

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH – SPRING 2012

# MORE GOOD NEWS

[www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com)

**'Until  
death  
do us  
part'**

**PAGE 2**

**SACRAMENTAL SPRING**  
Confirmation, Communion - PAGES 4-6

**OUR HERITAGE**  
Building our church - PAGE 7

**NEXT GENERATION**  
Meet Zachary Slade - PAGE 8

# God is the third person in marriage

What makes it different from living together is matrimony is a sacrament

*"I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life."*

*"To have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part."*

Those are vows – or some variation of them – that engaged couples will be pledging to one another as the 2012 wedding season dawns at St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament.

But as many couples in our parish plan their big days, there is sobering news.

According to a report in USA Today in December, a record-low 51 percent of adults aged 18 and older in the United States were married in 2010 compared with 72 percent in 1960, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census data.

The most dramatic decline in marriage occurred among adults ages 18 to 29. Just 20 percent of them were married in 2010 compared with 59 percent in 1960. The number of new marriages in the U.S. fell 5 percent between 2009 and 2010.

The decline in marriage has been accompanied by an increase in cohabitation, single-person households and single parenthood. If current trends continue, the percentage of U.S. adults who are married will fall below half within a few years, the researchers said.

Additionally, the New York Times reported that married couples have dropped below half of all American households for the first time, according to Census Bureau data. Married couples represented just 48 percent of American households in 2010. This was slightly less than in 2000 but far below the 78 percent of households occupied by married couples in 1950.

With all the bad news, why get married at all? Why not just live together?

The difference between marriage and living together is that marriage is a sacrament, and that God is part of the marriage, say members of the Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Marriage Team.

"Marriage is for all of us a sacrament," said Joe and Lori Siniscarco. "It is not only an expression of love between two people, but a union based on God's love for us. He has to be the third person in a marriage. He has to be part of a marriage."

The Siniscarcos, who will celebrate their 35th anniversary in May, have been part of the Marriage Team for eight years. The Marriage Ministry includes conducting wedding rehearsals, administering the "Prepare" program to assist couples preparing for marriage, and conducting a day retreat for the couples



Cover photo by TRACY FRANCHCELL

Photo above by PETER FRANCHCELL

## THE MARRIAGE TEAM

The following couples are members of the Marriage Ministry that helps young couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage:

**Mario and Carmelann Scalzo:** Wedding rehearsals and celebration

**Joe and Lori Siniscarco:** Keeping the Marriage Alive

**Richard and Delores Chainey:** Forgiveness

**Bob and Angela Ferdula:** Pre-Cana and Prepare program

**Christopher and MaryLisa Vella:** Family  
**James and Lisa Hyatt:** Early Adjustments after Marriage

**John and Jean Reale:** Spirituality in the Marriage Ceremony and After

*Engaged couples should call the parish office at 735-1482 at least six months in advance of the wedding.*

that will be married in our church.

Part of the job of the team is to reinforce basic tenets before couples make their commitments.

"Couples need to go into marriage with a solid relationship, commitment, life skills, relationship skills and communication skills," Joe and Lori said. "It is not all the preparation

and the wedding day that makes the marriage, it is your commitment to each other and God."

Mario and Carmelann Scalzo, also members of the Marriage Team, will be married 40 years in September. They agree that marriage is special.

"Remember that it is a sacrament and to keep God and their faith in the marriage ceremony and in their lives afterwards," Carmelann said. "Keep love and God in the home and marriage. Treat each other with respect."

Bob and Angela Ferdula have been married for almost 23 years and have been helping engaged couples for about 15. They echo that the most important point about marriage is that it is a gift from God.

"Marriage is a sacrament and a sacrament is holy," they said. "If a couple is planning to marry in church, they should know this and treasure this."

A couple typically goes into marriage full of love and hope. Eventually, the honeymoon ends and reality sets in. That's when the work really begins.

As the vows say, in good times and in bad, for better or for worse.

Mario said struggling through the hard times and disagreements are the worst part of being married. So, how does a couple cope without having to Google a lawyer?

Once again, this is when it's time to count on your faith.

"Support each other, rely on family, relatives  
**Please see SACRAMENT, Page 3**



# Love and marriage still go together

A devoted husband produced a little book drawing from his wife's journal during a long illness that claimed her life.

She struggled mightily those final months. Her illness tested the faith and devotion of the couple.

