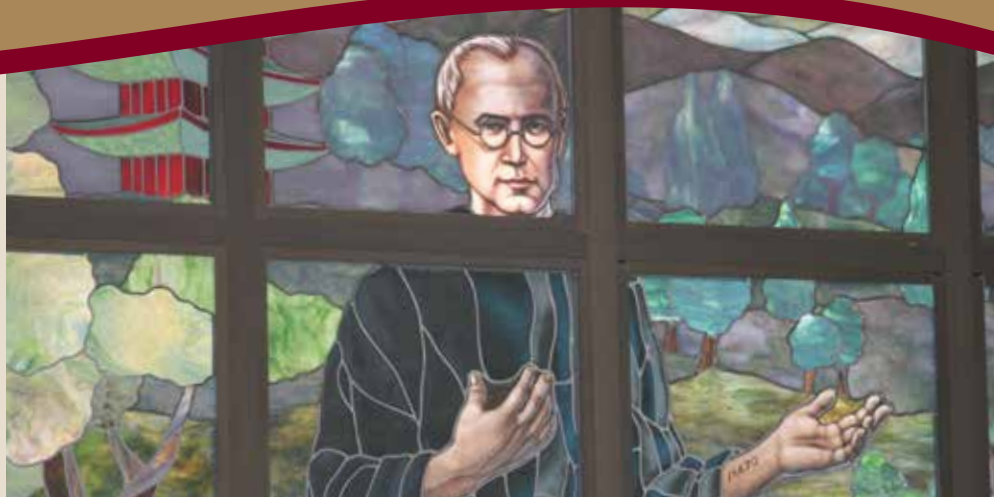


The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Letter From Our Pastor

MAKE HOLY WEEK AS HOLY AS YOU CAN

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Beginning on Palm Sunday and ending on Easter, Holy Week abounds with unique liturgies resplendent with once-a-year rituals! During the first days of Holy Week, the season of Lent comes to a close, ending in the late afternoon on Holy Thursday. The latter part of Holy Week then becomes its own unique three-day liturgical season, the Paschal Triduum.

Busy schedules and worthwhile demands are most assuredly part of a contemporary lifestyle. Nonetheless, where and when possible, I personally invite you to join with your fellow parishioners in solemnly celebrating and prayerfully commemorating Holy Week. Every effort should be made to plan around normal work and regular activities to gather with the community as often as you can.

Perhaps your family can plan ahead and attend a service or two more than you have normally observed during Holy Week in the past. And, if you are traveling during Holy Week – especially if travelling during the Paschal Triduum – call ahead to your destination and join that local Catholic community for their liturgies. Travel does not excuse us from celebrating these most sacred and most central moments of our faith. And remember, “Easter vacation” or “spring break” really doesn’t start until Easter Monday – there is never a “vacation” or a “break” from our faith, especially during Holy Week!

This year, whether at home or traveling, make an effort and make Holy Week as holy as possible for you and your family!

God bless one and all!

Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor



The MODERN SAINT



HOLY WEEK – The End of Lent: *The Prelude*

Today we gather to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection.

*(Roman Missal, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:
The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem)*

PALM SUNDAY, April 9

Starting with the blessing of palms – and procession, weather permitting, at our 10 a.m. Mass – which recall our Lord's glorious entry into Jerusalem, we, too, wave palm branches and sing our *hosannas* to Him who comes in the name of the Lord. But the liturgy quickly shifts from joyful triumph to austere reflection as the passion of the Lord is proclaimed. We leave church in reverent silence for Holy Week has begun. This weekend we will have our normal schedule of Masses.

THE CHRISM MASS, Tuesday, April 11 7 p.m. at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral.

Among the premier archdiocesan liturgies of the year, this Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop as they renew their commitment of service to the people of God. The archbishop blesses three oils – the oil of catechumens (used before baptism), the oil of the infirm (used for the anointing of the sick) and perfumed Sacred Chrism (used for baptisms, confirmations, ordinations and church dedications) – that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the archdiocese during the upcoming year. Deep-rooted in our Jewish heritage, the early Church adopted the use of oil for its sacramental rituals, a tradition that continues to this day. The oils will be presented to the parish during the entrance procession on Holy Thursday night.

THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE, Wednesday, April 12 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral.

The word *tenebrae* comes from the Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows,” since traditionally monks chanted psalms and lamentations in the darkness of the late night and early morning. At this service, usually now only celebrated in cathedrals, as the chants and readings progress, candles are gradually extinguished. For a brief time – the length of the Lord's Prayer – absolute darkness invites reflection on the mystery of Christ's death and the *apparent* victory of darkness and evil in our lives. A startling loud noise (the *strepitus*) then symbolizes the earthquake at the time of the resurrection. A single candle then reappears and by its light all leave in reflective silence.



HOLY WEEK – The Paschal Triduum:

Reading the Whole Book...

Have you ever read just the last chapter of a book? Probably not! But, many of us have fallen into a similar pattern when we only come to Mass on Easter Sunday without having first celebrated Holy Thursday *and* Good Friday *and* Holy Saturday.

The three days' time from the beginning of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the evening of Easter Sunday comprises a unique season of the holiest days of the year – *The Paschal Triduum*. These three days comprise one liturgy, with four principal parts. **The highlight of these three days, indeed the highlight of the entire Church year, is the Easter Vigil.**

What do the words "Paschal Triduum" mean? The word "paschal" comes from the Hebrew *pesach*, meaning "passover," and the word "triduum" comes from the Latin words *tres dies*, meaning "three days." Just as the Book of Exodus recalls God's saving work on behalf of the people of Israel in the original Passover, during the Paschal Triduum, i.e. the three-day Passover, Christians recall that universal salvation – Passover from sin and death to new life – comes from God's saving work in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

HOLY THURSDAY, April 13 – MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER **7:30 p.m.**

We gather to begin the Paschal Triduum with the celebration of the Eucharist. The oils blessed by the archbishop just two days before at the Chrism Mass are presented to our community for use during the upcoming year. In the *Mandatum* ritual, we wash each other's feet as a sign of humility and service. We bring gifts of food for the poor to the altar along with the gifts of bread and wine. We remember Jesus' last supper and the institution of the Eucharist. We process with the Blessed Sacrament and all are invited to take some time to pray in adoration, just as the disciples did with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14 – CELEBRATION ON THE LORD'S PASSION **1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

We continue our Triduum observance with the celebration of our Lord's passion and death. We hear the account of the passion from the Gospel of John. We solemnly pray petitions that are among the oldest prayers of our Church. We adore the wood of the cross, "on which was hung the Savior of the world." We receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body, broken for the life of the world.

The MODERN SAINT

HOLY WEEK – The Paschal Triduum: *Reading the Whole Book...* CONTINUED

HOLY SATURDAY, April 15 – THE EASTER VIGIL, 9 p.m.

This liturgy, the highlight of the entire liturgical year, is a glorious celebration of Christ's victory of eternal life for us, full of rich symbols, moving music, and powerful prayer. We process in candlelight to church from the fire, led by the new Easter candle. Having heard the centuries-old Easter proclamation, the *Exsultet*, and the stories of our salvation history, we initiate our new members by Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We then renew our own baptismal promises and are sprinkled with the waters of new life. Finally, we gather around the table of the Lord to celebrate the risen Christ in our midst in the Eucharist. **Remember that the Easter Vigil is a celebration for the entire community, not just those being initiated, their families and friends.**

EASTER SUNDAY, April 16

MASSES at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon

Having spent the evening prior in vigil, we rise again and return to church on Easter Sunday to celebrate, as we do each Sunday, the central mystery of our faith – Christ's triumph over sin and death in His glorious resurrection.

We again renew our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with the waters of new life reminding us that our baptism is our participation in Christ's victory over sin and death. The Eucharist is then celebrated, each receiving Christ's Body broken and Blood outpoured for our salvation. A joyous liturgy, filled with song and spirit, it brings our three-day *pesach* to a close.

... So read the whole book!

