

SACRAMENTS

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Interested in becoming Catholic or completing your initiation? The RCIA is the process by which a person becomes a member of the Catholic Church. Call Carol Heuser for information.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants

Preparation classes for parents desiring baptism for infants or young children are monthly on the third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Call Carol Heuser to register and schedule a Baptism.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Families with students in grades 8-12 who wish to celebrate Confirmation should call Marlene Doughman.

First Communion & First Penance

Families with students in grade 2 or older who wish to celebrate these sacraments for the first time should call Mary Montour.

* Confirmation or First Communion candidates must be enrolled at a Catholic grade school or in our Religious Education program.

Sacrament of Marriage

Those wishing to celebrate marriage must be registered in the parish. There is at least a six-month preparation period. Call Fr. Geoff to schedule a wedding and begin the preparation process.

Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate & Religious Life

Those feeling called to a religious vocation may contact one of the parish clergy or the Archdiocesan Vocation Office at 513-421-3131 or www.cincinnati vocations.org.

Anointing of the Sick & Communion Visits

For the homebound, hospitalized, or those in other health care facilities, to make arrangements for the Anointing of the Sick or communion to be brought to you, call Carol Heuser.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

St. Gabriel Consolidated School—Grades K-8

St. Gabriel Consolidated School in Glendale is our parish grade school. For information or to register, call 771-5220.

Religious Formation of Youth (RFY)—Grades 1-8

Classes are Monday and Wednesday evenings. A Home Study program is also available. Call Mary Montour for information.

Home Schooling—Those families who home school religious education outside of RFY should call Colleen Gerke.

Preschool—3, 4, & 5 year olds

Preschool RFY classes are held during the 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Sunday Masses. Call Julie McDaniel for information.

Sunday Morning Nursery—1 month old—2 years old

Babysitting is available during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass in the nursery. Call Marion Messerle (847-0107) for more information.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

All submissions are subject to editing and approval and must be received before deadlines.

Sunday Bulletin & Inserts

Submit articles to Jane Schnobrich in writing or by e-mail before 4:00 p.m. on Monday. Submit inserts two weeks in advance.

Modern Saint Monthly Newsletter

Submit articles to Diane Feltz (modernsaint1@yahoo.com) by the first of the month one month prior to publication.

Website & E-news

Submit all information to Caron Bergen. The E-news is normally sent on the 15th and last day of the month. Deadline is the day of publication. To receive the E-news contact Caron Bergen.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

As the "eyes and ears" of St. Max parishioners, the Pastoral Council strives to listen and stay in touch with the concerns, needs, and dreams of the parishioners they serve. Parishioners are also welcome to contact a member of Pastoral Council.

Tim Wieck, President—777-4744—PC@saint-max.org

Dale Bottoms	896-6802	Lori Falke	339-0126	Brad Johnson	755-0937	Jackie Pham	755-0966
Ann Brinkmann	755-1581	Hope Frost	755-7776	Tom Kanoza	874-9108	Scott Stauber	779-3316
Pat Davenport	737-7613	Janet Hazlebeck	887-9841	Michelle Meyer	777-6944		

PARISH STAFF—PHONE EXTENTIONS (513-777-4322) & E-MAILS

PARISH CLERGY & OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor	Ext.102
Fr. Tom McCarthy, Parochial Vicar	Ext.103
Jeff Merrell, Permanent Deacon	Ext.220
John Back, Mike Hinger & Mike Lippman—Candidates for Deacon Ordination in April 2010	
Kathy Wojciechowski, Office Manager & Ministry of Care	Ext.101
Jane Schnobrich, Bulletin Coordinator	Ext.111
Caron Bergen, Webmaster & Facility Scheduling	Ext.114

gdrew@saint-max.org
tmccarthy@saint-max.org
jmerrell@saint-max.org

kwojo@saint-max.org
jane@saint-max.org
cbergen@saint-max.org

FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS, & WORSHIP

Carol Heuser, Pastoral Associate & RCIA Coordinator	Ext.104
Dan Fuerst, Pastoral Associate for Music & Liturgy	Ext.117
Colleen Gerke, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation & Specials Needs Catechesis	Ext.106
Mary Montour, Coordinator of Religious Formation (Grades 1-8)	Ext.120
Cindy Ulm, Religious Formation Office Manager	Ext.109
Gwen Hamblin, High School Youth Ministry & Young Adults	Ext.107
Julie McDaniel, Preschool Coordinator & Vacation Bible School.....	Ext.119
Marlene Doughman, Junior High Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator	Ext.118

cheuser@saint-max.org
dfuerst@saint-max.org
cgerke@saint-max.org
mmontour@saint-max.org
culm@saint-max.org
gwen@saint-max.org
jmcdaniel@saint-max.org
mdoughman@saint-max.org

