

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH - SUMMER 2020

MORE GOOD NEWS

UNMASKED

How we survived
staying at home

PAGE 3

**OUR PARISH
HERITAGE:** Part
2 in a series of
articles about
the history of
our parish lead-
ing to the 125th
anniversary in
2021. **Page 6**

It's better to be part of a community, not isolated

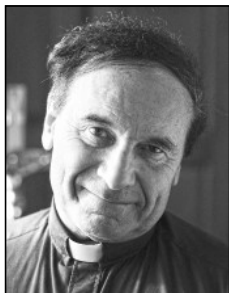
"So, how's your time away been going?"

That is a question so many folks have been asking of each other when they speak on the phone, or actually bump into one another at the doctor's office, grocery store — or maybe at church these last few weekends.

Some, of all ages and stages of life, will say they have been too isolated and tired of being cooped up at home. Others will say they have accomplished things that were put off for years, such as sorting out all the stuff in the attic, the cellar — even cleaning up their hearts, minds and souls.

March, April, May and much of June afforded some extra time for me to renovate and spruce up the family home in Syracuse, doing a lot of the work myself — with some mistakes along the way.

Also, I took time to cook for a few close priest friends and neighbors in Syracuse, having mastered such dishes as pot roast, ham and cabbage, and French toast.



FATHER JIM

Meeting with couples planning upcoming church weddings, families looking forward to baptisms, ministering to those suffering the loss of a loved one, funerals at the funeral home or cemetery before the church was reopened — all this never really stops even during these last months.

Certainly, it's clear that the reason our Catholic faith and Jesus calls us to gather and work out our way to heaven as a community, not as isolated individuals, is exactly because we are more happy and fulfilled with others than doing it on our own alone.

I never could understand those who say, "I don't need to be at Mass or be with others; I deal with God on my own, alone." It's a sad attitude for someone who claims to be a person with faith.

It's good to be opening our beautiful Catholic churches, especially on the weekends, though it's a limited turnout due to caution.

As the word of scripture says, "It is good when brethren dwell as one."

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

Our Lady of Fatima

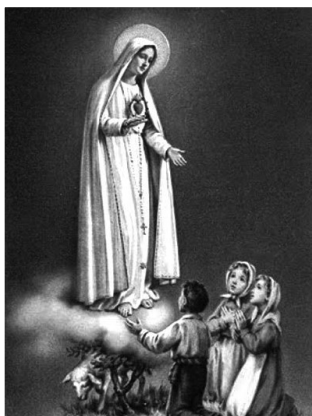
Feast day May 13

Between May 13 and Oct. 13, 1917, three Portuguese children — Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos — received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon.

Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners and for the conversion of Russia.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920, respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.



The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

Reflection

The message of Fatima is simple: Pray. Unfortunately, some people — not Sister Lucia — have distorted these revelations, making them into an apocalyptic event for which they now are the only reliable interpreters. They have, for example, claimed that Mary's request that the world be consecrated to her has been ignored. Sister Lucia agreed that Pope John Paul II's public consecration in St. Peter's Square on March 25, 1984, fulfilled Mary's request. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith prepared a June 26, 2000, document explaining the "third secret."

Mary is honored perfectly when people generously imitate her response, "Let it be done to me as you say." (Luke 1:38) Mary never can be seen as a rival to Jesus or to the church's teaching authority, as exercised by the college of bishops united with the bishop of Rome.

PARISH WEBSITE

Visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com for the latest parish news and announcements. There's even a mobile version for your smart phone. You can donate online and check out our social media sites and more.

PHOTO GALLERIES



BULLETIN

St. Mary of Mount Carmel Blessed Sacrament Parish

www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com and www.facebook.com/mountcarmelblessedsacrament



ABOUT THE PARISH
Address: 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501
Telephone: 315-735-1482
Office hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to noon Friday. Masses MUST be worn.
Faith Formation and Sacrament Center: 315-724-9990; fax: 315-735-9886.
Bulletin items: Must be submitted via email to sp@stmary.org or by mail to the parish office, no later than two weeks before publication.
Email: stmaryuticab@stmary.org
Hearing impaired: Listening devices available in the sacristy.