He said in the book, "Only two kinds of people think that love is easy — saints who through long times of self-sacrifice have perfected virtue, and naïve persons who don't know what they're talking about!"

Love in marriage is not easy. The old saying, "love works only if you work at love," is so very true.

Married love was, and still is, a challenge when couples follow the "old ways" — that is get your education, get a blessed marriage, then children and the family get going.

Now, love, commitment and long-term success and happiness are even more difficult because of the modern "churning up" of things.



FATHER JIM

No marriage, blessed or civil, not even long-term living together (shorter hit-and-miss-playing-house-for-awhile experiences are more popular for many) all adds to more frequent separations, moving out and moving apart.

Having children first, trying to catch up later with education, wondering if some day the love might be sealed in a blessed, or at least, legal way, contributes to stress, uncertainty and even a suspicion if true love is possible.

Although many sacramental marriages will take place in Catholic parishes this spring and summer, still many young, good and gifted couples sit on the fence figuring out if they found the perfect partner.



*Some qualities of our God are beautifully and best revealed in marriage — faithfulness, forgiveness, trust, sacrifice, joy and dignity.*

Our older married couples carrying the Sacrament of Marriage for 40, 50, 60 years and more, will say no partner is perfect. But marriage made holy, enjoying the practice and support of faith, certainly can help and hold and sometimes even save the commitment of love.

Why is it that for couples who cohabitate for a significant period, their rate of splitting up is triple than those who wait until marriage to

move in? Your guess is as good as any. But the statistics remain.

Spring is a good time to encourage blessed marriage in the church. Some qualities of our God are beautifully and best revealed in marriage — faithfulness, forgiveness, trust, sacrifice, joy and dignity.

Whether we are married or not, love is our constant calling, our origin and our fulfillment in that kingdom for which we long.

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Continued from Page 2

and friends for support, and your faith," Joe and Lori advise. "God is the third piece of marriage."

For young couples, the Siniscarcos suggest to "talk to each other, talk with someone else, and wait until you are ready."

"We not only want God's blessing, but we want his love, support and his teachings to help support and grow the marriage."

Bob and Angela also said talking to each other is crucial.

"Be truthful and do not hold anything back because it will come back to haunt you," they said. "Discuss, discuss. And if headway is not

made, seek counseling."

So, with all the bad news, how do couples make a marriage survive?

"Marriage is a full-time job," Bob and Angela said. "You always have to consider each other's feelings. Communicating always helps."

Joe and Lori agree.

"Communication is key," they said. "Second, is learn how to forgive. It is easy to say you're sorry but more difficult to forgive."

"Learn to appreciate each other, treat each other with respect; enjoy life," they added.

The Scalzos say there are three factors that make a good marriage: "Love a lot, laugh a lot

and live a lot."

And when a marriage is good, it's very good. The best part of being married?

"Sharing and knowing your partner is there for you," Bob and Angela said. "Two people become one but without losing their individuality."

Carmelann said it's important knowing your partner always will be there with you.

"Being together and sharing all the ups and downs," Carmelann said is the best part of being wed. "Spending time with someone who cares for you and loves you unconditionally."

— Fran Perritano

# Confirmation Class of 2012:



**ANTHONY  
CALENZO**  
15

Sophomore,  
Proctor

**Family:** Mother Jerrian; father Robert; brother Nick; sister Sarah.

**Things you like to do:** Play baseball, hockey, party, gym.

**Who is your hero?** Dustin Pedroia.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** We talk a lot, have fun and have a lot of friends.



**DANIELLE  
COMMISSO**  
15

Sophomore,  
Whitesboro

**Family:** Mother Vikki; father Anthony; brothers Joey, Zack, Rocco.

**Things you like to do:** Hang out with my friends.

**Who is your hero?** My great-grandma.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** This church is very accepting and loving.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** I would like to see my deceased family members.



**GIANNA  
DELLERBA**  
15

Sophomore,  
Whitesboro

**Family:** Mom, dad, brother.

**Things you like to do:** Shop, talk to friends.

**Who is your hero?** My mom.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** I know a lot of people here. Father Cesta and Lisa.

**If I could ask God one thing:** Will I live a long life?



**LEXI  
DRAKE**  
15

Sophomore,  
Oriskany

**Family:** Mom, dad, brother, sister.

**Things you like to do:** Basketball, drums.

**Who is your hero?** My Papa.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** The people become like a family and make you comfortable.

