



Joan McLaughlin's Helping Hand Continues With Food Pantry Bearing Her Name



The late **Joan McLaughlin** is pictured here with her grandson Brady McLaughlin. This photo graces a wall near the room which houses Joanie's Pantry in the new parish hall with the added tribute *In Loving Memory of Joan M. McLaughlin*. The pantry is filled with donated non-perishable food items for distribution to those who need this help. Joanie's Pantry, located next to the parish offices, is open on Wed., 2-4 p.m. and Fri., 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Joan McLaughlin, who passed away in Jan. of 2008 after battling cancer, was an actively dedicated parishioner at St. Patrick Church and a humble servant of the Lord. She had chaired the parish's liturgy committee, scheduled lectors and Eucharistic ministers (and served in those capacities as well), and fulfilled the responsibilities of sacristan for many years. However, Joan was also a person who quietly and generously helped others in need.

Fay Rogers became a close friend of Joan's after meeting her for the first time while both were members of the ladies group at the Fallon Golf Course. Because they had much in common with each other—both were registered nurses and enjoyed playing golf—a lasting bond was formed.

For Fay Joan provided an example of Christian selflessness.

"Joan was the most giving person

I had ever met," Fay recalled. For example, on one occasion, Joan provided a lovely dress for a young lady participating in a special event but unable to afford one herself.

Another dear friend was Sheila Scholz who said that Joan was one of the first individuals she met when she came to St. Pat's where Father Larry Quilici was pastor. At Father Larry's request she worked with Joan in organizing a group of musicians and vocalists to lead parishioners in hymns sung at one of the Sunday services. The ensemble was named *Harvest*.

"Joan truly lived her Catholic faith—in her worship and in her actions," Sheila said. "She was always ready to lend a helping hand with any need at St. Patrick's or for any person."

At the time of their initial ac-

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THE JACKSON FAMILY

The Jacksons Prepare For Move To WA State

After making Fallon their home for eight years Brad and Laurel Jackson and their three daughters—15 year old Emily, 13 year old Chloe and 12 year old Anna—will relocate to Woodinville, WA, during the first few weeks of Jan.

"We fell in love with the area when we visited," Brad said, "and we decided we'd move there."

The Jacksons have been active parishioners at St. Patrick's Church. Brad had served on the parish council for two years, is a member of the Knights of Columbus Fallon Council #4828, and often lectors at Sunday morning Masses. As a member of the Build Out Project Committee to construct the new parish hall Brad headed up fundraising efforts. Laurel has taught CCD classes to fourth, sixth and ninth graders. Both have hosted "Why Catholic" study groups at their Fallon home. All three daughters have trained for and regularly perform the duties of altar servers at church services.

While Laurel converted to Catholicism as a college student, Brad became a Catholic in 2007.

"St. Patrick's is where my Catholic journey began, and this parish will always be special to me for that reason," Brad reflected. Laurel called St. Patrick's "the center of our life in Fallon" from Brad's conversion to their daughters' First Communion to corn beef dinners and soup suppers. "We will miss our parish family and wish it the best," she said. We will miss you, too, and ask the Lord to protect and bless you as you head for new adventures!

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Joan McLaughlin (Cont. from p. 1)

quaintance, Sheila added, Joan was employed as Director of Nursing at the Fallon Convalescent Center (now The Homestead Assisted Living and Memory Care) at the corner of N. Taylor and A streets in Fallon. Joan exhibited the same magnanimous spirit during her employment. “She was very caring and compassionate toward the patients there,” Sheila remembered.

According to Sheila, who considered Joan her best friend and asked her to be the godmother to her and husband Jeff’s daughter Mary, Joan had been very involved with “The Bread Basket” food pantry that was once located at The Country Church. “She really had a heart for helping those in need,” Sheila said. However, “The Bread Basket” ceased operating shortly before Joan was diagnosed with cancer. Father Oliver Curran was pastor at St. Patrick’s when Joanie passed away in 2008 and, at that time, *Joanie’s Pantry* was established in her memory.

Sheila shared personal reminiscences about Joan as well.

“She was very close to her family—Clifton, her highly supportive husband of 45 years, and their children, Michelle and Sean—and, of course, once (her children) were married, she was very involved with her grandchildren.” Joan also enjoyed going to plays and musical performances.

Honoring Joan McLaughlin by naming



Volunteers Pat Stewart and Fay Rogers prepare for visitors to Joanie’s Pantry in the new parish hall located at 375 Tedford Lane, Fallon.

the parish’s food pantry after her is a fitting tribute to a Christian woman and member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church who truly reflected her faith in her daily life.

If you would like to volunteer with *Joanie’s Pantry*—collecting and/or organizing the food items, serving visitors when it is open on Wed., 2-4 p.m., or Fri., 10 a.m.-12 noon, or in other ways—please contact Fay Rogers at 423-8237. The pantry is stocked primarily with generous donations from parishioners. Among the merchandise needed are canned vegetables and/or fruits, cereals, dry powdered milk, sugar and flour, cooking oil, canned meats and/or soups, peanut butter and jam, spaghetti and sauce, beans and/or rice, bottled or canned juices (not requiring refrigeration), etc. Thank you ♥ to all who have donated or will donate!

Diocesan Conference Jan. 9 & 10

Registrations to attend the 2015 Diocesan Conference are currently being accepted. The theme of this year’s conference is *Return To Me With All Your Heart* which is a phrase taken from Scripture, reminding everyone of Christ’s ongoing invitation to all to abide in a loving relationship with God. It will be held at The Nugget in Sparks.

On Fri., Jan. 9, attendees have the choice of attending two workshops among eight that are available, while on Sat., Jan. 10, they can choose three sessions among 30 that will be offered. Friday evening’s schedule includes Brother Loughlan (Lock) Sofield, S.T., a Missionary Servant of the Most Holy Trinity, as keynote speaker followed by a concert featuring Steve Angrisano, a musician, music director and youth minister for 13 years.

The entire conference (Fri. to Sat.) excluding Sat. lunch is \$50. The Sat. lunch is \$16.50. To register and pay online go to www.renodiocese.org. All registrations received after Fri., Dec. 23, will be assessed a \$10 late fee. For more information contact the parish office at 423-2846.

Advent and Christmas Calendar

- Dec. 14**—Sun.—Parish Christmas Party—5 p.m.—Potluck dinner and entertainment
Dec. 17—Wed.—Deadline to return \$20 Angel Tree gift certificates and Christmas food bags to the office
Dec. 20 & 21—Regular Masses—5 p.m. on Sat., 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses on Sun.
Dec. 22—Mon.—Simbang Gabi Mass—6 p.m.
Dec. 23—Tues.—Simbang Gabi Mass—6 p.m.
Dec. 24—Wed.—Christmas Eve—Children’s Mass at 5 p.m. and Mass for everyone at 8 p.m.
Dec. 25—Thurs.—Christmas Day—11 a.m. Mass
Dec. 26—Fri.—No morning Mass
Dec. 27 & 28—Regular Masses—5 p.m. on Sat., 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses on Sun.
Jan. 1—Solemnity of Mary—Holy Day of Obligation—Masses at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS—HAPPY NEW YEAR!