

Parishioner Profiles



"I love my church and Holy Name of Jesus will always be an important part of my life," **Dolores Mihalik** said. She received all of her sacraments, from baptism through confirmation, at Holy Name. She attended catechism classes, was a member of the Children's Choir, the Children of Mary and the C.Y.O.

When you come to 10'o clock mass, Dolores will greet you with a smile. She has taken orders and baked for our December Bake Sale for the last 12 years. She is in our Ladies Guild, Martha's Ministry (which keeps our church clean), is a money counter, serves at the Lord's Kitchen, and marched in the recent Memorial Day parade. For more than a decade, she volunteered at the Thomas Merton Center. "I like to get involved with the church," Dolores said.

At Warnaco for 36 years in Stratford, Dolores rose from File Clerk to Supervisor in the Customer Service Department. She put in 15 years (part-time) at ShopRite. Now retired, she enjoys summers, walks along the beach, and Word Search Books.

"God has been good to me," she said. "He has kept me here and I feel I have a purpose."

John and Kathy Donnelly celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last year, have three married sons, and seven grandchildren (ages 10 to 25).

For over 35 years, they have served the Faith Communities of St. Joseph Parish, Brookfield; St. Pius X Parish, Fairfield; St. James and now Holy Name of Jesus in Stratford. Kathy was a teacher at St. James School for six years before becoming the Parish Director of Faith Formation in the late 1980's. During this time, John began at St. James as the Youth and Young Adult Minister and within a few years, became the Parish Business Manager. The Donnelly's service in Parish Ministry grew and expanded to Brookfield in 1998, then to Fairfield in 2002. Kathy served as Pastoral Assistant, and John as the Parish Business Manager. They retired several years ago.



John and Kathy are grateful to God for their years of working together in Parish Ministry. They have served as Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, coordinated Parish picnics and celebrations, facilitated prayer experiences, and collaborated with clergy. Kathy noted, "We thoroughly enjoyed traveling together each day, eating lunch together, working together on projects, interacting with faithful parishioners, and supporting the wonderful priests and incredible pastors with whom we worked."

"Perhaps the most impactful blessings on our marriage, family life and faith, we received as a couple, was our early work with a parish pre-baptism program," John said. "This ministry invited us to share our marriage, family life and faith with other young couples," John added. With three little boys, it was challenging to make the time to participate. "We experienced first-hand that blessings abound when we give of ourselves and share our faith: we truly receive so much more in return and oftentimes in ways never imagined," Kathy added.

The Donnelly's trust that God is always with them and are thankful that God has always seen them through life's challenges. "We are grateful for God's blessing of Holy Name in our retirement years," Kathy said. "It's a joy to worship here. We have been welcomed with open arms."