

Parishioner Gift Bags and Multiple Welcome Back Events Happening Now at Plainville-Wrentham Catholic Parishes

As we approach the high point of our yearlong Welcome Back Initiative, the collaborative's **Sunday 5pm Mass** has finally returned at St. Mary church, some of **our Faith Formation programs** start in-person sessions this week, and we don't want you to miss the two biggest events of the year for St. Martha & St. Mary Parishes: "**The Big Event**" is just one week away on Sunday, October 3, and the annual **St. Martha Parish Fair** is back early this year: Friday and Saturday, October 15-16!

If you can join us at the Big Event next weekend, **This Weekend is the deadline to make reservations for your complementary catered box lunch**. There *might* be a couple of spots left early in the week, but make sure you have a lunch waiting for you by **making your complimentary lunch reservation today!**

Also in this message, learn more about:

- Kickoff Game Night for Youth and Altar Server Training are This Week
- What to Expect next weekend with the Big Event
- Help the St. Martha Parish Fair which *urgently needs Gift Cards*
- Welcome Back Gift Bags for registered Parishioners

For Teens and Children

All high school youth in *both parishes* are invited to the "**Catholics In Action**" (CIA) **Kickoff Game Night** this Sunday, September 26 - starting with 5pm Mass followed by a cookout and outdoor games - just show up *at St. Mary church* in Wrentham. Last fall this brought a lot of teens together for a fun experience of the faith community our teens and volunteer youth ministers form through service, spiritual, and social events.

Returning Altar Servers and Anyone Who Wants to Be One: Teens and children *from both parishes* grades 3 and up who have received First Communion are invited to join Father Lambert and experienced Servers this week as they **Retrain or Start New Altar Server Training** (click for info on signup) this Thursday OR Friday 4-5pm *at St. Mary church*. Parents are welcome to attend as well so you will feel comfortable with the updated procedures and basic precautions.

Details on The Big Event Welcome Back Weekend

All Masses next weekend will have a "welcome back" feel to them, yet "The Big Event" on Sunday October 3 starts with *special* Welcome Back Masses at 9:30am (St. Mary) and 10:00am (St. Martha), followed immediately by the two parish families joining together at the big tent on St. Martha lawn (don't forget the puzzle piece from your gift bag!). Think of it as a combination of this summer's Open Air Concert Series, the St. Joseph Family Fundays, our traditional fall picnic, and other special ways of celebrating the fact we are praying and having fun together again! Everyone is welcome - even at the last minute (the only thing you'll miss by not making reservations is the complementary lunch). *Because it is catered and we have a tent, this celebration will happen rain or shine.* **See our Big Event webpage** for details and any last-minute updates.

Gift Cards Arriving Slowly and St. Martha Parish Fair Quickly Approaches

Did you hear? St. Martha Parish Fair is BACK and happening earlier this year: October 15-16! This annual social & fundraising event for St. Martha Parish welcomes participation from both parishes and beyond as the HUGE gift baskets return for raffle along with all the other fun opportunities. ***But the fair needs your help urgently!*** If you haven't yet donated any **gift cards from TJ Maxx, Target, or Walmart**, please bring them in *today*. Drop them in the collection basket at Mass or in the white mail slot at the foot of the St. Martha Office stairs **as soon as possible... Thank You!**

Welcome Back Gift Bags

Unless you picked up your gift bag at church already, **we are trying to deliver them to the homes of all registered parishioners within Plainville and Wrentham** between last week and the early part of this week. Some of you will receive these in an envelope by mail (all but the small candle), if you use a Post Office Box, or if you live outside of our two towns. *We are very aware that our database is not perfect* - not all parishioners have formally registered (please do so online) and at times there are glitches in our data entry or mailing process - so ***if this token gift misses you, please know that we still miss you and pray for you every day!*** If you have concerns about your parish registration status, please email your parish office with your questions (only call if you don't have access to email) - email helps our administrative staff to handle these updates more efficiently during their limited hours.

As the new signs a priest-friend gave us for our lawns say:
"We need to pray together... See you @ church!"