

Prayer . . .



St. Elizabeth is a woman of prayer,
dedicated to the mass and the sacraments.

Centered in Christ, Elizabeth's prayer life is the vehicle through which God's graces flow in and through her to others. She is devoted to prayer and meditation, the mass and the sacraments. As a young bride, she awakens in the middle of the night and prays at the foot of her bed.

Her profession is what we today would call a Secular Franciscan, and serves as a unifying thread (or, in this case, cord). Because she is one with Jesus in prayer, she is able to live out the Holy Spirit's gifts of faithfulness, compassion, humility and charity.

Compassion ❖ Charity ❖ **Prayer** ❖ Humility ❖ Faithfulness

Prayer . . . Elizabeth is one with Jesus in prayer and meditation

The Eucharist and a rich life of prayer are the center of the heart of our patroness, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, just as they are at the heart of our parish for fifty years.



First Mass Day, I.B.E.W. Hall, July 8, 1962

Beginning in July 1962, Sunday Mass was celebrated in the Hall of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Pinelawn Road, just east of Route 110, now demolished) and also the Walt Whitman theater, once located in the Walt Whitman Mall on Rt.110. Daily mass was celebrated in the rectory on 215 Pidgeon Hill Road, in Melville. The new church was opened in 1965.



Kevin Conway, First Baptism at St. Elizabeth's, 1962



St. Elizabeth's Chapel in Rectory on Pidgeon Hill Road



Lenny Maniscalco, Rocky Caruso



Angelo Volpe, Robert Earley, Albert Schmitt, Andrew Rainone, Hank Bungart, John Wrobel



Nick Patrissi, John Michalisin, Lillian Sharkey, Mick Walsh, Ed Vasta



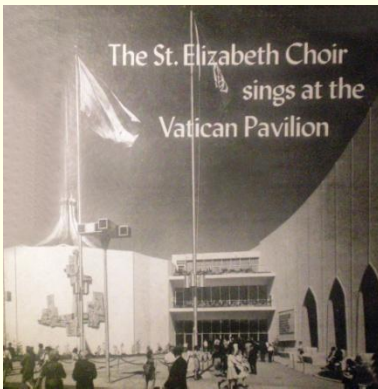
Peter Berna, Joe Arnone (chair), Barbara Relyea, Frank DiRocco, Grace Barile-Cruz, Kevin Meneilly, Brian Morelli



Throughout our fifty years there are two groups that have consistently been present at Sunday masses: the **ushers** and the **altar servers**. While the liturgy has now included other ministries, the ushers and servers have enjoyed a fifty-year history in our parish.



Some of our altar servers – Matthew Richardson, William Flood, Mitchell Mesecher, Thomas Flood, Thomas LaMagna, Alyssa LaMagna

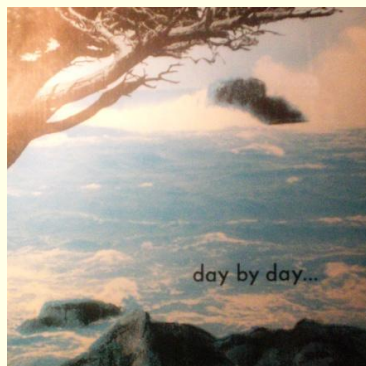


The **Adult Choir** began soon after the parish opened. Three years later, the Choir sang at the Vatican Pavilion in the World's Fair (1965) and produced a record album. Parishioners accompanied the choir on the organ, including Sandy Andreucci, Teddie Hoffmann, and Margaret Mary Novak. In years past, the adult choir has been invited to participate in several concerts, which include those for Habitat for Humanity, ecumenical concerts, the multi-choir Passion Concerts at St. Elizabeth as well as singing as part of the National Pastoral Musicians Choir Festival. Some parishioners have been in the Diocesan Choir and even sang at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.



