



# St. Pius Calling...

January- February 2017

## Meet Mary Lyons

On January 9, 2017, I became a new parishioner and began ministry in the position of Director of Religious Education here at St. Pius X Parish. It was a very special day!

My husband, Dennis, and I moved to the area a year ago and at that time joined a different nearby parish. Prior to moving here, I served as Director of Faith Formation for St. John Neumann Parish in Reston, Virginia, which is not far from Washington, D.C. When I learned of the possibility of serving in this role at St. Pius X, I was very excited. I have worked in several parishes in different dioceses as our family has moved many times.

In addition to Virginia, states in which we have lived include Connecticut, New York (twice), New Jersey (twice), Indiana, and now for the second time, Pennsylvania. It has truly been a wonderful professional career since leaving Boston College with a Master in Education from their School of Theology and Ministry.

In our almost 36 years of marriage, we have also been blessed with four children and two grandchildren. Our children live in Weehawken (New Jersey), Wyncote (Pennsylvania—north of Philadelphia), Hoboken (New Jersey), and Arlington (Virginia).

As I have told many, I am blessed that our paths are now sharing an intersection. Our lives have been very different in different places, but for right here, right now, we are intersecting at St. Pius X. I look forward to fully experiencing the wonders of and faith of those who call this home.

I look forward to learning your stories. My experience of people shows me many are empowered and feel responsible for their parish. They are taking their responsibility very seriously. There are so many committed in so many different ministries!

Prayer is a powerful part of parishioners' lives. I experience it at Mass and see it at Eucharistic Adoration. I see it before and during classes on Sunday mornings and Sunday nights. Placing our words, decisions, actions, and lives into our loving God's hands is witnessed here every day. It is what we are called to do!

My husband and I are truly blessed to be among you.



## Pious Thoughts

from our Pastor, Fr. Pius



Happy New Year!  
Our newsletter going forward will be published bi-monthly.  
Thank you to our great Editors.

Our focus this month is "witnessing" in the parish.  
We welcome our new Director of Religious Education, who will help our families witness to their faith. What a great witnessing to our faith in Christ from our brothers and sisters who attended the March for Life. The Cleaning Angels witness through keeping our church clean, for cleanliness is near to Godliness. Our brothers and sisters who ensure that our shut-ins and the sick receive Our Lord as frequently as possible are a glowing manifestation of the call to witness.

How are you witnessing?  
God bless you.

## Bringing Jesus

As part of our faith sharing message, we asked a few of our Eucharistic ministers about bringing Jesus to those who cannot come to church,

**Ellie Heintzelman** recalled how important it was to her family to have Eucharist daily when her mother was dying in the hospital. God's graces gave them strength in a time of great suffering. She wants to pass that on.

**Bill and Linda Houser** could see how Linda's mother at the nursing center benefited from the regular visits...the comfort of familiar prayers, the familiar taste of the body of Christ, the social exchange with other Catholics. Bill and Linda also continue their ministry because they know the importance of receiving the Eucharist.

**Carol Parowski** enjoys being able to help make visible that Jesus loves us so much that he will come and find us wherever we are ... even sick at home. We become His hands and feet and bring God's presence for the visit.

**Clara Kovacs** values the personal contact and how appreciative the parishioners are for this gift.

**Mike Seno** quoted Matthew Kelly "You don't judge the value of something by the way you feel before it, but by the way you feel after." Even if it has been a little hard to get started, and we decide to "Do it for God." Mike feels so filled with joy and warmth, not only in the spiritual aspect of bringing Jesus to others, but the warm interactions and the resulting joy that comes from the people. God blesses us with these opportunities and we can never "out give" God.

# Angels Among Us

**Where can you find a job that has no heavy work, a flexible work schedule, is only one to two hours a month, and, best of all, can be spiritually uplifting? And not only that, you get to become an angel ... a Cleaning Angel.**

In 2008, after the completion of the new St. Pius X Church, Maureen Pagana and Rachel Reichley started a special service and named it Cleaning Angels. The purpose of the service is to have the church and chapel cleaned in an organized fashion. Eventually, Pat Reiland and Faye Straub took over the service. Not only do Pat and Faye clean, but they are substitute cleaners as well.

All cleaning materials are provided and, except for being able to bend, no special skills or heavy workloads are required. Angels can choose the jobs they like and can work alone or together for bigger jobs such as kneelers and vacuuming/moppers. Pat enjoys working alone and feels that, "Being in a quiet church with no one else there is spiritually uplifting."

The work is divided into sections and a monthly calendar comes out listing the specific jobs. Some jobs need to be done

on a specific week as certain assignments need to be done in a particular order. Volunteers sign off to indicate completion of a job.

Cleaning the church has some rather fun and entertaining events too ... like the time Father Dan's dog left a "surprise" in the church (which was discovered and taken care of immediately) and the time a mouse scampered across the altar area. On the other hand some Cleaning Angels have developed friendships and socialize outside of the church.

Pat stated, "Anything you do to help in church or the community is what makes the world go round. And you can never have too many (Cleaning Angels) workers which is a good thing because you're giving to the church, *and* you're giving to individuals who get a break and work less time — isn't that a good thing?"

So come on, volunteer and be an Angel. The Cleaning Angels could really use your help, and it's only one to two hours a month. Couples, substitutes, and teens (if accompanied by a parent) are welcome. You might make a new friend, start a small social group, or ... **you may even get to see a church mouse!** ~ *By Edna Cravitz (Interview with Pat Reiland)*



## The March for Life 2017

By Darlene Karuse

### All life is precious from conception until natural death!

The day started with morning mass and the rosary. Fr. John Mark came on the bus and blessed all of us, and the bus, for safe travel. Fr. Pius, our pastor, stood outside shivering as he watched us pull away for our blessed journey to Washington, D.C. Our bus was so wonderfully BLESSED with three children and a young adult of 18 years. We had an enjoyable time as we were on our journey to stand up for all living human beings!

As we arrived in Washington, D.C. we were met with hundreds of thousands of supporters. What a glorious shining sun was there to greet us with temperatures in the 40's. Yea God! The children would mean to each and Pro-Life speakers to begin, through security checks. Vice-President Mike Pence about how Pro-Life our President address us, and all the millions listening through social media and EWTN radio and

television stations. Our Pro-Life voices were heard for many miles. I was so very impressed with the massive numbers of the younger generation, 25 and under, who were clapping screaming and chanting during the speeches and along the march.

The signs people carried offer thoughts to ponder.

We March because abortion stops one heart and breaks another.

Every child begins the world again.

In Christ all life belongs to God

KIDS

Keep Infants with Downs Syndrome

We March for those who can't.

