

Parishioner Profiles



Dorothy and Bill Durkin met at Stratford High School, and married in 1970 in Holy Name Church after he served 4 years in the Air Force, including two tours in Thailand during the Vietnam War. Their three children attended Holy Name School and Notre Dame High School. The oldest, Bill Jr. attended U Mass where he earned All American Honors playing football, and is now Offensive Line coach at Liberty University in Virginia. Their daughter, Cynthia, attended the UConn School of Nursing and now lives in Boston where she works in the medical device field. Daniel, their youngest, earned a degree in chemistry and All-American academic honors at Wesleyan University, where he played football. Daniel is now working at Jackson Labs in CT. Dorothy and Bill have four grandchildren.



Holy Name is in Dorothy's bones. Her grandfather was an original Trustee.

When the new church opened in 1941, her father, Method Grega, along with his six siblings donated \$2,500 (about \$55,000 in today's dollars) for a stained glass window to honor her grandparents. Born in 1948, Dorothy was baptized in Holy when she was 3 ½ weeks old. She was in the first 4th grade class when Holy Name School opened and was a member of its first graduating class. At school, she also met her life-long friend Caren Silhavey.

Bill's parents also were Holy Name parishioners before they moved to Shelton. For 42 years, Bill worked as a Lineman for the United Illuminating Company, retiring as an Electric System Operator.

"Holy Name means everything to me," Dorothy said. "It's the source of my spiritual life." She is a Eucharistic Minister, usher, sang in the choir, and served as a president and vice president of the Ladies Guild, oplatky sales chairperson, annual bake sale, and church cleaning crew. Bill is an usher, former church Trustee, past president of the Men's Society, a bingo caller, a past co-chair of parish picnics.



Caren and Roger Silhavey married in July, 1972. They met as next door neighbors. He was an electronic technician for Xerox after serving 4 years in the US Navy including 1 year in Viet Nam. She is an RN and graduated from Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing, University of Bridgeport, and Sacred Heart university. She worked as a staff nurse and Nurse Educator at Bridgeport Hospital and is currently a Co-coordinator in the Parish Nurse program a Holy Name. They have two sons: Christopher, who is Technology Consultant with Accenture and the Holy Name Finance Board Chair, and Jonathan, a Safety Director with the LIRR who lives on Long Island with his wife. The boys graduated from Holy Name School and served as altar boys, lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers.

Caren is a Holy Name "blue blood". Her grandparents, John and Mary Melnicsak, were church founders and donated one of the large stained-glass windows. Her parents, Mary and Edward Jablonski were long time parishioners. For 14 years, Caren was the recording Secretary for our Parish Council. She was a Vice president of the Home School Association, a Den Mother for Cub Scouts and is a Reader. Roger helped with Home School events as well as the Cub and Boy Scout troops.

Caren is also a lifelong friend of Dorothy Durkin. They both were in the first graduating class of Holy Name School, and usually walked side by side in church processions. They both sang in the choir. For school functions, Caren played the piano accompanied by Dorothy on the accordion.