

Two Newly-formed Catholics Welcomed by Carol Heckman

We warmly welcome two newly formed Catholics to our faith community. Josh Horning and Erica DeBie received their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, having completed the RCIA program which began in the fall.



Josh is a veteran of the Army Corps of Engineers and works for the BHBL School District as a State Certified CDL instructor and examiner. Josh also owns and operates Mobile DJ business, "Green Line Entertainment" and has graciously donated his DJ services to our Youth Ministry/Faith Formation this past year. His wife, Sheila, is a life-long Catholic and is a catechist in our Faith Formation program here at IC. Sheila is a Registered Nurse and they have been married for nineteen years. Their daughter, Samantha, 8 and son, Ian, 14, are participants in our Faith Formation/Youth Ministry and Samantha is an altar server as well. Their two older, young adult children, Devan and Blake, are college students.

Erica is a relatively new Christian, having been baptized but not formed in the Christian faith. She attends Mass with her sponsor/boyfriend, Doug Biznette who is a lifelong Catholic and has mentored her in the faith. Erica works as a Secretary at Charlton Heights Elementary School where her son, Zeke 10, is a student. She is a single Mom and is a volunteer firefighter with Ballston Lake Fire Department, as well.



Regarding their experience in RCIA:

Erica states, "My RCIA journey was a very uplifting and positive experience. Carol and Paul and the other presenters were so kind and helpful during the months of classes."

Josh states, "Growing up Baptist, I went into RCIA thinking there wasn't a whole lot for me to learn. I already knew Scripture. I thought I was going to learn Catholic views and customs. Yes, all that was true, but I quickly realized there was so much to learn. In learn-

ing the views and customs of Catholicism, it expanded on what I already knew, or what I thought I knew.

We did RCIA in sections explaining the faith. Each week was a subject or belief and we talked about it from a Catholic view. Some would have been a lot tougher without having been raised in Church, like the concept of the Holy Trinity, Mary, the Saints and Catholic interpretation of the Bible.

Another section was all about the Sacraments and Catholic Social Teaching. We had a whole session just on Reconciliation and an explanation of every part of the Mass, both by our instructors and Bishop Robert Barron.

I also had the opportunity to participate and view the Chrism Mass where the oils are blessed at the Cathedral in Albany. That rolled into Easter season with the Mass of the Last Supper, Good Friday, and Saturday's Easter Vigil. That was an experience like I've never had before. I've always known the Gospel, but this was a connection to it like I had never experienced.

All in all, I am grateful for the RCIA experience. I could see how many adults, even those who grew up Catholic, could greatly benefit from the experience. The RCIA instructors and guest speakers were very knowledgeable and did a remarkable job explaining complicated topics without making us feel like we were falling down the rabbit hole."

Josh and his family, Erica and Doug attend the 9:00am Mass on Sundays so when you see them be sure to say "hello" and welcome them! They will truly be an asset to the faith life of our parish.

If you know of someone who is interested in learning about the Catholic faith or needs any of the Sacraments, please reach out and let them know they are most welcome here in our Tri Parish Community. Simply contact the rectory or Carol Heckman, dhyheck@gmail.com.

Evangelization begins right here!



Adrienne Karis Celebrates Her 100th Birthday By Rachel Winters



Once upon a time, on July 24, 1923, in Brooklyn, NY, Adrienne, was born to Beatrice and Emil J. Aubry. She was the first of five children; she had two brothers and two sisters. Her sister, Patricia lives in Tampa, Florida. Adrienne grew up in Valley Stream, Long Island. Her father worked for the Duffy Mont Company, supplier of Sunsweet prune juice

her future husband, Ray Karis, roller skating during an “exchange” skate. Adrienne described it as the guys and gals skating in separate lines. When the organist ended a song, the guys would move up to the next gal in line and then they would skate together. She remembers meeting Ray and how she loved his singing and skating together. On November 3, 1945, Adrienne and Ray were married at her childhood church, St. Mary’s, in Valley Stream. They moved to Schenectady and lived on Crane Street and in 1947 Ray began building their house on Windsor Drive in Glenville. During this time, Adrienne worked at GE for 7 years as a secretary and Ray worked as a telephone repair man. Ray completed the house in 3 years and Adrienne still lives there today.

and Mott’s applesauce, as the accountability controller, and her mother worked at home maintaining the home and taking care of her family.

In August, 1954 their first son, Tom was born, followed by their second son, Kevin, in 1958. Adrienne shared her love of learning with her boys taking them to historic sites and museums. The family spent time at the family’s year round house in Blue Mountain Lake which she shared with her brothers and father. They camped and hiked, even summiting Mt. Marcy with her son, Kevin!