Font Row: Anne Denehy, Mary Schaefer, Jean Stone, Florence Vassalo, Gloria Warren, Denise Moretti, Margaret Mesecher - Cantor, Erica Ruggero, Mary Farmer, Dan Curry - Cantor, Ann Krysl, Pat Colon, Lynn Moessner, Vicki Mastro, Una DeGeorge; Second row: Jesse Supe, Joe Krupowicz, Christopher Coletti - Musician, Virgil Barkauskas - Director, Mary Piskorowski, Grace Quinn, Jeannette Smith; Back row: Robert DelGaudio - Musician, Fred Chacalos, Sean Damm - Cantor, Robert Iandolo, Joshua Koppeis - Musician, Peter Zavatsky, John Servinskas, Alan Thompson - Musician, Carlos Eustaquio, Bill Staubitzer

During the 1970's there was a *guitar mass* scheduled. The **folk group** produced a record album, "Day By Day" with their favorites. Singers included Mike and Bob Lorello, Lee Alongi, Candi Scarcella and Greg Schizzano.



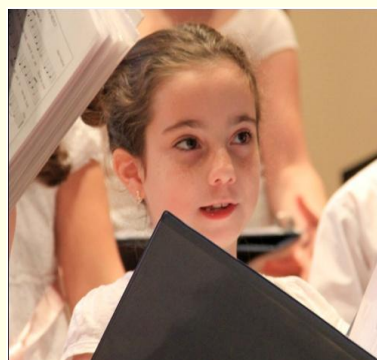


Front Row (L to R): Lois Szyptot, Eileen Conneely (chair), Chris Reilly;
 Second Row (L to R): Meg Vastola , Marguerite Melone, Cathy Cangemi,
 Denise Kleberg; Third Row: Paul Vastola, Michelle Reilly

In 1978 a new initiative began to involve younger families at Sunday Mass called the **Family Mass Committee**. Initially, the family mass was celebrated downstairs at 10:15. Eventually Ralph and Pauline DiCicco chaired the committee and later Chris Reilly (who was a teenage guitarist early on) assumed leadership. The families who attended sponsored events such as a ski trip, wedding anniversary mass and children’s activities. When the renovated church opened in 1991, all masses were then celebrated in the main church.



In 2002 the Family Mass Committee was restarted under the leadership of Doreen Boehme. Under its recommendation a **Children’s Choir** was formed in 2005 with Margaret Mesecher and Mary Schaefer as the first leaders. The Family Mass Committee was also chaired by Eileen Conneely and Marguerite Melone.





Anna Maria Cipriano, Bruce Geiser, Virginia Marchesiello, Deacon John Failla, Paula Conner (chair), Ed Vasta, Peggy White, John Toohey, Eileen Conneely

The **Liturgy Committee** traces its beginnings back to the late 1980's when "mass teams" were tried as a means to enhance liturgy. Early leaders included Deacon John Failla, Jeanne Victor and Mary Calabrese. Later Maureen Kubasky and Paula and Mike Conner joined the growing committee. In the 1990's Gail Mahabersing, Elizabeth Bedell and Jeanne Victor chaired the committee.

During this time Peggy White developed the current scheduling system for Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers. Now, in our Jubilee Year, there are 35 readers and over 100 Eucharistic ministers!

The ministries exercised by lay people at mass expanded in 1973 when lay people were permitted to read at Mass and distribute Holy Communion. The first **lectors** began early in 1973 and many of them became **Eucharistic ministers** later the same year.

Their assistance was welcomed at the nine weekend masses of the 1970's and 1980's (at one point there were as many as thirteen weekend masses!). The Precious Blood was distributed at masses beginning in the 1980's.



Front Row: Anna Maria Cipriano, Ann Marie Marchesiello, Carmela Barreca, Marian Mockrish, Nancy Provenzano, Pat Scharpf, Anne Braun, Phyllis Verdolino; Second Row: Dennis Marchesiello, James Petrizzi, Bob Mockrish, Catherine Satnick, Lisa Greene, Martha Screeney; Third Row: John Toohey, Theresa Curran, Chris Coronese, Eugenia Coté, Linda Lombardi, Marsha Berg, Rich Scharpf, Joan Caruso, Pat Kosubinsky, Msgr. Frank Schneider



Front Row: Enez Boozer, Patti Ann Olsen, Doris Morrison, Carol Kiesel, Mary Therese Geiser, Bernard Varrone; Second Row: Emerson Boozer, Mary Malerba, Sharon DeLorenzo, Paula Conner, Joanne Messina, Charles Kiesel, Andrea Frisenda, Bruce Geiser, Msgr. Frank Schneider; Third Row: Art Frisenda, Mike Conner, Peg Schroeder, Sheila Pio, Vince Butler, Pat Dillon, Joyce Furman, Tom Franco



