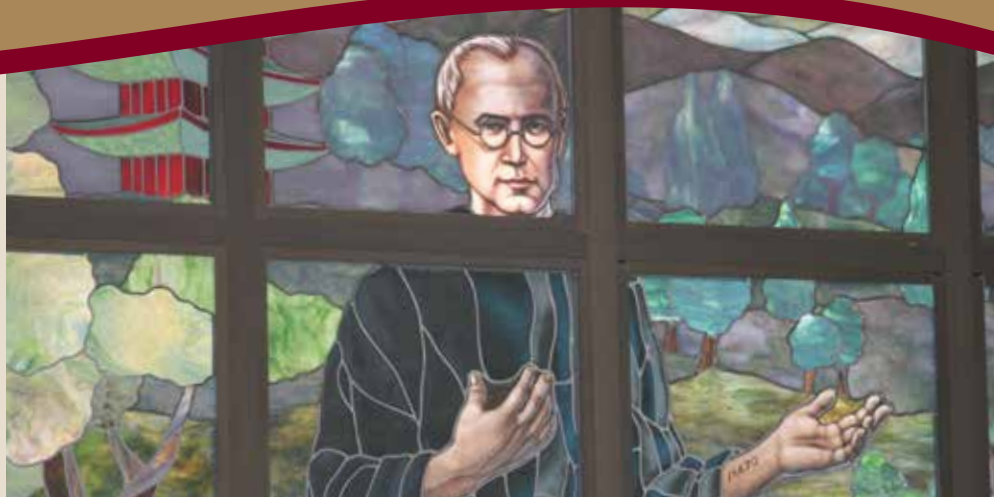


# The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Fish Frys *Serving Up* Fellowship

**I**t's never been about the fundraising. It's always been about the fellowship. And what better way to get to know your fellow parishioners than coming out to our gym on Lenten Fridays to share a delicious fish dinner with them?

This is the 12th year our *Fish Friars* Committee have been cooking and serving up a variety of meatless selections. This dedicated group of volunteers preps the food, cooks it, serves it, and provides plenty of opportunity for us to gather and enjoy each other. Each person who first joined the Friars 12 years ago is still a member.

"It was originally started to build fellowship," says Lakmé Kodros, Pastoral Associate for Stewardship and Parish Resources. "We have raised prices only two times since we started it 12 years ago. Our goal was never to make a lot of money – it was always to build fellowship."

The fish frys begin on March 3 and will continue for six weeks on each Friday, except Good Friday. The meals are served from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the gym.

"We're known for our signature combo platter with fried beer-battered cod, beer-battered shrimp, a crab cake, and hush puppies with two sides," Lakmé says. "The sides include mac and cheese, green beans, homemade coleslaw, baked potatoes, applesauce, and fresh-cut fried potatoes. We do have two 'healthy' selections – baked cod and grilled salmon."

If you still have room after all that, each week a different parish ministry offers baked goods.

"This is a great opportunity for them to promote their ministry and talk about what they do," Lakmé says.



*These folks are just a few of the Fish Friars Committee who make our Lenten Fish Frys such fun. The frys take place beginning March 3, and continue each Friday in Lent, with the exception of Good Friday. (From left) Gail Almshouse, Sue Williston, Dave Stitt, Jerry Williston, John Pucke, Jim Peterson, Laureen Listermann, Teresa Ipach; (foreground) Morgan Listermann and Maddie Listermann.*

*continued on back cover*

# The MODERN SAINT

A Letter From Our Pastor

## PENANCE: Doing More Than Just “the Least”

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

**B**ased on Sacred Scripture, a constituent part of repentance, i.e. of turning away from sin and turning back to God, is some form of penance. Consequently, the Church lifts up to the faithful certain times and acts of penance. As we begin this Lenten season, let us reflect on some of the many dynamics and aspects of penance.

