

St. Mary Parish

*Serving: Boxford, Byfield,
Georgetown, & Rowley*



Georgetown Church
94 Andover Street,
Georgetown, MA 01833



Rowley Church
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2012-2013 Annual Parish Report



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Dear Parishioners,

Time fly's when you're having fun. That's the old expression that comes to mind as I write this letter to you. It is has been three years this September since Cardinal Sean appointed me as pastor of St. Mary Parish Georgetown - Rowley. However, it seems like only yesterday that I arrived here at St. Mary Parish.

This annual report has been compiled to share with you the highlights of our parish this year. From financial reports to sacramental and spiritual reports I think you will see that our Parish is growing in the right direction. Thanks be to God for the many blessings. For my part I would like to offer some of the highlights that have made this past year a success for our Parish.

In fiscal year 2012 - 2013 we continued to expand our parish budget as we did in the previous fiscal year. Because of your generosity in last year's grand annual collection, fuel collection and your increased giving in our weekly offertory collections we have been able to support this budget. For that I am extremely grateful to you for your continuing generosity. With these increases to our parish budget we were able to welcome a new staff member Ms. Sara Sturdivant as our parish Music Director. I believe everyone will agree that Ms. Sturdivant has been a great addition to our parish music ministry. Her dedication and musical talents have brought our music ministry to new heights and enhanced our parish liturgies greatly.



Fr. Bob Poitras, Pastor

Our focus this past fiscal year was on updating our parish facilities and increasing the staff salaries to a just and fair level. Taking care of our properties and updating our churches is very important to the life of our parish. Within the fiscal year we hired a landscaper for our Georgetown and Rowley properties, we painted and cleaned the trim and banisters around the Georgetown property, we seal coated and relined the parking lot in Georgetown, and we continued to make good progress with the company we hired to repair our septic tanks in Rowley. We also raised the level of pay for many of our pastoral staff. For too long they were underpaid working many extra hours than what they were reimbursed for. Thanks to your financial help over the past years we were finally able to make these adjustments to salary while at the same time enhancing our parish properties and facilities.

Most of all this past year's success is because of you. I thank you for your generosity and support. Without you and your support none of what has been mentioned above or throughout these pages could be accomplished. As you have read and will read in this report our parish is continuing to build in the right direction. We continue to need your support and help to continue this good and important work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our neighborhoods. Is this a great challenge? Yes, in many ways. Is it worth it? Yes! You can help continue this great mission, not only financially but through sharing your time and talents by volunteering in many of our ministries and spreading the Good News of Christ. Join us, we need you! I thank God for the blessings he has bestowed upon our Parish in the past year and I look forward to the great promise of the future that lies ahead.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Robert A. Poitras

Parish Pastoral Council Annual Report

This past year the Parish Pastoral Council included 11 members including parishioners from Boxford, Georgetown and Rowley; many of them active in ministries and programs that help support our Parish community.

Our discussion this year centered on the activities and initiatives that we hoped would help create a warm, vibrant, unified, and cohesive Parish - a Parish that draws back our inactive parishioners, increases participation in our ECE program, encourages new volunteers, and is financially strong. We tried to create an energized community that fostered the ongoing participation required to strengthen our Parish. Some of the topics we addressed included the following: ways to increase daily and Sunday Mass attendance, the evangelization of all of St. Mary's parishioners, our music ministry, how to best welcome our newest parishioners, and best practices for encouraging young adults to become vibrant members of our parish. The Parish Pastoral Council also helped coordinate hosting of the Stations of the Cross for our parish during the Lenten season.

Looking ahead to next year we will have some new members joining the Council. They bring their enthusiasm, commitment and fresh perspectives that are so very important as we work to strengthen the Parish under Fr. Bob's direction. We will certainly continue to encourage parishioners to contribute their time, talent and treasures through stewardship; to raise the topics important to the Parish community; and to actively support many aspects of Parish life. We encourage you to consider attending one of our meetings. We would welcome your active participation.

2012 - 2013 Children Involved with Evangelization & Catholic Education:

Kindergarten - 10
Grade 1 - 53
Grade 2 - 61
Grade 3 - 35
Grade 4 - 22
Grade 5 - 32
Grade 6 - 18
Grade 7 - 35
Grade 8 - 32
Grade 9 - 60
Grade 10 - 51

Sacraments:

42 Baptisms
61 First Communions
43 Confirmations
5 Marriages
31 Funerals

Family Statistics

This year we welcomed 73 new families. We have 1,908 registered households. For a total of 6,289 souls.

Boxford & West Boxford- 252 Families
Byfield - 119 Families
Georgetown - 886 Families
Rowley - 534 Families
Other towns - 117 Families

Respectfully Submitted by the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The Archdiocese of Boston recognized Ronald Chorzewski excellence in catechetical leadership



Ron Chorzewski

Last spring, Saint Mary's own Ron Chorzewski was recognized for catechetical excellence by the Archdiocese of Boston Office of Religious Education and was celebrated by Cardinal Sean at Solemn Vespers service on April 28, 2013.

He received high praise from one of our ECE directors in his recommendation: "From an educational point of view, Ron is one of my best teachers. He is a vibrant and caring teacher. . . he has become a much requested teacher. . . His classes are fun and he always has everyone's full

attention. His students learn a lot and smile while they're doing it. What more can you ask?"

