



Report to St. Maria Goretti Parish The Year of Grace 2008

The Body of Christ gathered at St. Maria Goretti parish is the spiritual home of 3,344 souls from 1,048 households in Lynnfield, Wakefield and other surrounding communities. Our worship, faith formation and social activities form a vibrant network of discipleship. Our sacramental and religious education programs serve 578 children. Founded in 1961 by Richard Cardinal Cushing, our parish is the living

legacy of three generations of Catholics. The following is my annual report to you for the period of July 2007 through June 2008. It will highlight just a few of the myriad of activities that characterize our community of faith.

Parish Life

Be who you are and be that well.

St. Francis de Sales

- Sixty new households joined the parish at an average rate of five per month. Overall, the number of registered parishioners has increased by 5% over the previous year. We welcomed forty-six children through the Sacrament of Baptism, seventy-five children received their First Holy Communion and 37 teens completed their Christian initiation at Confirmation. Fifteen couples were married. The Sacrament of the Sick was made available to many at the quarterly Anointing Masses. We prayerfully entrusted thirteen souls to the Lord at funeral Masses.
- Our parish welcomed **Ed Klingenburg** and **Christine Kimball** into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.
- **Donna Hegan, Denis Ritchie** and **Pat Rondeau** accepted re-election for service on the Parish Pastoral Council for terms ending in 2011. **Lisa Caswell** accepted appointment for a one year term ending in June 2009.
- **Mary Ellen Manning** represented the parish in welcoming new parishioners with baskets at their homes.
- We formally kicked off the Jubilee Fund anticipating the 50th Anniversary of St. Maria Goretti parish in 2010. The Fund will finance the construction of meeting/classrooms, improved handicap access, adequate space for social activities and air condition in the church. **Jim Fagan**, Chair of the Jubilee Committee, presented particulars of the project.
- Our parish was introduced to the pastoral planning process as the first step towards orienting us to anticipate changes in the ways parishes will be staffed with priests and lay personnel. It calls for a respectful and transparent process to ensure that parishioners, staff and priests participate in the planning process. Under the guidance of the regional bishop, networks of parishes will develop plans that will address realistic workloads for priests and parish staffs; sharing resources among parishes; better coordination of Mass schedules, and sacramental care for hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

Worship

For you hear "The Body of Christ" and you reply "Amen." Therefore, be a member of the body of Christ so that your "Amen" may be true. Be what you see and receive what you are. St. Augustine

- Throughout the seasons of the year, our parish marked the liturgical life of the Church - moving through the rhythms of Ordinary Time as well as the gracious seasons of Advent/Christmas. We all enjoyed our first Christmas concert of *Lessons and Carols* incorporating the Prologue to the Gospel of John spoken in several different languages.

- The Holy Season of Lent gave way to our observance of the events of Holy Week, which included 50 parishioners attending the *Chrism Mass* at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, followed by a luncheon. We then progressed toward the great feast of our redemption at Easter. In all these moments, we were united with prayers of thanks, adoration, intercession and petition.
- Sunday Mass continues to focus on our worship of God revealed to us in the loving mystery of the Trinity. We introduced seasonal sung Mass parts that make use of some of the variety of our Roman Catholic heritage in Latin and English. We began to recite the psalms antiphonally on alternating sides of the church following the sung response. The Choir repertoire now includes music from Gregorian chant, Taizé, praise and worship, Gospel, and contemporary Christian genres.
- From the Table of the Word and the Table of the Sacrament, the Body of Christ goes forward to the witness of Christ present in the world. *Children's Masses and Children's Liturgy of the Word* continue to augment outreach to young families as well as forming families in faith. The lovely appearance of our parish church and grounds expresses our reverence of God and shows gratitude for what we have been given by those who founded our parish almost fifty years ago.

Faith Formation

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. St. Thomas Aquinas

- The parish Book Club met to discuss Jesus, The Apostles and the Early Church by Pope Benedict XVI; Left to Tell by Immaculée Illibagiza and Father Elijah by Michael O'Brien.
- We concluded the "Faith on Film" series with "*Brother Sun Sister Moon*".
- *FaithShare* provided an opportunity for parishioners to share one aspect of their Catholic faith at the end of a Sunday Mass. This past year we heard from **Jean Quinlan, Linda McLaughlin, Jim McGovern, Maria Terris, Hope Nutter and Ron Nutter**.
- **Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy**, a Franciscan priest and retreat master from the San Damiano Retreat in Danville, California led our *Lenten Retreat* evenings for "Be Not Afraid, I am With You".
- Confirmation candidates experienced an inspiring Retreat, Prayer and Pizza nights; a presentation "*The Jewishness of Jesus*" by a speaker duo comprised of a Catholic Scripture professor and a practicing Jew; Bible Quiz night and the T3 Bible Timeline for Teen's thematic video presentation of the Bible.
- From the *Blessing of the Pencils* at the Catechetical Sunday Mass, our children participated in a variety of activities within and outside of Mass and Religious Education classes. *Coins for Kids* continues to give our young ones the chance to learn about and help other children in need around the world. Pizza suppers, church tours, *Family Stations of the Cross* with Lenten Chowder Supper, the *Children's Palm and May Processions* continue to nourish vital seeds of faith among young members of the Body of Christ.

