

SAINT JOHN OF GOD

Office Telephones

Parish Office/Residence.....	412-771-5646
Parish Fax.....	412-331-0678
Deacon Leonard Thomas.....	724-206-3210
Music Minister.....	412-812-4549
Catholic Parish Cemeteries Association	412-256-9370
Social Hall (Bingo and Pizza Kitchen)	412-331-8530

Mass Schedule

~ *Low Gluten Hosts Available For Communion* ~
~ *See Priest Before Mass* ~

Saturday Vigil.....	4:30 PM Church
Sunday.....	9:45 AM Church

Weekday Schedule

Monday—Friday.....	9:30 AM Church
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Confessions: Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM

Parish Clergy

Rev. David G. Poecking
Rev. Robert J. Zajdel
Rev. Alan E. Morris

Deacon Tim M. Killmeyer
Deacon Leonard M. Thomas
Rev. Regis J. Ryan, ret.
Rev. Louis F. Vallone, ret.

Staff

Ms. Elna Johnson, *Director of Music*
Mrs. Mary Ann Jones, *Director of Finances*
Mrs. Janice Lipa, *Parish Secretary, parish@sjogparish.com*
Mr. Wayne Summers, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Mr. Jacob R. Williamson, *Director of Engagement*

Safe Environment Coordinator

Mrs. Karen Vinci-Stack,
412-303-7745

Scheduler of Ministries

Jeri Stotlemeyer,
sjogscat@gmail.com

www.news.va/en
(Vatican News)

Celebration of the Sacraments

Infant Baptism: Second Sunday
Please call office to schedule.

Adult Baptism: The R.C.I.A. program sees to the needs of adults who wish to become Catholic.

Reconciliation (Confession): 3:30 PM to 4:15 (Church) and by appointment.

Holy Eucharist: Available for those who are sick and confined to home. Call the Parish Office and we will bring the Eucharist to you.

Anointing of the Sick: Available for those who are seriously ill or anticipating surgery after Mass every Sunday at the Church.

Marriage: Anyone who wishes to marry should contact the Office at least six months prior to the desired date.

Inactive Catholics: Are lovingly welcome back to the faith.

New Parishioners are joyfully invited to join our community. Please call the Parish Office.





LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, Sept. 21 to
Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019

Vigil, Sept. 21: 4:30 PM Church
Anniv - Charlotte Schriener (Bill & Patti)

Sunday, Sept. 22: 9:45 AM Church
Maria Puppo (Dominic & Family)

WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH

Monday, Sept. 23: Eva Sherk (Dan & Patti Sherk)

Tuesday, Sept. 24: Alexander F. & Helen Perschy (Kurt)

Tuesday, Sept. 24: St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's

Wednesday, Sept. 25: Brother McMahon (Family)

Thursday, Sept. 26: Martin & Mary Kovach (Family)

Friday, Sept. 27: Michael Vinci (Wife & Family)

Friday, Sept. 27: Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's

Vigil, Sept. 28: 4:30 PM Church
Antonetta Presutti (Family)

Sunday, Sept. 29: 9:45 AM Church
Francis "Tiv" Vith (Family)

Readings for the week of September 22, 2019

Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-8 [cf. 1a, 7b]/
1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-6 [3]/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-20/Ps 122:1-5 [1]/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12a, 13
[cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/
1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ARISE SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, October 24, kicks off Arise Speaker Series, which is a melding of what used to be the Speaker Series and Connect Nights. Several volunteers are needed to help greet, set up, and tear down. For more info or to volunteer, please email Jacob at jwilliamson@holyltrinityrobinson.org.

AN OPEN INVITATION OF WELCOME

Non-Catholics and non-parishioners are always welcomed guests.

Inactive, unsure or irregular Catholics are lovingly encouraged to reconnect with the Faith.

New parishioners are joyfully received in our community. Please call the parish office.

Our hearts are large and there is plenty good room for all.



PARISH ASSEMBLY

Miss the parish assembly or want to review the presentation again? If so, please visit www.rockenrocatholics.org/consolidation where you can see an online version of the parish assembly, offer your official response, and see a list of frequently asked questions. All responses are due by September 30.

BAPTISMAL PROGRAM FOR NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS

The next class will be held on Sunday, **Oct. 13**, from **1:00 to 3:00 P.M.** in the Gathering Place at St. Mary's. For more information, please call Tom Adams, 412-999-2985.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study will be held this Monday, Sept. 23, from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. in the Gathering Place. For more information, please call Tom Adams at 412-999-2985. Everyone is welcome!

GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK FOR THE NEW SHARED BULLETIN

Beginning on October 20th Holy Trinity, Saint John of God, and Saint Malachy will share one consolidated bulletin. The bulletin will be 16 pages of full color. If you're interested in giving your feedback to how the new bulletin will look please visit:

www.rockenrocatholics.org/vote4bulletin to review some templates and choose your favorites. Please know that the bulletin will continue to change in the next several weeks and months as we discover how to best utilize it.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. (MONDAY THRU FRIDAY)

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday Noon

FROM THE FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

Several years ago, at a catechist gathering, I listened as the pastor called the catechists a "treasure." This term has stuck with me through the years because I found it such an appropriate way to think about those who hand on the faith. Catechists are beyond valuable, particularly those who volunteer (as in with no pay) to undertake this most important mission. This past Sunday was Catechetical Sunday, an opportunity to recognize this precious group of people. Quite frankly, one Sunday is just not enough to thank them for their extraordinary work. So once again, thank you to our catechists. You truly are a treasure. Our parishes are blessed to have you and I am blessed work with you!

Steven Swank



PARISH WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

Sept. 14 / 15

Saturday	180
Sunday	191
Total Weekend Attendance	371

PARISH FINANCIAL TOTALS For the Weekend of Sept. 14 / 15

Regular Offertory \$ 3,034.00

(This is ordinary income from contributions for the general running of the parish. It is subject to a 17.6% tax to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.)

PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

PSP Assessment for 2019	\$69,353.00
PSP Collected beginning 12/1/18 ..Thank You!..	\$59,099.00
Remaining on 2019 Goal	\$10,254.00

(This is the tax paid to the Diocese. We must remit this entire amount to the Diocese by Dec. 31. Any surplus then remains in the parish, tax free.)



PRAY FOR ...

HOSPITAL

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital. Also for all those ill at home, in nursing homes, and shut-ins; that they may continue to receive the Lord's Blessings.

SYMPATHY

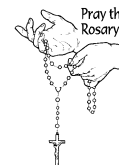
We wish to extend our sympathy to the Family of Edward McNabb whom God has called home. Please remember him and all our dearly departed and their families in your prayers. "May the Choirs of Angels receive them and may they with the once poor Lazarus, have rest everlasting."

✠ QUOTE FROM THE POPE ✠

"God waits for us: He doesn't get tired, He doesn't lose heart. Because it is each one of us who is that child embraced again, that coin found again, that sheep caressed and put back on His shoulders.."

Pope Francis

The **Rosary** is prayed at 9:00 AM before the 9:30 AM Mass Monday through Friday in St. Mary's Church.



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sept. 24 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's Church

Sept. 25 - WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO in Social Hall - Doors open at 5 PM Early Birds, 7 PM and Regular Games begin at 7:15 PM.

Sept. 27 (Fri.) - Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited following 9:30 AM Mass, St. Mary's Church.

Sept. 27 (Fri.) - PIZZA KITCHEN! To order please call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM to 1 PM. Orders must be picked up by 3:30 PM.

BEAT THE BILLS STEELERS RAFFLE

Would you like a great finish to your Thanksgiving Day? Winning this raffle just might be it. The Steeple Chase is having a Steelers Thanksgiving Day Raffle where some lucky person will win a basketful of Steelers goodies:

- 2 tickets for December 15 **STEELERS vs BUFFALO BILLS** game (Sec. 217)
- Autographed NFL Regulation **Ben Roethlisberger Football**
- Terrible Towel & 27" x 37" Steelers Flag
- Case of Steelers Bud Light Beer (must be 21 or older)
- Steelers Drinking Glasses, Foam Cup Holders & Wooden Wall Sign

A \$5 donation gives you two 3-digit numbers. The winning number is based on the first drawn **7 pm PA Pick Three Daily Lottery Thursday, November 28.** This package would make a great Christmas or birthday gift for some person or persons, too. Raffle tickets available at the weekend Masses, the parish office, bingo and pizza kitchen. If you are willing to help sell tickets to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, please contact Ron Amity at 412-389-5968 or Ramitysr@aol.com or Terry 412-331-3443.

Please keep our Priests, Seminarians, Deacons and all Religious in your prayers.

STEELERS FOOTBALL POOL WINNERS
September 15, 2018 Steelers vs. Seahawks

Half Time Score: Steelers 10 Seahawks 7

DK owned by Katherine & Dan Bayer \$100

JBW owned by Sally L. Milton \$100

"BOOTS" owned by Alice Barth \$100

Final Score: Steelers 26 Seahawks 28

SKEETER owned by Evelyn Bogda \$150

PAY ME owned by Jim Somerville \$150

SUPER NURSE owned by Christina Walker \$150

Congratulations and Let's Go Steelers!