**If I could ask God one thing:** What happens after you die?



**ZACHARY ELLIS**  
16

Sophomore, Proctor

**Family:** Two parents, two brothers, two sisters.

**Things you like to do:** Play basketball, football and drums.

**Who is your hero?** My grandfather.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** I know all the people in my religion class, and Father Cesta.

**If you could ask God one thing:** How do I know I will be in heaven after death, and to have a long life.



**JENNIFER  
FERRO**  
15

Sophomore,  
Sauquoit Valley

**Family:** Mom, dad, brother.

**Things you like to do:** Run, sing act, sleep eat.

**Who is your hero?** My brother.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** I grew up with everyone here. Pizza frita.

**If you could ask God one thing:** For everyone not to suffer hardships.



**SALVATORE  
FERRONE**  
15

Sophomore, Proctor  
**Family:** Father Frank Sr.; brothers Frank and Carmen.

**Things you like to do:** Band rehearsal, text, play guitar, listen to technical progressive metal, play Zelda games, read books.

**Who is your hero?** Tosin Abasi, Evan Brewer, Tommy Rodgers, Blake Richardson.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** The atmosphere.

**If I could ask God one thing:** Where did you come from?



**MARISSA FILLETTI**  
16, Sophomore,  
Whitesboro

**Family:** Dad Paul; mom Tammy; brother Donte; sister Gianna.

**Things you like to do:** Learn new things, meet new people, talk, make people's days, laugh.

**Who is your hero?** Grandma Sandra Stephens.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** The people are warm and friendly. Father Cesta can always get a giggle out of me.

**If you could ask God one thing:** If I could meet my Grandpa Donatelli.



**DOMINIC  
FURGAL**  
15

Sophomore, Proctor  
**Family:** Father and mother.

**Things you like to do:** Bowling, basketball, hanging with friends, playing video games.

**Who is your hero?** Derek Jeter and Pete Weber.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** Because we do fun things.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** How old will I be when I die?



**TAYLOR  
GRAY**  
15

Sophomore, Proctor  
**Family:** Mother Chris; father Jim; brother Steven.

**Things you like to do:** Dance,

**Who is your hero?** My great-grandma.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** I have friends here and they put on a good Mass.

**If you could ask God one thing:** To end world hunger.



**MICHAEL  
LATHWOOD**  
15

Sophomore, Proctor  
**Family:** Mother, father.

**Things you like to do:** Play bass, computers, listen to metal, play video games.

**Who is your hero?** Evan Brewer, Dan Briggs, Tosin Abasi.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** The lovely decorations.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** Make it so I wouldn't have to sleep ever so I could do more stuff.



**LINDSEY  
LEONE**  
15

Sophomore,  
Whitesboro

**Family:** Mother Leslie; dad Pat; brother Russell.

**Things you like to do:** Sing, play basketball and softball.

**Who is your hero?** My mother.

**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed**

**Sacrament:** I like listening to Father Cesta and to the peaceful music.

**If I could ask God one thing:** For forgiveness. Why did my mom get cancer?

# Lord, send down your spirit



**JOSEPH  
MERCURIO**  
15

**Sophomore, Proctor**  
**Family:** Mother, father, brother.  
**Things you like to do:** Watch sports, talk, hang out with friends.  
**Who is your hero?** Derek Jeter, Jeremy Lin, Tim Tebow.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** Father Cesta being funny and keeping it interesting..  
**If you could ask God one thing:** What is the meaning of life?



**JORDAN  
OCZKOWSKI**  
16

**Sophomore, Proctor**  
**Family:** Mother Mary Lourdes; brother Caleb.  
**Things you like to do:** Play musical instruments, sing, perform in musicals, lacrosse and golf.  
**Who is your hero?** Freddie Mercury.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** The teachers are very friendly and it's a fun environment.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** How come there aren't enough hours in a day?



**STAY  
PHA**  
15

**Sophomore, Proctor**  
**Family:** Mom Mi Ngae; brother Plah Say; sister Hei Nay Moo.  
**Things you like to do:** I like to help people, my friends and my family.  
**Who is your hero?** Teachers, parent.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** It's God's house.  
**If you could ask God one thing:** To help me when I need help.



