

The Light of Saint Michael's-on-the-Heights

Oct/Nov 2013

October Was Very Busy

The month of October was very busy at St. Michael's - 4 Baptisms, the Bishop's Visit including the blessing of the stained glass windows and the refurbished Rose Window.



On Sunday, October 20, 2013, The Right Reverend Douglas J. Fisher, Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts made his first visit to St. Michael's, and we put him to work!

With the assistance of Reverend Daniel Strong, the bishop baptized three infants - Dominic John Casson, the son of Megan Dunbar and the grandson of Betsy and Mike Dunbar.

and

Dylan Joseph Lucier and Tyler James Lucier, the twin sons of Yvonne and Nathan Lucier and the grandsons of Cecile Collier.



During the service, the bishop also blessed all the "new" stained glass windows installed since Bishop Scruton's last visit and blessing of windows present at that time.

When the service was over, the bishop and members of the Dill family went upstairs to bless the refurbished Rose Window.

After spending time at the reception in Tatro Hall, the bishop met with the members of the Vestry for about an hour to discuss our search for a new rector and where we see St. Michael's future. It was a very good discussion, and the bishop wanted us to know that we were in his prayers.

Before he left, he also went to visit Ivy Skerry at her home.

All in all, it was a very productive day.

News from the Stewardship Ministry Team

Thanks be to God! This is the traditional time when we give thanks with family and friends for all of our blessings. This is also a time of year when we look back and see what we have done, what we should have done and start planning for another year.

When we look back on this year for stewardship, we accomplished some things well - the plant swap, missed a few others - sharing our harvest, tried some new things - scarecrow competition at the St. Michael's barbeque, a children sponsored reading for the Heifer Project, and are in the process of visiting our parishioners. Most people this year seem happy with just a phone call, and I and others on the team, have had some good conversations about what is good at St. Michael's and why this church and congregation are important to you.

One outreach activity which has been successful, but was quite easy to do, was collecting empty prescription medication bottles. We collected well over 300 containers which I dropped off at the Greenwood Street clinic. They are one of the free medical clinics in Worcester. They operate on a Wednesday night, and the evening I visited, they had about 30 people waiting to be seen. The containers are used and shared between all the clinics to provide free or reduced cost medications to patients. Information can be found about them at GreenwoodStMed@aol.com, and they meet at the Bethlehem Covenant church located at 46 Greenwood Street Worcester, MA 01607. Their mission is:

To improve the health and well-being of people in need by providing quality healthcare in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

I am sure we can continue to collect medication containers - it is an easy outreach activity.

Our pledge drive continues, and hopefully you are seriously and prayerfully considering increasing your pledge this year. Those of you who have been in church over the last few weeks have listened to the reflections on giving, and the meaning of money in our lives, and in our relationship to God and the church. (See pages 5-8 for reprints of the handouts) Tithing has been mentioned in several of the tracts - giving 10% of what we have to God. This is a frightening topic for many of us, and we have been exploring how we could make it happen. (continued on next page)

Family Fellowship Report

Dear Friends,
What a beautiful fall we are enjoying. The fall fair is quickly approaching, and we want to encourage all Sunday school children to participate. Children can sell better than most adults, after all who wouldn't purchase from a smiling child? Children also like to bake, paint, and make crafts- maybe as a family you can make a few somethings for the fair.

The Sunday school students have been learning about how to give what you have to help others. Wealth should be spread to help those in need, but as children, their time and energy are their best gifts to offer. They have given these gifts to our church efforts in the form of handing out 150 invitations to our Saint Michael's BBQ and another 150 request flyers to our annual pumpkin walk. We want to sincerely thank each of you who hand delivered these to our Burncoat neighborhood, through wind and rain too.

We want to wish you all a bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving.

Erin Baril for the Family Fellowship Committee

Pumpkin Walk - October 26th



Stewardship Ministry Team (continued)

When Bishop Douglas Fisher came to visit on Sunday October 20th, he met with the vestry, and we shared our financial concern of affording a new rector with him, and while discussing ways to increase pledges and build our congregation, he suggested asking people to try tithing something, may be not the whole pledge, but perhaps a bonus, or a gift, or the proceeds from selling a car, or a graduation or Christmas gift. That way we can try it out in small palatable ways before tackling the big issue of our pledge and charitable giving.