Transitions

Love God, serve God: everything is in that. St. Clare of Assisi

- We bid grateful farewell to **Deacon Ed Elibero** who completed his assignment at our parish. **Ted Foss** stepped in to direct Religious Education. **Therese Willette** joined the parish staff to coordinate sacramental formation for our second graders. **Jaymie Stuart Wolfe** completed her service in parish sacramental formation to focus on music and adult faith formation activities. **Beverly Merritt** took over consolidated ministry scheduling. Parish Staff began a monthly Holy Hour on First Fridays to support the parish with prayer during Eucharistic Adoration.
- We bade farewell to **Pam Romano** who coordinated Family Mass collations and welcomed her successors, **Eileen Vittiglio and Amy Radulski**.

Stewardship

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

- As of June 30, 2008 a total of 225 households pledged \$858,252 to the Jubilee Fund. Of this, \$236,916 has been received in fulfillment of pledges.
- Our parish met our goal for “*Handing on the Light of Christ*” in the 2008 Catholic Appeal! This was the second year that we have faithfully responded to Cardinal Seán’s call to continue the many good and vital works of our Catholic family throughout the Archdiocese of Boston.
- Through the Offertory Awareness Program (OAP) we met our responsibilities to the wider Church through the Archdiocese of Boston for the Church in Latin America, the Holy Father, Holy Land Shrines, US Bishops’ Communications, Seminaries, support for the pastoral care of Black and Native Americans, the Church in Eastern and Central Europe, Catholic Home Missions, Catholic University, Retired Religious and the Campaign for Human Development. Other associations that received financial, material and spiritual support from our parish through direct gifts, allocations or sponsored activities included:
 - Blessed John XXIII National Seminary
 - Catholic Charities of the North Shore
 - Catholic Community in Bethlehem
 - Catholic Near East Welfare Association
 - Catholic Relief Services (Operation Rice Bowl)
 - Dominican Sisters’ Ministry in Vietnam
 - Girls and Boys’ Town, Portsmouth, RI
 - Haven from Hunger
 - Holy Childhood Association
 - Knights of Columbus
 - Lazarus House
 - Little Brothers of St. Francis
 - Mission of Deeds
 - Most Holy Redeemer Parish, E. Boston
 - My Brother’s Table
 - National Council of Catholic Women
 - Our Lady of Hope Charities, Salem
 - Our Lady of the Assumption School
 - Rodman Ride for Kids Catholic Charities
 - Rosie’s Place
 - Salesian Missions
 - St. Joseph Parish, Lynn
 - St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital
 - St. Patrick Parish, Roxbury

Parish Report on Fiscal 2008 Operating Results Prepared by the Mike Tetrault, St. Maria Goretti Parish Finance Council

	June 30, 2008 Actual	June 30, 2007 Actual	June 30, 2008 Budgeted
Income			
Offertory, Offertory			
Awareness and Other Giving	\$369,183	\$355,989	\$368,747
Religious Education Fees	\$34,618	\$43,503	\$42,000
Interest Income	\$8,284	\$5,460	\$6,900
Fundraising Activities	<u>\$3,845</u>	<u>\$3,396</u>	<u>\$3,845</u>
Total Income	<u>\$415,930</u>	<u>\$408,348</u>	<u>\$421,492</u>
Expenses			
Clergy & Staff - Compensation, Benefits & Expenses	\$193,517	\$176,984	\$189,529
Building, Grounds, Improvements & Maintenance	\$99,503	\$93,497	\$97,416
Operating Overhead	\$42,678	\$34,618	\$40,196
Pastoral, Liturgical & Other			
Religious Expenses	\$67,616	\$72,111	\$65,561
Religious Education - Books	<u>\$20,194</u>	<u>\$10,516</u>	<u>\$15,326</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$423,508</u>	<u>\$387,726</u>	<u>\$408,028</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$7,578)</u>	<u>\$20,622</u>	<u>\$13,464</u>

- The parish is pleased to report our operating results for fiscal 2008. Expenditures exceeded revenues by approximately \$8,000. Although we experienced a deficit, the shortfall was modest and the parish continues to be in sound financial condition. The following discussion highlights key items from the past year's operating results.
- Offertory collections were within \$500 of the targeted amounts. On the expenditure side the parish was successful staying within budget, except for a handful of categories. The majority of the variance to budget and the resulting deficit related to building and grounds maintenance including increased costs for snow removal and boiler repairs. In addition, the religious education program was revised during the year to include a new line of materials which resulted in increased text book costs. As you can see, the parish operates on a tight budget, and variances in a few items can mean the difference between a surplus and a deficit.
- Over the next couple of months, we will be closing out the pledge phase of the **Jubilee 2010 "Forward in Faith"** capital campaign. We are pleased to report that 215 families have made commitments totaling pledges of approximately \$850,000. If you have not already pledged to the campaign, please give consideration to making a commitment to this important part of our parish's future. Shortly after the close of the pledge period, we will report to you on a time table to begin segments of the project.
- **Offertory Awareness** renewals will also be mailed this fall as we approach the upcoming year. An online payment option will be made available using credit cards, debit cards or EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer).
- As we have reported, the parish experienced a slight deficit last year but we are committed to funding our operating needs without drawing from reserves. The Finance Committee has recommended that we ask parishioners not on the OAP to contribute towards parish maintenance and second collection responsibilities through an annual Fair Share request.

In closing...

I am grateful for the privilege of serving you and your loved ones gathered as the Body of Christ at St. Maria Goretti parish! Throughout this year of Grace, our life in Jesus Christ is served by devoted staff and volunteers. This life in Jesus Christ is lovingly supported by the prayers of our Holy Mother Mary. United in the Holy Spirit and "*surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses*" (Heb:12:1) in the Communion of Saints, we move forward in faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



"May all the saints pray for us that we may walk in their footsteps"

St. Julie Billiart