In the universal Church, *each and every Friday* (the day of the week on which our Lord Jesus Christ died for us) is a penitential day. Thus, it is highly encouraged that everyone performs voluntary acts of penance or charitable works of their choosing on Fridays *year-round*. Throughout her history, the Church has at times also observed Wednesdays and Saturdays as days of penance. These days could be excellent choices, as well, for voluntary acts of penance or charitable works.

*The season of Lent* (which precedes the Paschal Triduum of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection) is a penitential season. In general, but exclusive of *Lætare* Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), flowers do not decorate the altar and musical instruments are only played to give necessary support to the assembly's singing. If engaged couples choose to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony during Lent (which is not prohibited during Lent) they are to be reminded that their wedding

service should refrain from too much pomp or display, so as to respect the overall penitential nature of the Lenten season. And, of course, the singing of *alleluia* (or any of its derivative forms) is omitted during Lenten liturgies.

*Abstinence from meat* affects all Catholics 14 years of age and older. Meat is

considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl, as well as soups and gravies derived from them. Foods made from other animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, and shellfish) are permitted on days of abstinence, as are “animal-derived” products such as margarine and gelatin, which do not have any “meat taste” *per se*.

*Fasting* affects all Catholics from their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday. The Church defines fasting as taking only one meal and two smaller meals (which added together do not exceed the quantity of the one meal) on a day of fast – and no snacking in between any of those meals!

Those who need “proper nourishment” – the sick, the frail, women pregnant or nursing, manual laborers – are excused from fasting and abstinence, as are guests at a meal who cannot fast or abstain without offending their host. Those affected by such circumstances should to the best of their ability choose another day or time to and perform a “make-up” act of penance. Similarly, pastors and parents should see to it that younger children not bound by laws of fast and abstinence are still educated in an appropriate sense of days of penance, and perhaps even still observe these days to a lesser degree that is age appropriate.

So, what are the obligatory days of penance for Catholics?

*Lenten Fast and Abstinence.* Ash Wednesday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat.

*The Paschal Fast.* Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics. Vatican II also teaches that if possible, the fasting and abstinence of Good Friday should be continued as best it can through Holy Saturday in observance of our Lord's rest in the tomb and in preparation for the Easter feast.

*The Eucharistic Fast.* All Catholics are also obliged to fast from food and drink (water and medicines excluded) for one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

How serious is the observation of obligatory days of penance? The teaching of Pope St. John Paul II should be recalled: the obligation to do penance is a serious one





# PENANCE: Doing More Than Just “the Least”

*continued from page 2*

and the obligation to observe, as a whole or “substantially,” the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. But no one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. And lest we ever complain, always remember that compared to our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters, *obligatory acts of penance* for Catholic Christians are much less frequent and much less complicated!

Days of penance – yes, some are obligatory. But the obligatory days should not be the only days we perform acts of penance for these purposeful and deliberate acts

are among the ways that we draw ourselves closer and closer to our loving God. *We should always seek to do more rather than to do less.* Fasting and abstinence from meat on the days prescribed should be considered a *minimum response* to the Lord’s call to conversion!

God bless one and all!



Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor

## SERVICE

### *The Fourth Pillar of Parish Stewardship*

Throughout Sacred Scripture, there are numerous references to service. There is the parable of the vigilant and faithful servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, “ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks” (Lk 12:35-40). There is the story of the good Samaritan who was moved with compassion to help the victim of a violent robbery (Lk 10:25-37). And there are several examples of Christ serving those around Him – feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, and even turning water into wine at a wedding banquet.

Why is service a running theme throughout the Gospels? Because service is at the root of living in imitation of Christ. Christ served others throughout His life on Earth, and His death on the cross was the ultimate act of service to mankind. And when we serve others, we are not only following in Christ’s footsteps, we are also serving Christ Himself: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:40).

As a stewardship parish, service must be at the heart of everything we do. The parish community is the bastion of service within the Catholic Church, as we serve one another and are also served by our brothers and sisters in Christ. As the Diocese of Wichita’s document, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, states, “Like a blood family, the parish family stands ready and eager collectively to wrap their arms around their brothers and sisters when they suffer in trial and/or celebrate special events in their lives.”