If your family has been celebrating the Triduum by only coming to Mass on Easter Sunday morning, you are encouraged to prayerfully consider adding one – or better yet, all – of the celebrations of our parish to your schedule. Don't miss out on these once-a-year liturgies. Read the whole book – **it's a wonderful story, it's our story!**

MORNING PRAYER

We will gather on **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday at 8:30 a.m.** to pray *Lauds*, the morning prayer of the Church. On Saturday, our catechumens and candidates, along with their godparents and sponsors, will join us for special preparation rites, as we all prepare for the Great Vigil later that day. All are welcome to begin these holy days of prayer with us.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND OF THE CROSS

After the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the family life complex gym as the chapel of repose. All are invited to spend some time in adoration throughout Thursday evening and night into Friday morning. Adoration continues until the 1 p.m. Good Friday liturgy. Between the Good Friday liturgies (2:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m.), the Cross is exposed for adoration in the church. After the evening liturgy on Good Friday, all are encouraged to continue private adoration of the cross in the chapel throughout the night into Saturday morning, concluding with our Morning Prayer and Preparatory Rites on Holy Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

OTHER WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE TRIDUUM

In addition to participating as a family in the liturgies mentioned here, there are many other opportunities to celebrate the Triduum. Bring food for the poor as you come to our parish's Holy Thursday Dinner. Spend extra time in prayer as a family at home. Explain to children the importance of the liturgies we celebrate, and how they help us remember the life of Jesus. Take part in the many activities that happen around our city on Good Friday.



MISSION AND A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

When we hear the word “mission,” we tend to think of foreign countries, impoverished societies, and acts of social justice. Yet, in the Christian sense, a mission is far more than a geographic location or a charitable entity. It’s the call of us all, by nature of our Baptism, to go forth and spread the Gospel message (Mark 16:15) through our words and actions. And this, explains parishioner Kathy Hinger, is only possible through our own personal relationship with Christ.

“It is so important that we as parishioners continue to develop a personal relationship with Christ, so that our desire to become His disciples deepens and grows,” Kathy says. “I think it all goes back to the *Baltimore Catechism*, memorized by so many of us older folks, on how our purpose is to know, love and serve Him. We want people to know how much God desires us to love Him and to enter into that personal relationship with Him.”

The annual Parish Mission is designed to help all of us, no matter where we are in the faith journey, better understand our role in the universal mission of the Church. Yet, rather than focusing on what we need to do to obtain holiness, this year’s program centers around what God has already done for us and what He desires to continue doing in our hearts.

“We often think about what we are supposed to do, but we forget that it all begins with what He did for us,” Kathy says. “It often seems like a Protestant thing to have a personal relationship with Christ. Many Catholics don’t know how to do that or don’t believe that relationship is even possible. Through this mission, we want to show them how deeply God loves and cares for us.”

This year’s Parish Mission will take place April 24-26 from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Church followed by opportunities for fellowship and refreshment. Evenings will include talks given by television and radio host Peter Herbeck, international speaker and author Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, and Franciscan University of Steubenville graduate Pete Burak. Other mission highlights will include Eucharistic Adoration, parishioner testimonies, uplifting music, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. An opening night concert on Monday will feature Lee Roessler, and music on the other two nights will feature Rain and the St. Max Adult Choir. Appropriate for youth in junior high and up, the Mission Team will provide babysitting.

Members of the Parish Mission planning team have spent months prayerfully discerning and preparing for this year’s Parish Mission, collaborating with other ministries and staff members. For them, this is an exciting opportunity for our entire parish family to receive spiritual rejuvenation and encouragement in the spiritual journey.

“I truly believe that people who come to this mission, trying to deepen their relationship with Christ, will receive and outpouring of the Holy Spirit,” Kathy says. “We are all on the path to holiness, but in today’s world, we often just don’t know how to get there and it feels overwhelming. But if we really understood the love that God has for us, if we truly got that, then the rest would be so much easier. We also need the communal support, to see that people have experienced similar struggles in their life and to learn how they have come to know the peace and love that only Christ can give.”



Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, is an internationally noted conference and retreat speaker. Her many accomplishments include being the author of numerous books on Catholic spirituality, hosting the daily radio program Food for the Journey, and being awarded the Benemerenti Medal by Pope Benedict XVI.