MASS SCHEDULES
Weekend
Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m.

MARRIAGE
Couples must make arrangements six months in advance.
BAPTISM
Call the parish office to arrange. New parents are encouraged to attend the parent class before the birth of your child.
RCIA
Adults or children, 7 or older who have never been baptized or confirmed or received the Eucharist, are invited to call the Parish Office for information about this process.
NEW PARISHIONERS
Welcome to our parish family. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community. Please be sure to register by calling the parish office.
PARISH STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Jim Costa

... AND MORE

- Weekly prayers, reflections, photos, videos and more to enrich your faith.
- Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- History of the parish
- Lector, minister, altar server schedules
- Mass schedules
- Parish news
- Ministries
- Event calendar
- Weekly reflection on Sunday's readings
- "More Good News" articles
- Links to our social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Home, sweet home?

Parishioners stay occupied, find new ways to keep the faith

By **FRAN PERRITANO**

Maria Quintal is quite talented.

In addition to being part of the Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Music Ministry, she has two black belts and is a retired state trooper.

And now, during the early part of the coronavirus pandemic, she was helping others.

"I have been sewing cotton surgical-style face masks for Utica area seniors, family members, neighbors and now outpatients at area hospitals," she said (check out her photo on the cover). "(I) have been delivering them, hanging them in bags on doorknobs, sent them via U.S. mail, etc. Many recipients have been sending me selfies wearing their masks, which warms my heart, and my aching back!"

Our parish community until recently was apart for about four months, so over that time we thought we'd ask what have parishioners been up to. Here are some of the responses we received:

Fred Valentini

This was supposed to be my dream semester at Utica College. I had already informed the college that after 46 years in classrooms I was going to put my chalk/whiteboard markers back in the box. Then COVID-19 hit. All of the material I had prepared for the last three months of instruction would have to be retooled for online instruction.

I'm not afraid of technology but prefer to be the one who decides when to use it. What would have taken an hour to do — whether it was planning, grading or even setup — now takes two to three times longer.

Not all the students bought into the new approach. ... I have had to make various accommodations for students who had poor internet service, lacked their own laptop or who lived in the hotspots in the state (some had family or neighbors with the disease).

The upshot of this approach is that even the professor can come to class in his pajamas (I don't, but some students do).

Terry Reale

Well, these have certainly been challenging times — trying to cope with the pandemic, stay busy to avoid being frightened and feeling overwhelmed and trying to navigate Holy Week and Easter in a whole new way has certainly been an unprecedented set of tasks.

We've focused on projects around the house such as spring cleaning and other cleaning that had been back-burnered for a long time ... but now there were no excuses. It was also imperative to observe all the directives of staying home and learning to do things like order groceries for delivery to avoid trips to the store.



ABOVE: Fred Valentini said this was supposed to be his "dream semester" teaching a class at Utica College. "Then COVID-19 hit (and) all of the material I had prepared for the last three months of instruction would have to be retooled for online instruction," he said. "The upshot of this approach is that even the professor can come to class in his pajamas (I don't, but some students do.)" **BELOW:** Terry Reale, husband John and daughter Sara kept busy. "We've focused on projects around the house such as spring cleaning and other cleaning that had been back-burnered for a long time ... but now there were no excuses," Terry said. "We also passed the time by playing pitch and Scrabble."

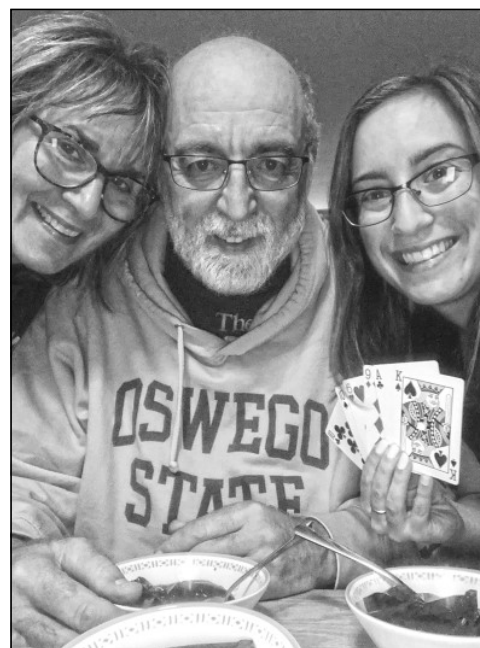
The utmost priority was not to bring the dreaded virus into our home.

