

Parishioner Profiles



Kathie and Ray Barry live on Mary Avenue, across from Holy Name Church. “It’s reassuring to step out our front door and see the church, rectory and parish center where a good part of our life was lived,” Kathie said. “Best neighbors ever!”

“Rain or shine,” they walk to church from the only house they ever owned. Once, on a snowy day, Father Dora held starting mass “because the Barry’s had not yet arrived.”

Ray was baptized in Holy Name in 1943. He grew up in Stratford and in 1961, he graduated from Stratford High School where he played basketball and baseball. He earned a BA from St. Bonaventure University and a Master’s Degree from Fairfield University. For 8 years, he taught at Central Catholic High School in Norwalk, and also was the Athletic Director as well as boys basketball and

baseball coach. For 30 years, he taught Social Studies at Norwalk High where he again served as Athletic Director, and coached boys basketball and girls softball. A fellow Athletic Director called Ray, the “legendary softball and basketball coach. One of the best human beings I ever met.”

Kathie hails from Lancaster, N.Y. (outside Buffalo) where she attended St. Mary’s High School. She received a BS in Elementary Education from Buffalo State University. Married in St. Mary’s Church, Kathie and Ray will celebrate their 56th anniversary this weekend (September 9th).

After completing his military service at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, they returned to Stratford in 1968 and started their family. They have three children, two living in Milford and the third in Hingham, MA and eight grandchildren. After raising her kids, Kathie taught at Stratford Academy, Johnson House, in Stratford for 16 years. She taught CCD at Holy Name for a decade.

“During the pandemic, Ray suffered a heart attack,” Kathie said. “We thank God that he was given a second chance at life and is fine now. The heart attack strengthened our love for God. We are so grateful for His blessings.”

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night (as the unofficial tribute to postal workers goes) kept **George Edward Andriso** from his appointed rounds. Whether as a 39-year U.S. Postal Service Clerk, caregiver for his mom, or greeter and usher at Holy Name, George shows up.

George worked the night shift for 9 years at the Postal Service. Retiring in 2011 from the USPS, George had accumulated nearly 3,000 hours of unused sick time. After graduating from Stratford High in 1970, George floated, and tried college for a couple of year, left and joined the Marines where in served as an Air Traffic Controller, ensuing the safety of traveling Marines. Years later, he returned to college and, at 41 years old earned his degree in U.S. History from Sacred Heart University.



While he received First Communion and Confirmation at Holy Name, George had an “on again, off again” relation with the Church. “Years ago, I didn’t go,” George said. When his mom passed, he returned fulltime. “I felt I was missing something. Now I’m not going like when I was a kid and my parents made me Now I’m going because I want to.” In 2022, George received the St. Augustine Medal, which “came as a complete surprise”.