Peter Herbeck is Vice President and director of missions for Renewal Ministries. A frequent speaker and well-known author, Peter is also a co-host for the weekly television programs The Choices We Face and Crossing the Goal as well as host to the daily radio show Fire on the Earth.



Dynamic Franciscan University of Steubenville graduate Pete Burak currently serves as the young Adult Outreach Coordinator for Renewal Ministries. A young husband and father, Pete frequently speaks on discipleship, evangelization and young adult topics.

Please consider joining us for this year’s Parish Mission.

Visit www.saint-max.org/parishmission for additional details, or email parishmission@saint-max.org.

Going Green and Protecting Our Common Home

Laudato si' – medieval central Italian for “praise be to you” – is the name of the second encyclical of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. The encyclical has as its subtitle “On Care For Our Common Home.” Among many reviews, it is considered the first papal encyclical on ecology. Dated May 24, 2015, it was officially published a month later. Challenging all to take a step back from the “throwaway culture,” *Laudato si'* urges us to “protect our common home including a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.”

“The biggest thing is being able to save money. If we’re being good stewards with parish money, then we’re being good stewards with God’s resources.”

– Larry Witsken, Pastoral Associate for Facilities and Maintenance

Here at St. Maximilian Kolbe, we take “being green” seriously, and have begun our path to take sustainable and integral steps in order to protect our common home.

“The biggest thing is being able to save money,” says Pastoral Associate for Facilities and Maintenance Larry Witsken. “If we’re being good stewards with parish money, then we’re being good stewards with God’s resources.”

About six years ago, a green package was presented to St. Max’s from an energy supplier, which included updating the 28 light fixtures in the gymnasium. In the years since, small steps have been taken to transform St. Max’s campus to a more energy-efficient facility. Some of these changes include installing automated flush valves, automatic light switches, making use of the dimmable feature on lights, greener towels, and green cleaners.

“Since then, we’ve been kind of waiting for the times to catch up with us,” Larry says. “We have done replacement by attrition – if something breaks, we replace it with something LED or energy-efficient. A

couple months ago, we were approached by our energy supplier with a new program to replace all remaining light bulbs to energy efficient lights without spending a dime.”

The energy supplier paid for this change through a \$9,500 rebate, and the remaining \$5,500 cost of the project was paid directly by a lighting representative – making this a zero-cost project for St. Max’s. In turn, this meant that LEDs now comprised 85 percent of our facility lighting.

“The next phase of the project will go toward the parking lot lighting and should happen this summer or fall,” Larry says. “We’ve replaced over 1,300 bulbs over the past six to eight weeks that we’ve done this particular project.”

Truly taking to heart the words of Pope Francis in *Laudato si'*, St. Max’s continues to take one step at a time to a more energy-efficient and green facility, recognizing not only the difference it makes for us here and now, but also the difference it makes for the generations who come after us.

Parishioners are invited to reflect on ways that they can make their own homes greener and teach these principles to others. Larry also encourages parishioners to ask their energy company about rebate programs for more efficient energy use.



(From left) Larry Witsken and John Schmidt installing energy efficient light bulbs on campus.

A Note From Seminarian Craig Best

As a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, I was blessed to serve my pastoral internship at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish from August of 2015 to May of 2016. Currently, I am in my sixth year of seminary formation, with diaconate ordination scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at the cathedral downtown. If all goes according to plan, I would be ordained to the priesthood the following year in May of 2018.

While every seminarian has a unique story regarding his vocational discernment, mine is more atypical than most. Although I grew up Catholic and was a weekly church-goer, I never wanted to be a priest. In fact, I went through all of my 20s and all of my 30s without giving the priesthood any serious thought. Like most men, I assumed I was eventually going to get married and have a family, and so I dated for a number of years while working a variety of jobs – the last one being the best I'd ever had, at a place I thought I would remain until I retired.

I was in my late 30s when I started developing a more personal relationship with God. As I learned more about the Mass and what is mystically taking place during the Holy Sacrifice, I started going to church periodically during the week, eventually reaching the point where I was trying to attend Mass every day. I still anticipated getting married at some point, but unbeknownst



Craig Best

to me, God was preparing my heart for something else.