We had to find creative ways to connect with our faith and watch Mass and other reflections on YouTube and other sources on technology. It was so wonderful to have Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday Masses (and now Sunday Masses) to us via those avenues. We took great comfort in that. Other helpful sources included daily reflections in the little Black Book as well as the posts from Dynamic Catholic with Michael Kelly. These programs were there for us whenever we needed them and in our own time, so there was never any concern about missing them.

Things like celebrating my husband's birthday by making him a special dinner with our daughter Sara (who was stuck here with us), making him his favorite — apple pie — and our kids surprising him with a birthday parade all made for an extra special day.

We also passed the time by playing pitch and Scrabble, which was great because we never

Please see **STAYING AT HOME**, Page 7



A CONVERSATION WITH ... TONY LEONE

‘I enjoy being involved’

It seems as if everyone knows Tony Leone. That's probably because Tony makes it a point to get to know everyone he meets. And he meets a lot of people through the business he has operated for years, the political positions he has held, the community service he treasures and through the parish he loves.

You really enjoy politics. You spent 25 years on the Yorkville Village Board — 19 as village trustee and six as mayor. You're now on the Oneida County Board of Legislators representing the 23rd District, which is all of North Utica and parts of East Utica. What do you like most about politics and representing people?

I enjoy politics because I enjoy being involved in the community. I enjoyed most of my 25 years serving on the Village Board in Yorkville. Listening to the issues and trying to make a decision to best benefit the residents I represent.

What do you like least about politics?

Sometimes you are trying to accomplish something you definitely believe in and some people twist the issues and you end up failing to accomplish your goals.

Before moving to North Utica, you lived in Yorkville for more than 35 years and you still are a member of the Yorkville Fire Department and were an EMT for 12 of those years. How did you get involved in the fire department?

In the early '80s, after living in the village for a few years, I got to know some of the residents in the village and I was asked to join the Yorkville Volunteer Fire Department. It was my first step in getting involved in the community. I became an EMT in 1985 and also got involved in the Yorkville Little League when my sons started to play.

Was there a point in time that influenced you to become involved in community service?

I'm not really sure what influenced me to get involved in community service, I just thought I should give back some of my time. The community was good to me in supporting my business; I just wanted to give something back.

Your two sons are in law enforcement. Do you think in some ways they are following your lead?

I believe my sons followed their own path. They both knew they had the opportunity to follow in my footsteps and learn my business, but I never forced it on them. I believe they have followed my lead in one respect because they are both good at what they do and respected by their peers. My daughter is also very successful in her career choice.

You enjoy spending time at your family camp in Old Forge. What's the best part



The Leone Family. Tony says the best advice he gave to his two sons and daughter and will give to his grandchildren is, "Whatever path you choose in life, work hard, be good at what you do and keep God, your faith and your family close to you."

Tony Leone

Age: 66.

Family: Married to the former Mary Rose Romano for 41 years. Three children: Nicholas, Vincent and Marisa. Six grandchildren: Josie, Evy, Vincenza, Deacon, Santino and Liliana.

Education: Thomas R Proctor Class of 1971; Mohawk Valley Community College; degree in electrical technology; certificates in refrigeration and appliance repair.

Occupation: Refrigeration and appliance business since 1974.

Interests: Bowling, golf, Syracuse University basketball season ticket holder.

about it?

Old Forge — I call it God's Country. My love for Old Forge started with my father back in the '60s when I was very young. We are very fortunate to live such a short distance from the Adirondack Park. I enjoy spending time with my family and especially my grandchildren at our family camp in Old Forge.

