



Spirit

The Newsletter of Resurrection Parish

Vol. 2 No. 1

January 2017

“The Church is holy, not just because *ALL ARE WELCOME*. The Church is holy because *ALL BELONG!*”
(Timothy Matovina + Pope Francis)

Welcome to *Spirit*, the Newsletter of Resurrection Parish. In each quarterly issue, we will feature one or more of our ministries and their works. We will also feature some recent events and those that are coming your way. This issue highlights Bob Sesko's Environment Committee.

Pope Francis' Corner

“Your vocation is a tension between enclosure and visibility, between God's call to a hidden life and His call to make oneself visible in a certain way, to give a sign. One of the things you must never, ever leave behind is time to listen to people. ... It is important to have a connection with the world, to know what is happening, as your vocation is not a refuge: it is about going straight onto the battlefield, it is about fighting, calling to the heart of the Lord for your city. ... Like Moses who lifted his hands up in prayer as his people fought. There are also monasteries that set aside half an hour or an hour a day to give food to those who come to ask for it, and this does not go against enclosure in God. ... It is a service, it is a smile.” -- *Audience with men and women religious of Rome, May 16, 2015*

Environment Committee

By Bob Sesko

The Environment Committee is responsible for setting up the worship environment and the gathering space environment. The committee's focus is on setting up for seasonal and liturgical holidays, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

We meet either a day or two before the holiday to set up. The chores include but not limited to: ironing altar cloths, climbing ladders to put things up, and moving /setting up plants. The intent of the work of the Environment Committee is to compliment, enhance and contribute to the worship experience of the sacramental celebrations during the different liturgical seasons.

The Environment Committee is always looking for creative people with the energy to prepare for these liturgical seasons. We are also in need of men who can climb ladders and hang wreaths, garland and flags as appropriate. Give us a call to get your name on our

contact list. You will be called and told of the day of implementation. Get a real behind the scenes look of all the work that goes into the holiday season, and how so many hands transform the space. For further information contact Bob Sesko 973-895-5455

Time commitment: Usually a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon before the season to do set up and then one to take down. Any commitment is made for only 1/2 day.

Annual Turkey / Thanksgiving Drive

By Tammy McConnell

Each year the Samaritan Ministry provides assistance in a variety of ways to those in our parish and extended community who are in need, as well as to provide opportunities for parishioners of all ages to recognize and respond to those needs. This year's appeal yielded blessings for many in Morris County.

Five hundred and twenty turkeys were delivered along with over 180 boxes of food. This includes at least three bags of food per box. This is the 1st or 2nd highest tally of boxes of food and Turkeys ever!

Turkey Distribution

Holy Trinity Parish/Passaic: 220 Turkeys and at least 80 boxes of food

Our Lady of Mt Carmel/Passaic: 100+ Turkeys and at least 40 boxes of food

Our Lady of Victories/Paterson: 100+ Turkeys and at least 40 boxes of food

St. Mary's-Dover: 40-45 Turkeys (Thanks to the teen drivers/deliverers)

Morris County Housing: 27 turkeys and 27 bags of food (Thanks inRange team, Trish and Bev for these deliveries)

Samaritan Clients: 7 turkeys and 7 bags of food
This makes 520 plus families and individuals fed for the Thanksgiving holiday and beyond! Incredible!!

And the rest:

(2) Box Trucks (Thank you Smarty Marty's of Dover Rent-A-Wreck for always giving us a great deal on the trucks!)

(1) New truck driver – Thanks Mike Louro!

(6-8) SUV's/Trucks used for deliveries and transport of volunteers

Over 50 volunteers (Including at least 20 children and teens) This event is a combined effort between Resurrection Parish and St. Matthew - Randolph.

Over \$800 in cash donations, which allowed us to buy more turkeys and food

One much needed fire in an actual fire pit this year!

One stop at Hot Grill in Clifton for some burgers and

Texas wieners for the Paterson/Passaic Delivery Crew.

Advent & Christmas Concert 12/9

This year saw the new music director, Josh Coyne and the assistant music director and conductor, Allie Altieri featuring the Resurrection Parish Junior and Senior Choirs present their first Advent & Christmas Concert "Christmas Mosaic." See the video link below.

<https://youtu.be/BKtEVPsS-a4>

Christmas Concert Reception

Click here: <https://youtu.be/VckYG8iCxc8>

Parish Day of Reflection

On November 12, Resurrection Parish's special guest speaker was Fr. Thomas Marciniak, S.J. The theme, "Deepening Your Friendship with God through Honest Prayer"

The theme raised some questions: What is prayer? How do I know if I'm praying well? Or praying at all? How do I know if God is communicating with me in prayer? What is the best way to pray? All these hard, confusing questions coalesce into one question about prayer: What is it?



