

NOTRE DAME A WELCOMING PARISH

Welcome Team is Established

Recently, Notre Dame Parish established a team of parishioners with "Big Smiles" to welcome everyone into our church.

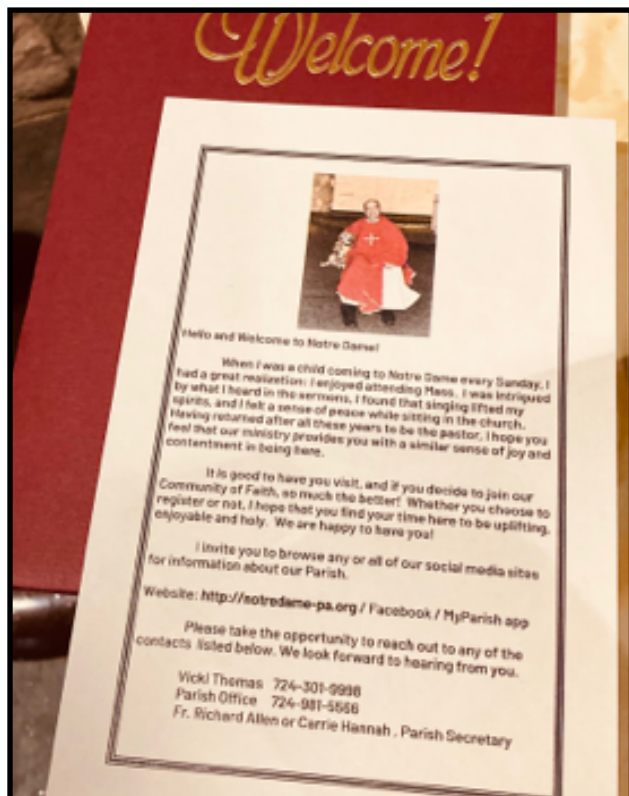
Some Notre Dame attendees are just beginning to feel comfortable since COVID, while others are new or visiting from other parishes.

Whatever the case, we are so happy to see you. It is wonderful to be maskless and see so many smiling faces.

The Team has put together Welcome Packets for anyone interested in what our church can provide. If you know someone who may be interested in joining our parish or they just need an update on what our church can do for them, please reach out to team leader Vicki Thomas (724) 301-9998, or someone on the team who will be in the gathering space before and after Mass.

We would love to hear from you. We are One Church and One Family in Christ!

Welcome Home Church Family



Welcome Children of God

Two Notre Dame families recently celebrated the Baptisms of their children at Notre Dame. Above, Father Allen is with Cameron and Alexandra Linton and their daughter Sophie Marie. At right, Deacon Frank Hannah stands with Leah and Kenn Lapushan and their son Kenneth John II.



Notre Dame to host First Annual "Faithful to the Finish" fundraiser in May



Notre Dame Parish will be sponsoring a 5K Race and 1-Mile Walk at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 7 at Linden Pointe, 3580 Innovation Way in Hermitage.

The First Annual "Faithful to the Finish" outing will benefit the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell.

Entry fee is \$25 for an

in-person 5K run or 1-mile walk, or a virtual 5K or virtual 1-mile walk.

Additional monetary donations for Prince of Peace Center will be accepted as well.

Shirts are guaranteed to all runners pre-registered by April 15, 2022.

Registration and payment can only be made online at <http://smileymiles.com/>.

Race Day packet pick-up will be at Linden Pointe beginning at 9 a.m.

Awards will be provided for men's and women's overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers as well as age-group awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers

in the following age groups: 0-13, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 and older.

Please join us for snacks and fellowship following the race.

If anyone would like to donate snack items, please call Jessica Logue at (724) 977-0750 or Michelle Becker at (724) 699-5891.

Proceeds from the race will be used by Prince of Peace Center to provide services to strengthen families, build community, and reduce poverty in the Mercer County area

Notre Dame Parish has been a strong supporter of POPC since its founding nearly 40 years ago.