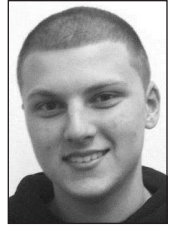
**FRANCESCA  
PRIORE**  
15

**Sophomore, Proctor**  
**Family:** Mother Debbie; father Joe; brothers Joe, Daniel, Anthony.  
**Things you like to do:** Play softball, sing, run, tan.  
**Who is your hero?** My Aunt Palma.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** Because Lisa works here and I know everyone.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** Is my aunt OK?



**DOMENICA  
RISUCCI**  
15

**Sophomore, Whitesboro**  
**Family:** Mom, dad, two sisters.  
**Things you like to do:** Swim, sleep.  
**Who is your hero?** My sisters.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** I was baptized on the church's 100th anniversary, and it's pretty.  
**If you could ask God one thing:** To see my uncle one more time.



**VINCENT SPATARO**  
15, Sophomore,  
Frankfort-Schuyler

**Family:** Victor, Francine, Rocco.  
**Things you like to do:** Four-wheeling, soccer, football, chill-in' with my friends.  
**Who is your hero?** Zlatan Ibrahimovic.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** The pizza frita, the respect and kindness of the staff, Father Cesta.  
**If you could ask God one thing:** What was I born to do and forgiveness of all my sins.



**FRANCESCA  
SPINELLI**  
16

**Sophomore, Proctor**  
**Family:** Mother Gina; father John; sister Gabrielle.  
**Things you like to do:** Work, hanging out, shopping.  
**Who is your hero?** My Aunt Lisa.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** I made a lot of friends here. I like the church and Father Cesta.  
**If you could ask God one thing:** For my sister to heal from her surgery and for my Aunt Marie to get better.



**PHILIP  
SPIRIDIGLOZZI**  
16

**Sophomore, Whitesboro**  
**Family:** Father Mark; mother Diana; brother Mark; sister Carli.  
**Things you like to do:** Snowboard, lacrosse, hang out with friends.  
**Who is your hero?** My brother.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** We make the best pizza frita in town. Mass.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** I would ask God for forgiveness and to meet my mother's mother.



**ANNA TOFOLO**  
15, Sophomore,  
Mount Markham

**Family:** Mother Donna; father Michael.  
**Things you like to do:** Piano, guitar, drums, sing, perform.  
**Who is your hero?** God and my cousin Tommy.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** I like the way the church teaches.  
**If you could ask God one thing:** To make something of myself, give me the strength to make it big, to share my music with the world.



**GREGORY TORRES**  
17, Junior, Proctor

**Family:** Mother Cheryl A. (Ballard) Hertel; father Abraham Torres; brothers Andrew Johnson, Chad Johnson, Scott Johnson.  
**Things you like to do:** Biking, hiking, climbing mountains.  
**Who is your hero?** My mother.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** It's helped me find my place in life.  
**If you could ask God one thing:** To help me pass high school and college.



**JENNIFER TRAN**  
16, Sophomore,  
Proctor

**Family:** Mother Hanh Lam.  
**Things you like to do:** Sing, play the piano, write lyrics, standing up for what I believe is right  
**Who is your hero?** Jess McCartney.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** When I'm here it feels like home to me. Plus, it's beautiful and amazing.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** Do I have a mission to do in my life?



**KELLY TRAN**  
17

**Sophomore, Proctor**  
**Family:** Joan Tran, Kristy Kostyn, Kathy Tran, Chau Nguyen, Toan Tran.  
**Things you like to do:** Texting, singing, reading, spending time with family, praying every night with my mom and little sister.  
**Who is your hero?** My mom.  
**Why I like Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament:** I love the pizza frita and going to Mass.  
**If I could ask God one thing:** Will I have a good life?



# First Communion Class of 2012



**KENNEDY  
CROUSE**

Age: 8

Second grade,  
Albany Elementary  
School

**Favorite class:** Music.

**Family:** Mother Judy;  
father Randy; brother  
Randy.

**Things you like to do:**

Write in my journal, sing  
and dance, play soccer,  
spend time with my family.

**Who is your hero?** My  
family.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** I

get to spend time with  
my friends.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** How did you  
become God?



**SOPHIA  
DUMOULIN**

Age: 7

Second grade, Albany  
Elementary School

**Favorite class:** Art.

**Family:** Mother Caria;  
father Dan; sisters,  
Antonia and Mia.

**Things you like to do:**

Gymnastics, draw, ice  
skate, play outside, swim.

