

Living Stones: Stories of People Who Helped Build Up Our Church

Saint Peter wrote to those being baptized to describe what it means, not only to belong to the church but to **BE** the church of Jesus Christ.

As the Mass comes to a close, the priest gives a blessing to all the faithful gathered to celebrate the Eucharist. The priest or deacon then says, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," or "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your Life," or simply, "Go in peace."

What does the final dismissal mean? The explanation found in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," explains that "the liturgy ... concludes with the sending forth (mission) of the faithful, so that they may fulfill God's will in their daily lives" (CCC 1332).

For 150 years members of St. John the Baptist Parish have been living out their faith in our community. In this anniversary year we are highlighting stories of some who have given in numerous ways for many years. In this case it is not just one individual but an entire family who has given so much.

Rich and Lori Gagnon have been parishioners since 1990. They were drawn to the parish when their three daughters, Nichole, Bonnie, and Danielle, attended St. John's School. Always ready and willing to lend a hand, the family has served the parish over the last 31 years in numerous ways including as Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers as well as on the Parish Pastoral Council, Environment Committee, Liturgy Committee, Sacristan and in training and coordinating the Altar Servers.

And known to some of us, as recently highlighted in a Salem News article (February 19, 2021), the family has been serving the greater North Shore community through their family business, Gagnon's Shoe Repair.



With the same care and dedication, professional skill and attention to detail, Rich and his family have served St. John's Community as well as their local community. In quiet and reliable ways, four generations of the Gagnon family have lived out their faith's mission to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your Life."

*A Write in Choice By Your Friendly Web Guy, based on Years and Years of Observation from Up Close and Personal and Afar!

"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)