Then, in the summer of 2010, everything changed. I was in my house, rereading *The Way of Divine Love*, when I was struck with an epiphany. It dawned on me that perhaps I was still single for a reason – that perhaps God was calling me to dedicate the rest of my life to Him. At age 41, I was getting a little long in the tooth, but there was really nothing keeping me from quitting my job and radically opening myself to God's will for my life. While this realization caused some alarm, deep down I also felt joy.

There are a lot of people in our world who are searching for a purpose, or looking for happiness in all the wrong places. When I give vocation talks, I often recite something

that I read when I was discerning – that we need to give God permission to lead us and to choose something for us that we might not have chosen for ourselves. I also throw in that there is no work more valuable in the eyes of God than labor to save souls, and that our world is in dire need of men and women willing to dedicate their lives to this cause.

If you know of someone you think would make a good priest or religious, gently encourage them to give this some thought. Ultimately, each of us will only truly be happy by following God's plan for our lives, even if that plan comes to us as a surprise.

Our pastoral intern, Craig Best, and three other seminarians from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be ordained transitional deacons on Saturday, April 29 at 11 a.m. at the St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. All are invited to join in this celebration.

**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 to give us an update!

NOT ALONE ON THE JOURNEY

The Stephen Ministry

We all have those moments that change everything. Maybe it's the death of a loved one, a surprise job loss, or the doctor's words confirming your worst fears. Whether you are processing moments of tragedy, or even traversing "normal" transitions, the journey of life can sometimes feel lonely.

Here at St. Maximilian Kolbe, we don't want you to struggle on the journey alone. Four years ago, a group of parishioners set out to be trained as Stephen Ministers – lay pastoral ministers, whose role was to provide one-on-one help and support for their fellow parishioners in difficult circumstances.

"We're the 'after' people," says Chuck Michael, who serves as the Chair of the Stephen Ministry leadership team. "What do you do after the funeral? After the final divorce papers are granted? After your last child pulls down the driveway off to college?"

Stephen Ministers hope to provide a support system for those who feel alone, as well as those who may not feel comfortable sharing their burdens with their friends or loved ones.

"I love the idea that we can really take a walk with people who are in a tough place in life," says Nancy Prince, the Co-Chair of the ministry, who has been involved since it began four years ago. "You might need a neutral support that doesn't have an agenda, you might need someone you can bounce an idea off, and not judge, who cares about you, no matter what."

"It's hard when people don't have a support system around them," she continues. "And, in our culture, you can't take it for granted that people have someone to talk to."

In most cases, the Stephen Minister and "care receiver" meet once a week for about an hour. Most meetings are held in a private room at the parish. The period of time spent in process of healing varies from person to person, based on individual needs – from weeks, up to years.

The confidential nature of this ministry is also one of the aspects that make it such a blessing for those who meet with a Stephen Minister.

"With family and friends, the confidentiality isn't always there," Nancy says. "But that's one thing you can be really sure about with Stephen Ministers – whatever you talk about is between you and that person."

Nancy and Chuck both hope that this ministry will help to remind fellow parishioners that they are cared about, not only by their community, but most importantly, by God.

"It gives us an opportunity to be Jesus to people when they are in need," Nancy says.

"The ministry is a lot of listening and reassuring that God still loves them, and He's still there and the Church hasn't shut the door on you," Chuck says. "We want to listen and understand. We walk with them and we pray with them, if they want to."

"We are the face of Christ," he adds. "We assure them, every meeting, we're here and most importantly, God is here."

To date, St. Max has 40 parishioners who have been trained to serve as Stephen Ministers in the parish, with another 11 currently going through training, to be commissioned this August. Over the past four years, since its beginnings, 90 parishioners have benefitted from this ministry as care receivers.

Nancy encourages anyone interested in discerning whether they are called to become a Stephen Minister to reach out to someone who serves in this way, and to

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Stephen Ministers walk alongside a fellow parishioner in a time of need.



God's Word: Ever Ancient, Ever New

"The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and Christ's body."