Adrienne has many happy memories of growing up in the early part of the 20th century. She recalled the time when her father took her and her sister to the Easter Parade in NYC, donning their Easter attire. Adrienne remembers winning a Spelling Bee contest in NYC and won five silver dollars. She saved them over the years, eventually giving them to her oldest son, Tom; however, she never knew what he did with coins...most likely he spent them!! During the summer months, Adrienne, some of her siblings, and neighborhood friends, (no adults), would walk to a local lake, arriving before 7:30 am to avoid paying the day use fee, and learned how to swim. Eventually, she and the others were able to swim out to the float in the middle of the lake and jump into the water. Her mom made sure the family went to church every Sunday.

Over the years, Adrienne pursued many hobbies, including flower gardening, crafting, textile painting, and reading. She was a 27 year member of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club, keeping detailed diary entries of each hike she took. For many years, Adrienne was an avid bike rider, biking on many of the bike paths including Glens Falls, Lake George, and the Mohawk River bike paths where she rode 23 miles round trip to People’s Island in Cohoes. She retired from this activity at 95 years old!

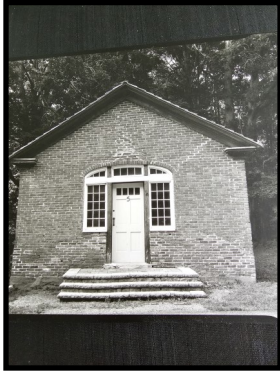
Adrienne graduated high school in 1940, and began her college education at NYS Teacher’s College in Albany, NY. She left the college after a year and a half because she was not satisfied with the professors and what she was learning. Adrienne returned to Long Island and attended the School for Medical Office Practice located on 6th Avenue in NYC, where she studied how to take x-rays, blood counts, and medical shorthand and recalls practicing shorthand on a steno pad. After completing the program, she worked a year and a half at the Sydenham Hospital as a medical secretary in the x-ray department and then at the Mitchell Field Hospital for 2 years in the surgical department.



See Adrienne, page 3

During her time at the NYS Teacher’s College, she met

Adrienne, continued from page 2



One of Adrienne's favorite contribution to her community was spearheading the refurbishing of the one room school house on Potter Road in West Glenville. This interest was sparked by an article she read by a teacher suggesting that all one room school houses should be saved to share with future generations. Adrienne went to work, convinced the Glenville Town Board to support her efforts, held a fair to raise monies to refurbish the old school, and even had someone donate an outhouse! She had at one point 27 volunteers who helped make her vision become a reality. For years she and others would man the refurbished schoolhouse on weekends during the summer months. Adrienne did much research on the history of the building. She discovered that a former teacher, living in Schenectady would carry her boots on the city bus, get off the bus on Route 5 with them on and walk 3 miles up Wolf Hollow Road to the school. Kids would sled down that same road and hike back up, some with newspaper tied with string on their shoes as they couldn't afford boots. The Potter Road School is still there today. As a result of all her dedicated work, Adrienne was a 2 time recipient of the Rotary Club of Scotia Citizen of the Year.



Adrienne continues to be an avid reader with some of her interests being the *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic* & *National Geographic History*, *Yankee Magazine*, and books on the history of Schenectady and the Mohawk Valley area. She enjoys playing Scrabble, word searches, reading the newspaper, using her computer, watching movies, and listening to music. She enjoys chocolate candy and pistachios.

Adrienne's husband, Ray, passed away in August 2011. She has 3 grandchildren. Patricia is her only living sibling. Her son, Tom passed away suddenly in October 2022. Despite her losses, Adrienne remains positive and appreciative of her friends and family. When asked what is her advice for a long and healthy life, Adrienne paused and stated, "Be happy to have friends, be appreciative of them, exercise, eat properly, including having wheat germ daily, and never stop learning."

Happy 100th BIRTHDAY, ADRIENNE!

Rosary Society Tag Sale Returns, photos by Maria Yorkshire



Respect Life Ministry Update by Larry Smith

Respect for life from conception to natural death is a tenet of our Catholic faith. Your parish Respect Life Ministry strives to help parishioners educate themselves on respect life issues.

Assisted Suicide: Unnecessary and Dangerous

Do you know that assisted suicide is legal in many countries and in many states in the US?

