

# Parishioner Profiles



**Mary Joan and Richard Marus** are in a bocce ball league. “I’m good,” Mary Joan said competitively. Richard plays pickleball. She will be 90 in September and he’ll turn 92 in November. They have been married 64 years.

Mary Joan and Richard, both the youngest of six children, were born of Slovak parents and attended Slovak churches in Bridgeport. When they moved to Stratford in 1962, their first experience with Holy Name was Father Pisarchik, the pastor, telling them they were mispronouncing their own last name. In spite of that encounter, they decided to give our church a try “to worship in the town where they lived”. It’s worked out.

Their two daughters and two sons attended Holy Name School. She was a Lunch Mother, Secretary of Home Schooling, Brownie Scout Leader, Ladies Guild Secretary, a choir member, worked on Tag Sales, and she wraps cakes for our annual bake sale. After raising her children, Mary Joan returned to nursing and became the Infection Control Coordinator at a nursing home.

An accountant by trade, Richard served as the Town of Stratford’s Treasurer for several years. At Holy Name, he also took time from his busy schedule to water plants. They both worked on the Synod. After retiring, they traveled. They slept on the deck of a sailboat and looked at the stars cruising the Caribbean, took a train across Canada, visited Greece, Israel, Poland, Italy, the Scandinavian countries, Alaska. They have taken cruises with the children and four grandkids.

Their faith has always been important to them. Mary Joan prays by our Faith’s seasons



*Nicole, Penny, Mia  
and Pablo Pomales*

As their daughters grew, **Nicol and Pablo Pomales** had a decision to make: spiritually, how did they want to proceed with their lives?

God had always been in their lives. Nicol had a long lineage at Holy Name. Her grandfather, Lawrence Burns, was a Reader. Her children were baptized here and her sister was married here. Pablo’s aunt and grandma were strong believers. But how involved should they be? “Nicol was the leader,” Pablo said. “We decided our church is important to us and we would take it seriously.”

Both of their daughters attend Faith Formation at Holy Name. Penny, 6 years old, and Mia, 9, attend Johnson House and are completing the Sterling House Summer Camp program. “Church is fun,” Mia said, “I love CCD.” Penny loves “the picture of Jesus in our Parish Center best.” She should. She drew it

They worked on our 100 Anniversary Celebration and Gathering on the Lawn. At a recent Lord’s Kitchen, Pablo was grilling outside when the skies opened. Volunteers yelled for him to get out of the rain. Soaking wet, Pablo stood his ground and said, “The poor got to be fed.” Pablo is an independent contractor whose trade is carpentry, and Nicol works at Cooper Surgical in Trumbull.

“We’re just getting started at Holy Name,” Pablo said with a smile.