

Millville History

Millville was originally settled in 1662, but it wasn't until 1916 that Millville was incorporated as a town. Its citizens petitioned to separate from Blackstone, which itself had separated from Mendon years before. Millville, then, is the state's youngest town.

Like most towns in this region, Millville's early start evolved from manufacturing mills, especially the U.S. Rubber Company. The years following WWII led to the decline of many of the area's mills as much of the manufacturing was transferred to southern states. This caused an obvious strain on Millville's economy, a struggle that remains with the town to this day.

But the town's leaders and residents have worked hard to maintain the town, its rural nature, and its historic past – a past of which the town is especially proud. The Millville Central Street District is on the National Register of Historic Places and includes several lavishly styled homes that were originally built by wealthy mill owners. Many of the neighborhoods remaining today once provided housing for workers in the mills and factories, not unlike many of other area towns and villages.

Millville is home to other historic sites, including the Chestnut Hill Meeting House, a restored Friends Meeting House; St. John's Episcopal Church; the Tudor Tower; and the triad bridges and railroad lines. One of the most intact locks from the Blackstone Canal, the Millville Lock, is found in Millville. Visitors to the bike path that courses through the town can visit the Millville Lock as well as view the triad bridges and other remnants of the canal and the Grand Trunk Railroad.

Millville is exceedingly proud of one of its native sons. Gabby Hartnett, though born in Woonsocket, grew up in Millville during the first two decades of the 20th century and played baseball in the Blackstone Valley League. He went on to play major league baseball for the Chicago Cubs from 1922-1940 and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955.

The town experienced a period of growth in residential construction in the 1980's and '90's which led to the construction of a new elementary school to house an influx of new students. That school replaced the historic Longfellow School that can still be seen in the Central Street District. The new elementary school is now a part of the Blackstone Millville Regional School System.

Today the town struggles to encourage economic development to diversify the tax base, but it remains a quaint, friendly town with historic roots and natural beauty of which its residents are proud and are happy to call Millville home.

St. Augustine Church History

The St. Augustine Parish Community traces its establishment to 1880, when a beautiful white wood-frame church was built on Lincoln Street in the Village of Millville. The Catholic Community had formed fifty years earlier, centered around the large number of Irish workers who settled in the village. In 1848, Reverend Benedict J. Fenwick, a missionary priest who would later become Most Reverend Bishop Fenwick, celebrated the first Mass in the town in the home of the James O'Neill family on Lincoln Street.

Three years later, 1851, with the establishment of St. Paul Church in Blackstone, Reverend William A. Powers served the faithful of both towns. At that time he foresaw the need for an independent parish in Millville and was responsible for the purchase of land on which a church would be built thirty years later. Father Powers was the spiritual leader of the Millville parish until 1884, when Reverend Michael H. Kitteridge was named the first pastor of St. Augustine Church. A strong, dedicated laity would continue to support the parish under the leadership of outstanding, honorable, community-minded pastors over a span of eighty-five years, from 1884 to 1969.

On February 27, 1969, St. Augustine Church was destroyed in an early morning fire and on November 14, 1970, a new church was dedicated by the Most Reverend bishop Bernard J. Flanagan, Bishop of the Diocese of Worcester.

In that short period of time, Reverend James J. Clifford, who was named pastor in 1969, provided the spiritual strength and encouraging support necessary to hold a parish community together following the tragic loss of their church. The dedication of the new St. Augustine Church brought the parish family into another phase of parish history.

In the past twenty-five years, 1969-1994, three pastors have served the parish. Father Clifford was followed by Reverend Andrew J. Sullivan, who assumed the pastorate in 1970 and led it through a period of debt reduction into a period of long-range planning for a Parish Center.

Upon his retirement after twenty years of service to St. Augustine Church, Reverend Roland J. Chenier was appointed pastor in 1990.

Since that time, old and new generations have joined in meeting the changing needs of today's church community. Through the continuation of established traditions and new innovative approaches to serving the needs of 1800 parishioners, countless numbers of the St. Augustine Family have become involved in liturgical, spiritual, social, financial, charitable and other parish-oriented programs.

