

*St. Gianna Parish
Churches of St. Brigid & St. Mark*

St. Brigid Ladies Guild News
December 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alison Goroshko

We were blessed this month with our new members who joined us at the Ladies Guild Membership Tea! It was a wonderful time that was enjoyed by all. Penny Hickey and Mary Ellen Verrengia outdid themselves by transforming McMahon Hall into a lovely tearoom! Maureen McClay did an outstanding job introducing and welcoming all the new members. It was so nice to get to know new and old friends at this special event.

We will kick off this month with our annual Ladies Guild Christmas dinner at The Back Nine Tavern at Stanley Golf Course at 6:30 on Monday, December 2. Sharraine Reid has a wonderful evening in store for all of us to be sure! Maybe we will sing a Christmas carol or two. Also this month, Sue Ficaro will be heading up our annual Caring Hearts Christmas Drive. And my favorite Guild event, The Great Cookie Deal, will be headed up by Donna Wolcott. Get those baking sheets and your special cookie recipes out! I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year!

Hope to see you soon,

Alison

“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.” - Saint Therese of Lisieux

TRANSPORTATION

Nancy Kunak

If you would like a ride to Monday night's dinner, please call me at 860-523-4773 as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS PARTY, December 2

Sharraine Reid

We hope you'll be joining in at our festive Christmas dinner Monday night at 6:30 in the banquet room of the Back Nine Tavern at Stanley Golf Course, 245 Hartford Rd., New Britain. *Sharraine* is our chairwoman for this party; if you have any questions for her, call (860) 841-1711. See you all there!!

HOUSE OF BREAD

December 3-4, January 7-8 *Gina Giacalone, Pat (and Nick)*
Vendetta

Thank you all for baking all those great meat loaves last month and for thinking of us with your generous contributions.

Once again, the House of Bread could use the following donations:

For food: Baby formula; Bisquick; boxes of cereal; cereal bars; sliced and bagged shredded cheese; cooking, olive, or canola oil; ground coffee; granola bars; hot sauce; juice boxes; ketchup; mayonnaise; mustard; pasta sauce in jars; parboiled rice; large cans of tuna; and cases of water.

For clothes and linens: Coats, gloves, hats, socks, T-shirts, underwear (new), bathroom towels and wash cloths, sheets (all sizes), and blankets.

For toiletries/paper goods: Deodorant (spray), small soaps (travel size like those from hotels), toothpaste (small tubes), paper napkins, paper towels, and toilet paper.

For household items: Small appliances (toasters, microwaves, TVs); pots and pans; small furniture (dressers, end tables, shelves, etc.); household decorations; dishes, flatware, glasses, and mugs.

The next delivery dates to 130 Overbrook Rd. are **Tuesday** and **Wednesday, December 3** and **4**. If you have any questions, please call *Gina* at (860) 521-8342. The January delivery dates are **Tuesday** and **Wednesday, January 7** and **8**.

CARING HEARTS CHRISTMAS DRIVE

December 7-8 *Sue Ficarò*

A Christmas Drive for our adopted families will be held the weekend December 7-8. Items needed include food, gift cards, toiletries, holiday candy and nuts, Kleenex, toilet tissue, paper towels, dish detergent, plastic food storage bags, small gifts or anything else you'd like to donate. Items may be brought to the Guild Christmas Party on December 2 or left on the collection table in McMahon Hall on December 7 or 8. Thank you for whatever you can do to help make the holidays happier for the less fortunate.

GREAT COOKIE DEAL

December 21-22 *Donna Wolcott*

The Ladies Guild Holiday Great Cookie Deal will be held the weekend of December 21 and 22. Donna will be available to receive our cookies on Friday evening, December 20, at 5:00, and orders will be available for pick up before and after all Masses December 21 and 22.

GREAT COOKIE DEAL (Cont'd.)

Orders will be taken after all Masses the weekends of December 7 and 8 and December 14 and 15. The price is \$7.00 per one-pound package. This will make a great holiday gift for you, a friend, a relative, or a neighbor. Telephone Committee members will be contacting Guild members to bake their favorite cookies.

Thank you for your continued support for this great fundraiser.

CHEER

Sheila Donahue

Get Well wishes are sent to *Eileen Ragnoni*, and *Karla Dalley*, who we hope continue to feel better every day.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to *Anita Gomes* on the loss of her nephew Paul Kennedy. May Paul's soul and the souls of all our faithfully departed Guild members rest in peace.

As we bring 2019 to a close, it's a great time to remember in our prayers our members who died during the year: *Joan Godlewski, Maureen Maloy, Catherine Henneberry, Norma Cronin, Marie Francies, Mary Corbidge, Ann Jacovino, Marianna DiCocco, Virginia Manning, Roxanne D'Aquino, Emma Raymond, and Grace Canarie*. Thanks to these ladies who supported our Guild for so many years.

Birthday wishes are extended to our December birthday gals: *Pamela Hilborn* and *Barbara Vartenigian* (1), *Elaine Yungk* (2), *Jacqueline Pelland* (3), *Carol Lemieux* (5), *Carole Lundeberg* (6), *Eileen Ragnoni* (7), *Angela Mancini* (8), *Dolly Chelli* (15), *Frances Varchetta* (21), and *MaryAnn Duggan* (27).