It is good to recognize the parish community as a place where service is appreciated and can be utilized for the good of the Church. However, it is not enough for us to simply serve other members of our parish family. As disciples of Christ, it is our obligation to serve people in need everywhere they exist – in our families, our greater community, our country, and throughout the world. This can be a challenging concept, as it is often much more comfortable and convenient to serve those who are close to us than it is to reach out to “outsiders.” But, as *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* eloquently points out, “Failure to have this understanding leads to a selfish parochialism, which is life draining to a parish stewardship way of life.”

Think of ways that you can serve others around you, both within our parish family and in the greater community. Our many parish ministries offer a great place to begin offering your time and talents, but the opportunities for service don’t end there. There are many civic and nonprofit organizations that do an immense amount to serve others across the globe and are always looking for volunteers.

Once you serve, you will find that you will reap numerous rewards in return, much like the faithful servants who doubled the talents their master had entrusted to them: “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy” (Mt 25:21). 3

## A PRIVILEGED MINISTRY: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Parishioners Mary Ann and Dave Ellerbrock were led to St. Maximilian Kolbe parish three years ago. Having just built a new home, they felt called to visit St. Max, which was much closer than their previous parish. Almost immediately, they were struck by the great reverence displayed by the entire faith community toward our Eucharistic Lord.

"There was something about the entire parish's reverence toward the Eucharist that just made us want to become part of the community," Dave says. "Looking back, I think that is what drew us to become parishioners to St. Max – that deeply reverent attitude of both the ministers and the congregation."

Seeking to become involved in their new faith community, it seemed only natural for the couple to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, a capacity they had both already served in for a number of years in their previous parish. This in turn proved to be a "gateway" to parish life.

"I think children are oftentimes your connection to parish life," Mary Ann says. "That was certainly the case for us in the past. So, coming to a new parish without that 'kid connection,' we needed to find our way. We knew we wanted to be active in the parish life, and this ministry really became that gateway, helping us become involved and to get to know a lot of people from within the parish."

Open to any baptized parishioner 13 years or older, this ministry allows parishioners to play a central role in the source and summit of our faith – the Eucharist. And in the process, shares the Ellerbrocks, they are able to witness even more closely that parish-wide devotion which first attracted the couple to St. Max.

"The Eucharist, as they always say, is the source and summit of our faith," Mary Ann says. "So, to be there at the very heart of what we believe in is certainly a great privilege. It is such a blessing, too, as you are distributing Communion, to witness the reverence and faith of the people receiving Holy Communion. You receive a special sense of people's faith, which in turn deepens my own faith in the Eucharist."

To become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, parishioners must attend one of the quarterly trainings. Typically lasting for an hour and a half, this session helps trainees more fully understand the Church's teachings on the Eucharist itself, while also reviewing the particular mechanics and expectations of the parish ministry.

"It's a great way to involve the laity in the liturgy," Dave says. "If you think about the Mass, it's all the people of faith coming together to help offer sacrifice to God. So, having members of the parish actually help distribute Holy Communion helps emphasize that point."

"We stress, too, that their reverence toward the Eucharist is a powerful witness to the rest of the congregation," Mary Ann adds. "It's in how we approach the altar, how we hold the chalice while moving to our designated spot, or in how we actually distribute Communion to others."



*Tasked with assisting the priests and deacons with the distribution of the Body and Blood of our Lord, serving as an Extraordinary Minister is a tremendous privilege.*



*Parishioners Dave and Mary Ann Ellerbrock, coordinators of the Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion*

*The Ellerbrocks feel blessed to help coordinate this beautiful ministry, continuing to foster our community's reverent attitude toward the Eucharist. If you are interested in getting more involved in parish life, then perhaps this ministry is for you. For more information, please contact either Dave or Mary Ann Ellerbrock at 513-967-8783 or [emhc@saint-max.org](mailto:emhc@saint-max.org).*

# “Minister to Those in Our Own Community” *Family Promise*



*A guest family staying at St. Maximilian*



*A guest family playing in the gym*



*A classroom converted to a bedroom for the host week*

Two teenage girls were part of the first family to whom St. Max provided overnight shelter as a host church with Family Promise. That first night, Kathy McGill found the girls in the church space sitting at the piano and singing together.