STEWARDSHIP & PARISH RESOURCES

Lakmé Kodros, Pastoral Associate for Stewardship & Parish Resources	Ext.105
Larry Witsken, Pastoral Associate for Facilities Management & Maintenance	Ext.110
Beth Andrews, Bookkeeper	Ext.112
Bill McDowell, Darlene Pfister & Billy Trotter, Maintenance Staff	Ext.110

lkodros@saint-max.org
lwitsken@saint-max.org
bandrews@saint-max.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS AND EVENTS OF THE PARISH

Sun., Dec. 6

8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass
12:00 Noon Mass
1:00—4:00 pm
1:30—2:30 pm
1:30—3:00 pm
5:00—8:00 pm
7:00—10:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:15—9:00 pm
9:30—11:45 pm

Mon. Dec. 7

8:30 am Mass
9:15—10:30 am
9:30—11:45 am
5:00—8:15 pm
6:00—10:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—8:00 pm

Tues., Dec. 8

8:30 am Mass
9:15—10:45 am
9:30—11:45 am
1:00—2:30 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:30 pm Mass

Wed., Dec. 9

8:30 am Mass
9:30—11:30 am
6:00—7:30 pm
7:00—8:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—8:30 pm
7:30—9:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 10

8:30 am Mass
9:30—10:00 pm
10:00—11:00 am
6:00—7:15 pm
6:00—10:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:15—8:00 pm

Fri. Dec. 11

8:30 am Mass
Hugh Diebold, Hugh Kelly, Marcella Sullivan, Victor Huss, Donna Nolan, John Cochran
10:00—12:00 Noon
6:00—9:00 pm
9:30—11:45 pm

Sat., Dec. 12

8:30—10:30 am
8:00—3:00 pm
8:45—11:00 am
3:00—4:00 pm
4:30 pm Mass
6:00—9:00 pm
9:30—11:45 pm

Second Sunday in Advent

Frank Pival
People of the Parish
Frances & Mary Cao
St. Max Boosters
Baptisms
Columbian Squires Circle 5033
Jr. High Ministry going Caroling
Current Men's CRHP Team
Boy Scouts Committee Meeting
Living Waters Prayer Group
Men's Basketball

St. Ambrose

Helen Trabel
Shepherds of Christ
Mighty Max
RFY (Religious Formation Classes)
St. Max Boosters
Current Women's CRHP Team
Bereavement-Perinatal/Neonatal
Vocations

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Robert Harshbarger
SHOJ Rosary Activity
Mighty Max
AFF Little Rock Scripture Study
Bereavement—Open Group
John McCarrel
St. Juan Diego
Phuong Nguyen
Women's Faith Lessons
RFY (Religious Formation Classes)
Child Protection Orientation
Bereavement—Young Widowers
Boy Scouts Venture Crew
Cub Pack 944
Choir Rehearsal

Mary Yelton

Exposition in the Chapel
Mothers' Rosary
Children's Choir
St. Max Boosters
RCIA
Answer the Call-Men's Faith Sharing
Prayer Shawl Group
Boy Scouts
Natural Family Planning Intro.
Ensemble Practice

St. Damasus I

Sr. Joanna Burkhart, Scott Fearn, Hugh Diebold, Hugh Kelly, Marcella Sullivan, Victor Huss, Donna Nolan, John Cochran
AFF "Catechism" w/Fr. McCarthy
St. Max Boosters
Men's Basketball

Christmas Food Basket Drop-off
St. Max Boosters Practice
St. Benedict Bible Study Group
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Barbara Spillane, Garrett Christian, Ray Horn
St. Max Boosters Practice
Men's Basketball

SUNDAY READINGS

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading Baruch 5: 1-9
2nd Reading Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11
Gospel Luke 3: 1-6

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

1st Reading Zephaniah 3: 14-18
2nd Reading Philippians 4: 4-7
Gospel Luke 3: 10-18



Note: Daily Mass Readings can be found on the Archdiocesan website www.catholiccincinnati.org.

VOCATION VIEW

John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Promote the gospel in our community. (Luke 3: 1-6)

BAPTISMS

The next Baptismal class will be held Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room.

BAPTISMS AT MASS

Sat. Dec. 12 @ 4:30 Mass

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

For all the sick and hospitalized especially Karen Borgemenke, Melinda Bullock, Al Hoke and all those mentioned in the Book of the Sick that all the ill are soon returned to health and join us again at the Lord's table.

REST IN PEACE

Your Prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Victor Huss, uncle of Connie Michael Dotty Nolan, mother of Kathy Robinson John Cochran, friend of Joan Potter. May they enjoy the fullness of God's heavenly glory.

