



# St. Anne's

Parish



Connection

**Volume 1, Edition 3, November 2010**



## A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I think of all the holidays Thanksgiving is right up there near the top (OK, Christmas and Easter are pretty good, too)! But Thanksgiving is probably the way we should celebrate many of our special occasions. Society has yet to learn how to commercialize it. You don't have to "shop 'til you drop," no scratching your head for gifts that they 'don't want, won't use, or don't need.' It's a great time for family and friends to sit, to talk, to enjoy each other's company and to later fall asleep on the couch (too much tryptophan and football—Go Pats!).

Seriously, Thanksgiving is a time to say thank you, to be grateful for God's blessings, to appreciate how we live and where we live and the many wonderful people that love us and surround our lives. God certainly is good to us and so seldom do we say thanks.

Well, thank you, Lord: for life, our freedom, the men and women who serve our country past and present to preserve that freedom, the company of good friends and family, the love of so many, the bounty of our table, the health to enjoy it. Thank you for work, that honorable way to care for our families, to pay our bills, to educate and care for our children, retire in comfort and grow old in dignity. Help us not to forget that all this is a gift to be appreciated and shared. May we bless your name always and continually be thankful for your goodness to us. Amen.



A very thankful

*Rev. John Foley*



the  
Light shines in  
the Darkness

**...let it shine for you.**

## **Come home to the church this Advent**

**Thanksgiving Day November 25, 2010**

**Mass of Thanksgiving 9:00 AM**

**Advent begins November 28, 2010**

**Weekend Masses Saturday 4:00 PM**

**Sunday 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM**

**Weekday Masses at 9:00 AM**

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8, 2010**

**12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM**

**Christmas Masses**

**Friday, December 24, 2010**

**4:00 PM**

**6:00 PM (Children's Pageant with Children's Choir)**

**Saturday, December 25, 2010**

**8:00 AM and 10:00 AM**

**No 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Saturday, January 1, 2011**

**9:00 AM**

*I Am*

*Love reached into the nothingness of me – breathed*

*I began*

*Linked to the core of all things*

*To creation, to yellow, red, black, white –*

*Blended – then set apart,*

*To journey on, melted into fire.*

*One branded heart. One life lived a million ways.*

*Returned to a Somethingness, a Self, an Embryo of God.*

*Helena Gagne, Parishioner*

## **A Heart Full of Happiness (Thoughts on Stewardship)**

Welcome to my world! My wife Donna and I have been parishioners at St. Anne for 17 years. We had been active parishioners in our previous parish and it seemed like a good chance to sit back, relax, and let others handle the myriad tasks that present themselves to those who were open to see them. We did just that for a few months, but it soon became apparent that we needed to step back into the harness and get involved. And that has made all the difference!

Everyone has a ministry. . .yes, I said *EVERYONE!* No one is exempt, and it is for a good reason. We are all called in some way to fill a role that God provides to everyone if they are open to see it! For some, that is a big 'IF.' We are anxious to encourage you to seek your role actively because it is a miracle waiting to happen. And it happens right in front of your eyes with the resulting heart full of happiness!

For me, it's my voice that brings out the gifts that God wants me to experience. You may have heard me on local cable T.V. reading poetry or children's stories, on the radio reading for the print-handicapped on the ***Audio Journal***. You may have heard me as a lector here at St. Anne. You may even have heard me play guitar or ukulele and sing the old sing-along songs from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century at various nursing homes and senior centers throughout New England. For Donna, it is her commitment to share her love of Christ with 8<sup>th</sup> grade religious education students. I've never been more rewarded than I am right now—not in my lifetime of work as an engineer. Oh yes, there were financial rewards that paid the bills and kept the wolf from the door, so to speak. But the personal rewards that come from sharing my own unique gifts (and yours if you can see them) are beyond my wildest dreams.

You may have doubts about what your talent might be. You may have doubts about whether or not there is a place for you here. You may have concerns about having enough time to share in any meaningful way. You may want to stay hidden in the shadows and remain a quiet, gentle voice in the dark. The ministry everyone is called to is not an optional "tap on the shoulder." It is meant for every single person here, young, old, rich, poor, healthy, not-so-healthy, man and woman alike. There are no exceptions to this call and you cannot claim not to have heard it because God is calling us every time we experience his voice here in this church.

For many of us, the response to any stewardship appeal is to write a check. If that is what you hear God calling you to do, then by all means give generously from your heart. But consider the other ways, not just in treasure, but in time or talent, that we can give back to God for all he gives to us, in every moment and in every breath. Don't turn away from the wonderful instincts that well up from within you when you hear God whispering to you. From my own personal experience, I can tell you that you'll end up with a heart full of happiness. C'mon, people now! You know this is the right thing to do!