You've also been involved in our parish volunteering in a number of ways. You once served on the parish council, volunteered at the festival for about the last 20 years and co-chaired the festival the last three years.

You're also an usher. Why do you do it?

Again, I enjoy getting involved. If you know me you know I'm a very social person, and again I like to give back and stay involved.

What does Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament mean to you?

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament was my father's church, my grandparents' church, my church, my children's church, my grandchildren's church and, hopefully, in the future my great-grandchildren's church. I'm sort of a traditionalist. I enjoy the traditions at Mount Carmel. It's no doubt one of the most beautiful churches in the diocese. It was built by our Italian immigrants and I always say they can't or won't make them like this anymore.

How has your faith influenced your life?

Faith has influenced my life in many ways — just in the ways I give back my time and resources back to the community, how I've raised my family and how I've conducted the manner in which I've run my business. I do believe in the power of prayer and I believe in helping the less fortunate, which is something that is widely practiced at our giving community here at Mount Carmel.

If there was one piece of advice you gave to your kids and will pass along to your grandchildren, what was it?

Whatever path you choose in life, work hard, be good at what you do and keep God, your faith and your family close to you.

Emily puts best foot forward

Dancing teaches teen important life lessons

Emily loves being involved in many activities, but the one she loves the most is dancing. She has made many good friends in dance, including teachers and other girls. Most importantly, it has taught to never give up.

You enjoy ballet and contemporary dance and have been dancing since age 4. How did you get involved in dancing and why is it so special?

I first got involved in dance because my mom signed me up, and from there I fell in love with it. Dance is special to me because over the years I have learned to express myself without using words, just with dance. Another reason dance is very special to me is because of all of my friends and teachers. My teacher has taught me so much over the years and she is one of my biggest role models. Many of my best friends are the girls I dance with.

You have performed in “The Nutcracker” at the Stanley Center for the Arts for the last 10 years and are a company member in the Mohawk Valley Performing Arts. Describe what it feels like to be on stage in front of a couple of thousand people.

Dancing in front of over a thousand people is one of my favorite parts of dance. When I step out on stage to dance in front of all these people I feel happy to be sharing what I love with thousands of people. Many people get nervous to go out on stage, but for me I have always been too excited for my nerves to get in the way. Dancing in “The Nutcracker” is my favorite thing to do and I look forward to it all year round.

What is the one major lesson that being involved in dancing has taught you?

Dance has taught me to never give up. Dance has taught me this because many of the steps we do in dance can take many days to get the hang of, and you need to keep working on it or you will never be able to do it. Another way dance has taught me to never give up is when it comes to finding out my role in “The Nutcracker.” Although I may not always end up with the part I wanted, I can’t give up on my goals and I need to keep trying hard so the next year I have a better chance at getting the part I want.

Before the pandemic, you were involved in school activities. You’re on the varsity tennis team, sing in the chorus and are a member of the International Club. Why do you participate in so many activities?

I like to participate in many activities because it keeps me busy and helps me make many new friends. I also really like all of the activities I do and they teach me important lessons.

Please describe what the International Club is and what you’ve learned being a



Emily with her parents, Christine and John, and cousins Ellie and Caroline.

Emily S.

Age: 14.

Things you like to do: Dance, hang out with friends, shop and sing.

Favorite class in school: Spanish.

Favorite books: Realistic fiction.

Favorite musical genre and artist: Country music, and my favorite singer is Thomas Rhett.

Note to readers

Diocesan guidelines prohibit the publication of last names, parents and siblings full names, and any other personal information for people younger than 18.

member of it.

On International Day, many foreign exchange students come to my school. The International Club’s job is to prepare for their arrival. For example, I am on the decoration committee. What I will be doing is help decorate the school to make it look nice for the exchange students. Many of the juniors and seniors take the exchange students around with them throughout the school day.

You’re an honor student at school and might consider becoming a teacher. Why does that appeal to you?

I might consider being an elementary school teacher because I really like being around little kids. I think it would be fun to spend time with the children and teach them in creative ways.

You love trips to Florida and going to Enchanted Forest / Water Safari. What is the biggest reason you love those places?

