

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Newsletter

Second Edition

December 2022

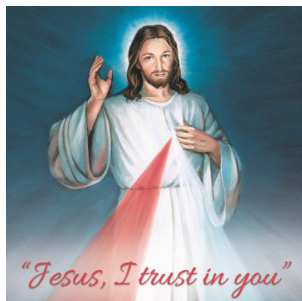
Another Year Behind Us!! It is so hard to believe we are only a few days away from the start of a new year! It brings such joy to see our Parish coming back to life and enjoying the company of family and friends again during our parish community events. Let's take a moment to recap a few things we have brought back and some new events as well!

It was so exciting to see our Bible Study come back to in-person sessions in the Spring of 2022 with the focus and discussion on the book *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Participants were guided through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. Each session was designed to help members experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death. Two additional sessions entitled *New Beginnings* were included where the group members examined the Scripture that show us how God is present when we encounter new beginnings in our lives. In the Fall of 2022 the group embarked on the study of *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, where the group examined the cultural, historical and biblical context to some of the most difficult teachings of Jesus to help them better understand how those teachings spoke to his first-century audience and how they continue to speak to us today.

All members of the church community are welcome to join at any time. No prior experience with Bible Study is necessary, and this is a great way to meet fellow parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

Each First Friday of the month Father Jan and a few parishioners celebrate Mass together followed by The Chaplet to Divine Mercy and Benediction at Notre Dame 8:00 AM.

Saturday of Mass is celebrated at Notre Dame followed by Adoration. All are welcome to these beautiful



Church at Each First the month celebrated at at 8:00 AM Eucharistic and Rosary. come to join full devotions.



At the beginning of Lent this year Father Jan began holding a Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration each Monday evening from 7—8 PM at Notre Dame Church with opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What a wonderful time to sit and reflect on the many blessings God, our Father, has bestowed upon us or maybe it is God's healing presence you might need. He is here for YOU!



Looking for something for your home, or a gift? Look no further come to our monthly tag sale...

Each first Saturday of the month from May—October, our Tag Sale Committee held a Tag Sale at Notre Dame Church in the hall and outside. These tag sales are a huge draw to the surrounding community! Many thanks to those who coordinate these monthly summer tag sales. That would be **The Three Amigos... Carol, Joanne and Elaine**. These tag sales are a huge fundraiser in our parish. This year from May—October the tag sales raised \$17,535. Way to go, ladies!!!



Parish Mission Statement... The Parish, as part of the Mystical Body of Christ, should have Christ's vision of love & should invite & assist all people to respond to God's universal call to holiness by proclaiming the Word, building His community, celebrating His liturgy & serving His people. 1

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Newsletter *continued*

On Sunday, June 12th our parish gathered as a family for our Annual Parish Picnic at Peckham Park in Middlefield for a day filled with great food, fun games, fantastic music and best of all—awesome company. We had a great turn out of parishioners who came and enjoyed some fun in the sun.



The weekend of September 22—25, our parish had our Red Truck Basket Raffle Tent and Decadent Desserts Food Booth open for business. It was a busy fun filled weekend enjoyed by many!! Our participation in the Durham Fair as a parish is another major fundraiser for our parish. These two booths combined raised \$8,880 for our parish.



Parish Mission Statement... *The Parish, as part of the Mystical Body Of Christ, should have Christ's vision of love & should invite & assist all people to respond to God's universal call to holiness by proclaiming the Word, building His community, celebrating His liturgy & serving His people.* 2

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Newsletter *continued*

WELCOME BACK...It is a pleasure to report that on Oct. 2nd we welcomed our Faith Formation students back to in-person classes. Mrs. Diana Cathcart, our new Faith Formation Coordinator, planned some fun activities for all the students to participate in while enjoying our first monthly pancake breakfast.