Fr. Marciniak, from the Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, helped explore these questions, and offered some teachings about

prayer based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus.

The well-attended day began with a Continental breakfast at 8:00 am. At 9:00 am, Fr. Marciniak began his presentation. At 9:45 all participants began a half-hour of quiet time, reflection, and contemplation in the church.

The second part of the program consisted of an explanation of the Examen prayer methods, created by St. Ignatius. Following a guided mediation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the program ended at noontime. Each of the attendees received a free copy of "Reimagining the Ignatian Examen" by Mark E. Thibodeaux, S.J.

[Randolph Parish Samaritans Reach out](#) Reprinted

from Randolph News with permission

Children's Ministry Fun Events

By Lorraine Scandariato

The Children's Ministry offers three fun, informative and engaging events throughout the school year in which families can grow together in their faith. Two of our recent events held were "Family Bible Fun" and "Children's Christmas Pageant."

On November 19, 35 parish families (over 125 people) spent quality time enjoying some of our Bible's best stories as we began preparing for the Advent season.



[Click here to start slide show](#)

Our 4th annual Christmas Pageant, held December 3, was our biggest turnout ever. Forty- seven children and middle school students reenacted the Nativity story and sang beautiful Christmas hymns in front of a packed audience of family members and fellow parishioners. Our final family event will be on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Families will come together in fellowship and to share the beauty and importance of the Lenten season.



[Click Here for video](#)

Randolph VFW Helping its Wounded Warriors

By Henry M. Holden

Reprinted from Randolph News 01/17 with permission

Every month, the Randolph Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Memorial Post 7333, along with several other VFW Posts, sponsors a Bingo Night at the Lyons Veterans Hospital. It is their way of offering some social interaction with the veterans who are hospitalized.

Bingo Night is held on the second Monday of each month, from September through June. "Everybody wins at this game," said Rich Reck, a Vietnam era vet. "We give out practical prizes such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, socks, and sweatpants."

Most of the patients are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that brings emotional and psychological problems. Some are outpatients. "We don't know where they go afterward, some will go home but others may not have a home to go to," said Reck.

As part of the monthly group that visits the hospital, Reck accidentally overheard a nearby conversation.



The person who provided the clothing for the bingo nights had left, and some were concerned about going forward. It looked like they would have to scurry around looking for prizes for the bingo party.

Reck, who is also a Deacon at Resurrection Parish, for ten years, knew what to do. "I

said, I think I can do something."

As a Deacon, Reck regularly visits the hospital and homebound sick had been in a prison ministry, and felt this effort fit perfectly into his diaconate.

"I knew at this point that Resurrection Parish only collected donations on Memorial Day for the traditional Poppies. So, I approached Fr. John Tarantino, the parish administrator, with a suggestion that we ask

for specific clothing items be donated by the parishioners. He was happy to support this effort."

These items should only include NEW socks, t-shirts, and sweat shirts which are distributed as prizes to all the patients. Size is more important than color. Socks should be 10-13 size; and t-shirts sweat shirts should be XL - XXXL.

"It's a tremendous feeling to be able to give these veterans something that they really need," said Reck.

Reck has been in the VFW for about three-and-a-half years, but it took him almost ten years of trying to join. "I kept being told something was missing from my DD-214," (the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty). "I was also told that I had to be in (the military) for a specific time between 1949 and 1955." (Reck was in from September 1966 to June 1968.) "I finally contacted the former Post Commander, Jack Sassaman, who used my military travel and reporting orders, and my final payment receipt, because my DD214 was not correct."

First visit eye-opening

"On my first visit to the hospital, I saw things that were very emotional for me. These patients have PTSD. They look healthy but some of them couldn't read or stay focused now, but could before they contracted this illness. One would hold the card but he couldn't cross off the numbers so, we had to help. Another didn't mark the card, but knew he had bingo by just looking at the card, and keeping track of the numbers in his head. Here's the same illness, but the symptoms are so different! And I thought: *There but for the grace of God go I.*

"I don't think the general public is prepared for it. You have to go in there with the mindset that I'm here to help somebody who has PTSD. I don't care what you've read about it, or what you've seen about it, you don't really know it until you been with it.

"Anyone who wants to help the veterans, but doesn't know how to go about it, just get in touch with us," said Reck. For more information contact VFW Post 7333 at 103 Carrell Rd, Randolph, NJ 07869. Phone: 973-945-8507 or email bill@bmenzel.com. Randolph Memorial Post 7333 serves Randolph, Mendham, Mine Hill, Chester, and Dover, in Morris County.