*Bruce W. Andrews, Parishioner*

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## **More on the St. Anne's Parish Survey**

Dear Parishioners,

In an earlier newsletter, the Parish Council reported some of the results of our 2010 St. Anne's Parish Survey. We again wish to thank all who took the time to respond. Please be assured that the Parish Council has discussed and will continue to discuss the survey results with an eye toward making St. Anne's Parish even more vibrant and healthy.

Though many of you gave high grades to most aspects of St. Anne's parish activities, there were many who thought that we could be doing more and better things. Some suggested bettering the appearance and functionality of the church building and grounds. A decorating committee was established. These dedicated individuals transformed our altar and grounds, resulting in many favorable comments. Fr. Foley and Joe Zecco, seizing a great opportunity, negotiated the purchase of a piece of land, permitting us to construct an additional exit from the church parking lot. Although we request the help of the Shrewsbury Police at the end of our Masses, they are not always available. The additional exit onto Plainfield Avenue should alleviate some of the backup and waiting time to exit our lot. Also investigated but discarded because of the prohibitive expense was the idea of bathroom facilities at church level, rather than in the basement as is currently the case. The many thousands of dollars to perform the work, coupled with the many governmental fees and required amenities, make this economically unfeasible at this time.

*continued on next page*

### **More On Parish Survey (cont'd)**

We now have a bereavement committee to assist those parishioners needing help upon the death of loved ones. The Fr. Smith Center is available at no charge to all parish families following the funeral services of a loved one.

The bulletin prayer list has been updated. Names of those for whom you wish our parishioners to pray, e.g. for those who are ill, in nursing homes, or hospitals, in the service of our country, or who are otherwise in need will be listed upon your request. We only ask that you notify us to remove the names when prayers for that particular intention are no longer needed.

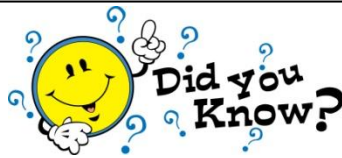
Social activities continue on a regular basis. The festive, themed dinners are regularly sold out!

Your suggestions are welcome at any time. The names of the Parish Council members are listed in the bulletin as well as in the newsletter. To those who want St. Anne's to do even more, please consider taking a more active role in parish life. Together, we can do amazing things. To accomplish more, we need YOUR HELP!

Sincerely,

Your St. Anne's Parish Council

## **HUMAN SERVICES**



We are a group of 122 volunteers, all ages, all different backgrounds, with a common goal—to serve those in need. Funding is from donations and proceeds from our thrift shop. A sample of the last 12 months is as follows:

The Mustard Seed Committee prepared and served 2,200 meals and provided 15 cases of coffee and emergency assistance as needed. Total cost \$2,121.79. Our food pantry with a registered client base of 286 families (853 people) secures food from the Worcester County Food Bank. We are registered as a 501(c) tax-exempt organization. We give 16 cents per pound shared maintenance fee to the food bank. We receive MEFAP & USDA, maintain the necessary records and observe their guidelines. A total of 200,000 lbs. was received. We also purchase items not available from the food bank as well as food gifts cards. Total cost \$40,995.99. Our clients receive a monthly distribution and 75 families are served weekly because of circumstances. Our clients are also provided other necessities including transportation help. They are also referred to all ongoing available resources. This is our biggest program. We also do the Christmas Giving Tree, shelters, UMass Memorial neonatal unit, veterans and referrals from other agencies.

We have a solid group of individuals serving in many different capacities such as secretary, treasurer, food manager, distribution chairperson, and many more. All of these individuals have many dedicated volunteers working with them. We also have volunteers from the community, schools, probate court, college interns, and our Confirmation program.

In one of our most outstanding projects this year, the call for help fell on Susan's ears. Sue heard and did something about the call. We found a family in crisis. With the help of a Christian outreach group from Hull provided by Harry at St. Mary's Parish, we began a mini "Extreme Makeover" (but it really wasn't mini, it was MAXI!). This group arrived with the energy, desire and tools. Each room was beautifully transformed with new paint on walls and ceiling, broken windows and doors replaced, floor coverings, "new" secondhand furniture, stove, refrigerator, repairs of all kinds. A backhoe arrived and a yard renovation took place. A 10-yard dumpster was filled. Hope and great joy was in the air. The impossible dream was taking place. The air was filled with happiness, smiles were in abundance. The four children in this household experienced a change that they are too young to understand with their minds, but surely felt in their hearts. The parents were euphoric. Dad is disabled, Mom has medical issues, and Grandma, also disabled, is a breast cancer survivor. One of the children is developmentally delayed. Material for this makeover has been provided by a generous benefactor. This is only the beginning. The road has been paved now—we will follow it as far as we can. Cooperation, vision and determination helped us to succeed. One family saved, a huge lesson learned, a lot of love shared—miracles happened. Yes, God is our leader. We need only to follow.