Under Father Chenier's enthusiastic and challenging leadership, the Parish Center has become a reality, a multi-purpose facility which expanded the activities of a parish on the move! The Center is a "blend of function and beauty" which has become the scene of parish activities, a reflection of the family-based, spiritually-motivated gatherings which Father Chenier has inspired and generated in his parishioners.

The youngest members of St. Augustine Church share the same new experiences as the most senior members, all within a church and parish center setting which provides beautiful accommodations for celebrating a variety of occasions as a parish family.

The members of the St. Augustine Family continue to practice their devotion to God in a church community built on the strong heritage of the proud people who established the parish.

The heart and soul of the St. Augustine Family is its church, the spiritual center from which all parish activities and functions extend. It is our church, built on love, faith, hope and devotion, to which the family turns for strength and affirmation.

As the head of the St. Augustine Family, our pastor, Roland J. Chenier brings to its members the deepest faith of its many pastors, the strongest hope of its founding fathers and the greatest love of all parishioners from the past.

Researched and prepared by,
Margaret M. Carroll

Worship & Sacraments

Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. Lev. 17-26

Schedule of Weekend Masses: **Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM**

Schedule of Weekday Masses: **Monday, Thursday 9:00 AM**

Confessions: **Saturday 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM**

Regular Devotions (i.e., Eucharistic Adoration; Divine Mercy Chaplet; etc.):

Adoration – First Thursday of Month 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Church seating capacity: **487**

Sacramental Statistics

	2010	2016	2019
Infant Baptisms	12	17	0
First Communions	12	5	10
Confirmations	10	3	2
Marriages	0	1	0
Funerals	7	11	4
RCIA candidates	0	0	0

	2010	2015	2019	2021*
Pew Count	359	312	208	122

(For A, B, C, below, please name the institutions and describe the ministry)

A. Nursing homes served by parish: **St. Antoine, Landmark Rehab**

B. Housing for the elderly: **Millville Heights**

C. Assisted Living facilities: **None**

Cumulative number of people served in A/B/C: _____

Communion calls (to homebound people living independently): **~10 Pre-COVID**

How many lay ministers bring Communion to the homebound? **~8 Pre-COVID**

Beyond visitation for administration of the Sacraments, does your parish have a regular visitation ministry to the homebound/elderly? Please describe.

Currently, the homebound are visited twice a year (prior to Easter and Christmas), and a third visit will be added in the future.

Does your parish have ongoing responsibilities for Masses or other Sacraments at places outside the parish (i.e., nearby hospitals, nursing homes, scouting camps, etc.)? Please specify

We had a monthly Mass at our elderly complex, but this was stopped 4 years by the pastor. We hope to bring it back.

Are any of your Masses more than half-full relative to seating? No

Parish Ministries, Outreach, and Evangelization

He summoned the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. Mark 6:7

Please list all the active ministries in the parish, the number of ministers serving in each ministry, and the number of people served.

Name of Ministry	Number of Ministers	Number Served
Bereavement – 2 parts	6	
Liturgical planning of Mass		
Coordination of collation/use of hall		
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	10	
Facilities Maintenance Committee	4	
Finance Committee	5	
Fundraising	15	
Homebound	4	22
Knights of Columbus	95	
Lectors	9	
Liturgical Settings	8	
Money Counters	10	
Music	3	
Parish Council	12	
Parish Outreach	7	
Prayer Shawl	6	
Religious Education	7	
Respect Life	2	
Safe Environment	1	
St. Vincent de Paul	10	73
Veteran's Breakfast	4	

Other Questions

How has your parish changed demographically in the last 10 years?

We have less younger families joining, and our population over 60 years of age has increased. The over 60 households now account for 43% of our registered families.

St. Augustine parishioners come from a range of towns (based on parish newsletter mailing list)

60.7% Millville

18.5% Blackstone

7.8% Uxbridge
5.6% other MA towns
5.9% RI
1.5% other states besides RI and MA

In 2010, the population of Millville was 3,190
Over 18: 2,320
Under 18: 870
There are no statistics for over the age of 65.