**Who is your hero?**  
Gymnasts.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** My  
friends go there.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** How people were  
made.



**ANGELYNA  
GRANIERO**

Age: 7

Second grade,

Marcy Elementary School  
**Favorite class:** Science  
and art.

**Family:** Mother Margaret;  
father Christopher; sister  
Cristiana.

**Things you like to do:**

Play Wii and play in  
school.

**Who is your hero?** God.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** I  
feel welcome here.

Everyone is friendly.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** For a baby sister or  
brother.



**TYLER  
JABLONSKI**

Age: 8

Second grade,

Martin Luther King Jr.  
Elementary School

**Favorite class:** All sub-  
jects.

**Family:** Mother Valeria;  
grandmother Michele;  
grandfather David; Aunt  
Jennifer.

**Things you like to do:**

Bowling, karate.

**Who is your hero?** Tom  
Arcuri (karate instructor).

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:**  
Father Cesta.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** Help me be  
stronger and a good boy.



**ASHLEY  
PYRDA**

Age: 8

Second grade, New York  
Mills Elementary School

**Favorite class:** Art.

**Family:** Mother Anne;  
father Pawel; sister  
Katelyn.

**Things you like to do:**  
Read, play, gymnastics,  
karate.

**Who is your hero?** Mom.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** It is  
a great place to learn  
about Jesus.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** To help the poor  
people, give them some  
money and a house.



**BENEE  
ROYU**

Age: 8

Second grade,  
Jefferson Elementary  
School

**Favorite class:** Math

**Family:** Father Francisco;  
mother Judy; sister  
Bemrawmika.

**Things you like to do:**

Play computer games.

**Who is your hero?** My  
father and mother.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** My  
family comes here.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** To make me happy.



**ZACHARY  
SLADE**

Age: 8

Second grade,  
Bradley Elementary  
School

**Favorite class:** Physical  
education, science.

**Family:** Mother Maria;  
father Michael.

**Things you like to do:**

Piano, chess, karate,  
swimming, camping, play-  
ing with my iPad and Wii.

**Who is your hero?**  
George Washington.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** It is  
beautiful.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** What is heaven  
like?



**MARK STEWART  
VAN DEUSEN**

Age: 7

Second grade,  
Westmoreland  
Elementary School

**Favorite class:** Science.

**Family:** Father Rob; moth-  
er Sandy; sister Rachel.

**Things you like to do:**

Bowl, spend time with my  
family, having fun with  
friends.

**Who is your hero?** My  
mom.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** The  
children's Mass.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** To get me a flying  
jet pack.



**BIANCA  
WILLSON**

Age: 8

Second grade, Clinton  
Elementary School  
**Favorite class:** Second  
grade.

**Family:** Mother Andrea;  
father Robby; brother  
Robby.

**Things you like to do:**

Reading, swimming, color,  
dance and sing.

**Who is your hero?** God  
and Jesus.

**Why I like Mount Carmel  
/ Blessed Sacrament:** My  
friends go there.

**If you could ask God one  
thing:** Make my friends  
nicer.

# Evolution of a house of worship

I remember the first time I stepped into St. Mary Mount Carmel Church back in the mid '70s. There was a certain "familiarity" about it.

It certainly wasn't because of the parish I had just left in suburban Albany (St. Pius X), whose building had just been completed in that minimalist A-framed ribbed modernistic style so prevalent in that era (see St. Mark's in North Utica).

No, I rather think it was the kinship to my childhood parish in Cohoes, St. Rita, a building which no longer exists but nonetheless built with the same religious fervor of Italian immigrants that gave shape to the Utica house of worship.

In addition to those memories, I still held fresh the familiar sights of Rome (Italy) where I had the privilege of studying for a year. While my classmates were off on excursions to other cities and European countries, I was tramping the streets of the ancient city visiting ruins, excavations, museums and churches.



A.J. VALENTINI

Now everyone knows that Rome is a city of churches and basilicas, and stepping into St. Mary Mount Carmel/Blessed Sacrament was like stepping into familiar territory.

What is a basilica?