*Elaine LeBlanc, Volunteer Director of Human Services*

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### *A Prayer for Advent*

*Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan  
you sent a messenger to prepare people's  
hearts for the coming of your Son. Help  
me to hear his words and repent of my  
sins, so that I may clearly see the way to  
walk, the truth to speak, and the life to  
live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

### *Santa's visiting the Sumner House*



*Santa is coming to Shrewsbury Center – 5 Church Road on*

***Saturday, December 4th from 12:30 – 3:00!***

*Santa's helpers say he is due to arrive around 1PM.*

*Hot chocolate, cider, pictures with Santa, music and more.*

*Be sure to stop by and start the holiday off with a lot of fun.*

*Any questions please email one of Santa's helpers....[jim@healdchiampa.com](mailto:jim@healdchiampa.com)  
or call 508.842.3700. All are welcome!*



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## A Life-Changing Experience

My world is comprised of what I see every day, and to the naked eye, it is the life of a normal, small-town American girl. However, few know of the risk this shy, small-town girl has taken, resulting in the greatest experience and the most amazing emotional achievement of my entire life.

Initially, I had some doubts about volunteering at Camp Sunshine, expecting the experience to be as difficult as it would be fulfilling. I feared the awkwardness of rooming with people I did not know and had many questions concerning the children of Camp Sunshine and what they would be like. The trip was organized by Andy Cesnickas and the Confirmation Class of St. Anne's Church, but I was not friends with any of the other volunteers, so the entire trip to Casco, Maine was filled with the dread of being left out.

Within minutes of being at Camp Sunshine, I realized how selfish I was to think that way—this trip was for the kids. The kids at camp this week were victims of the 9/11 tragedy—the majority had lost one or both parents. The attachments that were quickly made with these children immediately kept me from thinking about myself. I discovered a great deal that week, gaining valuable lessons and memories, but one particular experience with one extraordinary boy vividly stands out in my mind.

All of the kids made “wish boats” – little wooden boats they decorated, with a candle to light and to set sail with a wish. The ceremony is usually the most emotional event all week and in no way did it fall short of expectations. While walking to the water, kids excitedly shared their wishes – *“I wish that all the poor people*

*had money.” “I wish that me and my sister don’t fight because my daddy gets sad.”* But the most heart-wrenching came from a six-year old boy named Alex Zangrilli. My friend Alex wished that his dad was safe in heaven, and that his brother (who was two months old at the time of his father’s death) could know his daddy. Looking up at the other volunteers, I saw that I was not alone in fighting to hold back tears.

At the ceremony, poor Alex’s boat, with a clothespin sailor, feathers, and a grand mast, caught on fire. In the process of blowing it out, everyone else set sail their wishes and boats. Alex had been the only one with a dry boat, but the same could not be said about his eyes and cheeks as he began to cry. Quickly using another boat to light his candle, I led Alex to the perfect harbor for his boat, but to Alex, the time had passed—he felt he would never get his wish. He sobbed that his dad would never hear his wish, and hearing a snuffle from his mother behind us, I explained to him that he got to make his wish all by himself, so it was extra special because there would be no other wishes distracting his dad from hearing him. Alex wiped his eyes and with a mighty determination cast his boat into the water. His mother embraced her son and thanked me with a smile.

Walking back to my room, I could not keep from glowing. I was struck with a feeling of fulfillment that was so overpowering I often return to that moment. I carried away with me a wider view of the world and others, but most of all I now know that an act of kindness, no matter how small, can mean the world to one person or family, and in turn, mean the world to me.

*Michaella Mahoney*  
*Parishioner*

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### Two of St. Anne’s newly formed committees:

The **Bereavement Committee**, chaired by Lynn Skavis, offers support to those who have lost loved ones. The members reach out to next of kin after the death of a loved one to ascertain needs. In addition to spiritual support, the committee will also provide “coffee and” in the Fr. Smith Center following a funeral with coffee and baked goods provided by members of the committee as well as an adjunct group of volunteer bakers. If you would like more information on this committee, please contact the rectory.



The **Liturgy Committee**, chaired by Michael Palumbo, meets to discuss general liturgical issues as well as liturgies for special Masses, Christmas, Holy Week and events such as Triduum, Penance Services, Novenas, and others. If you would like more information on this committee, please contact the rectory.



