

# The Arimathean

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In this month's issue you will find , and I urge you to read, Jennifer Haus's eloquent words describing why she and her family find St Joseph's such a very special place. Reading her piece set me to thinking about our church and our parish and I found myself asking a surprising question. Does God care about this place? The answer that I arrived at was even more astonishing to me than the question. I don't believe that God cares much more about this "place" than any other part of creation.

But I believe God cares desperately about what goes on in this "place". And that is what makes our parish "special". The fellowship, caring and cooperation within our parish, the determination we exhibit and the excitement we find in the steps (small and large) that we take to address need where we find it, the shared conviction that tolerance, patience and gentleness trump division, provocation and acrimony and our determination to maintain the building and improve the grounds so that both within and without parishioners and others can find sanctuary and the peace to remember, reflect and dream: these are among the many things that make St. Joseph's very special indeed. Taken together they comprise what I term the CASE FOR ST. JOE'S. It is an absolutely compelling case!

Last month over a pot-luck lunch we shared a stewardship dialogue which focused on a multi-year project to bring our parish to a self-sustaining situation. This effort will involve increased generosity, cost reduction, fundraising, increased rental income and growth. Among these generosity and growth will be key. Over the coming year I will write extensively about every aspect of this plan but for now I offer a thought about growth. Growth is not an end in itself. Instead it is a by-product of word and deed—mostly deed. Our message cannot be: come and fill our pews and help pay our bills. Such a message will surely fall on deaf ears. Our message, backed up by deeds, must be: Come and help us make a difference.

Rick Ewen  
Senior Warden



## What St. Joseph's Means to Me

By: Jennifer Haus

It is amazing how easily you can become something you never thought. For me that is "a Church goer". Back in the late 60's, when I was a baby, my parents lived in Elmsford, right around the corner from St. Joseph's and that is where they attended service on Sundays.

Interestingly enough – neither were raised in the Episcopal faith. My mother was Roman Catholic and my father Baptist. They had come together on becoming Episcopalians when they decided to adopt children (my brother and me). Back then it was easier if both parents were of the same religion and that religion was of the "middle of the road" variety.

So St. Joseph's was where I was baptized and attended Sunday school for the first 3-4 years of my life. Soon my parents moved to Chappaqua and as life got busier it became harder for them to get to church on a regular basis. We would attend St.

Joe's on holidays and once in a while visit a church or two that was closer, but never were we a regular church going family.

My mother and father would find their way back to St. Joseph's years later and try as they might to get me to join them I was always too busy and self focused to accommodate.

It would come to be that my mother and father would pass, I would remarry, Alie would be born and things would start to change not only in my life but also in my beliefs. Of course Alie would need to be baptized and of course it would be at St. Josephs. Never did it occur to me to start worshipping somewhere new, closer, more convenient. But still, as busy new parents it was hard to come every Sunday, harder still to become involved. Then it happened, the event that opened my eyes and my heart not only to God and worship, but to importance of

St. Joseph's in my life.

In the summer of 1999 I was due to deliver another baby, a girl. Everything was normal, the pregnancy without incidence. Unfortunately her delivery would prove challenging and as a result when she was finally born she was very sick and needed to be taken away to a hospital in New Haven CT where she could be treated.

The nurse came to me before they took her and asked if I would like the hospital Pastor to baptize her. The very first thing that came to my mind and out of my mouth was "Why on earth would I want that? I have my own church and my own Pastor." I remember being almost mad at the suggestion and this surprised me – I have a church? I have a Pastor? Since when? St. Joseph's was so threaded through my life it was the first and only option I thought of, when thinking and planning and deciding was almost impossible.

**Monday,  
February 8th**

Vestry Meeting  
7 pm

## Do You Know Zibby?

Even if you have not met Zbigniew Kuna (Zibby) you have seen his work at St. Joe's. Zibby is our Sexton, arriving early on Monday mornings, we fill Zibby's one day a week here full!

Zibby is a wonderful craftsman. At times his skills have saved us money, by not having to call a plumber for example – when he has fixed a leaky sink. He has painted the Rectors office, cut and stacked wood, removes trash and recycles, changed light bulbs in the chapel on tall ladders, put up Christmas trees, taken down Christmas trees, helped decorate and helped pack up decorations – without ever complaining.