Though today basilica is a title given to Roman Catholic churches granted certain ceremonial rights, originally the basilica was a Roman construction built for public meetings, tribunals and or business. It housed a covered area consisting of a large central space, or nave, divided from two lateral naves by rows of columns. At one end of the central nave was an apse, a semi-circular construction created by spinning an arch 180 degrees.

When the emperor Constantine granted freedom of worship to the early Christians in 315 AD, the first buildings to house public prayer were some of the old Roman basilicas. They were perfectly adapted to Christian rituals. The altar was placed in the apse where the magistrate once sat on his cathedra, a chair of honor (and the root of our word "cathedral").

## San Pietro in Vincoli

Mount Carmel's interior not only follows that canon, it resembles one of my favorite old Roman basilicas, San Pietro in Vincoli, so named for the reliquary containing the chains that held St. Peter captive set below its altar.

What reminded me of this old basilica, the first to be dedicated to a relic and not a saint (5th century), was the similar barrel vaulted central naves, cross-vaulted side naves and columns (in the case of St. Peter, recycled ancient Roman, and here at Mount Carmel, plaster ones made to look ancient).

Whereas St. Pietro in Vincoli houses Michelangelo's statue of Moses, we house, as was noted in a previous edition of this publication,



The interior of Mount Carmel circa 1930 prior to the addition of the ceiling murals by Antonio D'Ambrosio. For more historic photos, visit [www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com).

statues of the patrons of various towns of the ancestors of our parishioners.

So, how did our lovely church evolve into the beautiful building we have today?

Prior to its existence, the Italian community worshipped at historic St. John's Church. In 1895 a lot was purchased between Catherine and Jay Street and the architect A.J. Grenier was hired for a sum of \$150 to design a building.

## Construction begins in 1896

Work began in April 1896, but by June of that year work was halted, some say because of personality conflicts, others say because the entire building was projected to cost \$11,000 and \$7,000 already had been spent on constructing the basement.

Even with a \$2,000 increase in the budget granted by the bishop, there was barely time to weather-proof and furnish the basement for worship by winter. With generous donations from the Irish community and modest profits from suppers, picnics and charitable contributions, the parish continued in this fashion until in 1900, when Pastor Antonino Castelli took a \$10,000 loan from the Utica Savings Bank to construct the upper church.

On Sept. 15, 1901, Bishop Scalabrini of Piacenza, the founder of a society of priests and nuns who tended to the needs of Italian immigrants in the Americas, assisted in the laying of the cornerstone.

The choice of a single nave Romanesque-style structure fit well with the tastes of the time and with the heritage of the people it was destined to serve. On the practical side, the lack of excessive exterior ornamentation saved money in construction and in maintenance over the years.

Bricks were an obvious choice as they were economical, a continuation of a tradition as old as the ancient Romans who had perfected their fabrication and, in addition, many of the Italian immigrants worked in the local brick yards that

made them. The church was opened in June 1902.

By the arrival of the 1920s, the church was in dire need of repairs and enlargement. With a directive of from Bishop Grimes of Syracuse and under the guidance of then pastor Father John Marcheggiani, who was known to roll up his own sleeves and apply his considerable construction skills, the vestibule was revamped, the altar was moved and the railing was moved forward.

The basement was reconstructed and water-proofed. Most importantly during this decade, the church was doubled in size by adding the two lateral naves and thus became a model of the ancient basilica-style house of worship.

In 1931, the Altar Society presented the sanctuary of the church with a beautiful Carrara marble communion rail and pulpit. The pulpit at that time was attached to the left side of the communion rail. Years later it was removed.

## Artistic decoration

During the tenure of Father William Pizzoglio, the first great wave of artistic decoration of the interior took place. In addition to three new marble altars created by the DaPrato Co. of New York, Prof. Antonio D'Ambrosio decorated the vault with beautiful religious paintings.

On Nov. 8, 1936, Bishop John J. Duffy came to consecrate the new altars and bless the decoration. Father Marcheggiani returned to Utica from Naples and the Italian Consul General came from New York came as well to mark the completion of the work and celebrate Father Pizzoglio's contribution to a now outstanding testament to Italian artistry. In 1939 Father Pizzoglio installed a new organ.

