



St. Pius Calling...

September October 2017

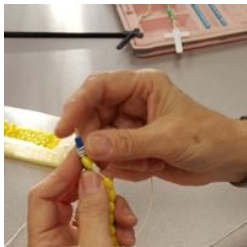
Rosary Makers

By Kathy Dalius

I started making rosaries in the late 80's/early 90's. Somehow or other I heard about making rosaries to send to the missions, ordered my first rosary-making kit & knew ... this was my thing. I loved making rosaries. I remember keeping my rosary-making supplies in a fishing tackle box that I took along on our family camping trips. Years passed & life got busier: three active young boys, school, extra-curricular activities and a part-time job. The time had come to pass my rosary supplies on to someone else. They went to one of our former parishioners, Loretta Daniels, who also made rosaries for the prison ministry and the parish.

Then, in Feb 2008, the Prayer Shawl Ministry began. In the first several months, we did not make rosaries. We started when one of our prayer shawl ladies made a beautiful blue prayer shawl and donated a blue rosary to go with it. That's when I got the idea to get back into rosary making. Yes, rosaries to match the shawls.

Since about June 2008, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has been making rosaries to accompany every item that we give away. We give one to all recipients and to all faiths. The only time we don't, is if someone specifically requests 'no rosary.' We also include a pamphlet on how to say the rosary. Until the prison regulations changed, we made extra rosaries for the prison ministry as well. We still make rosaries to give to priests and missionaries who take them in their travels.



I'm a member of Our Lady's Rosary Makers in Louisville, KY which is also where we order our supplies. <https://olrm.org/> We buy mission beads, crosses, cord, and other items as needed. The rosaries are basically made by counting beads and tying knots. There's a special tool that helps with tying knots, although it is also possible to tie knots

with your fingers. We try to make the rosaries during our Prayer Shawl meetings; however sometimes I make rosaries at home or at different times of the week at church.. Father Pius blesses all our prayer shawls and rosaries before we give them away.

Several years ago, I taught the Pro-Life Group how to make rosaries for their special project. Also, back in the day, I taught one of the 2nd grade classes at St. Monica's School how to make them. I've since learned that it's far better to have another experienced rosary maker present to help young children with tying knots!

I feel blessed to be able to share this gift of rosary making with others in my parish and community. I hope that in some small way I am helping to spread devotion to the Blessed



Barbara Rescigno and Kathy Dalius

Pious Thoughts from our Pastor, Fr. Pius

Thank God for a great summer break!

This edition is loaded with great and juicy information from the community. Enjoy your reading as we prepare for the centenary celebration of Our Lady of Fatima in October. Keep Smiling!



Mother by including a rosary (and prayer card on how to say the rosary) with each prayer shawl. In a way, I feel like it's being a missionary without having to leave home. If you have any questions about rosary making and/or the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please feel free to contact me. Or you might also want to contact any of our Prayer Shawl group rosary makers who can tell you in their own words why they make rosaries. . Kathy Dalius, 570- 374-9883, kathydal@ptd.net.

Welcome to our new Religious Education Director

Diane Shamory



I was asked to tell the parishioners a little bit about myself. Where to start? Well the first thing that comes to mind is that I have always enjoyed working with children. I have educated and cared for children in many different capacities. I remember babysitting my nephews when I was a teenager and thinking that I would love to be a teacher. A few years later, I graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Elementary Education. I substituted for about a year before moving to a town near Pittsburgh. I used my teaching degree to teach in a daycare center and soon became the director of that daycare.

I have been blessed with two wonderful children and we decided to move to Selinsgrove to be closer to family. Thru all of those years, I had continued to be a catechist in various grades—preschoolers and fifth graders. I have substituted in our local schools for many years as well. I look forward to taking care of the children in our Parish as our Religious Education Director. ~

Diane Shamory





INITIALS ON THE ALTAR by Joyce Seno

I was challenged to write an article about the initials S and M on the front of the altar table. I immediately replied, that was a "no brainer." The initials were from the church that we bought the altar from. Saint Mary Church...WRONG. The church we bought the altar from was Saints Peter and Paul in Trenton, N.J. OK, so I Googled the initials and the Catholic Church and the undeniable answer was coming back as Saint Mary, the Mother of God.