Assisted suicide is currently illegal in the state of New York; but recently, each year a bill has been introduced in the New York State Legislature that would allow doctors to prescribe lethal doses of pills at the request of terminally ill patients whose doctors believe that they have six months or less to live. Thankfully, once again, the bill failed to pass in New York. While proponents say that such bills provide “death with dignity” and “patient self-determination,” they are actually unnecessary and dangerous. New York must maintain its ban on assisted suicide. Here’s why.

The assisted suicide bill did not require screening or counseling for depression. People who say that they wish to commit suicide are often clinically depressed. For those who receive terminal diagnoses, the stress and turmoil can lead to a depressive episode. Despite this, there was no requirement in the legislation that patients receive counseling or mental health treatment before they choose a lethal and irreversible course of action. The bill required a mental health referral only if a physician believed that a patient may be unable to make informed medical decisions due to a mental condition.

Legalizing assisted suicide sends the message that suicide is acceptable. New York State rightly spends millions of dollars each year to prevent suicides with anti-bullying campaigns in schools, awareness training in prisons, toll-free hotlines and extra safety precautions on bridges. It makes no sense to recognize suicide as a statewide public health concern while simultaneously promoting it as “dignified and humane” for certain populations.

Assisted suicide discriminates against people with disabilities. Persons with serious chronic or terminal illnesses often become disabled as their diseases progress. Health professionals and others may incorrectly perceive that those patients have less “quality of life” than healthier persons do. While the rest of society receives suicide prevention education and services from the state, this bill would have directed suicide assistance toward certain disabled individuals. This double standard is a form of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Assisted suicide is a slippery slope. Once the government approves of assisted suicide for those with six-month terminal prognoses, it will become difficult, if not impossible, to limit assisted suicide to this group. In Oregon, where assisted suicide is already legal for this population, lawmakers have considered extending the availability of assisted suicide to patients with one year or less to live. In 2021, Canada amended its assisted suicide law to allow assisted suicide for persons whose illnesses are not terminal; during that year, assisted suicide accounted for 3.3% of all deaths occurring in Canada.

There are alternatives to assisted suicide. Maintaining New York’s ban on assisted suicide does not mean that terminally ill patients must die painful deaths. Almost all physical pain can be controlled through pain management and medication. Hospice care is underutilized in New York, and palliative medicine reduces suffering while providing comfort and comprehensive care.

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Catechism in a Year by Gerard Havasy

In the January issue of the "Pipeline," I wrote about my experience with Father Mike Schmidt, and the "Bible in a Year" podcast that is available to everyone. It took me 20 months to finish the 12 months of daily podcasts, in part, because most of the podcasts were about twenty-five minutes long. It was sometimes difficult to fit that amount of time in every day.

The "Catechism in a Year," CIY podcasts by Father Mike are much shorter and average about seventeen minutes. They are made for everyone. People are writing in about it from both Catholic and non-Catholic viewpoints and commending it for expounding on the truths of the Catholic faith.

I know that quite a number of parishioners are engaged in this podcast and we have gone past day 185 with this writing. I encourage all Catholics to take up the gauntlet and start developing their Catholic faith further. There are too many of us who might be classified by Pope Saint Pius V as "lukewarm Catholics." Many of us have done little to grow our faith over the years. Of course, going to church every Sunday and, raising our children in the faith have enabled us to pursue some knowledge. Most Catholics may be classified as having little more knowledge than when they were young. Yes, we can count our life experiences, but we need to study our faith in order to deepen our understanding and knowledge of God.

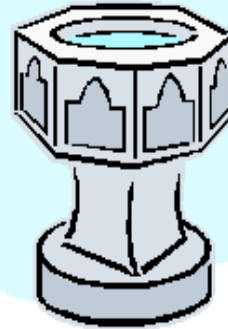
The "Catechism in a Year" podcast is made for everyone and can help us to be better Catholics, and not be in the "lukewarm" category.

Ascension Press has developed this program and an App is available to download to your computer, tablet, or phone.

The podcast is all about Jesus and his resurrection. God wants us to grow closer to him. This is a program for all. I encourage all to delve into this. It's our Catholic faith. Let's live it.

"Your whole life should be nothing more or nothing less than a proclamation of the death of the Lord and a witness to his resurrection." (Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, The Road to Hope, Dynamic Catholic.

Times of Joy



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from April 29, 2023 to July 10, 2023. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Isabel Christine Woods, child of Brian & Lisa

Ephraim Alan Alcover, child of Jonathan & Selena

Michael Patrick Horan, child of Michael & Kailee

Freya Izabella Gunn, child of Benjamin and Marcsi

There were no marriage ceremonies between April 16, 2023 and July 10, 2023.