By the time of its 50th anniversary (1946), Mount Carmel was under the direction of Father Pizzoglio, who with the encouragement of the Bishop undertook another revitalization of the building. With the architect Antonio G. Pace,

Please see HOUSE, Page 8

# Zachary Slade: At home at the keyboard

*Zachary Slade is an 8-year-old wunderkind. In an international competition in Poland earlier this year, he placed third in the piano competition. There were 18 students in the 8- to 11-year-old division in which he played. But he's more than a virtuoso. He loves baseball, karate, swimming, sledding and traveling. And – one more thing – he loves to cook.*

**How did you become interested in the piano?**

When I was little, I watched Disney's "Little Einsteins" and would go to the piano and try to play what was on the television.

**Many parents want their children to play a musical instrument, and some kids don't like it. Did you like the piano right away or did it take some time?**

I liked it right away.

**When did you realize you were good at it?**

In June 2010, I decided to work to get the Early Bach Medal at the National Piano Playing Auditions. I had to memorize 15 Bach pieces and play them for a judge. I worked really hard for a year and earned it on June 7, 2011.

**Do you have a favorite pianist or composer?**

American composer William Bolcom. His pieces are fun to play. American Pianist Jon Nakamatsu. I met him a year ago.

**What is your favorite piece to play? Do you have any "modern" music you like to play?**

My favorite two pieces are "Pussycat Waltz" numbers 2 and 3 by William Bolcom. They are modern pieces. He is still alive.

**You finished third in a competition in Poland. Quite an achievement. What did you think of your performance?**

I thought it was good.



Zachary Slade shown in the piano competition in which he participated in January in Poland.

## ZACHARY SLADE

**Age:** 8

**Education:** Second-grader at Bradley Elementary School in New Hartford.

**Parents:** Maria and Mike Slade.

**Favorite things to do:** Go to Enchanted Forest / Water Safari, travel on airplanes, going to the Baseball Hall of Fame, sledding, swimming, playing baseball in my backyard, playing with my iPad, cooking.

**Was this your first trip overseas? What was the experience like for you?**

Yes, it was my first trip overseas. It was awe-

some! I loved to ride the tram in Krakow and travel around the city.

**I know you're still young, but do you have a hero or someone you really look up to?**

My school teachers and my parents.

**Besides piano, what other things are you interested in?**

Karate, and donating to the Stevens Swan Humane Society to help the animals.

**Here's an age-old question: What do you want to be when you grow up?**

A pianist!

**If someone asked you to describe Zachary Slade, what would you tell him or her?**

I am generous, nice and helpful.

**Do you have any advice for kids your age?**

Make sure you practice and work hard at what you like to do, then you will succeed.

## HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Continued from Page 8

structural and decorative symmetry were imposed on the many additions and modifications over the years.

Using Colonial Renaissance style as the unifying theme, the façade was changed by adding a vestibule, the smaller arches on either side of the apse were remodeled, the columns were replaced, the side chapels were enlarged and the ceilings on the side naves were renovated.

In addition, all of the windows were replaced and bear the images of devotional figures important to the parishioners. Donors' names still are on the windows today. Again, Antonio D'Ambrosio was entrusted with the pictorial decoration of the interior supplying it with unparalleled beauty for an American house of worship.

Under Father Pizzoglio's suggestion, the artist explored and depicted three themes: the exaltation of the Virgin Mary, patroness of the church (left side of the central barrel vault); the glorification of Jesus Christ (right side of the central barrel vault); and the Universal Church (the reproduction of a portion of Rafael's "Disputa del Santissimo Sacramento" on the dome of the apse and the portraits of 44 saints and pontiffs on the vaults of the side naves). The cost of the decoration was \$100,000 and was paid off in one year.

As a result of the changes initiated by the Second Vatican Council of the mid-'60s, the new pastor, Father Peter Bortolazzo, undertook the reconfiguration of the sanctuary with a new altar of sacrifice. Additionally, by the time of the 75th anniversary of the parish (1971), a new terrazzo

floor was installed, new pews were obtained and new granite steps and restoration of the paintings.

In 1991, native son Father Joseph Salerno took the reins of the parish. In preparation of its 100th anniversary, he attended to some of the "creature comforts" we still enjoy today — air conditioning a remodeled choir loft, new wiring and new front steps.

Each generation, each pastor and changes within the Catholic Church have brought changes to our beloved building. Under present pastor, Father Jim Cesta, we have regained a marble pulpit.

Parishioners feel pride, a sense of continuity, ownership and a connection to their Catholic roots through the church. May it continue to thrive for hundreds of years.