I love going to Florida because I love the beach and the sun. My favorite thing to do in Florida is spend time swimming at the pool and lying in the sand at the ocean. I also love going to Water Safari. I have gone to Water Safari every year since I was 2, and I love going on the water slides.

You work at the parish festival in the food tent with your parents. Why do you like working at the festival?

I like working at the festival because it is a way to give back to my church. I also like to spend time with the other people that go to Mount Caramel.

As you learn more about your faith, what is the one thing that stands out the most for you about our religion?

The thing that stands out most to me is God. This stands out to me because I find learning about God is very interesting.

Many kids don’t talk about faith with their friends. If your best friend was to ask you what’s the big deal about being a Catholic, what would you tell him or her?

I would tell her that being a Catholic is important because it makes me feel connected to God, which is a very important thing.

What is the one thing people should know about Emily?

I am very kind and I really care for my friends and family. I also am very passionate about the things and people I love.

First pastor Castelli guides new church



REV. ANTONIO CASTELLI



The first Mass was celebrated on Dec. 20, 1896, in the church basement. Bishop Scalabrini blessed the cornerstone on Sept. 15, 1901.

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the history of our parish leading up to its 125th anniversary. Previous articles and issues of "More Good News" are available at www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com.

1896-1903

With large and small monetary donations, and the sweat of those unable to give a financial contribution, a plot of land stretching from Catherine Street to Jay Street was purchased and the first soil was turned in April 1896.

The modest coffers of the new parish ran out quickly and a loan from the bishop was required to continue work. On Dec. 20, 1896, Father Antonio Castelli was able to celebrate the first Mass in what then was the basement of the new building. In 1898, a rectory was built adjacent to the rising sanctuary so that the pastor would be close to his flock.

It was at this time that the Society of St. Mary of Mount Carmel was founded. Its principal function



A.J. VALENTINI

was to raise needed funds to eliminate the debt accrued during construction of the church. By 1901, the church and rectory were debt free.

With that settled, Father Castelli and the Mount Carmel Society could concentrate on building the church above the basement. On Sept. 15, 1901, Bishop Scalabrini blessed the cornerstone of the new church.

It was a difficult year. Inclement weather sometimes took its toll by preventing the celebration of Mass in the poorly appointed basement. By June 29, 1902, however, the modest house of worship was able to be used for its first Mass.

Father Castelli, feeling the rigors of building a parish from the ground up and the pressure of an ever growing flock requested, and was granted, an assistant — Father Joseph Formia. It must have been written in the book of fate because a year later Father Castelli died. His funeral was celebrated at Mount Carmel by Bishop Ludden, and he was laid to rest in St. Agnes Cemetery on Arthur Street in Utica.

Source: History of St. Mary of Mount Carmel (prepared by the History Committee for the 1996 centennial celebration)

STAY AT HOME

Continued from Page 3

seem to make time to connect like that. Plus, I take time to read to my grandsons each night and we go with Sara occasionally to walk her dog.

Laurie Siniscarco

We spent the first part of our isolation spring cleaning our apartment. Now that that's done, we have been keeping busy with a variety of things while at home.

We are going through picture albums and compiling individual collections of pictures to give to our daughters. I made some masks for our family and friends. We take rides to nowhere just to get out.

As president and vice president of our Resident Association at Schuyler Commons, we initiated a fundraiser with the proceeds to go to Feed the Vets, and food baskets for the staff for each floor of St. Elizabeth's and St. Luke's. Our residents were overwhelmingly generous. It really warmed our hearts.

We have been watching Father Jim's messages on Facebook and Mass ... from our parish. We have watched other Masses and Stations of the Cross on EWTN. Not a lot, but the days go by and before we know it's evening.

Colleen Bottini

I think our biggest lesson (which we are still trying to learn) is patience for one another. We are a close family, but being together 24/7 brought challenges and frustrations. I had to especially learn to step back from a situation, truly assess what was happening, and consider its importance in the grand scheme before reacting.