“They were singing praise to God for the blessing of having a host church to sleep in,” Kathy says. “I have been so impacted by the faith of these families, their confidence that God has not forsaken them.”

In 2016, St. Max became one of now 14 host churches in the Butler County affiliate of Family Promise, an organization whose primary mission is “to help homeless families gain independence through reasonable employment and affordable housing.”

“We provide shelter for families and transportation to their day center at four different weeks throughout the year,” Kathy says. “They arrive at 5:30 p.m., on Sunday night,

spend the seven evenings and nights with us, departing at 7 a.m. each morning for the Day Center which is home base for them.”

The four or five families – approximately 14 total guests – receive three meals at the parish, including a packed lunch.

The administrative team that supports the ministry has set up the program in such a way as to allow many volunteers to be involved.

“The more parishioners that have the opportunity to serve, the more lives will be changed,” Kathy says. “Though four or five volunteers would be enough, we’ve chosen to have a minimum of nine.”

Volunteers serve the guests in several ways including providing food and coordinating social and large motor activities, as well as simply enjoying fellowship with the guests.

“Our primary responsibility as a volunteer is to just love them and model appropriate behavior,” Kathy says. “Eat as a family without

phones on the table. Engage in conversation. Play quality activities with the kids.”

Recently, Kathy spoke with one of the guests who shared how much she loved coming to St. Max.

“The number one thing that we do as volunteers is being present,” Kathy says. “This guest told me that she feels we treat them like ‘regular people.’ She said that not having a home doesn’t mean they’re ‘not regular.’”

Anyone is welcome to volunteer. The national organization Family Promise requires that anyone who volunteers to spend time with the guests attend training. Additionally, St. Max requires that anyone who interacts with children is VIR-TUS certified. Both in-person trainings are offered regularly through the parish.

“There is a real need for people to go through the simple, easy training in order to be fully engaged volunteers,” Kathy says. “I

*continued on page 9*



Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation),  
18 November 1965, #21

Starting this month, the *Modern Saint* will sometimes expand to 12 pages. One new feature will be the promotion of reading and praying with Sacred Scripture. God reveals Himself to us in His Word –primarily through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word-made-flesh – but also in the divinely inspired writings from the beginning of time through the early Church that make up the Bible. Borrowing from a quote of St. Augustine, “To late have I loved Thee, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new,” the hope is that God’s wisdom and beauty, ever ancient and ever new, revealed to us in Sacred Scripture become more and more a guide and assurance for all of us each and every day.



# 1% CHALLENGE

Daily Encounter with God's Word

**1% OF YOUR DAY** is 14 min. and 24 sec. **JUST 1% OF YOUR DAY** given to God in focused prayer will change your life. We would like to challenge you to spend just 1% (lets round up to 15 min.) **OF YOUR DAY, EVERY DAY** PRAYING with Scripture through a Catholic tradition called *Lectio Divina*.

*Check back in this section each month for encouragement and assistance for making the 1% Challenge a lived reality.*

If you are having trouble finding a word or phrase that stands out to you, focus on the nouns and verbs in the passage.

Want to receive the 1% Challenge daily email with suggested reading? **Text 1percent to 42828.**

More info on the 1% Challenge can be found on our website at [saint-max.org/takethechallenge](http://saint-max.org/takethechallenge).

# PREPARING to HEAR the GOSPELS of LENT –

## 2017 Lenten Preaching Series:

### TOUGH LIKE JESUS, TOUGH WITH JESUS

Living a life of faith in this world is challenging. It requires us to be *Tough Like Jesus*. Each Sunday Gospel this Lent reveals an action we should emulate to be *Tough Like Jesus*. Although our world is not always friendly to the faith, we always receive the grace to be *Tough Like Jesus* and *Tough With Jesus* since our Lord is with us and walks with us each day.