**INSTANT LOTTERY TIX
& GIFT CARDS NEEDED**

Here is another great way to support the chicken dinner. The Holiday Raffle is in need of PA Lottery Scratch Off tickets and any denomination of gift cards to complete the prizes. Pick up a few and drop them off at the Parish Office or place them in the collection basket. Cash donations are also welcome to cover the cost of the dinner expenses. Be sure to mark the envelope 'LOTTERY TICKETS' or 'GIFT CARDS' or 'DINNER DONATION.'

**YUMMM!!! STUFFED CHICKEN DINNER
WITH LOTS OF EXTRAS!!!**



Bring your family and friends for our 5th annual delicious stuffed chicken dinner at Rockefellers Grille Banquet room on **Sunday, October 20, from Noon to 6 P.M.** Kick back, relax, enjoy the meal and check out the Chinese Auction, 50/50 and Special raffles, and "Gourmet Bakery". The Steeple Chase is sponsoring a Chicken Dinner that includes stuffing, potatoes, veggie, salad, roll/butter and dessert. Cost is \$20. Beverages will be available. You can eat in or take out. And, it's a Steeler bye week! Advance dinner ticket purchase is recommended. Limited dinners are available at the door. Tickets may be purchased at all SJOG Masses, the parish office, bingo and pizza kitchen. Questions??? Contact Terry at 412-331-3443.

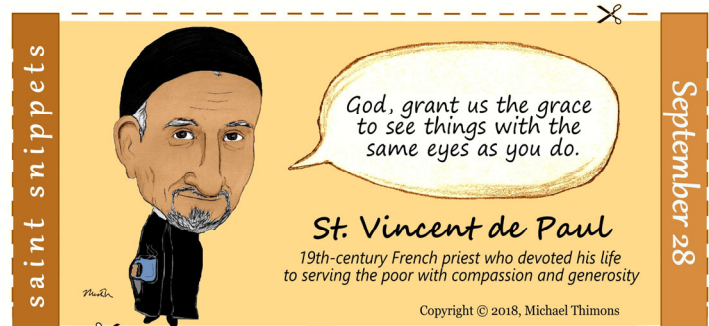
.....
... If unable to make it to Rockefellers, we will arrange for a special take-out delivery of the entire dinner that you can pick up at 1 pm at St. Mary's Parking Lot by the garages. ***Tickets for this special delivery can only be purchased by calling Terry 412-331-3443 no later than Thursday, October 3. Remember ~ Do not purchase these tickets for the special delivery from anyone else! ~***

BASKET RAFFLE

Our annual chicken dinner is right around the corner. A large part of our success is due to the basket raffle. Please consider donating a basket that can be used as a prize. Need ideas? Pick up? Call Pat G. at 412-331-4266. Thanks in advance!

**WINTER COAT & CLOTHING DRIVE
FOR APPALACHIA**

Holy Trinity Parish community is conducting the 21st annual coat and clothing drive for the needy families of the Appalachian Region of WV beginning **October 1 through October 31**. More information will be given next week. Stay tuned.



ARISE SPEAKER SERIES

Please join us on **Thursday, October 24**, at the Archangel Gabriel Kennedy Gym (St. Malachy) for a casual evening with beer, wine, refreshments, time for fellowship, and a fascinating talk by Dave VanVickle. Dave will present on what the Church really teaches about angels, demons, ghosts, exorcisms, and hauntings, drawing from his extensive experience assisting priests in their ministries of exorcism and deliverance and from his study of Church teaching. Dave will clarify many misunderstandings surrounding this topic during this thorough and dynamic presentation on the world of evil and the unfathomable power of the mercy of God flowing through his priests. After the talk there will be time for questions. Doors will open at 6:30 pm, talk will begin at 7:15 pm. RSVPs are appreciated at www.rockenrocatholics.org. Contact Erin Stuvek (estuvek@holytrinityrobinson.org) with questions or to volunteer to help (help is needed with light setup, greeting, childcare, and more)

LIFE CHAIN

You are invited and encouraged to participate in **Life Chain on Respect Life Sunday, October 6 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the Saint Malachy upper parking lot**. Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for sixty minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. We will meet in the back of Saint Malachy Church at 12:55 pm to distribute signs. Please join us!

THE ROCKENRO RIDERS

Call Deacon Tim Killmeyer at 412-787-1472 if you have any questions or need more information.

Saturday, October 5

RockenRo Riders Finale:

Station Square to McKeesport

With finish at The Hofbrauhaus on the South Side.

