

CHURCH SUPPORT

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| Adult Envelopes | \$13,269.00 |
| Loose Offertory | \$570.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$2,006.03 |
| Youth | \$81.00 |
| Utilities | \$10.00 |
| Total | \$15,936.03 |
| WeShare | \$5,839.00 |
| Scrip sales, week ending March 3, 2019 | |
| Sales..... | \$3,100.00 |
| Profit (approx) | \$116.06 |

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF: Eric Weiss by Deb Hoffman.



A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHN

This week I have something new and something old to share with you – I will start with what is new!

“FORMED”! What are you doing this Lent? Are you still a little up in the air? Do you have something that potentially could help you build your relationship with Christ? Your parish wants to help. We are giving you the gift of FORMED.

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Now for something old. A year and a half ago I wrote a bulletin column at the time long-time member of our parish Janet O’Connell died. A week ago her husband Tom died. I feel it is worthwhile to reprint what I wrote in July 2017, making a few changes to adapt the article for Tom.

In 2017 I started by saying that I hoped no one felt ignored that I did not write about their loved one who died. We all have people from our lives whom we remember and want others to remember. I pray no one feels slighted that I did not write about their family member or friend. Trust me when I say there are many people in whose funeral I participated who deserved having something written about them.

But I do feel compelled to again comment about the O’Connells, for Tom entered into eternal life this past March 2. Tom along with his wife Janet opened and operated the O’Connell Family Funeral Home here in Hudson. Together they offered comfort, condolences, support, encouragement, and helped almost everyone who lives or has lived in Hudson at the time of the death of a family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor. If Tom and Janet were not already your friend, by the time they were finished serving you they had become more than a friend.

Working closely with funeral directors I have come to appreciate the service they offer our community. Most of us never think of the times when they might go out on calls: late at night, early in the morning, and on holidays when most of us are sitting down to eat a meal with family members. It is at those times when they serve families who are suffering. They go to the hospitals, nursing homes, accident scenes, crime scenes, and our homes. Often they referee family squabbles that happen more often that we would want to believe when a family member dies. They see us at our best and our worst. Funeral directors are required to be detail oriented, but also must be able to sit quietly and listen patiently to our stories, offering just the right words when the pain seems unbearable. We seldom think of the invaluable service funeral homes and funeral directors offer – until we are in need of their assistance. May we all remember and appreciate those funeral directors who have or will serve each of us one day.

What is even more remarkable is the tremendous service the O’Connells have been able to continue to offer the St. Croix Valley community in the wake of their son Dan’s murder and that of intern James Ellison. At a juncture when they could not have been faulted for – at the very least – choosing to worship elsewhere, or leaving the Catholic faith entirely, Tom and Janet did quite the opposite. Though they never forgot the death of their son, by God’s grace they continued their service and ministry to our community and their devout patronage and commitment to Saint Patrick’s endured. Tom even continued serving as a parish trustee and wrote a wonderful letter in support of our parish at the time of our last capital campaign.

I offer prayers and condolences to all who have experienced a loss. But my admiration and prayers go out to the O’Connell family at this time. I am deeply sorry for what your father and mother, and each of you experienced following the death of their son Dan more than seventeen years ago. I pray that we all may be a little better knowing that Tom and Janet’s strong faith allowed them to remain a part of our parish until their own deaths. May we all follow Tom and Janet’s example of service, love, laughter, strength and grace. And – may we be further comforted knowing that they are reunited and their faith and perseverance are now rewarded with one another.