#### March 5, 2017 – First Sunday of Lent – Matthew 4:1-11

On this First Sunday of Lent, we always hear one of the Synoptic Gospels' (Matthew, Mark and Luke) accounts of Jesus' 40-day temptation in the desert. Jesus refuses to "worship" power, fame and fortune – God alone is the focus of Jesus' worship and obedience.

This Gospel reminds us that we are challenged through *temptation* – Jesus uses Scripture to defeat temptation, so must we to be *tough like Jesus*.



#### March 12, 2017 – Second Sunday of Lent – Matthew 17:1-9

On this Second Sunday of Lent, we always hear one of the Synoptic Gospels' accounts of the Transfiguration

of our Lord. Jesus is confirmed as the fulfillment of the Old Testament – the Messiah, the Son of God – who will come again in His Father's glory.

This Gospel reminds us that we are challenged through *Revelation*. Jesus reveals the Father's glory to those with which He journeys, so must we to be *tough like Jesus*.

#### March 19, 2017 – Third Sunday of Lent – John 4:5-42

Foreshadowing the Rite of Baptism to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil, Jesus is revealed as the "water of life" to the Samaritan women challenging a variety of boundaries – geographical, social, cultural, and theological. The mystery of God cannot be captured or confined – only worshipped in wonder.

This Gospel reminds us that we are challenged through *witness*. Jesus takes the risk to be fully open to the marginalized, so must we to be *tough like Jesus*.

#### March 26, 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Lent – John 9:1-41

Foreshadowing the blessing of fire and candlelight procession at the beginning of the Easter Vigil, Jesus is revealed as the "light of the world" in the healing of the man born blind, who then undergoes persecution and hardship at the hands of the spiritually blind Jewish authorities.

This Gospel reminds us that we are challenged through *resistance*. Jesus holds to the truth in the face of opposition, so must we to be *tough like Jesus*.

#### April 2, 2017 – Fifth Sunday of Lent – John 11:1-45

Foreshadowing His own resurrection to be celebrated at Easter, the raising of Lazarus is the final and most important sign Jesus performs in the Gospel of John. Jesus' resurrection from the dead has forever changed the "power" of death. In the resurrection, we will be unbound and let go forever from our earthly, bodily exile.

This Gospel reminds us that we are challenged through *despair*. Jesus mourns the death of His friend but brings life and hope, so must we to be *tough like Jesus*.

#### April 9, 2017 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

*Matthew 21:1-11 (Procession with Palms)*

*Matthew 26:14-27:66 (The Passion of Jesus)*

The passion narrative captures the very core of Christian faith. Throughout Matthew's version, our attention is focused on the true identity of Jesus as the Son of God, the fulfiller of prophetic promises, whose death is truly the source of our redemption.

The passion narrative reminds us that we are challenged through *suffering*. Jesus struggles against, but freely accepts suffering and dies for us and like us. So must we to be *tough like Jesus*.

## A Valuable Opportunity to Meet Mercy During Lent

# FORMED

## Offered in Our St. Max Community

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent is a time of preparation and sacrifice, inviting us to enter more fully into the mysteries of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. For many, the practice of examining their hearts and becoming united with Jesus' suffering involves making sacrifices, or "giving up" something – or, for some, adding a valuable spiritual practice to their lives.

"When people are starting to think about Lent [they often ask], 'What am I going to give up or going to add?'" says parishioner Louise Karas.

Here at St. Max, we offer our parishioners the opportunity to utilize FORMED.org, an extensive online resource for those who hope to "add" that something that will help them grow in their faith this Lenten season, or any time of year. From audio books and teaching series, to movies and other resources, FORMED.org has something for everyone, young and not so young,

available online, 24-7, at no cost to parishioners.

"The flexibility of FORMED allows someone to get high quality programs for adult and family education," says Marlene Doughman, our Coordinator of Adult Faith and Family Life. "You can just print off the accompanying materials and watch the videos on your own time, and do what works for you and get high quality, really well-done material."

