

**Melissa Fasano**

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**From:** mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church  
<mail@flocknote.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 9:15 PM  
**To:** Melissa Fasano  
**Subject:** Parish Update: January 2, 2024



**Beautiful Eucharist**



*Here is my body. Take it. Here is my blood. Take it. Here is my soul, my will, my energy, my strength, my property, my wealth—all that I have. It is yours. Take it! Consecrate it! Offer it with yourself to the heavenly Father...Consecrate these trials of my life, which would go unrewarded unless united with You. Transubstantiate me so that like bread which is now your Body and wine which is now your Blood, I too may be wholly yours...My station in life, my routine duties, my work, my family—all these are but the species of my life which may remain unchanged; but the substance of my life, my soul, my mind, my will, my heart—transubstantiate them, transform them wholly into your service, so that through me all may know how sweet is the love of Christ. Amen*

*Offertory Prayer of Archbishop Fulton Sheen*

## **"Merry... and Married!"**

**by Jim & Linda Baratte**

*'Merry... and Married!' was the theme chosen by two Notre Dame parishioners to celebrate their wedding on Friday, December 29th. Madeleine Morin and Justin*

*Zgombic exchanged vows, with Father Alex presiding.... the beautiful poinsettias and Christmas creche, a stunning background for the festive celebration.*



*We were privileged to serve as the mentor couple to Madeleine and Justin in the **Witness to Love (WTL)\*** marriage preparation program and were blessed to be members of the congregation. Madeleine is a pharmacist in the emergency room at the Veteran's Hospital in Lyons, New Jersey, and Justin is on the faculty at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Madeleine and Justin will make their home within walking distance of Notre Dame and plan to participate in the ministries at the parish after a honeymoon trip to Hawaii. Congratulations, Justin and Madeleine!*

*Jim & Linda Baratte*



As part of our parish renewal, the **Witness to Love** program was implemented at Notre Dame three years ago, offering engaged couples a more personal and comprehensive preparation journey for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Through the witness and accompaniment of a "mentor couple," the engaged and newlywed couple is offered a more grounded and meaningful path to matrimonial oneness, discipleship, and active engagement in the parish community. We are so grateful for Linda and Jim and all the other **Witness to Love** ministry couples who humbly and faithfully welcome and accompany those entering this sacramental journey.

## **Angel Tree Wrap-Up**



*"It is with an overwhelming sense of gratitude that we write to say a huge **THANK YOU** for your generosity in giving to this year's Angel Tree here at Notre Dame!*

*Because of your outpouring of support, we were able to donate...*

- *Roughly 350 gifts to boys and girls (ages 5-12) enrolled in the youth religious education program at St. John's Church in Paterson, NJ. Every year, they are extremely grateful for our donations, which help their youth have a little extra joy at Christmas!*
- *\$750 in gift cards to Lady of Fatima and St. Nicholas Church in Passaic.*
- *We were able to give Table of Hope in Morristown over 50 items for their families in need.*
- *\$1,200 (in Walmart gift cards) to the National Alliance for Mental Illness.*
- *The Jersey Battered Women's Shelter received \$875 in Amazon gift cards!*
- *Your generous donations will also make Christmas that much more special for the patients of Greystone with the donations of 44 hats, 42 pairs of gloves, 69 pairs of socks, and 100 pairs of underwear!!*
- *To top it off, we've had a monetary donation of \$670, plus over \$2,000 in gift card donations to Walmart and Target—many of which will also be utilized by the priests for people in need all year long!*

*We simply cannot have done it without the outpouring of love, support, and generosity from this very charitable parish. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! From the bottom of our hearts...**thank you!***

*Have a joyous and blessed New Year!*

*Sincerely,  
Your Angel Tree Leaders  
Laurie Szewczyk & Julie Amitrano*

## **Welcome to Our Parish Family!**



*David & Kim Appleby, Morris Plains  
Sam, Christina, Brayden, Bennett, & Charlotte Astorino, Denville  
Tom & Eileen Atry, Whippany  
Dexter, Pamela, Catherine, David, & Allison Cordero, Randolph  
Jonathan, Meghan, Gracie, & Jack Currie-Dougherty, Bernardsville  
Lou, Lisa, & Ally DeRiggi, East Hanover  
Frank & Danielle Fasolo, Whippany  
Vic & Angela Jovino, Lake Hiawatha  
Steve, Jacqueline, Nicole, Claire, John & William Owens, Denville  
Bill & Lila Webster, Cedar Knolls*

## **First Reconciliation: A Family Affair**

On Wednesday, December 13th, 22 children received their First Reconciliation. While it was heartwarming to see these young hearts seeking God's love and mercy, it was also touching to see the love, presence, and engagement of parents and siblings both in the liturgy of the service and in their own seeking of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Elementary Family Faith Coordinator Diane Byrne noted, "We had

*never had so many parents (and several siblings) go to Reconciliation during a First Reconciliation Service; in fact, the service went much longer than anticipated!"*