Morning of Service October 21, 2023

Plans made so far for off-site activities:

Outdoor activities: Town of Ballston parks, Glenville parks, Habitat for Humanity

Visiting with adults\elderly: Glendale Home, Baptist Nursing and Rehab, Heritage Home for Women, Guardian House

Community organizations: Regional Food Bank, miSci, Parkside Y, Joan Nicole Prince Home

Plans made so far for on-site activities:

50 lunches for City Mission, 20 lunches for Habitat crew, small blankets, hats and bibs for Northern Rivers Family Services

Questions or suggestions: Jeanne Behr (jeannebehr@gmail.com) or Marge Rizzo (jrizzo@nycap.rr.com)



Spotlight on Kathy and Bob Steigerwald

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” (Elizabeth Andrew)

by Annette Botsford

In this *Pipeline* series, we hope to familiarize parishioners with those among us whom we see often but know little about. Readers are invited to contact Annette Botsford at annettemarie829@gmail.com with suggestions of future subjects for this feature.



Kathy and Bob Steigerwald have been parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church for 50 years and during that time, they have volunteered in many roles. Sitting and chatting with them in their lovely home gave me the opportunity to get to know them a bit better.

Kathy was one of 10 children - 9 girls and one boy. She is number 6 with her brother coming after her. Her family had three aunts who were Sisters of St. Joseph in the Buffalo diocese and 3 cousins who were priests. A nephew is a Franciscan of the Renewal but is serving currently as a diocesan priest in Erie, PA. Kathy attended St. Vincent DePaul Church and school for 8 grades in Attica, NY. She worked in different areas while growing up: babysitting, an ice cream shop, a drug store; all helping to pay for her education and extra materials. After high school, she graduated from Auburn Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. Then she graduated from the State University of Brockport with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education and a minor in social science. Kathy taught 1st grade in Lyons and Fairport NY.

Bob grew up in Auburn, NY with one sister. He was an altar boy at his church in Auburn. He biked everywhere he went with his friends. During the summer, he mowed lawns, was a stock boy at a local department store, was a dishwasher, and caddied at a local golf

course. He enjoyed playing baseball, basketball, swimming and fishing with friends. He attended St. Alphonsus Grammar School and Mount Carmel High School. He worked summers while in college at GE Semiconductor Products Department in Auburn as a technician to help pay for college. He received an AAS in pre-engineering from Auburn Community College, a BSEE in Electrical Engineering from Clarkson University, an MS in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from RPI. He earned his Ph.D. while working full time at the GE Research Center (now GE Global Research).

Bob said he met Kathy through a friend when he was buying a pack of cigarettes from the machine at the local college hang out and she was sitting in a nearby booth. Kathy and Bob were married in July of 1970 in Attica, NY. Kathy and Bob both grew up in prison towns and they joked that they honeymooned in Sing Sing. They have a daughter Sarah and son Joe who attended Immaculate Conception church. Both married and each has two children. Sarah graduated from the Crane School of Music, the University of Illinois and received her Ed.D. from Columbia Teachers College. Joe is a graduate of Potsdam University with a degree in math.



Early in their married life, Kathy and Bob learned to square dance at the Ponderosa Hall in Scotia. That is where my husband Darryl and I first met Bob and Kathy. She showed me a photo of the dancers that brought back fond memories. As a couple, they took bridge lessons and played in the church couples' bridge group. Kathy currently plays in a women's bridge group. They joined a senior bike group and rode for many years on bike trails and roads. Kathy played in two golf leagues for many years and won the league championship one time with a score of 84 for 18 holes! Due to many health issues, she no longer golfs and rarely rides the bike.

See Bob and Kathy Steigerwald, page 7

Bob and Kathy Steigerwald, continued from page 6



Bob enjoys fishing, woodworking and watching those damn Yankees. He joined the research staff at GE Global Research in 1968 and retired in 2005. Upon retirement, he formed Adirondack Power Processing, LLC and consulted for another

10 years, permanently retiring in 2015. He holds 150 Patents in the Power Electronics area (focusing on power conversion for Satellites, Shipboard Radar and Sonar, Solar Energy Inverters, Electric Vehicle Drives and Battery Chargers, CT and MRI Scanners) and published over 75 papers. In addition, he served on the Scientific Advisory Board at Virginia Tech, is a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. He also coached youth baseball and basketball for boys and girls for several years.

Bob biked to work in Schenectady and then Niskayuna for over 30 years (a round trip of 14 miles) In all those years of riding, he only had one major accident. He was sideswiped by a pickup truck and landed in a ditch unconscious. A big chunk of his helmet was broken off.