So how does an altar piece from Saints Peter and Paul, end up with the initial S and M? I turned to some booklets with the history of Saints Peter and Paul. The Church was established in 1896 and the first church building was completed in 1901. The building was constructed of brown stone and the altars were wood, stained with a rich mahogany color. Hmm...Does not match our altar.

SS Peter and Paul was a growing parish, and in 1927 a new church was built and blessed. The new Church was made of granite and was one of the most beautiful churches in the state. The main altar was constructed of white carrara marble imported from Italy. Great, the description of the altar matches what we have but still no information on the initials.

In 1970, changes were made at the direction of the Vatican Council II. One of the changes was modifications to the Sanctuary including an Altar of Sacrifice that would allow the priest to say Mass facing the congregation rather than facing the altar. Soooo, it was at this time that a new altar of sacrifice was added at Saints Peter and Paul. This is the altar that we are familiar with. And on the front are the initials S and M. These Latin letters stand for Sancta Maria, which means Holy Mary.



Well I was sort of right, at least the Mary part ... lol. You may also be interested to know that the altar has a special compartment accessible from the back that contains a relic of Saint Pius X.



God Moments

Pauline Gemberling interviewed by Carol Parowski

Pauline Gemberling is our parishioner who recently donated the stained glass windows that were installed in August. I asked her about her faith journey that brought her to this gift. She was raised on a farm in Mt. Pleasant Mills and is one of 12 children, six boys and six girls. She is one of three remaining sisters. Pauline remembers the days on the farm as being "happy as larks." They did not have many material goods, and made their own toys but the times were happy. The family always attended church and her mother insisted on Sunday school which was a mile walk away...and meant all 12 needed to be supplied with shoes for the journey. A particularly fond memory is that Mom always had an ax in hand as she escorted them to the lane. That's because Mom's next chore was to catch and prepare the chicken for Sunday dinner. Pauline has always admired that even with this large family and tight budget her parents donated a stained glass window to their church. She often thought of how her parents had found a way, with all those kids, to donate a stained glass window and it meant a lot to her.

Pauline married Bruce Gemberling in 1952. He was Catholic, but she was not. One time when a priest was visiting them, she cornered him and found out enough to decide to enter the



RCIA program and join the Catholic Church. She felt it was very important that a family worship together and share this important bond.

That was 1954 and she said she would never turn back and has been wholly satisfied and at peace with her decision. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2002, a few years before Bruce died in a traffic accident not far from their home.

Pauline's connection with her father's stained glass window was renewed a while ago when that church burned to the ground. When the congregation rebuilt, they replaced her father's window to be like the original. She and her sister were invited to the reopening. Pauline feels that the rebuilding of the church demonstrates how much power people have when they come together and stay together and help each other.

This is not the first stained glass window Pauline has donated to St. Pius X. She also provided the pelican window that is over the center door that we face as we exit the church. This one is in memory of her mother-in-law. Pauline felt the symbolism fit because Helena Gemberling raised her two boys alone and with little means after her husband, who was a bridge builder, fell to his death. The self-giving of this lady also impressed Pauline. Helena would take her children on the trolley to Sunbury every week to go to Mass; so the faith she expressed was another good example.

The process for these newest windows began about two years ago with Fr. Dan. Pauline really loves kids and wanted to celebrate children in the design. They decided that putting it on the baptismal font side would be appropriate. Fr. Pius was instrumental in continuing the process with Baut Studios in Swyersville, PA that could make this dream come true. Pauline had final approval of the design. Initially she had only thought of the central panel, but decided it would look best with the three windows we now enjoy. Her thoughts were on her parents at the time and decided that she could share this tradition of giving stained glass. "If they found a way, I can do it too."

The day she first saw the windows installed, she burst into tears. They were just what she wanted and they are so beautiful. She thoroughly enjoyed the blessing celebration with Bishop Gainer and her first thought was "This is the day that the Lord has made!"