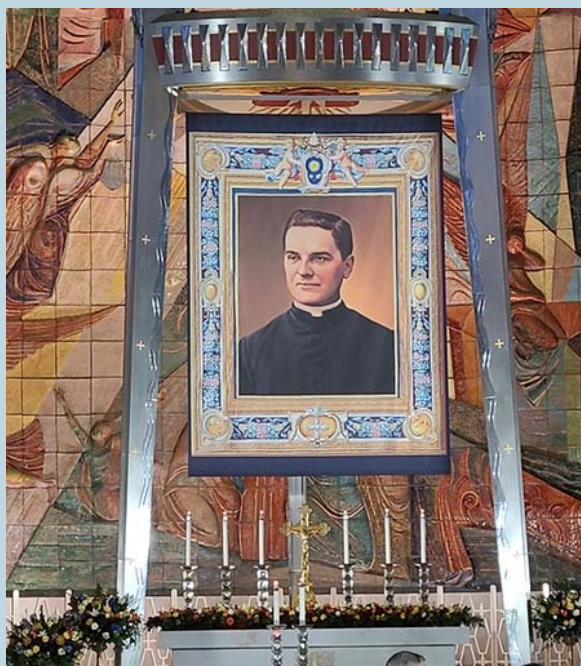


This recent First Reconciliation celebration affirms what our parish renewal sought to do (and continues to do) in implementing a new model of Family Faith Formation: Faith is indeed a family affair!

## **Getting to Know Our Knights!**

**By Dennis Fashano**

We, the Knights of Columbus, would like to provide you with information about this Catholic men's group and the events/activities we organize for fundraising and for social purposes. We contribute to various local charitable organizations in need of help and assistance. Here's a brief introduction to this wonderful Catholic men's organization.



Back in 1881, a 29-year-old Catholic priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, gathered a small group of men at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, to organize a lay organization to unite Catholic men and provide for the families of deceased members. The patron became Christopher Columbus, and the Knights were incorporated on March 29, 1882.

Now, nearly 2 million men later, the Knights and their families around the globe have donated more than \$185 million to charity and performed more than 75 million hours of service under the KofC principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Fr. McGivney is currently being

canonized as a saint in the Catholic Church.



In 1977, the Elizabeth Ann Seton Council 6904 was founded in Whippany, NJ. Currently, there are over 264 members supporting the parishes of Our Lady of Mercy and Notre Dame of Mount Carmel in Hanover Township.



At the last meeting of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Council's meeting this year held on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, Brother Knights were asked to bring mostly bottles of wine, cordials, and liquor to raffle off after our A Team (cooking team) had cooked a roast beef dinner for our Brothers Knights. The purpose of the raffle is to raise money for both Notre Dame and Our Lady of Mercy parishes. The council matches what is raised and then presents a check to each Church. This year, \$1025 was raised and matched so that Notre Dame and Our Lady of Mercy received the above amount. Notre Dame's money will be dedicated to Project Appalachia. Our Lady of Mercy will use the funds for Caring and Sharing, which benefits those in need.

Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Knights of Columbus # 6904



Thank You!

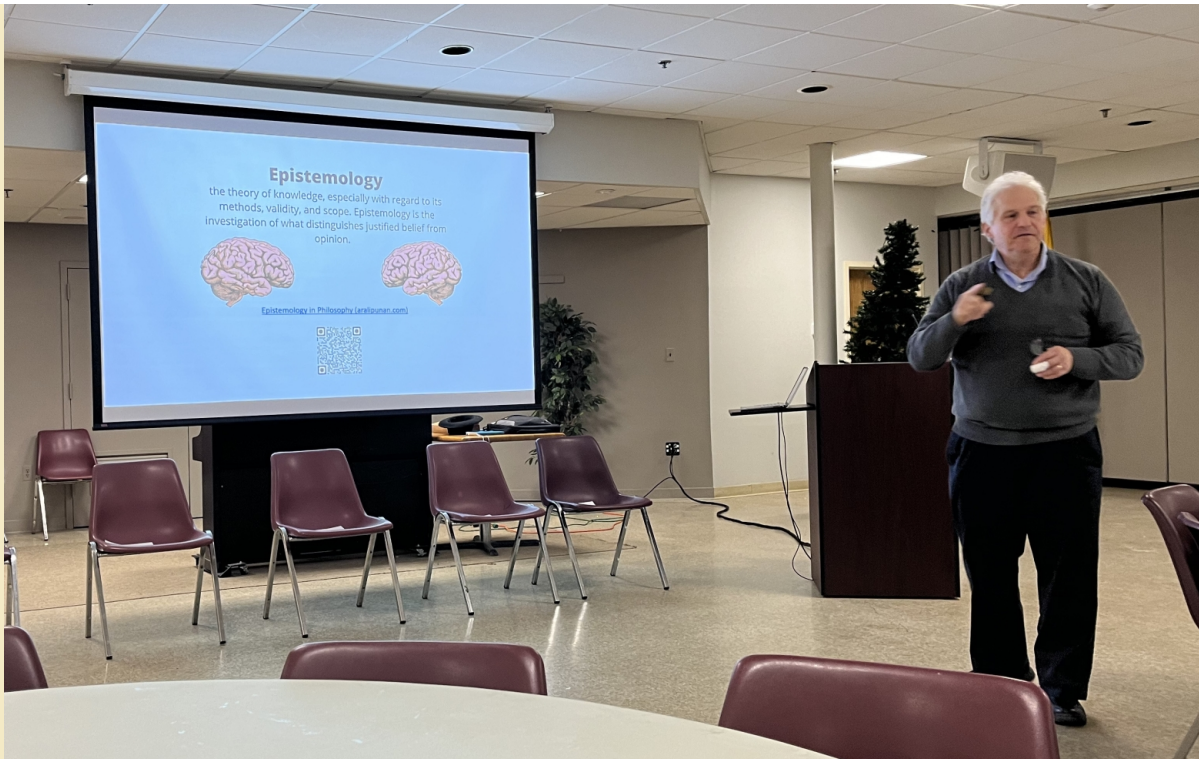
*We are grateful for your  
commitment, ministry,  
and service to our  
parish and our  
community!*