Front Row: Deacon Joe Mercolino, Elizabeth Hardwick, Lillian Sharkey, Ed Vasta, Beverly Senholzi, Ignacio Meneses, Fran Mercolino, Anita Rosato, Judy Mastrangelo, Cathy Cangemi, Eleanora Ferrante, Mary Ann Oniewiski, Msgr. Frank Schneider
 Back Row: Lori Sarnataro, Gayle Brady, Bob Ahlstrom, Gloria Lambert, Marian Ambrosiano, Chris Reilly, Oneida Lillis, Eileen Conneely, George Richardson, Dawn Kelly, John Kelly

By the early 1990's there were six weekend masses, and within ten years we arrived at the current schedule of four masses. There were many groups and ministries that behind the scenes have helped enhance our celebration of the Eucharist.

From the beginning of our parish the Eucharist was enhanced by parishioners arranging flowers, and creating a prayerful environment. The Rosary Society coordinated these efforts for many years as the focus of their parish ministry.



Front Row: Msgr. Frank Schneider, Christa Els, Peggy White, Linda Cerbone, Annette Lucania, Theresa Ahlstrom; Second Row: Joan Pollack, Meg Vastola, Laura Morelli, Donna Arnone, Jeanne Victor, Midge Thompson, Doreen Boehme; Third Row: Joe Hoffman, Eileen Sullivan, Deacon John Failla, Lou Cerbone, Joseph Arnone, Joyce Furman, Alan Thompson, Paul Vastola, Jim Vorbach



Marta Scozzari, Phyllis Verdolino, Pat Tufo, Ed Vasta, Barbara DeNuzzo, Pat Delaney (Chair)



The **Plants and Flowers** were important to parishioners as an expression of their love for the celebration of the Sunday Mass. In 1970, Pat Catterson Magnan maintained plants and flowers until her retirement in 1988. Mary Schaeffer was also active during the 1980's.

At this time Pat Delaney and Marta Scozzari oversee the floral decorations in the Church and the Center. From these groups, a new ministry emerged after the renovated church opened called the **Environment Committee**. It was first chaired by Mary Calabrese.



Front Row): Phyllis Verdolino, Barbara DeNuzzo, Pat Tufo, Lillian Sharkey, Marta Scozzari, Pat Delaney; Second Row: Ed Vasta, Paula Conner, Carole Singhel, Frank Scozzari, Judy Franco, Tom Franco; Third Row: Mike Conner, Bruce Geiser, George Singhel, Mike Duffy, George Pepino



Within three years Ed Vasta took charge and the name changed to **Interior Design**. This group is guided by Catholic liturgical principles and works on the changing liturgical environment throughout the year.



Maria Perciavalle with a Sewing Ministry wall hanging



Judy Franco, Maria Perciavalle (chair), Peggy White



Baptismal Bib

In the 1970's a group of women sewed bandages for the missions and veterans hospitals and began creating the baptismal garments (bibs) for baptisms. In 1990 they organized under the name **Sewing Ministry** led by Bea Lullay. Their work includes costumes for Living Stations of the Cross, curtains and banners, and mending of altar cloths. Leaders have included Peggy White and Judy Franco.

Throughout our fifty years women have cleaned, starched and ironed the altar linens. First the Rosary Society took care of this and later, the **Altar Linen Ministry** began under the leadership of Pat Catterson Magnan and later, Florence Rooney and Carmella Barecca.



Peggy White, Judy Franco, Gloria Lambert, Jill Patrissi, Enez Boozer, Joyce Furman, Carmela Barrecca (chair)

During the first years of our parish, the Rosarians offered refreshments at various functions throughout the year. By the mid-1970's the Parish Council wanted to expand the occasions when this happened, including Sunday Mass. Lillian Sharkey began the **Hospitality Committee** which has continued up to the present day. Original volunteers included Marguerite Jones, Joanne Franz and Peg Vito.