Sometimes when we are asked for small things, great things occur. Two years ago at stewardship, Father Warren asked if we could help some parish families at Thanksgiving, by providing a meal or food basket. We quickly each volunteered to bring something for the basket, ranging from a can of pumpkin pie filling to \$25-50 gift certificates to local food stores. Each year we have put together 2 baskets, filling them with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. We even added Target gift certificates for Christmas gifts for the children. This year we do not have a rector who knows the needs of our parish family, so I would like to ask if you know of a family who needs help at Thanksgiving, (or any other time of the year) to either call the church office with a name and address, or contact me at kalmanovitch@charter.net. I can assure you that all names are kept confidential - in fact each year the team did not know who the recipients were.

For future activities, we are starting a Community Forum for education, that will kick off on October 27th with a talk by Shane Colwell, leader of the Baptist church who share our church building. The topic on which he will speak will be "INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW NEIGHBOR". Please plan to attend to meet and welcome Pastor Shane as "our new neighbor".

On November 17th, a talk about diabetes and some healthier alternatives to some of our Thanksgiving favorites, hopefully with some samples to taste.

Thank you for your continued commitment to St. Michael's and your generosity of time talent and treasure throughout the year. As the Bishop said, we have good future ahead of us at St. Michael's.

Mary K and the Stewardship Ministry Team

October

----- Birthdays -----

1	Todd Huston, Sr.
6	Derek Morton
8	David Gilmore
10	Michelle Blume
11	Russ Wyman
22	Cheryl Weagle
28	Sarah Kate Johnson
30	Delaney Cox

----- Anniversaries -----

4	Linda and John Bohlin
6	Jennifer and Tom Mitchell Jessica and Brendan Barnes
9	Diane and Lawrence Hendricken
14	Julie and Richard Sears
22	Betsy and Michael Dunbar
25	Lillian and William Symonowicz Dana and Henry Mrozinski
26	Jeanne and David Gilmore

November

----- Birthdays -----

2	Zachary Feliciano
4	Michael Dunbar Dan Rossetti
8	Ken Gorczynski Charlene Carroll
11	Patrick Galvin
12	"Mitzi" Bernier Earl Scott
15	Ryan Leary
19	Walter Roach
20	Catriona Kalmanovitch
22	Ralph Atchue
24	Jeffrey Adams

----- Anniversaries -----

14	Laura Wasowicz and Matt Petrie
22	Ann and John Klump
25	Peggy and Carl Bahn
27	Paula and Pete Iannacchino

Flourish in Faith Stewardship Narrative Series

Proper 23 - Luke 17:11-19 Sunday, October 13, 2013

Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.

“Primero Dios!” is a phrase frequently heard in Latino ministry. It is loosely translated into English as “First of all, there is God!” signifying an awareness that God is within us and can be trusted to provide for our personal wellbeing, our families and children, our livelihood and future. Our relationship with God is one of gratitude for all these blessings, from the basic necessities – housing, food, medical care and education – to the opportunities for a brighter future benefitting our children and, in turn, our communities.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor opens her recently published memoir, *My Beloved World*, with her diagnosis of juvenile diabetes at the age of seven, describing how she learned to inject her daily dose of insulin. Justice Sotomayor writes of her large, loving extended family – her abuelita (grandmother), parents, brother, aunts, uncles and cousins. She talks of her family’s journey from Puerto Rico and their struggles to survive and flourish in New York, surrounded by gangs, alcoholism and drugs. She speaks of venturing out of her familiar world, first to Princeton then Yale Law School. Justice Sotomayor felt very much a foreigner in an alien land. Yet she understood the wonderful opportunities offered to her, welcomed the collegiality and helpfulness of those she encountered along the way and experienced the love and support of her family. Justice Sotomayor speaks movingly of the gratitude she feels for all whom God placed in her path to love, support and mentor her. She learned that healing and gratitude go hand in hand.

Do we put God first in all the circumstances of our lives? Can we see that offering praise to God, no matter what, deepens our faith? Can we see that praising God makes us well? In today’s Gospel, Jesus encounters ten lepers in a village in the region between Samaria and Galilee. All ten lepers called out for mercy, having heard of His healing ministry. Jesus’ love and mercy – the healing of the leprosy – was freely given to all. Yet only one, the foreigner, the Samaritan, returned to praise Jesus for the gift of his healing. The other nine may have been made clean, but through the act of praise, the Samaritan was healed.

