



SAINT MARY'S PARISH GUILD
14 PARK STREET,
NORTH ATTLEBORO, MA

JANUARY 2017

VOLUME I, ISSUE 5



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This Month's Guild Meeting will be held on
January 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Hope to see you all there!

The St. Mary's Parish Guild meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, September through June at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Diana Gray at 508 212-9771 or dgraysix@yahoo.com Dues are \$10 per year.

OFFICER'S

	Name	mail	Cell Phone #	Home Phone #
President	Joan Marchitto	ddsjoanie@aol.com		508-695-8226
Vice President	Sandy Coyle	SJCGRAM@verizon.net		508-695-0098
Secretary	Diana Gray	dgraysix@yahoo.com	508-212-9771	508-695-1143
Treasurer	Karen Smith	ksmith715@comcast.net	508-212-7377	508-699-7955
Sunshine	Connie Schnack	bobcon4492@AOL.COM	508-409-9034	508-695-9774
Publicity	Donna Gilmore	60westst@comcast.net	774-606-4056	508-455-2280

SAINT MARY'S MINISTRIES

There are many different ministries here at St. Mary's Parish that Guild members are involved in such as
 Rosary Society
 Christmas Fair Prep
 Choir
 Altar Society
 Food Pantry

Here is information about the Altar Society:

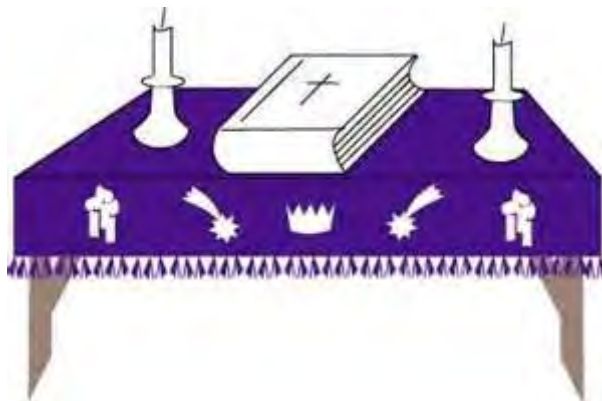
The Altar Society consists of several women who oversee the Church and Chapel Altars. These are the people "behind the scenes" who make our church

and sanctuary so beautiful. Each weekend they check altar cloths and candles, wash and iron small altar linens and water flowers. The women each volunteer for one month at a time to make sure the church altar always looks its very best. Throughout the year, it is the Altar Society who prepare the altars for Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, Easter, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Advent and Christmas, often getting husbands to help out!

Donna Gilmore coordinates the schedule for the

Alter Society, other members include Sandy Coyle, Noreen Kiff, Judy Leco, Karen Smith, Francine Leary, Rosemary Toole, Ann Allen, Connie Schnack and Margaret Smith. Husbands who help include Frank Leary, Bob Schnack, Sam Smith and Kevin Smith.

Be sure to thank them for all their hard work!



DECEMBER MINUTES

St. Mary's Parish Guild
December Meeting
December 13, 2016

The December meeting of the Guild was held at the St. Mary's Parish Center. The theme of the evening was "A Christmas Gathering" with special guests, the Saint Mary's Sacred Heart Children's Choir.

President Joan Marchitto welcomed everyone and thanked tonight's committee: Cathy LaFratta and Donna Fougere are the hosts and were assisted by Lynn LaFratta, Madeline Forsythe, Judy Brunell and Joanne Dee. There are two raffle baskets this evening, a wine and cheese basket and a bird house. Phyllis Tondorf read the Memorare.

Secretary Diana Gray has more copies of the roster available in case anyone needs one and also noted that all the emails must now be correct as there were no returns with the latest newsletter. The Minutes were published in the December newsletter, there were no changes proposed by any members. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lynn McAfee and seconded by Norma McCarthy, the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Karen Smith reviewed the balances for the guild accounts; there is currently \$2,897.95 in checking, \$845.19 in savings, \$457.50 in the Adopt a Family account and \$3,061.25 in the Scholarship account. All proceeds from tonight's raffle will be given to the Adopt a

Family fund; an additional donation of \$500 was also given from the Guild. Norma McCarthy has audited and approved the Guild books. A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Norma McCarthy and seconded by Sandy Coyle. The motion passed unanimously.

Karen Bengtson, Chair of the Guild Christmas Tree, thanked all the members that donated gift cards for the tree, it was a great success, Fr. Dave ended up winning the tree this year! Ms. Smith wanted to thank Priscilla Hession and Priscilla Willard for Chairing the Wine Table, they were inadvertently missed in the listing last month. Ms. Smith noted that the fair was very successful, raising approximately \$40,000.

