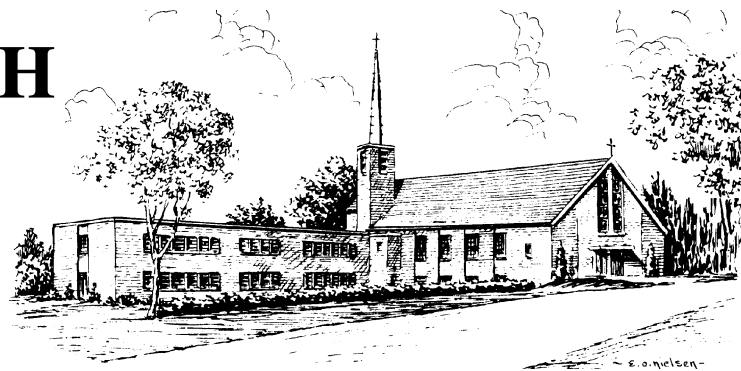


ST. MARY'S PARISH NEWSletter



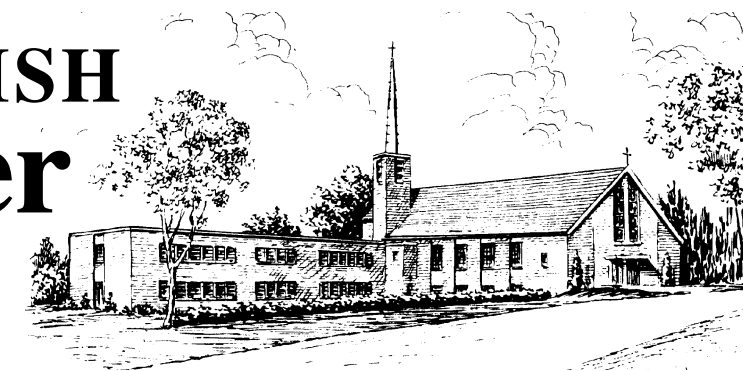
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ST. MARY'S PARISH NEWSletter



"All are welcome"

ST. MARY PARISH • SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 2008

Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Mary's, strive to be a community united with God, dedicated to continuing growth in faith, giving witness to Christ through love, worship, education and service ... so that we may fulfill this mission and integrate spirituality with life, we shall reach out to all peoples within and beyond our faith community.

St. Mary's Pastoral Center

20 Summer Street, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

Visit our Website at: <http://www.stmarysparish.org>

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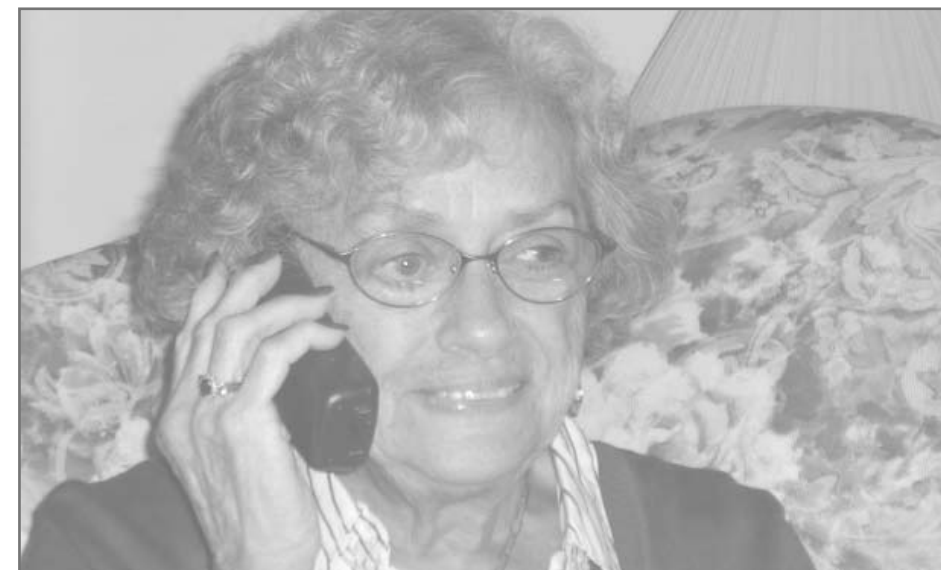
Gina Kuruvilla

Parish Health Ministry:

Viola Jefferson

Parish Secretary:

Kerry Martineau



Virginia Baroud is on the job as St. Mary's first telephone "friendly visitor."

Phone Visiting Brings the Best to Both Worlds

BY MARY DONOVAN

BY MARY DONOVAN,

Virginia Baroud likes to keep busy. Her favorite busyness is doing something for other people. Because of limited eyesight in recent years however, she can't get around like she used to. So this homebound outgoing woman is working her magic by phone.

Virginia is a key player in St. Mary's new "Telephone Connection." Here's how it works. Parish nurse Vi Jefferson has the names of parishioners who are homebound for one reason or another. She gives the names to Virginia and – voila! It's the Friendly Visitor without the tap on the door.

Does Virginia like the job? She loves it, she said. Although, when she started out she was a bit concerned..

"I wasn't sure what I was going to say to them," she said. "I had a little bit of uneasiness about it at first, but not any more.

The people she phone visits are happy to talk to her even though they're strangers,

she said. They invariably say they hope she'll call again.

This ministry picks up right where Virginia left off when she stopped driving. Here are some of the ways she was involved: She was a Eucharistic minister at St. Mary's bringing Communion to shut-ins. She also served as a Eucharistic minister at Memorial Hospital. She volunteered at the ambulatory chemotherapy unit to keep patients company while they sat through their long treatments. Now, she can fill her need to "give back" from the comfort of her armchair.

Virginia's husband died 11 years ago. She is a parent and a grandparent. She taught first and second grade for 40 years first as a Sister of Mercy and then in the Westboro school system. She has a lot of life experience to draw on and share. So, if a soft, warm voice greets you when you answer the phone and Virginia asks if you would like to chat, be sure and say yes.

see TELEPHONE CONNECTION Page 3

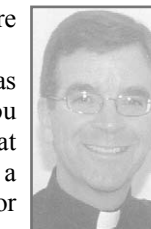
PASTOR'S LETTER

Take the Time to Say Thanks to God

The day after a recent visit to our parish pre-school, a mother told me the story of how her young son had come home and reported that "Fireman Mike was at my school today!" She asked him, "Did he drive his fire truck? Did he talk about what you should do if your house is on fire? Did he talk about fire safety?"

"No, Mom, it was Fireman Mike...you know....the guy that works for God!" What a great job description for a parish priest – working for God. During this season of Thanksgiving when we are a bit more aware of the many blessings we have received, we all need to take more than one holiday or one special turkey dinner with loved ones to express our gratitude to God and each other.

Serving as pastor of St. Mary's Parish continues to be a great joy for me, and I am so very grateful to all of you for the opportunity to be a part of this community of faith. Every day I encounter people with great stories and experiences of faith that help to deepen my own faith in God and Jesus Christ. So many parishioners – the young and not so young – are eager to find ways to grow in and live out their faith. Every day in our community and beyond people are sharing their gifts of time, talent and treasure to help and serve others. Together we are seeking to be disciples



Fr. Michael Rose

Pastor's Letter continued on Page 2