VOCATION PRAYER

Gracious God, You are the gentle presence, the peaceful light, that fills our whole world. We believe that you care for all your creatures with wisdom and love. Take care of us, your Church, this day. Give to us all grace and courage to live out our baptism as faithful disciples of your son, Jesus Christ. Give us good pastors who will call us to love and forgiveness and lead us in worship in the community of the Spirit. Bring forth from among us other ministers whose many-splendored gifts will strengthen our community. Raise up people in religious life who by their unusual witness to the Gospel will call us to the love of God and neighbor. You have enfolded the smallness of our humanity in your divinity. Fill us all with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My dear sisters and brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ,

There are so many wonderful activities here at St. Max that are supported by so many wonderful volunteers that often it seems to say THANK YOU is not enough! Certainly I am most grateful for everyone who volunteers in any way in our dozens and dozens of ministries, activities, and organizations. But I would like to point out two today!

First, special thanks to all who made the Chili Cookout such a wonderful afternoon two weeks ago. The food, fellowship, and fire were great! Had the Bengals won in Oakland it would have been a perfect event!

And second, to our art and environment committee. The beautiful, colorful harvest décor in church throughout November, and now the simple, elegant Advent atmosphere – well, we are truly blessed!

I would like to reiterate briefly some of the “changes” I announced before all the Masses last weekend.

First, the programs at the end of the pews. These are basically personal hymnboards for everyone to use. All of the music of the liturgy is either printed for your use or the number in the Breaking Bread hymnal is listed. We are hopeful this will help everyone to sing and participate better. Please remember to leave the programs at the ends of the pews for the next Mass when you leave.

Second, the cabinet in the back of church contains 50 large-print Breaking Bread hymnals and 50 Sunday's Word. For those who need large print hymnals, the cabinet allows them to be put in one place instead of being randomly placed throughout the church. For those who need these, please remember to put them back after Mass.

Regarding the Sunday's Word annual missalettes, these too are placed back there for those who need to follow along with the readings due to hearing difficulties or visual necessity. In an ideal world, no one would follow along with the readings while the readings are being proclaimed – everyone should be reading the reflecting on scripture during the week before coming to Mass, i.e. no one should be hearing the weekly readings for the first time in church on Sunday. These Sunday's Word annual missalettes are not meant to take the place of everyone's preparation for liturgy at home, but are in church, again, for those who need to use them.

And third, we will need up to five people in the procession for the presentation of the gifts – bread, wine, offering, and two candles which will be placed by the altar. This could be a family of five or more (not everyone needs to carry something in the procession with the gifts) or could be five individuals or a family of two and a family of three, etc. Please see the ushers before Mass if you would like to be part of this procession.

And finally, two reminders. This Tuesday, December 8, is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a holyday of obligation. Masses here are at 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. And don't forget to keep the information on the Sacrament of Penance (deanery schedule, explanations, and age-appropriate examinations of conscience) handy throughout the season of Advent.

That's all for now. God bless one and all!

Fr. Geoff

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS & FAMILY

QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

Adults: How can I become a better herald for Christ, one who announces his coming?

Children: What can I do to prepare for the celebration of Christmas, the birth of Jesus?

Returning Catholics: Welcome Home

St. Max will offer a five-week series entitled “Returning Catholics: Welcome Home” beginning Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 9:00 – 10:00AM in the Hospitality Room. The sessions are for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. If you know someone who has left the Church, please invite them to join us. For more information, call Carol at 777-4333 or e-mail welcomehome@saint-max.org.

Women's Advent Morning

This is an opportunity for women to meet and reflect on the Advent season over coffee and donuts on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 9:30AM. Call 398-3821 ext.3111 to register.

Advent Retreat and Mass with Fr. Mark Burger

Fr. Mark will present “The Word Became Flesh and Dwells Here Among Us.” The reflection on Tuesdays December 8 and 15 from 7:00 – 8:30PM will serve us well as we journey through Advent in preparation for Christmas. For more information call Jerry Barney at 777-6433 ext. 121.

Understanding the Mass

LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI: Praying, Believing, Living, Making Connections in the Liturgy will be lead by Fr. Larry Tensi (Pastor at St. Columban in Loveland) and Karen Kane (Director of the Worship), and Colleen Gerke for the Children's Program (Director of Faith Formation at St. Max). The 5 evenings use a retreat or evening of reflection setting. The evenings will include music, celebration, reflection, discussion and learning. Children in grades 1-6 will have a separate program geared towards their understanding. All will begin and end in church on January 11, 18, 25 and February 1 and 8 at All Saints Church in Montgomery from 7 – 8:45pm. Call St. Max at 777-4322, ext. 106 to register. Families who wish to use this as an alternative to the Tuesday evenings preparations for celebrating First Eucharist should call Mary Montour at 777-4322 ext 102.