# HIGHLIGHT



## A FAITH-FILLED FAMILY!

When it was decided that St. Anne would publish a newsletter, one of the suggested features was to highlight a “faith-filled family” of the parish. Although we at St. Anne are blessed to have many who fill the bill, none better fits this description than the Ryan family.

Mike, Kathy and their children Patrick, Laura and Emily make us able to call ourselves a stewardship parish in every sense of the word. They participate in many aspects of parish life and do so with love, devotion and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Mike, Kathy, Laura and Patrick are Eucharistic Ministers. Patrick and Laura were altar servers through their senior year in high school. Currently Emily, the youngest, is a lector (as was her sister), an altar server, and she has recently become one of our choir’s newest members.

Mike and Kathy teach religious education and Emily is a teacher’s assistant. The entire family has helped with the flowers and the grounds, and Patrick helped to paint the classrooms in the Fr. Smith Center.

When “the most wonderful time of the year” rolled around, both Emily and Laura took part in the children’s Christmas pageant and sang in the children’s choir. Kathy helped to coordinate the pageant.

The entire family has helped out at Halloween parties. Mike has helped out at some of our recent social functions, and he is also a member of the Parish Council. Kathy and Laura have helped with the upkeep of altar server robes. When we had an active CYC (which we hope to have again soon with your help!), Patrick organized some local bands to perform at the Fr. Smith Center as a fundraiser.

Kathy, Patrick and Laura have all gone to Camp Sunshine with Andy Cesnickas and a group from St. Anne. You may have read Laura’s article about her Camp Sunshine experience in our first newsletter.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, “Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think.” Albert Schweitzer said, “The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.” If this is the case, how happy the Ryan family should be! They demonstrate every day the infinity of God’s love and goodness and help to make St. Anne’s Parish a truly blessed place to call ours.

The Ryan Family



## A Few words on Parish Council

We have the good fortune to have a very diverse group representing the parish. We gather to discuss, dissect and implement plans for the future. Led by Fr. Foley, we have looked into the wants and needs of our church members. This has been a very productive year.

A fantastic **Social Committee** has been formed. Watch for upcoming events, such as Italian Night and Country Western Night. Line dancing is always fun, especially with the amateurs mixing with the professionals! Evie’s candy centerpieces are too beautiful to eat, but too delicious not to! The **Decorating Committee** has enhanced our liturgy as well as the grounds. Great work! The **Bereavement Committee** has given comfort and special attention to those who have lost loved ones. The **Liturgy Committee** plans and implements music and liturgies for ordinary time as well as for special Masses and events. Ours is definitely a Stewardship Parish with time and talent as a very real gift. The parish survey revealed some positive input and many issues have been addressed. My co-chair, Art Brunell, is sensitive to the needs of our parish and his follow-through is positive. Many of our council members have expertise in areas such as religious education, social action, communication, computer technology, finance, and building, maintenance. We meet on a monthly basis except in July and August.

The council is open to your suggestions and welcomes written proposals to be added to our meeting agenda. Remember, we are your voice. Fr. Foley has done great things thus far, and we are blessed by his presence.

*Elaine LeBlanc*



**Guests enjoy the Italian Night sing-a-long October 2, 2010**



**Fr. Gilgun at Italian Night October 2, 2010**



**Confirmation  
Candidates  
help out  
at the  
Halloween  
Party  
October 24,  
2010**



**(left to right) Fr. Paul, June Liberty, Barbara Truelson and  
Patty Liberty at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner  
November 13, 2010**





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## Mass Times

**Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, Monday through Friday 9:00 AM**

**Holy Days 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM**

## Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. John J. Foley

**Senior Priest:** Rev Paul T. O'Connell

**In Residence:** Rev. Bernard E. Gilgun

**Deacon:** Rev. Dr. Dennis P. Klug

**Director of Religious Education:** Karen Etre

**Pastoral Assistant:** Ellie Smith

**Parish Administrator:** Joseph Zecco

**Maintenance Manager:** Gary Dency

**RCIA:** Nicholas Morana

**Volunteer Director of Human Services:** Elaine LeBlanc

**Organist:** Michael Palumbo

**Choir Director:** Victor Kruczynski

**Finance Secretary:** Patricia Morrissey

**Parish Secretary & Bulletin Editor:** Judy Goselin

**Housekeeper:** June St. Marie

## Parish Council Members

Paul Bleau

Art Brunell

Norma Caron

Andrew Cesnickas

Susan Davolio

Matthew Etre

Charles Mayo

Tracy Flynn

Marty Green

Barbara Legassey

Rob Loconto

Elaine LeBlanc

Tammy Mastro

Joseph Zecco

Paula Petrone

Michael Ryan

Patricia Scarborough

Ellie Smith

Paul Towler

Joanne Zannotti

## Newsletter Committee

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