Fortunately, a nurse on her way to work stopped, called the ambulance and controlled the situation. After an overnight stay in the hospital, Bob was released with just "road rash." Just like the baseball pitcher Dizzy Dean after being hit in the head with a line drive – x-rays of Bob's head "showed nothing."



Kathy also had an accident, but it was on a bike trail. She had her helmet on and when the collision took place she followed Evel Knievel's advice - "never let go of the bike." She was bruised and bloodied but the bike took the brunt of the fall onto



the pavement. Biking is fun and great exercise. However, there are many situations that happen quickly and so they always carry first aid kits in their bike bags.

A community activity that Bob and Kathy did for many years, was ring the bell for the Salvation Army red bucket

campaign at Christmas time. The GE Elfun society organized a time for them to do this activity every year at different store locations. They found this to be a rewarding and worthwhile community service. People are so generous at Christmas time.

Both Bob and Kathy have been very active in the ministries at Immaculate Conception and in the community. Kathy was asked by the parish priest to participate. She taught religious education at ICC for 14 years. Bob signed up to be trained as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist for hospital visitations. His inspiration came after seeing so many lonely patients at the Lahey Clinic in Boston during his weekly visits to see Kathy, who was a patient there for 2 months. Then they both signed up for other ministries during "Time, Talent, and Treasure" drives at church. Kathy and Bob were Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, serving on the altar as well as bringing communion to Ellis Hospital patients for 8 years. Kathy was an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist to the homebound and Glendale Home for over 14 years. She was in the Resurrection Ministry for 16 years. Kathy and many of the homebound ministers used to drive Sister Betty around to different homes for her visits. Sister Betty was a special person and the homebound people loved her visits.

Both Bob and Kathy have served on the Parish Council as "at large" members. They also served as greeters at the doors of the Church. Kathy was on the Parish Needs and Assessment committee for the 1st renovation of the church, under the direction of Fr. Connery. She led brownie and girl scout troops for 5 years. Bob is a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council 10013 and Kathy is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Since COVID-19 she has not been active.

Bob has traveled to France, England, Ireland, and Sweden on business trips. Kathy joined him for the trip to Ireland (where he received the Third Millennium Medal from the IEEE). They have cruised to the Panama Canal with stops along the way. They rode horses in the ocean at a port of call in the Caribbean. Another cruise took them to Alaska, visiting Denali and many ports of call. In 2000 they traveled to Italy for a pilgrimage with the church group led by Fr. Michael Flannery and Fr. Patrick Winslow. They visited many holy sites in the southern part of Italy.

Bob and Kathy have been exceptional in their service to the church and community. May they continue, with their family, to enjoy a future of good health and joyful times.

HEART INSPIRATION EVENT

September 20, 2023 @ 6:00-7:30pm

Location: Christ Our Light Church, 1 Maria Dr., Albany NY

Join us for an evening of inspiration, filled with uplifting, joyful music, laughter, and captivating speakers that will touch your heart. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be inspired and motivated!



Listen to the incredible story of **Cap Capello**, who grew up in a strict, old-school Catholic belief system. After a personal heartbreak, he turned away from God. Over 30 years later, another crushing tragedy struck, and Cap's journey in faith and life took a remarkable turn. Come and be inspired by Cap's amazing experiences and the inspiring story of his journey back to faith.



Hear the inspiring conversion story of **Dona Fragnoli**, who overcame tremendous hardship and adversity to find her way to the Catholic faith through a journey of discovery, faith, and grace. Don't miss this opportunity to be moved and inspired by her powerful testimony of resilience and faith.



Come and hear the incredible story of **Fr. Mike Melanson**, who used to prefer spending Sundays on the water or playing guitar in a local rock band instead of going to church. After facing financial and emotional struggles, his life changed. Hear how he became a deacon in the Catholic Church and later a priest. Don't miss the chance to listen to Fr. Mike's inspiring journey of challenges in faith and trust, and how his life changed in unexpected ways.

Questions : dreaminspire1913@gmail.com



Chickadee by Daniel Nosek
Well-dressed little bandit,
Brave singer and clear,
Your tune whenever I hear it
Brings me happiness and cheer.

Faithful pint-sized scout
Fluttering high, now low,
Curiously you seek me out,
Behind my kitchen window.

You were the first to pronounce it;
Proud of your God-given name.
I want to hear you announce it.
I want you to come and remain.

You flitter over my head fast
Each time I'm weeding the flowers.
I can only serve you breakfast
You entertain me for hours.

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