I asked Zibby to answer some questions that may help you to

get to know him a little better:

- 1. How long have you been working at St. Joe's?** "I have been working at St. Joe's for over two years."
- 2. Where do you live?** "I live in Yonkers."
- 3. Are you married?** "Yes, I am married for 29 years to my wife Maria."
- 4. Do you have children?** "Yes, I have two sons, my oldest son has graduated from college in 2007 and is currently working as an architect in the city. My younger son is studying mechanical engineering at Manhattan College."
- 5. Where do you work during the rest of the week?** "During the rest of the week I work as a maintenance worker at an apartment building tower in Manhattan."
- 6. What is your favorite holiday?** "My favorite holiday is Christmas because I get to spend time with my wife and family and enjoy great homemade food."
- 7. What is your favorite food?** "Polish traditional cuisine is my favorite because I lived in Poland for over forty years. There are many dishes I enjoy and Pierogie is one of them."
- 8. Do you have any hobbies?** "My hobby is reading. I have read a lot of books growing up in Poland. Recently I spent time reading news and articles on the Internet."
- 9. Do you know how much you are appreciated at St. Joe's?** "I am happy to know that my work at St. Joe's is appreciated. I am glad to be a part of this wonderful parish."

## Save the Dates!

- Every Monday in February – Coordinating Committee Meeting 6pm
- Vestry Meeting – February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Women's Workshop on Tuesdays at 10am – bring a bag lunch.
- Sandwich Brigade on Wednesdays, February 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am
- Holy Eucharist will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.
- Morning Prayer, led by a St. Joseph Lay Minister will be scheduled on the alternating Sundays.

## What St. Joe's means to me, cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

Over the next four days the Church (*my Church*) took over. When it became clear that Savannah would not live very long we quickly called the Church office to find out how to get her baptized. Addie, I was told, was on vacation and filling in for her was Father Godley from St. Barnabas, I called him and two hours later he was sitting at the hospital (which was over an hour away from Ardsley) with the baby. I did not know then but do know now – had Addie been there she may not have been able to drive the long distance to CT - how gracefully things work out.

Without me doing anything – without me lifting a finger or picking up the phone or making a single

arrangement – her funeral was planned and all of the small details taken care of by congregants from St. Joseph's. I felt not only the comfort of God with me at that time but also the comfort of *my Church* and it made me realize, that even though most of the people attending St. Joe's at that time did not know me, they loved and cared about me and my family and were willing to help us through our trouble. This was truly an epiphany for me having never really believed in the power or need of going or belonging to church.

As the years passed since then, through the love and dedication of my extended St. Joe's family, and truly feeling the hand of

God in my life I have now become "A Church Goer". I give as much time as I can in as many ways as I can to St. Joseph's. Early on as my attendance and commitment was increasing I used to think it was out of a sense of obligation because my daughter, mom and dad were buried there – but in these last few years I know that it is really about worshipping God, a sense of belonging and my Church family. I am very glad that my children are able to experience this positive commitment in their lives.

When I walk into Church each Sunday I feel not only the grace of God upon me but also sense of being at home and at peace.

### ***Mondays in February***

Coordinating Committee 6 pm

## Altar Flowers

- Feb. 7 by Cynthia A. Billings in loving memory of Raymond and Virginia Billings
- by Edmund and Viviana Phelps in loving memory of Edmund S. Phelps and Florence Stone Phelps
- Feb. 14 by Katie Saliba and Warren Stramiello in loving memory of Alicia Anne Stramiello
- Lent February 17 – March 27



## Prayer List

Alla Borzova's father **Alexander**, Patty Young's friend **Oliver** Simco, **Debbie** Gillett-Hermansen, **Mike** Rohl, Billie-Ann Grant's friend **Brenda** Letford, Louis Grant's father **Lloyd**, **The Carpenter's Kids**, Paige Lockwood's friend **Jack** Demers, **Connie** Barrett, Charles White's brother **Sydney** and niece **Sheila**, Donna Rosengren's niece **Marcy** Malone, **Zach** Barnaby, Mary-Carol Miller's friends **Jane** Dunne & **Carol** Vanecek, Jennifer Larrow's friend **Elizabeth** Graves, Barbara Brown's friend **Dottie** Cunningham, Althea Serrant's daughter **Grace** Anderson-Smith, Marion Hellthaler's Friends **Marianne** Berglund & **Trish** Abruzzese, Warren Stramiello's Grandmother **Shirley** Wurst.



## Did You Know?

The Arimathean is available in E Mail form?! If you would like to receive future issues in your E Mail box instead of your Mailbox, please fill out the form below and mail it to St. Joe's. Please feel free to jot down suggestions, ideas for articles, or things you would like to see in the Arimathean. IF you would prefer not to receive future issues in paper form or email form – please fill out the form and check 'cancel'.