Together with his wife, Maria, the Chorzewski's have been active parish volunteers for at least as long as we've kept computer ministry records - and that's back to 2003! For much of that time, they served as catechists in the children's catholic education program and in the adult RCIA.

Last year Cardinal O'Malley described our dependence on volunteers like Ron and Maria: "The archdiocese would come to a screeching halt without the army of volunteer staff that carries out, day by day, our faith and activities." Truly, he must have had Ron and Maria in mind.

2012 - 2013 Parish Events

2012 – 2013 was such a fun and spiritual year for our parish! Our parish events have been ranged from educational, to service oriented, to prayerful, to social but all were filled with joy and hopefully enriched our faith life. We pray that all of you find St. Mary's to be committed to supporting and challenging you on your journey of faith. We are looking forward to another wonderful year! We hope you join us!

Adult Faith Formation:

- Bible Study
- Blessed John Paul II Men's Group
- RCIA - Welcoming Augustin, Tomi, & Briana Noci to our faith community
- Alpha
- *Catholicism Course*



Children's Events:

- Altar Servers to Canobie Lake Park
- Boy Scout and Girl Scout Sundays
- Church Tour
- Christmas Pageant
- 3 Confirmation Retreats
- Scholarship Awards
- Vacation Bible Study - Daniel - Courage in Captivity



Festivities:

- Chicken BBQ
- Fireworks Cruise
- Pasta Dinner

Fun - Fundraising Events:

- Christmas Gift Wrapping
- Dance-A-Thon
- Flower Power



Liturgical Events:

- All Saints Pageant at Mass
- Confirmation Rite of Enrollment
- Crowning of Mary
- Holy Hour for Life
- Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Stations of the Cross
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service



People Helping People:

- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Christmas Baskets & Gifts
- Easter Baskets

Stewardship:

- Bottles & Cans
- Christian Service Day
- Electronic Recycle days
- Parish Clean Up Day

Women's Club:

- Communion Breakfast
- November Auction
- Women's Club Tea

Youth Group:

- Mission Trip - July 2013



Parish Financial Council Annual Report

The financial results for the period ended June 30, 2013 show that many of St. Mary's parishioners have increased their support of the parish. The cash receipts continue to increase in the offertory and with our individual ministries. As we expected this did slightly decrease the grand annual collection, fuel collection, and gifts and bequests. Overall this increase in cash flow has allowed us to pay for capital improvements to the rectory in Georgetown, outside improvements in Georgetown and Rowley, replace worn Altar coverings, and set more money aside for the Rowley septic issue. As we move forward, we continue to look for ways to increase our revenue so we can address the many major capital improvement needs at both the Georgetown and Rowley sites.

As a result of the continued generosity of our parishioners we have been able to maintain a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. This budget includes an increase staff salaries and building maintenance. As we continue to move in the right direction financially, our goal is to maintain and expand our ministries and services and each year address a few more areas that need to be repaired throughout the parish. Thank you for your support.

2012 - 2013 Major Expenses & Repairs

Septic Replacement Project Rowley	\$ 8,718.00
Landscaping Improvements	\$ 3,175.00
Stone Work - Georgetown	\$ 5,275.00
Building Maintenance - Rectory	\$ 3,200.00
Parking Lot - Georgetown	\$ 13,084.00
Exterior Painting	\$ 6,600.00
Altar Stoles & Cloth	\$ 1,218.00
Total	\$ 41,270.00

Respectfully Submitted by the Parish Finance Council (PFC)

Income:	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013	% of Change	Budget FY 2014
Offertories	\$ 315,956	\$ 393,190	24.44%	\$ 382,271
Grand Annual Collection	\$ 54,169	\$ 45,441	-16.11%	\$ 45,000
Sacramental Offerings	\$ 12,231	\$ 10,535	-13.87%	\$ 10,000
Catholic Education	\$ 41,561	\$ 47,613	14.56%	\$ 42,000
Interest	\$ 452	\$ 445	-1.55%	\$ 450
Other - Gifts, Bequests, Candles, Flowers, Rent	\$ 38,358	\$ 45,570	18.80%	\$ 23,700
Total Income	\$ 478,270	\$ 542,794	17.30%	\$ 503,421
Expenses				
Compensation & Benefits	\$ 219,176	\$ 222,974	1.73%	\$ 245,979
Administration - Office Equipment & Supplies	\$ 35,789	\$ 35,427	-1.01%	\$ 35,900
Facilities - Utilities & Maintenance of our Buildings	\$ 120,042	\$ 156,311	30.21%	\$ 148,426
Pastoral - Altar & Liturgical Supplies	\$ 30,081	\$ 27,046	-10.09%	\$ 27,277
School Subsidy/Central Tithe	\$ 29,405	\$ 31,651	7.64%	\$ 33,111
Total Expenses	\$ 434,493	\$ 473,409	8.96%	\$ 499,693
Net Operating Income	\$ 28,234	\$ 69,385		\$ 553
Other * Includes:	People Helping People, Womens' Club, Scholarship, Social Activities, Youth Group			
Income from Ministries *	\$ 35,408	\$ 41,669	17.68%	
Expense for Ministries *	\$ 32,418	\$ 36,796	13.50%	\$ -3,175
Net Income from Ministries	\$ 2,990	\$ 4,873		\$ -3,175
Capital Campaign Donations	\$ 31,702	\$ 4,852	-85.00%	