In 2020, the population of Millville was: 3,174
Over the Age of 18: 2,504
Under the Age of 18: 670
Over the Age of 65: 430

How have your ministries evolved to respond to changes in demographics?

We have maintained the ministries and not made changes. We need to do a better job of connecting our at home parishioners with parish activities.

Identify the strengths and challenges of your parish in responding to the pastoral needs of the people in your area.

Members of our homebound ministry visit those unable to get out at Easter and Christmas and bring small gifts from the parish. When Covid is no longer an issue, we will add an additional visit in early fall.

With a shared priest, it has been difficult for our priest to schedule homebound visits, so many have not seen the parish priest in years. In addition, we previously had a monthly Mass at the senior housing in town, but this was eliminated by the pastor a few years ago. While it is not a large facility (19 units), it was the only Mass some were getting to, so we need to try to restart that.

Do you find that the same people are involved in multiple ministries?

Yes. We need to work on recruiting younger people to be involved.

Do you have difficulties getting new people involved in ministries?

In some cases, yes. We do find that they are more apt to get involved if we ask them directly (one on one). Much of it revolves back to our aging population.

List the ministries or activities that have drawn people into the life of the parish?

The Knights of Columbus and Religious Education are the two most visible ministries that draw people into the parish. We do find that some people who have been away from the church come back after the funeral of an immediate family member. Encouraging people to join our “fun” fundraising efforts has also led people to become more involved.

What percentage of parishioners serving in ministries are under the age of 40?

Under 5%

List the ministries or activities that serve those who are not members of the parish, especially those on the margins.

Knights of Columbus, Parish Outreach, Respect Life, St. Vincent de Paul and Veteran’s Breakfast

Over the last 10 years, has your parish become more vibrant or is its activity declining? Please explain.

As the active members of our population have aged and stepped away, we do find that activity has declined a little. We need to find a way of getting the under 50 population involved. Our core of volunteers keep events ongoing, though. We continue to be welcoming and encouraging.

Education

Go into the wide world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Mark 16: 15

Number of children in parish religious education programs:

2010	2016	2019
85	89	68

Number of children in Confirmation Preparation in 2021: **6**

Number of children/youths in Catholic schools:

Unknown (Info not requested in parish registration)

Do you have an ongoing catechumenate? **No**

Do you have offerings in religious education for special needs students?

No (Have not had the need)

Do you offer a homeschool religious education option? **Yes**

Are there adult education programs other than RCIA? **No**

(Please use the grid below to list the programs that are offered, when they are offered, the number of adults who participate, and who conducts these classes)

Program	Dates	# of Participants	Who conducts?

Do you have sacramental preparation classes?

- Baptism: (Yes/No) **YES**
- Eucharist: (Yes/No) **YES**
- Confirmation: (Yes/No) **YES**
- Marriage: (Yes/No) **YES**

Who conducts them?

- Deacon Mike**
- RE Teacher**
- RE Teacher**
- Deacon Mike**

Other Questions

Do you have professional staff to meet the educational needs of the parish (youth and adult)? **No**
Describe

If you do NOT have a certified religious educator (DRE, CRE, ARE), why not?

The RE program was combined with Good Shepherd and a CRE was responsible for the program. That arrangement was dissolved and we now have a volunteer parishioner with RE experience who is coordinating the program and is in the process of obtaining ARE designation.

Describe how your facilities serve your educational needs? Do you require additional resources?

Our parish center hosts weekly classes, retreats, parent classes, and occasional adult education classes. While additional resources would always be welcomed, our resources are at least adequate for the present time.

Assuming there are some children in the parish that do not participate in your educational offerings, what do you estimate is the percentage of children in the parish that do participate?

