he celebrated Mass at this church, he brought the community together around this altar. Whether at the gym Mass next door or right here in this 100-year-old church – this was the place where he was Pastor, teacher, and guide for us all. That belief in the Eucharist and the real presence of Jesus, gave Msgr. the strength and the grace to lead so many to the Lord. How many First Communions, Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals did he cel-

*(Continued on next page)*

## DUFFY *(Continued from previous page)*

celebrate with this congregation gathered here? If I asked you to raise your hand if he was involved with your family, sacramentally, I think almost all of you would be part of that large group who remember Msgr. Duffy's ministry to you.

So, we come to celebrate Msgr.'s life, his and our belief in the Resurrection, and our conviction that he has been called home to God. Not only did he anoint many during his priesthood, but he was anointed numerous times and received absolution and the Sacrament of the Sick during these last years at Little Sisters of the Poor. Thank you sisters, who are here today, for your magnificent care for all in need, especially our priests who are blessed to be able to spend their last days with you.

As always, we should pray for Msgr. but I'm confident that a good, holy priest has been called home to God and that all of us present today have been blessed by his example, his prayers, and his holiness. May our prayers today send him home to the Lord where he may rest for all eternity in peace.

Eternal rest come unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Amen.



Matisse Inspired Tree  
Artwork by Grey, Seventh Grade

# SOME FALL AND WINTER PARISH SCENES



Christmas Tree Sale  
Photo by Pat Watson



Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive  
Photo by Pat Watson



Advent Wreath Workshop  
Photo by Pat Watson



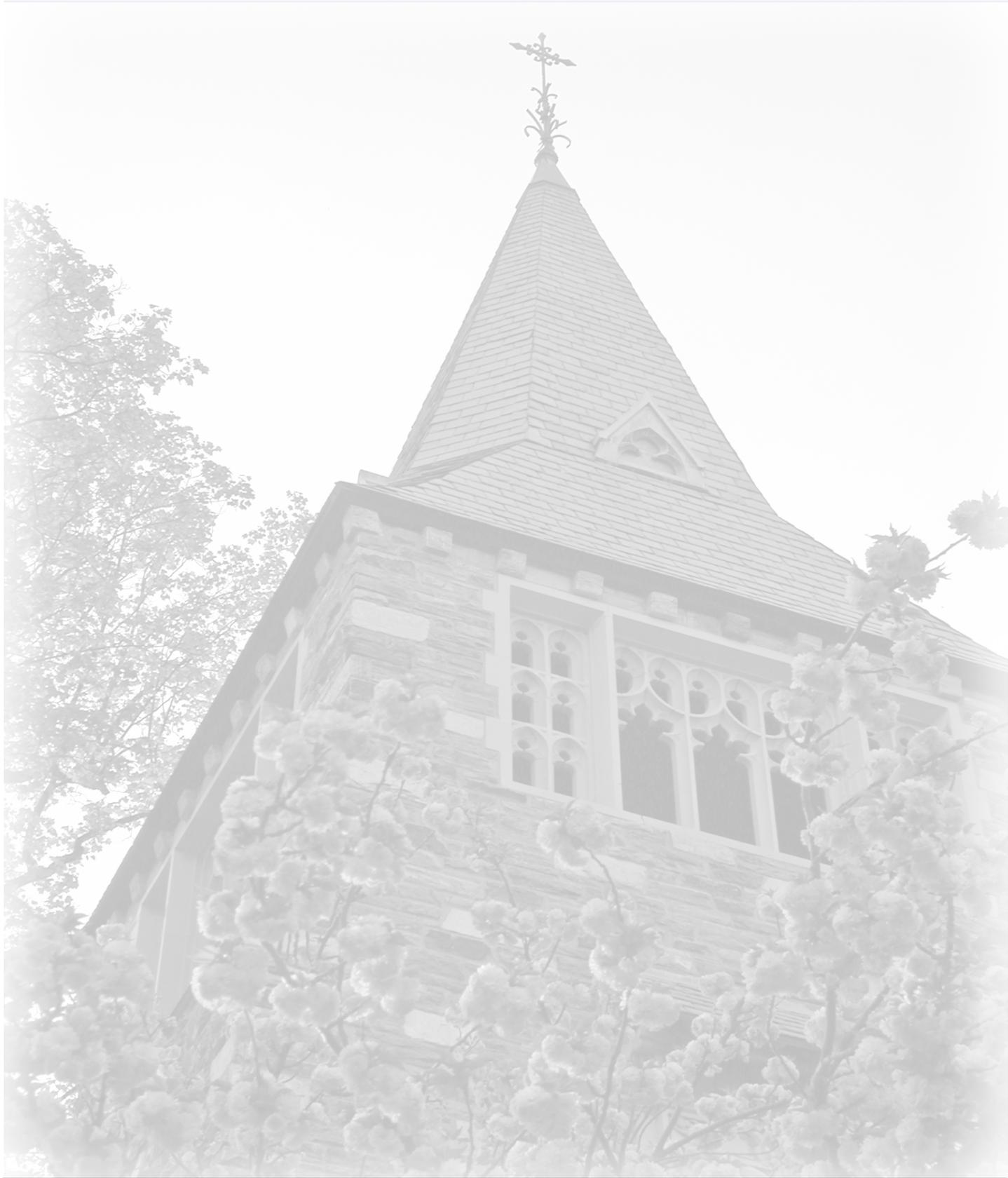
Christmas Tree Lighting  
Photo by Pat Watson



Altar at Christmastime  
Photo by Pat Watson



Christmas Eve Mass at 4 p.m. in the gym  
Photo courtesy of Ginny Curtin



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