This year, we encourage parishioners to take advantage of FORMED's new Lenten series, *Forgiven – The Transforming Power of Confession*.

"I'm really excited about the *Forgiven* series, because it's an opportunity for people to meet Mercy," Louise says. "We want people to take away from this experience is a better understanding of the Sacrament [of Reconciliation] and what a gift it is to have that sacrament."

The four-part video series unpacks the Sacrament of Reconciliation, explaining various parts of

the sacrament and teaching viewers how to make a good confession. However, the main goal of the series is to welcome and invite those who do not regularly go to Confession to come back to the sacrament, to receive forgiveness and freedom.

"Lent is always a good time to try something new – *Forgiven* is a really beautiful series," says Marlene, who also sums up the series in the video's quote. "We are not defined by our failures and mistakes – rather we are defined by God's love for us."

The series also has something for those who regularly attend Reconciliation, inviting them to reflect more deeply on the beauty of this sacrament. Louise was struck by a particular moment in the series that delves into the significance of the priest praying the words of absolution.

"I know that, at that moment, I'm forgiven and I feel Christ's mercy," Louise says. "I walk in there feeling I have chains on me."

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### Confessions are available at St. Max at the following times:

Saturdays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Saturdays 3-4 p.m.

Thursdays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Thursdays 6-6:45 p.m.

*Any time by appointment with one of the priests*

### Additional individual confessions:

Saturday, April 8 following the 8:30 a.m. Mass until 12 Noon

Monday, April 10 — 4-6 p.m. & 7-9 p.m.

### Lenten Communal Penance Services:

Saturday, March 25 — 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 6 — 7 p.m.



# FORMED

*continued from page 8*

But when I walk out, I'm fresh and new and can start over again."

She encourages fellow parishioners to visit FORMED.org and check out the new *Forgiven* series this Lenten season.

"My hope for people is that whatever you're carrying around, whatever pain, no matter how long you've been away, Jesus is waiting," Louise says. "My hope is they will experience God's love and not be afraid, not be embarrassed and come home."

Marlene also hopes that parishioners will sign up and use all of the resources available on FORMED.org for their personal spiritual growth or in a group context, in their homes or elsewhere.

For more information, or if you have questions about FORMED.org, please contact Marlene Doughman at [mdoughman@saint-max.org](mailto:mdoughman@saint-max.org) or 513-777-4322, ext. 118.

To Register with our Parish on FORMED:

1. Visit [formed.org](http://formed.org)
2. Click on Register tab in lower right of the page
3. Enter the access code: **5d9243**
4. Enter profile info and choose password.
5. Receive email and click on link to login.

Enjoy and please tell others!

"It's one of those things that really can appeal to anyone in our parish," she says.

FORMED is available for free – not only to all St. Max parishioners, but also to anyone who lives in our parish boundaries. It can be a resource to share with friends, to evangelize those around you, this Lent, and all throughout the year.

? Have you moved, or do you have a new phone number or new email address?  
.....  
Please contact the office at 777-4322 ext. 101 or [cgroh@saint-max.org](mailto:cgroh@saint-max.org) to give us an update!

## Family Promise *continued from page 5*

would say that it is a small effort up front for a huge long-term reward."

Kathy has been humbled by the faith of these families and by the overwhelming support of St. Maximilian parishioners who have given generously of their time, talent, and treasure to this ministry.

"We live in a time when mission trips are very common, but we have the opportunity to minister to those in our own community who desperately need our help and our love," Kathy says.

The remaining dates that St. Maximilian will serve as a host church this year are the weeks of April 16, July 30 and Oct. 8.