Birthday wishes also to our January birthday gals: *Doris Robidoux* (1), *Mary Ann Giovino* (4), *Teresita Penzalan* (6), *Dolores Lavriha* (9), *Doria DeNino* and *Sarah Zanetti* (17), *Jackie Rozza* (18), *Jan Major* (22), *Elvira Canora* (24), *Sharraine Reid* (25), *Lisa Scata-DeWolf* (26), and *Sheila Donahue, Bertha Grenier, and Fran Griffin* (27).

And, we'd like to note that extra special birthday wishes go out to *Doris*, as she celebrates her 100th birthday on January 1. If you would like to send birthday wishes to her, she resides at 250 Seabury Drive in Bloomfield 06002.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to *Beverly Arnold*, who became *Beverly Peterson* upon her marriage to Elliott Peterson on October 19. Here's to a happy and healthy future for *Bev* and Elliott.

If you know of any member who is ill, entering rehab or a convalescent home, housebound, suffering a bereavement, celebrating a special event, or could just use a little "cheer," please give me a call at 860-232-6915. I know we're not getting enough cheer out to our members who could use it. Remember, YOU are the best source of this information. Thank you.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Laurie-Ann Templeton

Prayer is an important ministry for our Ladies' Guild and for our parish. If anyone would like to join our ministry of prayer, please contact me. As always, if you know of someone in need of prayer, please call me (860-953-4063), and we will add them to our intentions. Thank you.

SUPPER CLUB

Maureen McClay and Edie Parizo

Supper Club is on hiatus for December. Our next Supper Club will be on January 21, 2020. Join us at Beachland Tavern in Elmwood at 6:30 p.m. Beachland Tavern features fresh-made comfort foods, a warm cozy atmosphere, and has become a local favorite. Mark your calendars and call *Maureen* (860-521-0820) after the holidays to be included in the reservation.

SPIRITUAL COMMITTEE

Thank you all who signed up at the October meeting to join our Spiritual Committee. Members of this committee are called to attend the funeral Mass of a Guild member where an honor guard is formed. If you would like to be included in this important committee, please let *Sheila* know at msja62@comcast.net or at 860-232-6915. We'll try to get an e-mail contact list together for notifications, and if you are not on the internet, we'll give you a phone call. This year we attended seven funerals, so this is not a time-consuming committee, and it gives us another opportunity to attend Mass.

Thank you for considering joining in on this committee.

THANK YOU

ST. MARK'S ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

We want to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Ladies Guild who supported the 2019 Craft Fair at St. Mark's on November 2. Whether you baked, volunteered, provided words of encouragement, or came to enjoy the fun-filled day with over 800 hundred people who attended this special St. Mark's event, we are very grateful. The Craft Fair was a huge success due to tremendous support.

Thanks again!

Mary Ellen McCarthy and Ann Bach

A big “thank you” to Cricket Press for their very generous gift of our November Newsletter. They have been very good to us for many years in meeting our requests and deadlines, and we appreciate their help and generosity. If we have any printing needs, please consider Cricket Press.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Sheila Donahue

December 2	Guild Christmas Dinner, Back Nine Tavern at Stanley Golf Course, 245 Hartford Rd., New Britain 6:30 p.m.
December 3, 4	House of Bread deliveries, 130 Overbrook Rd.
December 7, 8	Caring Hearts Christmas Drive
December 7, 8, 14, 15	Great Cookie Deal orders taken
December 21, 22	Cookies available for pickup
December 25	Happy Christmas
January 1	Happy New Year 2020
January 7, 8	House of Bread deliveries, 130 Overbrook Rd.
January 21	Supper Club at Beachland Tavern, 6:30 p.m.
February 3	Guild Meeting, 7:00 p.m., McMahon Hall
February 4,5	House of Bread deliveries, 130 Overbrook Rd.

To all our members and friends, please have a very happy and holy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.

That’s a wrap for December. The deadline for the February newsletter is Friday, January 25. If you have any news that’s fit to print, please call me at 860-232-6915; drop it off at the rectory, in the mail, in the collection basket marked “Guild News,” in my mail slot, or e-mail to msja62@comcast.net by January 25. Thank you.

Sheila

*The light of Christmas star to you
The warmth of home and hearth to you*

The cheer and good will of friends to you
The hope of a childlike heart to you
The joy of a thousand angels to you
The love of the Son and God's peace to you
And
May Christ light your home with harmony
And your world with grace

Happy Christmas

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Wexford Carol

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved son
With Mary holy we should pray,
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born

The night before that happy tide
The noble Virgin and her guide
Were long time seeking up and down
To find a lodging in the town
But mark right well what came to pass
From every door repelled, alas
As was foretold, their refuge all
Was but a humble ox's stall

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angel did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear
Arise and go, the angels said
To Bethlehem, be not afraid
For there you'll find, this happy morn
A princely babe, sweet Jesus, born

With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went the babe to find
And as God's angel had foretold
They did our Saviour Christ behold
Within a manger he was laid
And by his side a virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of Life
Who came on earth to end all strife

*There were three wise men from afar
Directed by a glorious star
And on they wandered night and day
Until they came where Jesus lay
And when they came unto that place
Where our beloved Messiah lay
They humbly cast them at his feet
With gifts of gold and incense sweet.*