Colleen Buckley reminded everyone that tomorrow night is Wrap Night for the Adopt a Family project, starting at 4:00 here in the Parish Center; please bring scissors and stick on tags. They will be wrapping presents for eight families, a total of twenty seven people. Come and stay as long as you can, many hands make light work! Betty Poirier noted that all the gifts will be delivered this weekend and thanked everyone for the wonderful effort and support. She noted that the families are pre-vetted and will be assisted for a year with bills and repairs. Ms. Buckley added that the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be delivering food baskets to all the families also. Ms. Poirier also thanked the Guild for the \$500 donation.

The January meeting will be a service project, Norma McCarthy explained that guild members should bring an empty pocketbook or purse which will be filled with health and

beauty aid items and donated to a women's shelter.

Father Dave then led the members in the Our Father, The Hail Mary and the Glory Be. He also noted that Music Director Mike Dias' father passed away and the funeral will be this weekend.

Father Dave then led in the St. Mary's Sacred Heart Children's Choir which is made up on grades 1, 2, 4,5,6,7 and 8. Grade 3 students participate in the Christmas Pageant. The choir then sang excerpts from the Christmas Pageant accompanied by Fr. Dave on the piano. The children's parents joined the Guild members to hear Christmas favorites, both old and new. The Guild members and parents enjoyed the children's efforts; it really helped everyone to get into the Christmas spirit!

Ms. LaFratta and Ms. Fougere presented the children with small ornaments as a token of the Guild's appreciation. Father Dave noted that the school's presentation of the pageant will be held on December 20th at 7:00 p.m. as well as December 21st at 1:00 p.m. both at Sacred Heart Church.

Ms. Smith noted that \$281 was raised in the raffles this evening and will be given to Ms. Poirier.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Gray, Secretary





From: [http://](http://saints365.blogspot.com/2014/12/7-catholic-new-years-resolutions.html)

saints365.blogspot.com/2014/12/7-catholic-new-years-resolutions.html

The New Year is upon us - and with its coming brings New Year's resolutions - we are all familiar with them; we have all made them; we have all broken them by January 7...The media is replete with lists of the most popular resolutions which can usually be broken down into three categories: losing, quitting, and saving - as in weight, smoking/drinking, and money. It is a rare exception that a New Year's Resolution involves our ultimate and final goal of this life - eternal happiness with the Lord in the next. Don't get me wrong - I am not suggesting that you cease making the "losing, quitting, saving" resolutions - just that you consider adding a resolution or two that will impact your life for all eternity.

Here are 7 Catholic resolutions for the New Year to consider:

1. Go to Daily Mass one extra day per week. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting Lumen Gentium, describes the Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life" and states that "the Church strongly encourages the faithful to receive the holy Eucharist on Sundays and feast

days, or more often still, even daily." If you are not already a Daily Mass attendee, resolve to attend just one more Mass each week.

2. Add a new prayer to your prayer routine. For me, this year, I am planning to embrace the discipline of doing Morning prayer and Evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours each day. However, there are so many ways of incorporating more prayer in your life: Daily Mass, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Noon-time Angelus- the list is endless. Make a commitment today that will be achievable - even if the only commitment you are able to make is to pray one single Our Father each day.

3. Read the scriptures. The Bible is the living word of God and spending just 10 minutes a day reading it will change your life. If you are new to reading the Bible - begin with the Gospel of John and commit to reading for 10 minutes. If you are already a regular scripture-reader, pick a book that you are not as familiar with and begin reading it.

4. Begin a spiritual journal. Keeping a spiritual journal has been one of the most fruitful practices I have ever adopted. I journal my prayers,

struggles, scriptures or quotes that have inspired me, petitions, thanksgiving for blessings and more. My journal is a concrete expression of my prayer time and provides a great tool for being honest in my prayer time. Reflecting upon my completed journals allows me to see how the Lord has moved in my life over a period of time.

5. Forgive. Holding a grudge? Resenting someone who has hurt you? Angry and upset about the way your parents/husband/children/friends/boss/ etc. treat you? Holding on to unforgiveness is hurting only one person - you. This New Year - resolve to forgive those who have hurt you. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Lord for the grace to extend forgiveness. Remember that Jesus forgave from the Cross- it is difficult to withhold forgiveness when you meditate on the crucifixion scene. A great way to start is to write a letter to the person who has hurt you (you don't have to actually send it). In the letter, be specific about what you are forgiving that person for. When you have completed the letter, place the person in the Lord's hands and let them go.