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

PREPARING to HEAR *the* TRIDUUM and EASTERTIDE GOSPELS

Holy Thursday, April 13, 2017 – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – John 13:1-15

In the Gospel of John, Jesus begins his Last Supper with His disciples not with the institution of the Eucharist, but in a humble act of service, washing the feet of His disciples. A few hours later, Jesus will die on the cross, His ultimate act of humble service.

Good Friday, April 14, 2017 – Passion of the Lord – John 18:1-19:42

Heard annually on Good Friday, the Passion from John's Gospel – unlike the synoptic Gospels where the Jewish leaders' motive to have Jesus killed is His actions in the temple – has the Jewish's leaders motive to have Jesus killed is the result of rising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus – the Son of God, the Word-made-flesh – brings to fulfillment the very purpose of his incarnation.



Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday, April 15 and 16, 2017

Whichever resurrection Gospel is proclaimed, the joy of Jesus' resurrection celebrates the newness of life we experience as suffering and death have been changed forever. This feast invites us to share in the fullness of life in Christ which is stronger than death.

April 23, 2017 – Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) – John 20:19-31

Hiding in fear behind locked doors after Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus appears to His disciples and says, "Peace be with you," transforming their fear into joy. And just as God breathed new life into Adam at the beginning of creation, Jesus, the risen Son of God, breathes new life into them granting the authority to forgive sins.

April 30, 2017 – Third Sunday of Easter – Luke 24:13-35

The story of Jesus appearing to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus has been a favorite of Christians for centuries. Shifting quickly from sorrowful non-perception to joyful recognition to eager proclamation, the disciples go forth making known to all what happened in the breaking of the bread.

A Growing Ministry, Tended With Faith: *Susan's Garden*

Anyone who has ever grown flowers or vegetables knows that preparing and planting a garden is an act of faith. One starts with a plot of land and a handful of seeds, hoping to transform them into a rich landscape of nature's beauty and bounty. Clearing and tilling the land, planting the seeds, watering and tending the early shoots – all of this work requires that the gardener stay patient and keep the faith. By God's grace, and with time and dedication, the garden will thrive.

Starting a new ministry in a parish is a similar experience. There is often a period of preparation, waiting and nurturing before the fruits of a ministry come in to view. And in the case of one of St. Max's newest ministries, Susan's Garden, this time of planting and preparation is both metaphorical *and* literal!

The Susan's Garden ministry team is hard at work cultivating a plot of land in the northwest corner of the church parking lot, with the goal of creating a vegetable garden that will provide fresh produce to area food pantries. Parishioner Dan Phares, an experienced home gardener, is thrilled to help this long-awaited ministry get off the ground.

"Father had talked to me in the past about wanting a community garden," Dan says. "We had talked about doing something small to get started, but there was always some kind of roadblock. It almost looked like it wasn't going to happen, and then Susan came along. Susan is the benefactor of the garden."

She passed away and left money to St. Max to be used as needed. Susan's brother had shared that Susan loved to garden. It made sense that St. Max use a significant amount of her bequest to start our garden. In gratitude, the garden was named after her.

When work first began on the garden, the ministry team faced some setbacks – the sprinkler system had to be repaired and the fencing has taken longer to install than anticipated. However, Dan views each challenge as just another part of the process.

"Everybody has their obstacles," he says. "Even when we tilled the garden, there were a ton of small rocks that needed to be removed from the original construction. So, we're going to put them in a corner, because it's a visual of the hardships we go through. Jesus

could have avoided going on the cross if he wanted to, but He didn't. Life isn't easy, but things all happen in good time."

Having grown up helping his great-grandparents on their farm during the weekends, Dan is no stranger to the long and sometimes arduous process of growing one's own food. He is not fazed by the time and dedication that go into gardening, however, because he has experienced firsthand the tremendous rewards that come from the hard work. He learned how to can

fruits and vegetables from his grandmother, and is now able to enjoy the bounty of his own garden year-round. It is his hope that Susan's Garden will both provide fresh produce to the food pantry and also introduce the tradition of gardening to a new generation.

