

Fr. Adam Reid Takes Change in Stride

BY MARY DONOVAN,

Fr. Adam Reid came to St. Mary's on the heels of Fr. Manny's departure for St. Mary's in Milford. Fr. Adam is a tall, slim, earnest young man with an endearing smile and a slightly formal manner. He is a different cup of tea from Fr. Manny, and that is part of the change to which this priest and his parish are adapting.

Fr. Adam understands that, he said. He knows the people are lonesome for his predecessor and he confesses to a bit of loneliness himself – for his former pastor and for the friends he made in the North Quabbin Catholic Community where he served his first assignment.

He also misses the wide open rural countryside in which the cluster parishes of Athol, Royalston and Petersham are located. He liked his morning drives through the countryside. The rural quality of the area had many benefits for a man who loves nature. Fr. Adam's hobby is touring our nation's national parks, he

said. The awesome beauty and diversity of the parks make him aware of God's great power, he said.

Other aspects of his new job to which he is rapidly adjusting are the hustle of ever-enlarging Shrewsbury and the lively activities of the parish school. Another change, and one he truly appreciates, is the size and efficiency of St. Mary's staff, he said.

“Staffing is the difference of night and day,” he said.

One thing hasn't changed, however. As different as Fr. Adam and Fr. Manny are, both men share a passion. It is their love of the priesthood and their joy in living their priestly lives.

In his first interview with this newsletter Fr. Manny said, “Joy becomes real when you do the priest work. The people's happiness is my happiness.”

Fr. Adam echoes those sentiments. “I view the priesthood has a wonderful way to serve God and his people,” he said.

His goal is to put that conviction to



Fr. Adam Reid has a special connection with the Blessed Virgin. He studied at St. Mary's Seminary, served at two churches named in her honor, and here he is at St. Mary's in Shrewsbury.

work for the people of St. Mary's. He said he feels he is well on his way to success thanks to how helpful and informative the staff and Fr. Mike have been.

Our enduring covenant

THANK-YOU to all those who have made their pledge to St. Mary's Capital Campaign during these past months. We encourage those parishioners who have not made their pledge to Our Enduring Covenant to do so before the end of the year. In June of 2009 we will begin construction of the first phase of our building & renovation project. On Thursday, November 6, our plans were presented to the Town of Shrewsbury Planning Board where they were well received and approved. We are now ready to move forward.

The plans submitted to the town of Shrewsbury for approval at this time include:

- Air conditioning for the Church
- Elevator to Church for improved accessibility
- Provide new restrooms on church and lower level
- New boilers
- Add new lighting and sound system
- Install sprinklers and fire alarms to code

Two story 5,000 Square foot addition on the back of the church and hall that includes:

- Lobby & Gathering space for church functions
- Large meeting room for 60 – 125 people for parish meetings/events
- New entrance and relocated school offices
- Media Center (library & computers)

Additional Parking and necessary drainage underneath the parking lot – which will require moving the rectory and little brown house. We have received word that the State of Massachusetts will not be providing the Town of Shrewsbury with the necessary funds to move these two houses. We had hoped to be able to donate the houses to the town for affordable housing rather than demolish them.

With the support of everyone in our parish we hope to begin this scope of work in June of 2009. At this time it does not appear that we will have enough money pledged to the campaign to increase the seating capacity in the church or build the four additional rooms off of the parish hall.

Visit the parish website for a few of the building plans: www.stmarysparish.org
Every gift is important. Make your pledge today.

Bishop confirms 121 candidates at cathedral



Family festival is huge success

The Outdoor Grille served over 360 hamburgers and almost 600 hot dogs; Gerardo's Italian Kitchen served 150 pounds of pasta and 60 pounds of chicken parmesan; and the eighth grade class served 18 pounds of bacon, 20 pounds of sausage, six gallons of OJ and over 800 pancakes! If you attended the Family Festival, you ate well. At the festival nearly 50,000 Games/Rides tickets were sold and approximately 150 wristbands; 58 teams played the Pub Quiz and 619 Raffle Tickets were sold. If you attended the Family Festival, you got your money's worth.

Festival workers counted over 2,500 smiling faces, heard hundreds of kids laughing, and witnessed a tent full of adults singing Sweet Caroline. If you attended the Family Festival, you were CELEBRATING.

As a result of all the hard work it took to make this happen, and of all the fun everyone had, the Family Festival was

able to make a donation to St. Mary's School of \$65,000. That's right - \$65,000. Additionally, the Festival donated \$1,500 to the eighth grade for its class trip to Washington DC to thank them for running the Pancake Breakfast. In addition, a \$350 donation was made to St. Anne's Food Bank (in Cougar Cards) from the tips collected at the Irish Pub. Left over prizes were donated to Mr. Moakley's science class (e.g. full-size binoculars, magnifying Petri dishes and small microscopes).

The 2008 Family Festival Committee wants to thank everyone for helping us make this all possible. Whether you volunteered, made a donation or just attended the Festival, this success couldn't have happened without you. THANK YOU
Adapted from the Family Festival report on the parish website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.stmarysparish.org"](http://www.stmarysparish.org)
www.stmarysparish.org

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of the Lord as we respond to the invitation and challenge to embrace Stewardship as a “way of life”.

The challenging economic times in which we live, the news stories of natural disasters in all parts of the world, the approaching inauguration of a new President and the lingering war in Iraq make us realize just how little control we have over the world. This increased stress can often lead to great anxiety and fear about the future. Our faith points us to a solution and encourages us to develop a deeper trust in God's loving care and providence.

Trusting in God gives us a longer-lasting security and enables us to touch our heart's gratitude for so many rich and abundant blessings. It is my prayer for all of you during these ending days of November that this year's “Thanksgiving” be more than a meal or a holiday, but also, more and more a “way of life”.

Thank-you and may God bless you.

Michael J. Rose

Christmas

Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm

Vigil Mass

4:30 pm

Vigil Mass at Calvary
Retreat Center Chapel
South Street

7:00 pm

Vigil Mass with
Children's Pageant

12:00 am

Midnight Mass with Choir

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:00 am

Christmas Mass

11:00 am

Christmas Mass