6. Go to confession. Confession is tough stuff - it is not easy to sit before another person and plainly state,

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without excuses, all your failings, weaknesses and shortcomings. I spent 20 long, dark years away from Confession and can personally attest that it is an incredibly powerful Sacrament and the grace that is available through it to bring healing, freedom and wholeness is immeasurable. Do not be afraid to go to confession - even the Pope does it. If you have been away from the Sacrament for awhile, ask a friend to go with you. Find a priest that you think you would be comfortable with and explain that you are unfamiliar/uncomfortable/uneasy or just plain afraid - he can help with the mechanics of the Sacrament. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind your sins and then jump in with both feet. You will be relieved, elated, and joyful afterwards. Don't wait - the Lord's mercy is the most amazing gift!

7. Make friends with a saint. Ever been asked by a non-Catholic: "Why do you pray to a statue?" The Communion of Saints is a gift and a mystery that have nothing to do with praying to statues and everything to do with being part of a family that spans the boundaries of time and space. The saints are role models for living lives

according to God's plan and powerful intercessors before the throne of the Lord in heaven. This year, resolve to learn about one new saint in a deep way - read their writings, watch videos about their lives, strive to identify and imitate their heroic virtue, and pray to them for their intercession.

Don't forget to ask for the Lord's grace and blessings as you embark on these resolutions - it is impossible to make spiritual progress on our own and the good news is that we have an arsenal of grace that the Lord desires to give to us to help us!




January 10, 2017 Guild Meeting

Please bring items to fill the bags:

- Chapstick
- Toothbrush/paste
- Hairbrush
- Makeup
- Feminine products
- Tissues
- Address Book/Calendar
- Hair elastics or clips
- Travel size products (Shampoos, hand lotion)
- etc.

Ladies, let's get together at the next meeting and do something to serve our community for Valentine's Day. Let's go look into our closets and drawers to see if we can find a lovely, gently used pocketbook/purse that we can give to women in our community. These women can use a bit of our help! We will spend our January meeting together filling our pocketbooks with the items brought to the meeting. It should be fun to just relax together, enjoy some refreshments all while helping those in need. The bags will be distributed to ladies in need in time for Valentine's Day.



Chairpeople for January:

Norma McCarthy
Colleen Buckley
Sandy Coyle

Thanks For Your Help

Despite busy Holiday schedules twenty dedicated St. Mary's Guild members gathered at the Parish Center to wrap gifts for our eight Adopted Families on Wednesday, December 14th at 4:00 PM.

There were twenty seven people (adults and children) included in the eight families. There was a lot of wrapping to be done.

The Parish Center became a busy site of many hands making light of the challenge before them.

Within three hours all the gifts were wrapped, separated, bagged and ready for delivery.

Additionally a special "Thanks" to the Guild members and their husbands who assisted with the delivery of the gifts on Saturday, December 17th.

The Adopt A Family Project is a huge undertaking and can only be as successful as it is through the unending support of people like you.

Thank You...
Colleen & Betty



GUILD THANK YOU NOTES

5/18/2016
 Dear Guild Members,
 Thank you for your \$250.00 donation to the Rosary Society. Your gift will help with postage as we mail out rosaries to those parishes and

ministries that request them both in the United States and Overseas.
 Thank you for your help in our mission to provide rosaries to Catholic men, women, and children of faith.
 Sincerely,
 The Rosary Society
 St. Mary's Parish

Dear Friends,
 Thank you for your outpouring of prayers and support during the loss of my Mother. Although my Mother was not one to join organizations, she was delighted when I became a member of St. Mary's Guild, knowing I would be in the presence of such wonderful ladies.
 All of you provide me with a source of comfort.
 Love,
 Diane Landers

To St. Mary's Parish Guild

Dear Guild Members,
 Your generous donation in the amount of \$250.00 will enable the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Parish to continue in providing much needed assistance to those families in times of hardships.

You will be remembered in our prayers.

In the Spirit of St. Vincent de Paul thank you. &
 God Bless,

Sincerely,
 St. Vincent de Paul Society
 St. Mary's Parish Conference

To all my friends
 very much

Thank you for your well wishes, I doing better to a point that I can drive - Therapy was a big help, and I'm so happy to feel almost normal - your kindness is very appreciate - Love, Eeda-

>>> Monthly Newsletter

If you would like to contribute anything to future newsletters such as stories, recipes or pictures please contact Diana Gray at dgraysix@yahoo.com or 508 212-9771.

Please submit newsletter info by:

Monday January 16th

Deadline is always the

Monday following the

general meeting.

Upcoming Events:

January 1, 2017— New Year's Day

January 6, 2017— Epiphany

January 10, 2017— Guild Meeting—MiLady's Pocketbook 6:30 p.m.

January 16, 2017— Martin Luther King Day

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[HTTP://
NAWOMENSGUILD.WEEBLY.COM](http://NAWOMENSGUILD.WEEBLY.COM)

This January, why not start the year with an empty jar and fill it with notes about good things that happen. Then, on New Years Eve, empty it and see what awesome stuff happened that year.