"We have connections to food pantries that will accept fresh fruit and produce," he says. "We also want to bring families and, if the season is right, let them pick from the garden and show them how to cook with fresh vegetables. So, I also see this as an opportunity to teach a whole generation – these are actual vegetables, and this is how they grow. So, it's something to bring that idea back and show that they don't need a whole bunch of land to grow their



Fresh produce from the home garden of Dan Phares, coordinator of Susan's Garden

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Susan's Garden continued from page 10

own garden. They can even do it in a windowsill!"

The ministry team hopes that the garden will serve as a meaningful place of prayer as well.

"We're also using this as a biblical garden to Mary," Dan says. "The hope is to have the exact number of steps throughout the garden so that if a person wants to, they can actually pray the Rosary while they walk the garden. Also, some of the things that we're planting are actually mentioned in the bible – cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic. With the addition of tomatoes and peppers, those are the items planned to be in the garden."

The Susan's Garden team hopes to have most of their spring planting preparation completed by Easter, and plans on supporting the parish youth group by acquiring many needed items through the teens' plant sale. Next will begin the annual cycle of maintaining a vegetable garden – planting, weeding and feeding the plants in spring and summer, harvesting and composting in the

fall, and then preparing for the next year's crops.

While the work of tending a garden is itself greatly satisfying, the ministry team really looks forward to the day they will be able to share the fruits of their labor with those in need.

"Once you give something, you receive so much more in return," Dan says. "You might not see the faces of the people you're helping, but you can know in your heart that you've made a difference. And it's especially nice if you're helping through the whole process and see something that you've grown and can give to someone who really needs it. The tagline of Susan's Garden is, 'We grow, we give, and in return, we receive.'"

Interested in learning more about helping out with Susan's Garden? Please contact Dan Phares at communitygarden@saint-max.org or 513-737-2924.

NOT ALONE ON THE JOURNEY *The Stephen Ministry* continued from page 8

learn more about the ministry. Classes are offered once a year and require 50 hours of training.

She also invites anyone who thinks they could benefit from having a Stephen Minister to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, inviting them to reach out for support.

"I think they should ask themselves, 'Why not?'" she says. "You deserve someone to walk with you during this tough time, and Jesus will be on the walk, too. When someone is distressed and praying for God's help, it comes in different ways, and I think a Stephen Minister is a very obvious way that God can work. I think there are a lot of people who could really benefit from having a Stephen Minister."

"Don't be afraid," Chuck adds. "This ministry is here. Pray about it. Make the inquiry and find out what we do. You'll be driven by the Holy Spirit if this is something that can help you."

For more information on becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Nancy Prince at 412-216-3024.

If you are struggling and would like to explore the idea of meeting with a Stephen Minister, please reach out through email at StephenMinistry@saint-max.org, or our confidential voicemail, 513-777-4322, ext.

218. Calls will be returned within 24-48 hours. All inquiries and meetings are kept strictly confidential.

For more Catholic news and current events check out the websites of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.USCCB.org and of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at www.catholiccincinnati.org.

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HOLY WEEK
and the
PASCHAL TRIDUUM
at a Glance

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Masses at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m., 10 a.m.* and noon Sunday
Blessing of palms at each Mass
Procession at 10 a.m. Mass
(gather on the plaza at 9:45 a.m.)

MONDAY, APRIL 10

8:30 a.m. – Mass
Individual confessions from 4-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

8:30 a.m. – Mass
7 p.m. – Chrism Mass at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

8:30 a.m. – Mass
7:30 p.m. – Office of Tenebrae at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 13

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
Individual confessions following Morning Prayer

Lent ends in the late afternoon and the **PASCHAL TRIDUUM** begins.

No evening individual confessions

7:30 p.m. – **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER*** followed by private adoration of the Eucharist
11:45 p.m. – Night Prayer

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
Noon – Stations of the Cross
1 p.m. – **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION**
Adoration of the Cross between services
7:30 p.m. – **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
Individual confessions following Morning Prayer
No afternoon individual confessions and no 4:30 p.m. Mass
9 p.m. – **THE EASTER VIGIL*** (gather on the plaza around the fire by 8:45 p.m.)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MASSSES at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (church* and gym), and noon (church* and gym)

**Incense will be used*