It is easy to take so many things for granted in this life: our family, friends, health, even our faith. The Samaritan Leper shows us that expressing gratitude makes us well. Jesus’ love and mercy continue to sustain us as we live our faith in an ever changing, diverse society and world. None of us are “foreigners” to Jesus’ love and compassion. We share His love and compassion in relationship with others through service and stewardship to the Church, the Body of Christ, proudly proclaiming “Primero Dios!”

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The Rev. Sandra Castillo
Assisting Priest
St. Martin’s Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Reflection Questions

- Is expressing gratitude a measure of health?
- What are some of the concrete ways you express gratitude?
- Is praising God good for our health?

Flourish in Faith Stewardship Narrative Series

Proper 24 - Luke 18: 1-8 Sunday, October 20 2013

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

I can remember the first time I heard someone suggest I should pray about my commitment to the church. Having a business degree and not much spiritual education at the time, I thought, “Why would I pray about that?” I suppose someplace in my head I understood how prayer worked, but I also suspected prayer might open a can of worms I wasn’t prepared to handle. At that time in my life, giving was a financial decision made using my head and not a spiritual decision made on my knees.

As I grew in faith, I began to hear God’s voice in my everyday life. He and I had gotten on more friendly terms, and eventually it was time to trust God with the money question. I was finally ready to listen to God’s response to how I should use the resources with which I had been blessed. I began to ask, “God, what do you want to do through me?” It was a fairly simple prayer, often with a less-than-simple answer.

The effects of this prayer and attention to God’s reply have resulted in many life changes. In fact, this prayer changed absolutely everything. No longer was I floating along in the world minding my own business. As I began playing by God’s game plan rather than my own, I became more deeply connected to God. We were now playing on the same team.

The two most significant changes were my vocation and my financial giving.

I had an MBA, two young daughters and a husband whose work took him all over the world. But God thought I should become a church consultant, which I did some seventeen years ago: the first change.

The second change was becoming a tither. Like many Christians today, my family was contributing about 2.5% of our income to church and charities—the result of our ‘financial’ decision. By our personal standards, we were being generous and doing all we felt we could do. But as we prayed about our giving, we began to feel God take the lead. God was inviting us to take the risk, to trust and to give away more money than we could have imagined. The thing is that while God may take you to a place you have never been, God is always present there with you. Tithing has become an integral part of our family and our growing relationship with God.

Even through these experiences, I often find myself rolling along trusting in myself rather than in God. I need to be reminded where to put my faith: not in the smallness of my ideas, but in the greatness of a generous God. Expressions of gratitude for the large and small blessings of everyday life help me to not lose heart, but to trust in God.

Today, my persistent prayer is, “God, help me to respond with gratitude, prayerfully listen for your voice, and faithfully go where you lead.” It’s a simple prayer, often with a less-than-simple answer.

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Kristine Miller, Member

St. John’s Episcopal Church, Plymouth

The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Reflection Questions

- Can you recall an experience when you were persistent in prayer?
- Can you pray with a willingness to let go of the outcome?
- Do you let God in on the conversation of what your giving can be?

Flourish in Faith Stewardship Narrative Series

Proper 25 - Luke 18:9-14 Sunday, October 27, 2013

**God, I thank you that I am not like other people...
I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income**

What if we were all like this Pharisee? Perhaps the annual financial campaign would produce many more pledges and far less anxiety. The Pharisee tithes and fasts as he is expected to do. Case closed...or maybe not. He seems to use his giving to distinguish himself from others, rather than to draw closer to God and neighbor. And isn't drawing closer to God and to each other the reason we are here in the first place?

The Pharisee tells us what he is not. Not a thief — check. Not a rogue — check. Not an adulterer — check. And he is surely not like “this tax collector” praying only footsteps away. The Pharisee is crystal clear about anything and everything that he is not, but does he know who he is? Though tithing and fasting are central to how he views himself, we are left to wonder what motivates these practices. Power? Privilege? Prestige? Piety? While paying attention to the sins of others, are the Pharisee's prayers and his practices really focused on God, the Source of life and giver of all good gifts?