I would say we've adopted a "going-back-to-basics" mindset during this time, and so I've used this time to complete many cleaning out projects I didn't previously have time for and I've been reading voraciously, which I love. Our children have become more independent in that they've learned more ways to care for themselves and chip in for household chores. They also have had more time to play outside.

Michelle Babbie

I get to see my family, both more and less. With schools closed, both of my boys are at the house more, but our larger extended family hasn't been able to gather in person. We've celebrated all the recent holidays virtually, but it simply isn't the same. ... I have been impressed by how well everyone, everywhere has flexed and adjusted to new ways of doing all kinds of things in an attempt to serve the common good. ... We are stronger than we thought we were, and as impossible as the COVID19 quarantine has been, I am glad to have seen what we're capable of overcoming.

Dominick Scavo

The virus has affected our family in a way that we have never experienced before. Although we are safe and healthy we try to stay positive, but being confined has played a big role, all of yearly plans have changed like I am sure many people plans have changed. ...

This country is on the brink of serious issues and people are not only dealing with this virus, they are now dealing with all of the protests and racial imbalance that we have. No leadership in this country has put us further behind, all I can say is pray, stay healthy and hope some day it will be over. We are a country divided that needs serious prayers to pull us through.

Loraine Bolen

This virus has affected my family by realizing the seriousness of this global pandemic. We have adhered to the CDC guidelines in controlling this disease. The cooperation has been remarkable in our region. ... Prayers have been a huge part of our mental well-being.

We have learned to be a part of the Sunday Mass at Mount Carmel each week through the internet as well as reading "The Word Among Us" every day, as we have continued through the years. We also were in the middle of a Bible study group at The Good News Center studying "A Journey Through Church History" when everyone was quarantined in their homes. We continued to study all 20 sessions every week at home viewing the videos on the internet. movies and cleaning the house and doing laundry chores.

Susan Martellotto Januszewski, RN

My calling since 1970 has been helping others. I first started as a candy striper — 50 years this year in health care. ... I have been helping cover for nursing vacancies at local nursing homes since schools are closed. I am full-time at Thomas Jefferson Elementary. On Easter I passed a med cart to help out.

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament parishioner Sebastian "Benny" Lupo lives at The Pines of Utica. I delivered Easter baskets with candy and grapes for him and his roommate, their fruit of choice. Having worked all day, I didn't prepare an Easter dinner. I was so grateful Joe Caruso called and delivered me an Easter dinner complete with sausage pie and cassatt. How blessed.

Joe and Madeline Briggs

My wife and I have been spending our time doing all those little chores that we never were able to find the time to do. We have been taking walks, visiting neighbors while maintaining social distancing, and visiting our kids and grandchildren via FaceTime.

Marie Robilotto

During these times of social distancing, some businesses are facing the need to continue their commitment to the public and tend to their needs in the same manner as they are accustomed to, but in a totally different environment. So, my time has been spent assisting Eannace Funeral staff with families via teleconference, trying to make sure things are as transparent as possible while still ensuring we maintain the same level of compassion and attention that they need and remain true to our commitment to help them through this part of our journey.



"My calling since 1970 has been helping others," said registered nurse Susan Martellotto Januszewski. "I first started as a candy striper — 50 years this year in health care. I think I'm the only nurse who still wears a cap. I have been helping cover for nursing vacancies at local nursing homes since schools are closed."

Before it all changed ...



Before COVID-19 changed the world and how we live, things at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament were as vibrant as ever. Here are some highlights from early 2020:

Top: Bishop Douglas Lucia visited the parish for the first time the weekend of Feb. 22 and 23. Here, he visits one of our Faith Formation classes.

Middle right: On Sunday, Jan. 12, the parish celebrated all those children and adults who were baptized in 2019. In a special ceremony, the daughter of Anthony and Franca LaBarbera, Giada, was baptized in front of the congregation.

Middle far right: On Sunday, Feb. 23, engaged couples gathered for Mass, a luncheon and retreat. Those couples included Jeffrey Piere and Kaprice Martinelli.

Bottom: Students in our fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes decorated 168 heart-shaped cookies for Valentine's Day to donate to the Rescue Mission.