Samaritan Giving Tree 12/10-11

By Tammy McConnell

Resurrection Parish's 2016 Christmas Giving Tree was another successful drive due to the generosity of our parishioners. Over 400 donated gifts were sorted and prepped for distribution to a wide variety of groups the weekend of December 10th-11th.

A special "thank you" goes out to the dedicated volunteers who helped out with the sorting and bagging. There were thirteen organizations receiving gifts, including Homeless Solutions, Mount Kemble Home,

Faith Kitchen, Morris County Housing Authority, Catholic Charities, Straight & Narrow, Partnership for Maternal & Child Health Network, New Jersey AIDS Services' Eric Johnson House, El Primer Paso, Head Start, Greystone Park Association, Morris County Correctional, and New Jersey's VFW holiday celebration. In addition, there were 24 client families to whom gifts were provided directly.

Gift recipients ranged from infants to seniors. The common thread is that all are people in need in our region. Please know that your generosity has truly touched lives in a meaningful way.

Stewardship of Time and Talent

Altar Servers - This ministry is open to all parishioners Grade 5 and above. All those interested should contact Fr. Tarantino at 973-895-4224, Ext. 101 / email: info@resurrectionparihsnj.org

Lectors (Readers)

The Ministry of Reader brings the Scriptures alive during the Proclamation of the Word at weekend Masses. Preparation books and training will be provided. Ministers are needed for all weekend Masses. Contact: Ron Krautle at 973-303-5717.

Ushers

Men and women of the parish are needed to assist at all Masses. Welcoming people and attending to their physical comfort is a wonderful opportunity to help create a stronger and larger community of faith. Please contact: Loren Holihan at 973-442-2967 / email: holinet@live.com

Sunday Sisters in Faith

All women are invited to be nourished through faith learning and sharing, friendship, food and fun. Our meeting dates are from 7-9pm on the following dates: 1/22, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/23, 5/7, and 5/21.

Parish Now on Amazon

Support the Samaritan Ministry, especially around Christmas. For each purchase, you make through our website, Amazon will pay a 4-8% commission. This does not affect your purchase price. By clicking on the right sidebar icon, you will be connected to Amazon, and if you have an account, it will open to your account. We cannot see your purchases or private information.

Bible Study

By Shannon Civetta



Resurrection Parish Bible Study will resume in late February with the Gospel of John on Tuesday mornings and evenings.

Following Christ takes more than simply

believing in him or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants us to be more than just believers — He wants us to be his disciples and friends. This new video program, *Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*, is our guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow him. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust him, to open ourselves to his merciful love, and to love others as he has loved us. *Follow Me* invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ.

We will:

- *Learn what it takes to follow Christ.*
- *Discover the joy of divine friendship.*
- *See how God, and only God, can satisfy the deepest desires of your heart.*

For more information, contact Shannon Civetta, 973-979-7864 or srcivetta@gmail.com.

Youth Ministry

By Dolores Hallock

Much has gone on in Youth Ministry this fall. In September, a new year began with the high school sophomores and their second year of the process for Confirmation. Quickly following were the 70 juniors culminating their formal religious formation with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Very soon after that was the welcoming of our ninth grade beginning their journey towards the Sacrament. Talk about fast!

The high school overnight retreat preparation started up also in October. Seek, for the ninth and tenth grade and SEARCH, for eleventh and twelfth grade are both peer ministries. The teams are chosen and the journey begins of ten weeks of working together, planning talks and activities for their fellow peers. Seek had 45 candidates attend the overnight, a requirement for them. SEARCH, which is voluntary, had

40 candidates attend from three parishes. Both were a huge success! These young adults are truly looking for ways to understand and grow in their faith. It is life



changing for many of them. God is good!

The Youth Council is a group of 30 high school teens participating in various activities. We meet once a month to plan different service projects, mini retreats, and parish wide activities. So far we have made about 100 cards for our service people, and in December we baked hundreds of cookies for the Women's

Correctional Facility. Oh, did I mention we also had an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest.

We will be making plans for a few things throughout the winter months. Watch for that in the Bulletin!

Interfaith Furnishings – Recycling to Give to Others

By Henry M. Holden

Reprinted from Randolph News 12/16 with permission.

Interfaith Furnishings is an interdenominational non-profit charity, located in Randolph, NJ. They provide home furnishings for those in need by providing donated furniture to Morris County families at no charge. The furniture donations come from the Morris County community at large.

