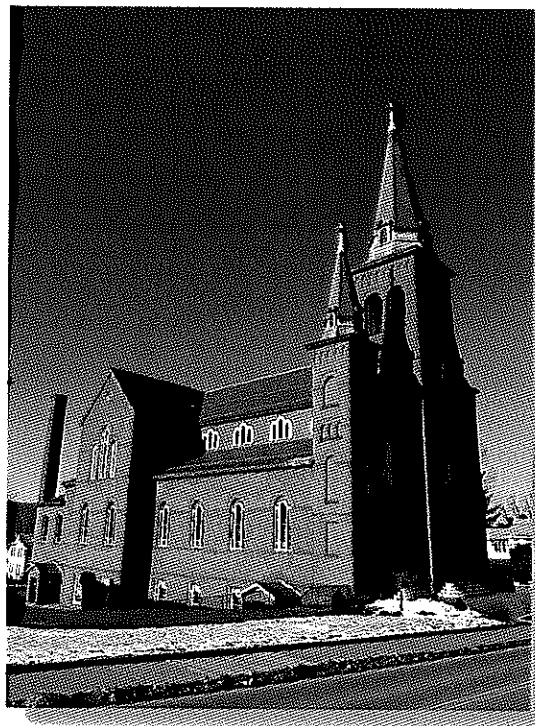


Saint Mary Parish



**Bishop Rozanski's
Parish Visitation Report
December 17, 2019**

Saint Mary's, Ware Parish Visitation Report – December 17, 2019

The Bishop's Parish Visitation

The purpose of a parish visitation is to help me be better aware of the situations and challenges facing the parishes and missions of the Diocese of Springfield. The visit also allows me the opportunity to provide guidance, encouragement, assistance and direction to support the ongoing effectiveness of ministry in and among the parishes of the diocese. Finally, a pastoral visit affords me a way to appreciate and affirm the abundant, ongoing grace of God evident in the faith and witness of the Church in the communities of the Diocese of Springfield.

With these purposes in mind, I thank your pastor, Fr. Piotr Calik, the parish staff; councils, committees, and all concerned with this visit for their consideration and cooperation with me and members of my staff.

Introduction

Founded 1905, St. Mary's parish is one of the first Polish-American Roman Catholic parishes in New England as well as in the Diocese of Springfield. On the 16th of May 1906, excavations were begun on a lot near South Street and on the 27th of October of the same year, the ceremony of the blessing of the corner-stone took place with a large number of the faithful from Ware and the neighboring localities taking part. In 1907, the church structure, built in the Roman-Gothic style, was completed. In 1923, there were three large bells purchased and installed in the central tower. In the same year the lower church was remodeled and made into eight class rooms.

These classrooms formed the beginning of what would come to be known as St. Mary's School. This school served the town of Ware for 92 years. For most of these years the school was staffed by the Ursuline Sisters. In the year 2015, low enrollment made it necessary to close the school.

Today the parish has a church, a rectory, and a cemetery. The pastoral leadership of the parish is held by one priest who is also pastor of All Saints Parish in Ware.

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Commendations

Pastor

- I commend Fr. Piotr Calik for his pastoral care of the people of St. Mary's and his very careful stewardship of parish resources.
- I commend Fr. Calik for his work in both St. Mary's and All Saints parishes in exploring ways in which the parishes can cooperate together in various ways.
- I commend Fr. Calik for his work with the members of the Finance Committee and Buildings Committee to ensure the most economical way in using the resources of the parish.
- I commend Fr. Calik for the smooth transition he has made in the parish after he assumed the pastorate from Fr. Jeff Ballou.
- I commend Fr. Calik for his insights in guiding the parish to seeking ways to be welcoming and open to new parishioners.

Deacon

- I commend Deacon Gilbert St. George-Sorel for his service to the parish and the wider community of Ware.
- I commend Deacon for his work with the "Take and Eat" program that reaches out to many homebound who receive a visit and a hot meal over the weekends.
- I commend Deacon for his work with the Confirmation class and RCIA, helping to form people's faith to be solid Catholics.

Secretary

- I commend Gail Moryl for her commitment to the parish throughout out the recent changes.
- I commend Gail for the positive attitude she brings to working in the parish I am sure she is a beacon of welcome to those who come to the door or call on the telephone.
- I comment Gail for the proficient way she handles the parish records.
- I commend Susan Butcher for the wide variety of work she does in the parish from funeral preparation to cemetery records.

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- I commend Susan for her work on the bulletin and for her assistance with the faith formation program.
- I commend Susan for her ability to make people feel comfortable as they come to the parish office.

Faith Formation

- I commend Fr. Piotr Calik for leading the Faith Formation program in the absence of a catechetical leader.
- I commend Brian Rheume for leading the elementary Faith Formation program.
- I commend Fr. Calik for his Confirmation program and all that the candidates experience in preparation for them to receive the sacrament.
- I commend Fr. Calik and his desire to begin a Young Adult Ministry group.
- I commend Maribeth Royer and Beatrice Larson for their work with the Junior Youth Group.
- I commend Lisa Jakes for her work with the Senior Youth Group.

Safe Environment

- I commend Mrs. Desjardins for her long-time commitment as Child Advocate.
- I commend the parish leadership and staff for their understand of the components of the Safe Environment Program and their active working to ensure all members of the parish community have the knowledge, skills and abilities to protect vulnerable persons.
- I commend St. Mary's staff for actively utilizing the VIRTUS®Online to train clergy, staff, educators and volunteers on Safe Environment recommendations.