To be trustworthy stewards of our blessings requires that we seek a sense of who we are before God, the better to understand whom God calls us to become. Unfortunately, honest self-evaluation can be painful. Witness the tax collector: his shame forces him to avert his gaze and beat his breast. However, even more powerful than his shame is his trust in God's mercy. His plea, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner,” opens him to the possibility of transformation through the benevolence of God. On the other hand, the Pharisee's prayer leaves little room for growth. He has everything figured out, in contrast to all those thieves and rogues he sees around him. The tax collector's prayer leaves room for new life.

Our individual and communal finances may sometimes cause us to beat our breasts, whether out of frustration, worry, shame or some other emotion. Many of us, perhaps like the Pharisee, may want to put our best foot forward by suppressing our deepest feelings and avoiding a critical examination of who we are, where we are, and to whom we belong. Others of us may take the tax collector's example way too far, beating ourselves up until we are sore with shame.

God loves us wherever we are but may not want us to stay there. With God's help, we can avoid the extremes of self-righteousness and self-deprecation. We can candidly acknowledge all that we are while trusting in God's grace to strengthen us and help us to flourish. As we give to our congregations, may God deliver us from our anxieties and, in turn, give us new life.

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Dr. Joseph D. Thompson
Seminarian
Virginia Theological Seminary
The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Reflection Questions

- What are the various motivations for giving?
- Is it easy to fall into pride and or into shame about giving ?
- How do judgment of others and judgment of self get in the way of receiving God's grace?

Flourish in Faith Stewardship Narrative Series

Proper 26 - Luke 6:20-31 All Saints Sunday, November 3, 2013

Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

On this All Saints Day, Jesus tells us of the four blessings and contrasts them with four woes or curses. The blessings are directed to the poor, the hungry, the weeping and the excluded. For those of us who are not poor, hungry, weeping or excluded, when we hear Jesus' woes, perhaps we feel like we are being reprimanded. We are not being scolded; rather Jesus is giving us a wake-up call to kingdom living.

Jesus wants us to be more mindful of those in need and to live out our faith to fulfill the holiness of life. It can be challenging to follow Jesus. Sometimes we are asked to do more than we think we are able to do. However, the saints before us and at present time remind us and encourage us to be bold in our faith.

Daniel Groody, a Catholic priest and college professor with years of work in Latin America, tells a story of the undocumented immigrants who are struggling along the Mexico/US border that stretches across forty miles of deserts, mountains and other dangerous areas. On one summer day, the temperature in the Arizona desert area reached 120 degrees. Samaritans, a humanitarian organization, sent out volunteers to offer life-giving water and food to immigrants crossing this dangerous terrain.

The Samaritan volunteers saw a group of about twenty immigrants. They called out to see if they had water or food. The immigrants, not knowing who the volunteers were, but very mindful of the perils of desert heat, yelled back that they had no food left, but they did have a little water to share, should they need it.

These immigrants knew need and recognized need in their midst, and they did not think twice about sharing their lifeline. In sharing their water, they honored the holiness of life that God had given as they would their own. In sharing their water, a precious commodity and source of life, they honored the true Source of Life.

What can these immigrant—the poor, the hungry, the weeping, the excluded and unwelcome—teach us? They had the faith to share from their scarcity; can we share from what we have? To be bold in our faith requires the awareness that God is holding us all responsible for the well-being of the other. To follow Jesus is to go where there is pain and suffering. The Communion of Saints remind us to not be afraid, to not turn a blind eye to the needs of the world, for it is in our responding, in our sharing that we are blessed.

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The Rev. Ada Wong Nagata

Associate for Asian Ministries

The Church of Our Saviour

The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Convener, Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries,

Chinese Convocation

Reflection Questions

- Where does our faith connect to the world's needs?
- How is our faith deepened in being present to the needs of others?
- How do we experience blessing in caring for the other?

St. Michael's Country Fair 2013

It's almost Fair time again! In just 4 short weeks we will be enjoying the sights and sounds of St. Michael's Country Fair. That's why I'm sending out an October email - to keep you up to date and informed of the activities leading up to the fair. The Country Fair will be held on Saturday, November 16th from 9am - 3pm in the church.