Approximately 40%

Parish Staffing

For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for the sake of Jesus. Everything indeed is for you, so that grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

2 Cor 4:5-6, 15

Please indicate number for each category and whether the position is full-time or part-time

	# Full time	# Part time	# Volunteer
Deacon		1	
Pastoral Assistant			
DRE			
CRE			
ARE			1 (Working Toward)
Youth Minister			
Parish Secretary		1	
RE Secretary			
Business Manager			
Director of Music			
Music Minister		2	
Other			
Other			

Domestic

	# Full time	# Part time	# Volunteer
Cook			
Housekeeper			
Janitorial		1	
Cemetery			
Other			

Other Questions:

- 1) What staffing needs, if any, are unmet? **None**
- 2) If trained staffing is inadequate, who is presently doing these tasks? **None**
- 3) Could you afford to hire additional staff? **If Needed**
- 4) What will your staffing needs be in the near future? Please specify. **No Change**
- 5) What kinds of professional development are offered to staff? **None**

RE Director would need training of DRE is desired.

Fiscal/Physical

“I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest, for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.”
Luke 21:3, 4.

Total number of registered households: **286**

When was the last parish census taken? January 2018

Over the last ten years, has the number of families increased: _____ decreased: X
 By how much?

111 Families / 28%

Of your families, how many contribute on a regular basis: 70

How many contribute occasionally through the year: 40

Ave. weekly income:

Total Income July '21 = \$3,266/Wk (\$153,517 / 47 Wks)

DEF loan(s): **None**

Unpaid interest on DEF loans: **None**

Are any DEF savings accounts “restricted”? If so, please identify the accounts and restrictions.

Altar Server Scholarship Account - \$1,647
(Provides \$500 scholarship to active altar servers graduating from High School)

Is all Church property (church, rectory, hall, school, garage, convent etc.) in good repair? **Yes**

If not, specify:

Pending Capital improvements/repairs? Estimated cost for these improvements/repairs

Driveway/Parking Lot Sealing (\$10K - \$24K depending on quote)
Rectory Carpentry Work
Rectory Painting

Total annual fuel cost: ~ \$10,000 or consumption (e.g., # of gal) ~ 4,437 Gal

Type of fuel: Oil

Does the parish have a Finance Council? **Yes**

Please attach a current "Parish Annual Financial Report."

Is there a cemetery affiliated with your parish? If yes, does the cemetery have any outstanding debts? Is there a perpetual care fund for the cemetery? **No**

Other Questions

Given the above information, does your income meet the needs of the parish?

Yes, but operating income is supplemented by fund raising. Regular collections fund approximately 73% of the cost.

If not, how much more a week/year would be necessary to pay existing and pending expenses?

Is the parish capable of raising enough income to meet its needs? What about in the future?

Yes, assuming rental of parish rectory continues. That provides \$16,800 per year.

What do you do to raise additional funds?

Fundraising includes Rafflemania event, preserve sales in the summer, Club 60.

If additional staffing, such as a pastoral associate or a Director of Religious Education, is necessary, how big an increase in income will be needed?

Estimated around \$30,000 or \$500 per week.

Given the condition of your property, the parish population, and the number of regularly contributing families, can you afford the necessary repairs and renovations needed?

Yes, accessing our DEF savings and our building funds at a measured rate.

MILLVILLE DEMOGRAPHICS:*

Town: 5 square miles, 26 miles of roads

Population:	Year	Pop.	+/-	+/- %
		2000 2,648		
		2010 3,190	+542	+20%
	July	2019 3,257	+ 67	+ 2%
		2020 3,174	- 83	- 2.5%

Males: 1,474 46.44% of Total

Females: 1,700 53.5% of Total

Over Age 60: 20%

Medium Resident Age: 41.3 years

Massachusetts: 39.5 years

Median Household Income:

2000 \$57,000

2019 \$79,129

Mass: 2019 \$81,215

Per Capital Income:

2000 \$20,497

2019 \$38,338

Medium House Value:

2000 \$131,600

2019 \$286,272

Mass: \$381,600

Houses: 1,085 (833 owner occupied)

Occupied: 1,027

Rentals: 199 (19%)

Ancestry: (67% of Population)

18.3% French

15.7% Irish

12.6% Italian

10.7% French Canadian

8.9% English

**Sources: MassLegislature.Gov*

CensusReporter.Org

City-Data.Com