

133-THOUSAND CLUB
133 SCHOOL STREET WALTHAM MA 02451

**THIS IS A DUPLICATE OF THE MONTHLY LETTER
WHICH YOU WILL RECEIVE VIA U.S. MAIL
It contains important information about upcoming changes.**

June 19, 2021

Dear 133 Club Members,

In June 2006, I sent you my first 133 Club letter. In June 2021, I am sending you my last. I have written close to 150 letters over the past 16 years. Some months I didn't know what to say. I have tried to keep you informed about the life of the parish and the Church. For the most part, it has been a really enjoyable experience and honor to communicate with you. Yet it is getting harder and more expensive to send letters via US Post. The labor and postage costs are defeating the original purpose of the 133 Club, which is to generate some extra income to cover parish expenses especially regarding upkeep of the property.

STARTING IN JULY:

1. Winners will be announced via email and included in the parish bulletin.
No monthly letter will be sent via US Post.
2. You *will* receive notification via US Post if your number wins (a check will be mailed to you) *or* when your annual membership is due.

Please review the green card that was included with the *paper copy* of this letter mailed to you via U.S. Post – it verifies that we have your correct email address. As a “test”, we have emailed this month's letter to you using the email address provided on that green card. If you didn't receive an email, check your spam folder. Be sure to add our email address (office@stmarywaltham.org) to your contacts. Let us know if you did not receive the “test” email.

The pandemic has required every institution to examine how it functions. Those that don't adapt will definitely close. This includes the parish. A long time ago, churches relied on a bingos and other fundraisers to supplement income. They had a lot of volunteers who could run these operations. I am told that at one time, St. Mary's had one of the largest bingos in the state. The Commonwealth saw these fundraisers as a potential revenue source to they started to tax them. Then they created the State Lottery and later on legalized gambling. This killed most bingos and church fundraisers which were community building events as much as they helped supplement parish income.

That's real different from the lottery and legalized gambling which is preying mostly on the poor.

Years ago, all one thousand numbers in the Club were covered. At present, the 133-Thousand Club still has 647 numbers covered by 385 households. This number includes the approximately 200 numbers that were added to the total when we had to close the St. Charles Thousand Club. We had to close that because it started to cost the parish money rather than generate any income. Our situation is better than most parishes but it is fragile. Let's hope it can be sustained. Many, many thanks for your steady support of the 133 Thousand Club. We hope this new procedure will be easy, save on paper and reduce the workload of the staff which does the behind the scenes work for the 133 Club and all parish activities and operations. Please don't hesitate to contact me at the parish email if you have question about this.

Here are the winners for June:

\$ 1000	#412	Elaine Ferrick
500	#845	Susan Kavaleski
100	#694	Pauline Donoghue
50	#481	Janet Lyons
50	#538	Robert Gallagher
50	#798	Tilmon Bourgeois
50	#489	Jean-Claude Mondesir
50	#640	Andrew & Geraldine Caissie
50	#028	J. Reid Lyons
25	#934	Jean Lawless
25	#861	Zita Callahan
25	#501	Paul Cooney
25	#404	Ivan Mulumba

The next drawing will take place on Saturday, July 17, 2021. Have a great summer. Hope to see you at Mass whenever you are there.

Sincerely,

Father Michael

REMINDER: The cost of one number for one year is \$55. You can mail a check or pay online. **If you currently pay for your subscription on a monthly or quarterly basis, please consider paying annually if possible,** as this would also save on our administrative costs. Thanks.