Along with all our favorite tables we will have the Silent Auction and Gift Basket Raffle. There is still room for your themed Gift Baskets and Silent Auction Items. If you can donate items for a basket, or a complete basket, or a Silent Auction Item, please call Mary Kalmanovitch 508-797-0347 or BJ Arnold 508-835-4545 and let them know.

The Crafts and Needlework table is chaired by Deborah Atchue 508-835-3145 and Cheryl Weagle 508-854-1049. Your donations of hand crafted items, holiday decorations and all types of needlework would be greatly appreciated!

Mitzi Bernier 508-853-0626 and Martha Sullivan 508-852-6092 would like your unbroken and gently used jewelry. Please call if you can donate any necklaces, bracelets, earrings, etc.

The Plant Table - chaired by Julie Burgoyne 508-853-6542 is looking for your healthy houseplants, herbs, plant books and garden items. She would love to hear from you!

The Bake Table and Country Store needs your home baked pies, squares, muffins, breads, cookies and cupcakes. Jams and jellies, candies and fudge are popular too. If you have any gently used antiques and collectables or any vintage kitchen items or cookbooks they would be appreciated also. Please call Erin Baril 508-852-3111 or 508-853-9600 evenings.

Sue Seskevich 508-864-2077 is looking for donations of NEW and very gently used items for the Children's Table. Toys, Games, Books + Dolls, Craft Items and Stocking Stuffers.

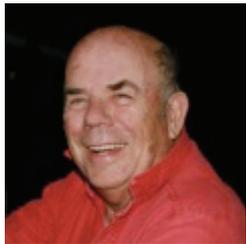
Chef CeCe Collier 508-736-3377 is hard at work on an updated Snack Bar menu for us. If you can help her out with some cooking, donations or help on Fair Day please let her know. If you can help with Apple Pie ingredients or baking day, please let us know!

Please watch for the November Light for more Fair details and forward this email to any one I've missed. Here are some important dates to remember:

Saturday, November 2 @ 10 am.	Upstairs Craft Room	finish up projects
Saturday, November 9 @ 10 am	Library	Gift Basket Preview
also	Craft Room	finish up projects
Monday, November 11 @ time TBA	Church	Table Set Up
All week Nov. 11 - 15 Mornings	Church	Set up for Fair
Thursday, Nov. 14th @ 9am	Library	Apple Pie Baking Day begins
Friday, November 15 All Day	Church	open for set up
6-8pm	Church & library	Parish Preview and Pizza Party!

Please call Carolyn Johnson for more information @ 508-869-2092. Thanks!

Remembering Departed Parishioners and Friends



Alfred "Al" D. Forrest, 82, passed away at his home on Monday, September 16, 2013 after an illness. Born in Leominster and raised in Sterling, Al was the son of Henry and Claire (Boudreau) Forrest and lived 40 years in Holden.

In 1950, Al enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he proudly served his country for 22 years during both the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. While stationed in England and riding on a double decker bus, Al met the love of his life, Sandra Peaston, and on June 27, 1964 they married. They later settled in Holden where they raised their family. After Al's retirement from the military he worked at Harr Ford in Worcester and several other local car dealerships. He later drove a school bus for Laidlaw Bus Co. in Worcester. Al was a member of the Air Force Sergeants' Association, the West Boylston Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, Harold N. Keith Post in West Boylston. Al loved taking on remodeling projects at home and was always willing to assist relatives and friends with their projects.

Al leaves his loving wife of 49 years, Sandra M. (Peaston) Forrest; his children, Karen L. Turner of North Brookfield, Mark S. Forrest and his wife, Jacqueline, of Underhill, VT; his brother, Clayton Forrest of Leominster; his sisters, Muriel Childs and Carolyn Messer of Lunenburg and Martha Holland of Albuquerque, New Mexico; his grandson, Nigel Forrest of Colchester, VT; and his nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Al is predeceased by his son, Patrick L. Forrest and his sister, Joan Forrest.

Please Note

the Shusas family of Holmes and Shusas Flowers have been providing beautiful flower arrangements for St. Michael's altar for years.

