

Parishioner Profiles



Sharlee and Joe Dimenno have quietly and consistently served family, our church and our community.

Joe was born in Dover, N.J., and his family moved to Stratford in 1944. They joined Holy Name where Joe made his first Communion and Confirmation. Sharlee's family left Bridgeport in 1954, came to Stratford and became Holy Name parishioners. While at Lauralton Hall, Sharlee joined the Holy Name Solidarity and C.Y.O.

Joe went to UCONN Pharmacy School and became a licensed pharmacist. In 1960, he became a science teacher at Stratford High School. After 35 years at Stratford High, he became an adjunct Biology professor at Sacred Heart University for 12 years. Graduating from Albertus Magnus College, Sharlee taught Biology at Harding High School.

They met while teaching and married at Holy Name in 1978. They have a daughter, Joanne, and 2 granddaughters, Megan and Brienne. They cared for their parents for years, living with and supporting their mothers. On their passing, as a tribute to their mothers' great love of the Rosary, and to honor the growing Hispanic community in our Parish, Sharlee and Joe created with their own funds and time, the Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, completing it only days before the feast day in 2009.

Sharlee has served as a Eucharistic Minister, volunteer Science teacher, scout leader for the Marian Medal Group, chairperson of the Catholicism committee, set-up the Parish Resource Center, was a member of our Quilters, and worked on our recent Synodality team. From 1970 up until Covid, Joe served as an usher. He has sung in the choir, been a funeral altar server and participated in the Mens' Society. For 8 years, he also worked as a part-time custodian for the church. Together, they have served as sacristans, C.Y.O. leaders, and worked on committees for the Church Tour, Faith Fair, parish picnics, and the Renewal committee.

For 9 years, Sharlee was a library volunteer in Stratford Schools. Joe served several terms on the Stratford Conservation Commission and was elected to the Stratford Board of Education where he served as committee chairman for the planning and construction of Victoria Soto School.

Joan Wasilewski, a Holy Name parishioner since 1955 when she moved from Bridgeport to Stratford, painted many of the statues in our church. She is shown to the right with the St. Joseph statue she painted. The lifelike details take great skill. In her yard, she has a statue of St. Francis, which she gave to her late husband as a gift. He loved animals and birds were known to have landed on his hand.



Joan has four children, who all graduated from Holy Name of Jesus School (where she ran the hot lunch program), five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. She loved working with Father Tomis, who she supported when he went to Peru, and Monsignor Dora. She is in our Ladies Guild.

For 27 years, she worked at Bradlee's in Stratford.

At 92 years old, she is independent, drives, and is devoted to the Blessed Mother.