Interfaith Furnishings is supported by local businesses that have donated space and resources. The organization receives no government funding and has volunteers pick up furniture donations, store them in the warehouse, and deliver them to families.

White House Recognition

Interfaith Furnishings was recognized by the White House in 2010 for its efforts in helping provide furniture to more than 700 needy families in Morris County. Since then, the number has grown to 1,288 families with many having multiple rooms furnished.

Joshua DuBois, then Special Assistant to President Barack Obama, and executive director of The White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, highlighted the charity's work.

DuBois blogged that his office keeps in mind the small groups "making a major impact in their communities like Interfaith Furnishings ... as we seek to pair the resources, with the expertise, and information

from the federal government with the passion and action that (are) ever-present in our neighborhoods.

"The organization was founded in 2004 to help families cope with the lack of financial aid for essential furniture such as couches, chairs, and tables," he wrote. "It does all this work as a donation-based program that operates with the help of the social service organizations and local houses of worship in Morris County exclusively.

Facing Challenges

"Interfaith Furnishings faced a continuing challenge over the years," said Mary Jo Welch, co-director of Interfaith Furnishings.

"The organization has moved from building to building six times in 11 years, occupying donated space until it is needed for another purpose."

Welch would love to settle in a permanent place, but says she must be realistic: the organization, which she said gets no income other than donations that help pay for insurance costs and utilities, cannot afford to pay rent.

She'd love to find a benefactor willing to pay rent for a permanent space but realizes that may be hard to come by.

The organization recently moved into a new home. "I think it is as permanent as it can be," said Welch. "The new location is Christ Church in Rockaway. They don't use all their property so they are allowing us to use this warehouse. It is huge, and this is without a doubt the best space we've ever had. We have this property until they decide to build a cathedral.

"Christ Church has to pay taxes on everything that is not church related. So, we are using a portion of that property. When we come in as a charity we take some of that off the tax rolls."

Diversity of service

We're not limited, we work with any of the social service agencies (there are more than 20) and any faith-based organization in Morris County," said Welch.

"Hopefully there will be people out there who will contact us to ask us how they can help. Our idea is this should be done all over the country — it can easily be done.

"The most important thing you should know is that we never sell the furniture. We asked for a donation of \$20 from the people donating the furniture. And we asked for nothing from the people receiving the furniture.

"Once a year we appeal to the various congregations. We asked them for the donation of \$250 to \$300, depending on their size. We provide lunch for the volunteers when they are working, and Marty's Rent-A-Wreck gives us a great deal on the truck, and we are most grateful to them. One nice thing about this job is we get to know people from all the different faith-based backgrounds who work with us."



Mary Jo Welsh

The organization rotates the pickup and deliveries among the participating faith-based groups. The next pickup date is January 20, with volunteers from The Islamic Center of Morris County, St. Andrew Orthodox Church, and the Hope Presbyterian Church.



Volunteers from the Islamic Center of Morris County

Donations are limited to: medium-sized furniture, such as sofas, love seats, chairs, end tables, coffee tables, dinette sets, and bookcases. No trundle beds, no convertible beds, no white upholstered furniture, no entertainment centers, no oversized desks, no mirrors, no furniture with glass, no electronics, no appliances, and no household goods.

For information on how to help Interfaith Furnishings, call 973-361-1666 or visit www.Interfaithfurnishings.org

Movie and Game Night for children in grades K-5 December 18, 2016.

By Lorraine Scandariato

This event is in its fourth successful year of providing service outreach to our young parish families. Generally offered twice a year, this program is hosted by Confirmation Caring Group teens and their leaders. It offers games, crafts, movies and just plain old fashioned fun for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. About 50 children attend these events and have a great time! Parents also appreciate this service because it gives them a couple of hours of free time to themselves and at no cost to them.

Do you know a parishioner with an interesting background or story to tell? Let us know.

Help Wanted with newsletter production. Email for details. henry30holden@gmail.com

Mark your Calendar Coming soon Watch the Bulletin for more details.

- Technology workshop 1/21-22
- Bible Study Walking to Eternity February 2017
- Family Minute to Win It Game Night 2/5
- Super Bowl Sunday - Free Pancake Breakfast 2/5
- Spaghetti Dinner 2/25
- Children's Ministry Ash Wednesday Workshop 3/1
- Parish Day of Reflection 3/4
- Stations of the Cross -Lenten Sketches 3/10
- Corn Beef Dinner 3/11
- 55+ Older Social 3/25

Contributors

Pope Francis
 Shannon Civetta
 Delia Vince-Cruz (videographer)
 Dolores Hallock
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 Rich Reck
 Lorraine Scandariato
 Bob Sesko