Older Wiser Loveable Seniors (OWLS): Notre Dame's OWLS group got together March 20 for the first time in a couple years for fellowship and a delicious pot luck meal. More than 35 parishioners attended. The next OWLS pot luck will be May 15 after the 11 a.m. Mass in the Multi-Purpose Room. All are welcome!

Notre Dame Native Sons to Celebrate 25 years in the Priesthood

On April 25, Fathers Richard Allen and Michael DeMartinis will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of their ordination as priests of the Erie Catholic Diocese. Father Allen, pastor of Notre Dame, and Father DeMartinis, who is a teacher and theater arts director in Erie, were ordained on April 25, 1997 by Erie Bishop Donald Trautman. Both priests grew up in the Shenango Valley and were members of Notre Dame Parish. An anniversary celebration for Father Allen will take place at the 11 a.m. Mass on April 24 followed by a reception in the Multi-Purpose Room.



ND Parishioners Take Part in Churchwide Listening Sessions

In recent months, Notre Dame Parish took part in the Synod process (a process of journeying together and listening to each other in dialogue, prayer, and discernment). As directed by the Pope, and facilitated by the Diocese of Erie, parishioners were given the opportunity to participate in a listening session and be heard.

Numerous parishioners participated in the sessions where we listened to each other and discussed the topic **Journeying Together**. This was an opportunity for our faithful to express their concerns, hopes, and ideas about our Catholic Church and how we can better live the gospel message.

There were several themes that surfaced from our gatherings. Some were questions, concerns, and desires relating to our Bishop and how eager the members are to know him better and the desire to feel that we are *all in this together*.

Another theme was centered on our priests and how they are stretched to the max, and it is our responsibility to step up and foster involvement in our church and community. We are all eager to understand why we have such a shortage of men desiring to join the priesthood.

And still another theme revolved around our parish life and how we need and want to change and invigorate our members. Many are eager to learn more about the Catholic faith, to study the bible and its teachings, and to get more people involved in our parish life.

Quite possibly the most challenging of themes was that of engaging our youth and igniting the Catholic spirit within them. Our youth of today will become our leaders and decision-makers but if they are not here among us in church, how will they be able to lead us. Although this was not a time for "answers," it was great to see the desires of our

parishioners to build a community of faithful members eager to serve God, serve one another, and be present and inviting to all in our community.

We invite every one to pray for our church, our Bishop and our priests, and experience the Sacraments as a community of believers. Don't be a stranger! Come back to church not just in the pew on Sundays, but become an active member of Notre Dame Parish; get involved in the liturgy; join a committee or group that interests you; greet your neighbors in church and in our community; lend a helping hand when and where you see the need.

We are excited to meet you or get reacquainted with you. Do you have questions? Do you want to know who to contact? Check out the new information area in the church vestibule.

There are a lot of things happening at Notre Dame and we need you!



Strike Out Poverty: Members of the Notre Dame Parish Music Ministry fielded four teams in support of the Prince of Peace Center's annual Bowlathon fundraiser to "Strike Out Poverty." The Bowlathon took place March 20 at Thornton Hall in Sharon.

Notre Dame Parish Directory

Very Rev. Richard Allen, E.V.,
Pastor
Joseph Ranelli, Director of
Religious Education
Kathy Higgins, Director of
Adult Education
Gretchen Wagner, Liturgy/
Music Coordinator
Carrie Hannah, Secretary
Mary Lou Hornyak, Religious
Ed. Secretary
Ann Miller, Business Manager
Parish Office: 724-981-5566

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2022

Palm Sunday Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9 and 8 and
11 a.m. Sunday, April 10

Holy Thursday: Morning Prayer, 9:30 a.m.; Mass of the
Lord’s Supper, 6:30 p.m. April 14.

Good Friday: Passion of the Lord, 2 p.m.; Living Stations,
8:30 p.m., April 15.

Holy Saturday: Blessing of the Food, 1 p.m.
The Great Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m., April 16.

Easter Sunday Masses: 8 and 11 a.m, April 17.



Church of Notre Dame
2325 Highland Road
Hermitage, PA 16148

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