Finance Team

- I commend the finance team for their support of Fr. Calik concerning both the finances and the property.

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Parish Council

- I commend the parish council for their commitment to the parish throughout the recent difficult times.
- I commend the parish council for their openness in sharing ideas.
- I commend the parish council for their ability to looking toward the future.

It is clear St. Mary's is a unique community trying to be faithful to its mission. In light of the learning from the visit, the following recommendations are offered to the parish leadership. I suggest that you continue to dialogue with your pastor as you consider these areas for thought and action. Of course, all diocesan offices continue to be available to the parish for support and cooperation in your ministry.

Recommendations

Pastor

- I recommend that Fr. Calik work with members of the parish to form a group of widows/widowers so that the Church may be a support for them in transition to that state of life.
- I recommend that Fr. Calik work with members of the parish to offer opportunities for younger people to involve themselves fully in the life of the parish.
- I recommend that Fr. Calik continue to work with members of the Finance Committee and Building/Properties committee to find the best use for existing parish buildings.

Deacon

- I recommend that Deacon Gilbert St. George-Sorel work with Fr. Calik and fellow parishioners in helping to form the youth group that can bring the newly Confirmed parishioners into active participation in parish life.

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Secretary

- I recommend that both Gail and Susan continue their work in the parish and their support of Fr. Calik and his ministry.

Faith Formation

- I recommend that Fr. Calik find a high school DRE to relieve himself of those duties.
- I recommend that a few events be organized in which the students are responsible as a means of getting parents involved in their children's faith formation.
- I recommend that Lisa Jakes include 11th and 12th graders in her Senior Youth Group

Safe Environment

- It is recommended that St. Mary's Parish implement the Circle of Grace Curriculum for children and youth at the parish in accordance with safe environment training requirements.
- I recommend that St. Mary's continue to implement the Safe Environment program for all clergy, staff, educators and volunteers in accordance with diocesan policy.
- I recommend that all active volunteers complete the CORI background checks.
- I recommend that the child advocate attend the Virtus Facilitator training.

Finance Team

- I recommend that the finance team consider meeting on a regular basis.
- I recommend that the finance team work with Father Calik to create a realistic budget based on the parish needs and not only the available funds.
- I recommend that the parish work with the diocesan finance office to begin the process of creating a line item budget that can be shared with the entire parish at least once a year.

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- I recommend that the committee be vigilant in assessing and planning for the best use of the parish property.

Parish Council

- I commend the parish council for their efforts to support the community among the many changes.
- I commend the parish council for their support of Fr. Calik as together they continue to make decisions about the parish.

Finally, I thank all who have cooperated in this visitation process. I feel very encouraged by the faith and energy I discovered at St. Mary's Parish. Be assured of my prayers for all involved in your parish as you work together into the future on your faith mission,

Sincerely,

+Mitchell T. Rozanski
Apostolic Administrator

Addendum:

Report on Property - A copy of Russ Sprague's report on the property is attached.

Diocese of Springfield
Buildings and Grounds
65 Elliot Street – PO Box 1730
Springfield, Massachusetts 01102
413-452-0695 direct dial
r.sprague@diospringfield.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Sister Paula

Date: December 19, 2019

From: Russell A. Sprague

Subject: Site Visit

On December 17, 2019 Bishop Rozanski, Father Piotr Calik, Ray Wysvynski and myself toured the facilities of St. Mary's Parish in Ware.

The campus is made up of the Rectory, Church, former Convent, small garage and former School. Off site is the St. Mary's Cemetery which was not visited.

The Rectory is a three story wood framed structure with a full unfinished basement that was originally built as a private residence. Foundation is large granite blocks with the top two feet done with brick. Floors are poured concrete. There is a two year old oil fired Burnham hot water boiler with two interior 350 gallon oil storage tanks. The old inactive knob & tube wiring is present. New wiring is a combination of Romex and BX with a main panel and several sub-panels. There is asbestos pipe covering present. Exterior of building is wood clapboard that is in need of some paint and a slate roof just recently repaired. First floor has two offices in the front, dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen, living room, laundry room, pantry, and storage room. There are two sets of stairs going up. Back end of the second floor is the old servant quarters made up of two bedrooms an old unused bathroom, and newer functioning half bath. Front end has four bedrooms, two baths and a small chapel. Third floor front has four bedrooms and a non-functioning bathroom, back is attic space. Floors thru out are wood, walls and ceilings are plaster. Walls are either painted or wallpaper for the finish. There is a fire/intrusion alarm present.

Church is a brick structure with timber and dimension framing and a slate roof. Basement is where the Parish Hall is located and is HC accessible from the parking lot. Church is HC accessible via a ramp at street level. There is no elevator between the Parish Hall and Sanctuary. All exits have lighted exit signs and emergency egress lights present and working. All required certificates for both floors are present and current. Heat is from an oil fired H.B. Smith boiler from the late 60's, Oil storage is interior via six Roth tanks. Slate roof was inspected and repaired this past summer and is in good shape.

Former leaks were monitored and no longer active so there is some plaster repair up in the choir loft that needs to be done. Exterior masonry is in general good shape a few minor areas can use some repointing.

Former convent is a masonry structure with a flat roof. Exterior looks to be in good condition. Currently rented out and not visited.

Former school was not visited. It is a masonry one story structure closed several years ago. Has a fairly new Budarius boiler and roof.