**CHOIR NEWS**

Choir rehearsals are scheduled every Tuesday from 7-9 pm at St. Mary's Church.

Anyone interested in joining the Choir and/or becoming a Cantor (or singing with the Resurrection Choir) should contact the Music Director, Elna Johnson, at 412-812-4549 or in person before or after any SJG Masses with music. Light audition requirements will apply.

MARIAN ICON

The Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon will be displayed at St. John of God Parish from Sunday, September 29 through Tuesday, October 1. A Rosary will be said at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 1 dedicated to Our Lady of Persecuted Christians.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD
WITH CHILDREN**

All children entering Kindergarten through grade 4 are invited to participate in the "Liturgy of the Word with Children" every Sunday at the 11:00 am Mass at Saint Malachy. Every week the children actively participate with the readings and have a discussion of the Gospel message to plan how they will follow that message in the coming week. Each child receives a "Children's Bulletin" with activities that supplement the readings. Please encourage your child to participate, and if they are hesitant, feel free to join them! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Pat Kulak at 412-262-1162.

EDGE
Middle School Ministry

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
AGS - KENNEDY CAMPUS GYM

For more information, visit
<https://rockenrocatholics.org/edge>
or contact Kristin at
khayes@holytrinityrobinson.org

Hidden/What We See
A night about
creation of
Earth and the
Spiritual World

EDGE Middle School Ministry Update

In EDGE, we are currently exploring the beginning part of the Creed together. This past week's EDGE Night on Sept. 18 was all about the first Person of the Trinity, God the Father. The night began with a game of Simon Says to contrast that God is a loving Father and not just a rule enforcer. The teaching discussed the significance of God revealing His name and His desire for a relationship with us as our Father. The youth then had the opportunity to look up the meaning of their own names and discussed the significance of names in a relationship. We ended with a powerful prayer experience focused on God the Father with the reading of The Father's Love Letter. The next EDGE Night is Wed., Oct. 2, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the AGS - Kennedy Campus gym! All youth in 6-8th grade are welcome to attend.

Farewell & Welcome!

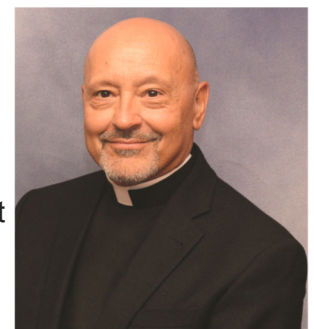
Effective October 7, 2019, our own Fr. Bob Zajdel has been given permission to enter retirement and to take up residence at St. John Vianney Manor, Pittsburgh's retirement home for priests. Bishop Zubik writes, "For forty years, you [Fr. Bob] have faithfully and zealously served Christ as a priest of the Church of Pittsburgh. Your willingness to accept many different assignments is a testimony over the years to your pastoral concern and love for the Church. I take this occasion to express to you on behalf of the Church of Pittsburgh my profound gratitude for your priestly example and ministry."



I join Bp. Zubik in thanking Fr. Bob for his ministry and fraternity these past eleven months. I've adjusted the Mass schedule so that Fr. Bob's last Masses as an active priest can take place at St. Mary, Help of Christians, October 5 and 6. Please consider attending one of the Masses at St. Mary that weekend in order to thank Fr. Bob for his service.

Meanwhile, Fr. Sam Esposito joins the clergy team as senior parochial vicar at RockenRo on the same day, October 7. Fr. Sam is a decades-long veteran pastor and has also served as regional episcopal vicar and episcopal vicar for the initiative *On Mission for The Church Alive!* He knows the workings of the Church of Pittsburgh as well as anyone. Fr. Sam will be retaining his position as chaplain at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School and also his residence there, but will also be assisting at the parishes of RockenRo. Please join me in welcoming Fr. Sam.

—Fr. Dave



RCIA - BECOMING CATHOLIC

If you have ever considered joining the Catholic Church or are curious about Catholicism, the RCIA process just started for this year. There is still time to join us to learn more, ask questions, and seek a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith. All are welcome, regardless of your previous religious background! For details or more information, contact Erin Stuvek at estuvek@holyltrinityrobinson.org.

SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22

ST. MARY'S - IN MEMORY OF JOHN AND CECILIA ELLEK
BY SON, JOHN

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten through 8th grade were blown away at the Friday Student Liturgy, as Rev. Lou Vallone shared a homily with the congregation that was both captivating and memorable. His story was of tossing pennies, one at a time, as a child trying to win his mother a glass bowl at a local fair. When unsuccessful, he threw a handful of pennies and without fail, one landed in the bowl! Through the story, we learned that you need to not be greedy with your love. Just like the pennies, give it out in handfuls to everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from. If we do so, we will see love in return, just as God would want for us.