**Deadline for the
December Light is
November 15, 2013**



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E-mail: Info@actionpressma.com



Nancy Jean (Wyman) Smith, 62, passed away on Sunday, October 13, 2013 at Saint Vincent Hospital. She leaves her companion of 22 years, Gary Teachout; three children - Ralph R. Lovett and his wife Laura of IL, Clifford Fogg and Tiffany of Worcester; and Letha Lamica

and her husband Thomas of NY; six grandchildren - Tony, Daniel, Eric, Elizabeth, Bethany, and Dylan; two brothers - Robert Wyman, Jr., and his wife Debora of Worcester and William Wyman of Worcester; two sisters - Cynthia Wyman of Worcester, and Deborah Atchue and her husband Ralph of West Boylston; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a granddaughter, Linnea.

Nancy was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Robert and Donna M. (Hirsch) Wyman. She attended Girls Trade School where she learned to be an excellent seamstress. She worked for many years as a crossing guard for the Worcester School Department. Nancy was a member of St. Michael's on the Heights Church, enjoyed fishing, sewing, the New England Patriots, and spending time with her grandchildren.

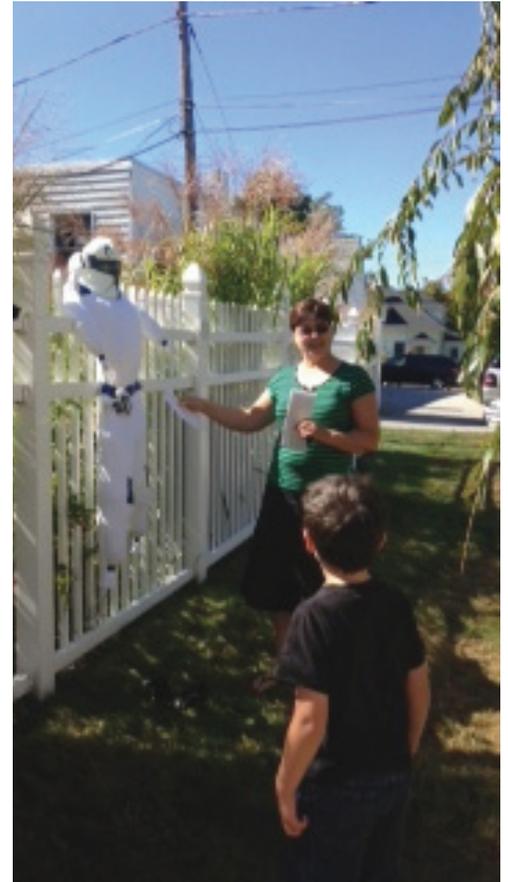
Gerald M. "Gerry" Shusas, 70, a life-long resident of Worcester, died peacefully at home under the loving care of his family on Thursday, September 19, 2013. He leaves his wife of 45 years, Theresa (Kerrigan) Shusas.

Born in Worcester to Paul F. and Jean (Wassell) Shusas, he was a 1962 graduate of North High School who served in the U.S. Air National Guard. He worked at Woodbury and Company in Worcester for over 40 years, and finished his career as an engraver with the Artcraft Company in North Attleboro before retiring in 2009.

Gerry was a member of Our Lady of the Rosary Church. He had many interests, including listening to music from the 50's and 60's, watching the New England Patriots, cooking his famous chicken wings, and playing cards. He was a weather enthusiast who enjoyed watching and waiting for the next big storm. Most of all, he cherished time spent with his family and friends, including annual vacations to Maine and Cape Cod. His family will miss his good sense of humor, his generosity, and his stubbornness.

In addition to his wife, Theresa, he leaves two daughters, Kaitlyn K. Shusas of Worcester and Emily J. Shusas of Niskayuna, NY, and two brothers, Paul T. Shusas and his wife Christine of Worcester and Gary Shusas and his wife Linda of Florida. His brother-in-law, Father James Kerrigan of Rutland, predeceased him.

Pictures from St. Michael's Day and the Scarecrow Contest





St. Michael's-on-the-Heights
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Worcester, MA 01606

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Saint Michael's-on-the-Heights
340 Burncoat Street
Worcester, Massachusetts
01606

Telephone: 508.853.9400

E-mail:
churchoffice@stmichaelsworcester.net

Anglican/Episcopal Services:
Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m.
Saturdays: 5:30 p.m.
Sundays: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Church School: Nursery Available