If you are interested in joining the KofC or have any questions, please contact John Monahan (ND) at [johnmonahan08@gmail.co....](mailto:johnmonahan08@gmail.co....).  
God bless you!

## **Listening to & Equipping Our Catechists for Mission**

**By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation**

In mid-December, Vince Lunetta, from Pflaum Publishing, which produces the ***Gospel Weeklies Visions*** resources we now use in Confirmation formation, visited the parish to lead the catechists in prayer, reflection, and feedback about their experience so far this year using these materials. Vince initially visited us back in September to meet the Confirmation catechists and introduce them to the program.



During our time together, Vince emphasized the importance of sharing our own personal witness with others as disciples. Since many people lack the skills to tell their faith story confidently and cogently, providing a basic structure for storytelling could be helpful, and he gave us some basic suggestions on what to include in future sessions.



Guiding our teens in discovering their talents and charisms is also valuable, and Vince suggested the assessment **Clifton Strengths Explorer** as an optional tool for Faith Formation families. This is the child version of the adult counterpart Strengthsfinder and provides a certificate of the top three talents for each child taking the assessment. This could be offered as an option for parents who are interested in pursuing this on their own.

The Family Faith Formation team will take the next few weeks to discern what suggestions may work for the culture of our own families here at Notre Dame. Please continue to pray for our teens and their parents as they are formed in their faith.

## **Our Staff Takes Time to Celebrate!**

On Wednesday, December 20th, the ND Staff (including our office support volunteers and one "impromptu guest" 😊) gathered to celebrate Christmas and the gift and privilege of serving and supporting our parish community this past year. Some of our members have been on staff for several years, while others have joined us recently. Regardless, we can all firmly agree that we share a genuine love and care for one another that is spiritually nurtured through our shared experiences -- the good, the bad, the ugly.... and, of course, the hysterical!



*Not pictured Deacon Joe Harris and his wife Karen, Frank Figur and Cristina Folan.*





*"What a joy to be part of such a talented, generous, faithful, and loving group. Not only was the holiday party a lot of fun, I truly look forward to our monthly meetings. They are filled with "spiritual nuggets," have a calming vibe, and leave me energized rather than drained....a true blessing." Deacon Eric*

## **Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations**

*(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)*

*What was one new insight the homily gave you?*

*"Fr. Paddy told us that we can prepare for Christmas by being more spontaneous by singing 'Halle, Halle, Halleluia.'"*

*"God is always with us; He is with us in the desert when things are hard."*

*"We are all on a journey to get to know and find comfort in Jesus."*

*Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?*

*"Fr. Alex screamed to get the crowd's attention."*

*"Red flowers all around the church; and the cross."*

*"We lit the pink candle today!"*

*"Manger on the Altar."*

*"We got to dance during the homily."*

*"Don't focus on can not's; focus on can's;  
God can make anything possible."*

*"Be thankful for everything you have; be  
humble."*

*"Jesus was not here as a strong, powerful  
person but as a baby."*

*"Just like Tim Allen in The Santa Claus, we  
need to change, open our hearts, and give  
more. We are called to share God's  
message."*

*"Jesus is the light in the darkness around us.  
He teaches us about suffering for the greater  
good."*

*"There were a lot more people in church!"*

*"Nativity in the front of the church."*

*"I noticed that the crib was made for  
Mass today on the floor near the Altar."*

*"Joyful Noise prelude was excellent, and  
we loved the Christmas flowers and  
decorations."*

*"I see a lot of people that I know."*

*"We lit the advent candle, which was  
pink, not purple. Our sister Avery, who  
is only 9, served as a server."*

*"There were chairs outside by the  
fountain."*

*"Baby Jesus was in the manger!"*

**This week's Mass  
& Lamp Intentions**

**Parishioner  
Announcements**

### ***Memories that share our story...***

*Young Adult Fancy Christmas Party (hosted by Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel and St. Vincent Martyr)*





*Special Treats for our Homebound Parishioners...*



*Welcome to the Catholic Church, Grace-Marie!*





*Family Mass: Feast of the Holy Family*





Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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