ST. JOHN OF GOD •



ARISE

SPEAKER SERIES



DAVE VANVICKLE HAS SPENT YEARS ASSISTING PRIESTS WITH THEIR MINISTRIES OF EXORCISM AND DELIVERANCE. THOUSANDS OF CATHOLICS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO HEAR THIS POWERFUL PRESENTATION. DO NOT MISS OUT!

ST. MALACHY • HOLY TRINITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL SCHOOL KENNEDY GYM (SAINT MALACHY)

THE CATHOLIC TRUTH ABOUT ANGELS, DEMONS, GHOSTS, EXORCISMS AND HAUNTINGS

Modern Culture's obsession with all things paranormal provides the Catholic Church with a unique evangelistic opportunity. The Catholic Church is the only true authority on this subject, and it is time to share the power and the glory of the Church's victory over the gates of hell. Dave will give a well-balanced, highly evangelistic, and engaging presentation and will answer all of your parishioners' questions about Angels, Demons, Ghosts, Hauntings and Exorcism.

RSVPS ARE APPRECIATED -
WWW.ROCKENROCATHOLICS.ORG

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**St. John of God**

I continue a three-week series of pastoral descriptions of the RockKenRo parishes. My thanks to: (a) advisory councils who edited the documents, (b) Amy Maxin & Dan Skantar who wrote first drafts, (c) interviewers Tom Adams, Sharon Cercone, Rich Gennuso, Dave Hess, Sandy Horgan, Pat Joyce, Wayne Madden, Barbara Marshall, Lisa Polar, Donna Spohn, Claudia Van, Bob Waruszewski, Mary Weibel, and Lisa Worms; and (d) the many who sacrificed their time and candor in order to be interviewed. I publish St. John of God's today because it coincides with the parish assemblies there this Saturday, September 21, at 5:45 and Sunday, September 22, at 11:00. Subsequent assemblies will take place at Holy Trinity Parish on September 28 at 6:15 and September 29 at 1:15. If you can't make it to the parish assemblies, you can view the on-line version by visiting the consolidation section of the website www.RockKenRoCatholics.org.

—Fr. Dave

St. John of God is a classic “legacy parish,” comprising members of seven predecessor parishes in the Sto-Rox area. Almost all parishioners remain conscious of themselves as affiliating through those bygone institutions: You might consider them “legacy parishioners.”

Active participants at St. John of God tend to be elderly. Many retain positive memories of the Pittsburgh area's industrial peak, when mostly Catholic laborers lived in densely packed ethnic neighborhoods and affiliated with the church to which their ethnicity was assigned. They then saw the near-disappearance of heavy industry and the dispersal of their neighbors to the suburbs and across the United States.

The faithful who remain survived the Church consolidations in the early 1990s. Some look ahead to future consolidations with the confidence justified by their past resilience. Others anticipate a repeat of the grief of the 1990s and perhaps try to minimize it by speaking as if a decision has already been made to close their two remaining churches, Mother of Sorrows and St. Mary, Help of Christians.

A smaller number of younger parishioners may be the children and grandchildren of these legacy parishioners. Others may be perceived as transitional residents: Youngish couples and families accumulating equity in their properties but with plans to move elsewhere.

Like all Catholics, St. John of God parishioners are grateful for the sacraments, especially Holy Communion, their choir, and the priests' homilies. They perceive themselves as people of deep faith and reverence. More than others at RockKenRo, they speak appreciatively of the priests who have led the community, especially Fr. Regis Ryan—arguably a “legacy pastor”—and Fr. Lou Vallone. Fr. Ryan is credited as key to parishioners' sense of their mutual fellowship and pride in their family and parish history.

Many of the faithful at St. John of God believe they've gone “as far as they can go,” and understand themselves as waiting with patient acceptance for the closure of either their lives or their churches, or both. Others remain eager to establish that they still have a contribution to make to the local Church through prayer, example, forgiveness, and participation in shared ministries.

Most remain committed to their church, community, and service. They cherish the relationships they have forged over the decades. They feel loved and welcomed at their church, and they hope that sense of deeply rooted belonging can continue into the next era. They are eager to sustain a Catholic, Christian presence in the Sto-Rox community, and to find some way of passing their faith on to the next generation. Some remain open to the possibility that the imminent restructuring of parishes, staffs, ministry, or all three will help them fulfill their hopes.