Cut this section out and mail to: St. Joseph of Arimathea,  
2172 Saw Mill River Road, White Plains NY 10607  
Attn: Patty Young (please print clearly)

YES! I \_\_\_\_\_ would like to receive future issues of the Arimathean in my *email box* instead of my mailbox.  
My current email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to read about:  
\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to suggest/comment:  
\_\_\_\_\_

No thank you, I would like to stop receiving future issues of the Arimathean.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cancel

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Culinary Corner

I love soup! There is something about having a warm mug of soup that makes even the coldest winter nights warm and cozy.

This is by far the easiest version of Clam Chowder I've ever made. The hardest thing was finding where the grocery store stocked the cans of baby clams! After having the store manager himself help me in my quest to find them (HE also had to ask!) – if I may suggest looking first in the area your store has canned tuna and *not* by the clam sauces where the manager and I first stood and looked at.

Prep time: 15 min. Cook Time: 25 min. Serves: 4 mugs of soup

### Easy Clam Chowder!

#### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 slices of thick cut bacon, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 ribs celery with greens, chopped
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons hot sauce – optional
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 pint half and half
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup hash brown style raw shredded potatoes from frozen food section (or grate a fresh potato if time allows it does make a difference)
- 2 cans whole baby clams and their juice

#### Directions

In a medium pot over medium high heat melt butter. Add bacon and onions, celery and thyme sprigs. Season with salt, pepper (and hot sauce if you'd like) and cook 5 minutes. Add flour and cook a minute more.

Add half and half and stock and bring to a bubble, then stir in potatoes and clams. Bring soup back to a boil and reduce heat, simmer 15 minutes, until potatoes are cooked and soup has thickened to coat the back of a spoon.

Remove the thyme sprigs. The thyme leaves will have fallen off into the soup. Stir and adjust seasonings to your taste. Pour into mugs. Enjoy!

## Interfaith Caring Community

By Barbara Brown  
(This will be a 'monthly' article talking of the work Interfaith does and events scheduled)

In 1983 Father Bob Godley of Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church in Ardsley commissioned the Judeo-Christian faith community of Ardsley-Greenburgh to create a caring community to help those less fortunate than ourselves who were not being helped by government because of lack of funding.

He reasoned that we all need to be a caring arm of the one God who loves all his children, and as a faith community we need to know each other, love each other, care for each other and communicate with each other.

Since then the Inter-

faith Caring Community of Greenburgh has grown to twelve churches and synagogues from Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings-on-Hudson and Pleasantville. Membership in Interfaith is also open to any individual whether affiliated or unaffiliated with any house of worship. Institutions pay dues, individuals do not.

One of the groups that we are looking to help right now is Westhab. We, here at St. Joe's do our bit for them by providing bag lunches and a holiday party each year. Interfaith has now committed to helping by creating Welcome Packages of basic household supplies for people leaving the Coachman facility

and moving into scattered site housing. Alan Shapiro (the Interfaith President) has committed to create 50 such packages beginning in the next month or two, with each member organization contributing part of the needed supplies. We have been asked to provide cleaning supplies which can be any of this list:

Dishwashing liquid, Lysol, Fantastic, Soft Scrub, Air fresheners, Sponges, Dish Towels, So the next time you get your groceries, just add one extra cleaning supply to give to Westhab. More next month on the various activities that Interfaith is involved in, and how we can help be "Our Brothers Keeper".

## Christingle Thank You!

Once again St. Joseph's active parish members reached into their hearts and pockets to help those in need. The gifts gathered during the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Christingle Celebration from diapers, to formula, tiny socks and hats, to warm

winter outfits – are ALL being used to keep some of the homeless babies at Westhab warm and well fed.

The Staff that came to gather the gifts, were surprised and delighted by the generosity – assuming Christingle last year

was a nice gesture, but not expecting it to happen again. Don't you love when that happens? You can just stand back, watch and smile.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

**ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA**

2172 Saw Mill River Road  
White Plains, New York 10607

(February 2010)

**What wisdom can you find that  
is greater than kindness?  
- Jean Jacques Rousseau**

Rick Ewen, Sr. Warden

Chris Larrow, Junior Warden

Vestry: Ben Alexander, Suzette Atkins, Clive Brown, Catherine Gmoser, Jennifer Haus,  
Donna Rosengren, Katie Saliba, Althea Serrant,  
Donna Rosengren, Treasurer \* Patty Young, Clerk

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Catherine Gmoser, Layout

Grady Jensen, Historian

## Glad Tidings!

2/1 Arthur Hackett  
2/2 Nicholas Ewen  
2/9 Cynthia Billings  
2/9 Robert Pentz  
2/11 Kevin Caley  
2/13 Jane Sheridan  
2/16 Tim Caley  
Louis Grant  
2/17 Naomi Fortune  
2/20 Adam Wisniewski-Jensen  
2/23 Alex Dmitriev