*Volunteers making fleece blankets with guests for them to keep*

*To become involved with Family Promise or to learn more about the training, visit the Family Promise website through St. Maximilian's website at <http://saint-max.org/Outreach/FamilyPromise.aspx>, or reach out to Kathy McGill at 513-708-1475 or [familypromise@saint-max.org](mailto:familypromise@saint-max.org).*

## POPE FRANCIS – Four Years Later and Counting... *A Personal Reflection by Fr. Geoff*



.....  
**W**here were you on Wednesday afternoon, March 13, 2013, when the election of Pope Francis was announced? I was in the Large Conference Room for our weekly pastoral team meeting. After the unexpected resignation of Pope Benedict XVI – the first papal resignation in several centuries – the Church prepared for the cardinals to enter the conclave and then anxiously awaited the announcement, “*Habemus papam!*” (“We have a pope!”), after white smoke billowed from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel signaling that a new pope had been elected – Jorge Mario Cardinal Bergoglio, up to then the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Immediately, the uniqueness of this election was evident. The first pope from Latin America... the first Jesuit elected to the papacy... the first pope to take an entirely new papal name in several centuries. Then shortly thereafter, Pope Francis appeared on the central loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica, wearing a simple white cassock wearing only a simple silver pectoral cross. Where was the traditional gold papal pectoral cross? Where was the *mozzetta* (red shoulder cape) or red papal stole? And then, before imparting his first blessing as pope on the faithful, he bowed in silence asking for our prayers!

These were the unique first moments of what has developed into a pontificate unprecedented in recent times. Celebrating the Holy Thursday Evening Mass in prisons and hospitals and washing the feet of men and women, Christians and non-Christians alike... two synods on the family... a first ever encyclical on the environment... an extraordinary jubilee year of mercy... off-the-cuff remarks which have caused confusion... and papal writings which have been simultaneously welcomed and chided, even with unparalleled public criticism from a few members of the College of Cardinals!

I am often asked, “What do you think the pope will do next?” or “What do you think about what the pope just said or did?” I will briefly share with you some of my thoughts regarding these inquiries.

First, regardless of media speculation and reporting, no fundamental teachings of our Church have changed. For example, in September 2014 at the Vatican, in one ceremony our Holy Father married 20 cohabitating

couples, some of whom already had children, some of whom had been married previously. The

media misreported this event in various ways including that Church teaching on the indissolubility of marriage and “living together” before marriage was changing! All the individuals that day were “free to marry” in our Church. So, the Holy Father accomplished in this multi-couple celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony was restoring a proper relationship within each couple to each other and between each couple with the Church.

Second, there have been changes in the exercise of Church procedures. For example, regarding marriage cases, tribunals now charge no fees, automatic appeals in “positive” annulment decisions have been eliminated and bishops can decide some marriage cases on their own without a tribunal process. Also for example, the permission (that had been granted in our country for decades) that all priests can absolve the sin of abortion is now a universal norm.

Third, and what I think is most important, Pope Francis has challenged us to look *personally* at individual real people and individual real situations *with* eyes of love and mercy, instead of just observing *impersonally* people and situations *through* lenses of judgment and legalism. Another way of saying this is that Pope Francis is telling the Church that “one size does not fit all.” Pastoral solutions to life’s complicated issues cannot be applied blindly and similarly to all. Individual circumstances and personal dynamics need to be considered in light of Church teaching – but at the same time, Church teaching cannot be arbitrarily ignored. Pastoral solutions must have as their underpinning well-formed consciences and well-informed minds. It is a tricky balance to achieve, and perhaps even sometimes impossible to find, but such a balance must be consistently and diligently sought out.

As he celebrates the fourth anniversary of his election to the papacy, let us pray daily for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that God grant him continued health and wisdom to govern and guide His holy people. Amen!