New to us this year...MONTHLY PANCAKE



BREAKFASTS!! These monthly pancake breakfasts are being hosted each first Sunday of the month. Boy, are they delicious! If you haven't joined us yet for one, please do so. It is a complimentary breakfast with a free will offering. We truly want to provide opportunity to get to know one another or catch up with friends. The

next breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2023 after both Sunday morning Masses.



Calling ALL Animals...Come be blessed!!! To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis, Fr. Jan had the Annual Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 2nd in the Prayer Garden at Notre Dame. There were several 4 legged friends in attendance including several dogs, cats and even a bunny or two!

Dinner is served...The Knights of Columbus hosted their Annual Pasta Dinner on October 22 in the Notre Dame church hall. Delicious food was savored by many. Save the date of March 18, 2023 when they plan to host a St. Patrick Dinner serving corned beef!!

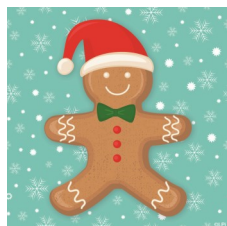


Most beautiful and moving Mass...To remember dearly departed loved ones, we celebrated a special Commemorative All Soul's Day Mass on the evening of Nov. 2nd at Notre Dame Church. During this Mass families and friends gathered to pray for deceased loved ones and special candles were lit for those who passed away this year. It is always such a beautiful and moving Mass.

All Souls' Day



Did someone say free time????Parents of our Faith Formation program were given an opportunity to have a few hours of "FREE" time to finish up Christmas shopping, wrapping gifts, going to dinner or just sit and relax while their children were entertained at a PJ Party in the St. Colman church hall on Dec. 18. The children watched a movie, had snacks, played games and did crafts. We hope to have more events and activities scheduled for our students throughout



the year so watch your emails!



Parish Mission Statement...*The Parish, as part of the Mystical Body Of Christ, should have Christ's vision of love & should invite & assist all people to respond to God's universal call to holiness by proclaiming the Word, building His community, celebrating His liturgy & serving His people.* 3

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Newsletter *continued*



Most recently, we, as a parish, held our Annual Country Christmas Bazaar and Children's Festival. There was so much festivities going on. We had Mrs. Claus' Bakery open for business selling a variety of yummy treats and sweets, Jewelry sale and Floral sale, Granny's Attic had so many Christmas items and surprises, even the North Pole Gift Shop exclusively for children to shop for parents, grandparents and siblings. Many roamed around and enjoyed their luck at our themed basket raffle and a straw raffle! There was a lot of winning going on over there!!! Complimentary cookies, coffee and hot cocoa was even served. Children came to play Christmas BINGO and make ornaments. We even had a visit from Santa!!! This event continued into Sunday morning to be shared with our Faith Formation families during the parish pancake breakfast and Santa surprised us with another visit!!! While all this fun and excitement was had, it is exciting to report that we were able to raise \$6,812 with all these festivities at the Bazaar.



In addition to this, we had our Annual Parish Raffle the following Sunday, December 11th with 8 great prizes. The winners are listed below. Congratulations to them all and many, many thanks to all of you who participated! We were able to raise \$11,590 with this raffle.



Congratulations to our Raffle Winners!!

- 1st Prize (\$3,000).....**Jean Kowalski**
- 2nd Prize (\$2,000).....**Betsy Miscione**
- 3rd Prize (\$1,000).....**Lori Ruffino**
- 4th Prize (Three Golf-Foursomes)....**Stephanie Hansen**
- 5th Prize (Shopping Spree Gift Cards).....**Kathy Kukish**
- 6th Prize (Goodspeed Gift Certificates)....**Luke Backus**
- 7th Prize (Taste of Middletown Gift Cards)...**M. Edwards**
- 8th Prize (Echo).....**Linda and Michael Cassidy**



Parish Mission Statement...*The Parish, as part of the Mystical Body Of Christ, should have Christ's vision of love & should invite & assist all people to respond to God's universal call to holiness by proclaiming the Word, building His community, celebrating His liturgy & serving His people.* 4