Joanne Caruth, Lillian Sharkey, Ann Minot, Nancy Kelly



Front Row: Margot Mladinich, Joan Caruso, Anna Ceonzo, Rita Meere, Jeanette Daddona, Barbara DeNuzzo, Mary Inglima, Lillian Sharkey, Marguerite Jones, JoAnn Messina (chair), Joanne Tamburro; Second Row: Mary Meneilly, Theresa Wiggins, Carole Belluci, Jean Wylene, Joyce Furman, Audrey Gasser

Many more parishioners were needed to staff the Sunday Masses while Lillian and her committee were able to serve once a month. Twenty years ago parishioners made a plaque to honor Lillian for her service on this committee. Lillian continues to coordinate refreshments at special events, such as the Jubilee opening mass in November of 2011. Most recently JoAnn Messina has been Hospitality chair.



Edward Holzman, Mike Conner (chair)

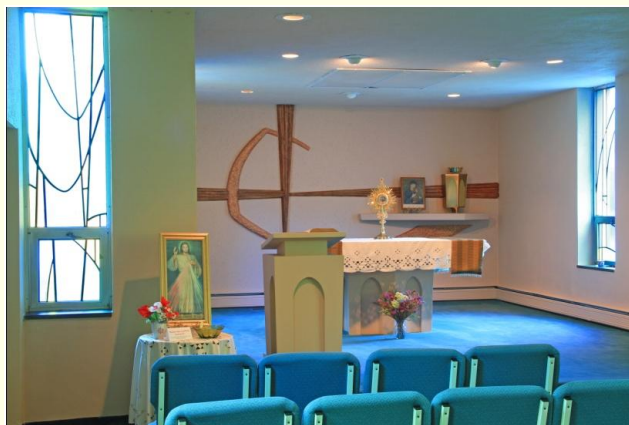
Over our fifty years, a variety of prayer groups and ministries have gathered parishioners for different types of prayers and devotions. In the later 1980's after a retreat for men, Jack Falcone and Mike Conner founded the **Men's Fellowship**. For almost twenty-five years parish men have met to pray over the Sunday readings and share faith.

In August of 1991 **Eucharistic Adoration** began in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel inside the church. Bishop Alfred Markiewicz celebrated an opening mass.



Eugenia Coté, Nancy Dunn (co-chair), Martha Screeney (co-chair), Joanne Durso, Una DeGeorge

Shortly thereafter, Sister Dymphna, whose group rented the Spiritual Life Center, suggested the former Convent Chapel for Eucharistic Adoration where it continues up to the present day. Early leaders were Claire Dryer, Jim Dickerson, John Picciano and Eugenia Coté.



Since the early 1990's the Spiritual Life Center has been the place for a variety of novenas, overseen by Eugenia Coté and Alan Thompson, including Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sacred Heart, and Divine Mercy.

The **Renew** program, scripture-based small group sharing, began in 1992 as part of the diocesan-wide small group sharing program. During the diocesan celebration of Jubilee 2000, **Small Christian Communities** in many parishes, including our own, experienced an increase in membership. Currently there are five groups active in the Spiritual Life Center and homes.



Marsha Berg, Christine Reilly (chair), Kay Gurello

Also, the **Family Rosary** began in 1997 under the leadership of Paul and Denise Pileggi and later, Mike Lillis. The group meets monthly as the children lead their families in the rosary to strengthen their prayer life.



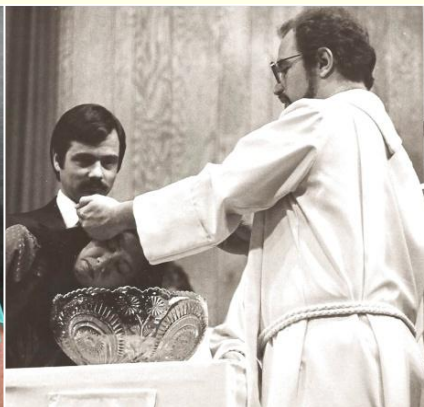
Charismatic Prayer: Gloria Lambert (chair), Richard de Bruin



Family Rosary



Virginia Marchesiello (chair), Cathy Cangemi



For fifty years, our parish has welcomed those who are thinking about becoming Catholic. By the time the church was renovated, the **RCIA Ministry** had been holding inquiry sessions and group discussions/catechesis. The church renovation highlighted adult baptism by giving the new baptismal font its prominent place by the Church entrance. The font was designed so that adults can be immersed at the Easter Vigil. Early catechists included Cathy Cangemi, Rich Horan, and Bob and Marian Mockrish. Virginia Marchesiello completed her third-year Pastoral Formation specialty in RCIA and currently chairs the committee.