# YOUR ST. MAX PARISH STAFF...

Parish Phone 513-777-4322

Parish emails – first initial last name@saint-max.org (for example, gdrew@saint-max.org)

## CLERGY

Fr. Geoff Drew .....	Pastor .....	Ext. 102
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John Paul Back .....	Permanent Deacon .....	513-226-3428
Mike Hinger .....	Permanent Deacon .....	513-779-1586
Mike Lippman .....	Permanent Deacon .....	513-252-4898

## COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah Merkel .....	Pastoral Associate ( <i>Bulletin, Modern Saint newsletter, Social Media, Website &amp; Facility Scheduling</i> ) .....	Ext. 121
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## EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

Zack Hinger .....	Pastoral Associate – High School Youth & Young Adult Ministry .....	Ext. 107
Mary Lou Baker .....	Religious Formation of Youth (RFY) .....	Ext. 120
Robin Burbrink .....	RFY Educational Consultant Grades 6-8 – Junior Youth Ministry .....	Ext. 124
Marlene Doughman .....	Family Life & Adult Faith Formation .....	Ext. 118
Charlotte Flanagan .....	RFY Pre-School Educational Consultant ( <i>including Childcare</i> ) – Vacation Bible School .....	Ext. 129
Denise Jasek .....	RFY Educational Consultant, Grades K-5 .....	Ext. 119
Debi LaFrankie .....	RFY Educational Consultant Grades K-5 – Special Needs Instruction .....	Ext. 120
Ally Wheeler .....	High School Youth & Young Adult Ministry .....	Ext. 128

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Larry Witsken .....	Pastoral Associate .....	Ext. 110
Don Dunbar, Bill McDowell, John Schmidt .....	Facility & Maintenance Staff .....	Ext. 110

## OUTREACH

Holly Moran .....	Pastoral Associate ( <i>Bereavement, Charitable Works, Homebound, Hospitals &amp; Stephen Ministry</i> ) .....	Ext. 116
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## PARISH LIFE & STEWARDSHIP

Lakmé Kodros .....	Pastoral Associate – Business Manager .....	Ext. 105
Cindy Groh .....	Office Manager & Administrative Assistant .....	Ext. 101
Stephanie Houlding .....	Administrative Assistant .....	Ext. 104
Katie Keenan .....	Administrative Assistant .....	Ext. 111
Ruth Trentman .....	Bookkeeper – Child Protection Decree .....	Ext. 112

## WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Jeremy Helmes .....	Pastoral Associate – Music Ministry – Infant Baptism .....	Ext. 103
Robin Burbrink .....	Youth Confirmation .....	Ext. 124
Mike Lippman .....	Adult Initiation .....	Ext. 137
Rebecca Peltier .....	Youth First Communion ( <i>including First Penance</i> ) .....	Ext. 106
Mary Ella Wielgos .....	Music Ministry ( <i>all Liturgical Ministry Scheduling</i> ) .....	Ext. 109

... IS HERE TO SERVE YOU!



# Saint MAXIMILIAN KOLBE Catholic Church

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Catholic Church

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## Fish Frys *continued from front cover*

While enjoying a delicious Lenten dinner that satisfies the body is a good thing, there also is an opportunity to feed the soul.

"Each Friday in Lent we have Stations of the Cross at 7:30 in the church," Lakmé says. "So we encourage people to, after they have dinner, walk to the church and participate in the Stations."

"It's very important to build community in the parish," Lakmé says. "Before we can pray together, we have to know how to play together as a community. Having fun encourages everyone to get involved in the parish. Once you do, you find ways to grow spiritually, often with the same people you've played with."

Lakmé also notes that friendships have grown among those standing in the dinner line.

"We always have long lines," she says. "Our fish fry is are well known, and about half the people who come aren't parishioners. It's a significant way to extend our hospitality and fellowship to non-parishioners and non-Catholics."

There is a need for volunteers to help with the food prep on Thursday evenings, as well as set up on Fridays.

"We're also looking for individuals to be on the planning committee," Lakmé says.

*Anyone interested in learning more about our Fish Fry at St. Max can visit our parish website at [www.saint-max.org](http://www.saint-max.org).*

To stay up to date and informed on Vatican news, check out the Official Vatican Network at **[www.news.va](http://www.news.va)**.

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Sat. Vigil:** 4:30 p.m. | **Sun.:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. | **Mon. - Sat.:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Sacrament of Penance:** Saturdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.,  
Thursdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.