NURSERY

This Sunday

10:00 Mass Mark & Teri Piper

Next Sunday

10:00 Mass Patrick & Kate Zink

FINGERPRINTING & CHILD PROTECTION

The next Child Protection Orientation at St. Max is Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Parish Office Conference Room. All Adult volunteers age 18 and older must attend an orientation and be fingerprinted before working with children.

Monday—Friday 9:30—11:30 am

1:30—4:30 pm

Wednesdays

1:30—7:30 pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH EVENTS

KROGER CARDS

Stop by the Gathering Space next weekend after ALL Masses to purchase a Kroger card for \$1 (the card has a value of \$1 on it). When you use your Kroger gift card, St. Max receives 4% of all the money you spend at Kroger on groceries, gas, and prescriptions.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Monday, December 7 from 7:00—8:00 pm @ St. Max
Please pray for the priesthood and consecrated life.
Exposition, Readings, Meditation, Benediction
“The Harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
So ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers
for his harvest.” (Matthew 9: 37-38)
Bring your family & friends.

ANSWER THE CALL

Feeling a bit overwhelmed? Holiday planning have you going way too fast? STOP and answer the call. We are a group of men like you feeling the same things. Come Thursday night Dec. 10 at 7:00pm in room 5 and take the time for reflection. We discuss current events, scripture readings and how our spiritual lives are going. Any questions call Ron Pfister at 737-9949.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

A Natural Life-Giving Approach to
Understanding the Female Body A free Introductory Session will be held at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish on Thursday, December 10, from 7-8:15 p.m.. For questions or to RSVP for this session, please call Susan Giuliano at 737-2125.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

The final drop off date for baskets is Sat. Dec. 12, Bring your basket (boxes) to the church parking lot between 8:30 and 10:30 am. If you have any questions please contact Mitch Roberts, 543-9083 Mroberts@zoomtown.com
Dennis Blake, 543-6954 Dennis.G.Blake@gmail.com

BEREAVEMENT

Taking Time to Remember

Monday, Dec. 14 @ 7:00 pm
See insert in this bulletin!

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP NETWORK (LFN)

All ladies of the parish (21 and up) are invited to join us for our annual Christmas celebration on Wed., Dec. 16th, 7 p.m. at Holly Saddler's home. What a great opportunity to spend a cheerful evening among friends and meet new ones during this joyous season. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share; main dish and beverages provided. If you'd like to participate in our festive gift exchange, please bring a wrapped \$20 gift. For planning purposes, we'd appreciate a message to let us know you're joining in on the fun. Please send an e-mail to Christy at lfn@saint-max.org if you're planning on coming, and we'll provide you with directions. We hope to see you then!

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Fr. Geoff and Fr. McCarthy will be hosting three open houses at the rectory for young adults over the Christmas holidays. Mark your calendars now!

Sunday, Dec. 27	4-8 pm	College age students
Monday, Dec. 28	4-8 pm	Single & Married in their 20's
Tuesday, Dec. 29	4-8 pm	Singles & Married in their 30's

RSVP to Fr. Geoff at 777-4322 before Dec. 23!

ST. MAX BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up to save a life by attending the St Maximilian Kolbe Blood Drive Monday January 4th, from 2-8 p.m. in the gym. Spread the word, bring a friend. Sign up is easy after Mass 12/19-20, 12/26-27 and 1/ 2-3 or call Larry Kirwen 894-9197, walk-ins are welcome too! See you then!

The September Blood Drive statistics were: We registered 62 donors and collected 64 units. We also had 15 first time donors! Thank you!!!!

Your single blood donation will benefit up to 3 patients. Donors must bring a photo I.D., eat a good meal, weigh 110 lbs and be at least 17 years old, 16 years old with parental consent.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH REUNION MASS

There will be a CRHP Reunion Mass on Friday, January 8 at 7:30 pm in church. Fellowship will follow the liturgy. *Parish office records of who has participated in CRHP are incomplete. If you did not receive a letter in the mail about this Mass, please call the parish office so we might have a more accurate list of CRHP participants.* Please RSVP for the January 8 Mass and fellowship on the parish website at www.saint-max.org.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH Men of St. Max...Save the weekend February 27 & 28, 2010

You are invited to attend a weekend of Spiritual renewal. The Christ Renews His Parish retreat weekend is a great opportunity to make new friends and renew your growth in our Christian community. Please contact Earl Hill at 889-0083 or the parish office for more information.

"WISH LIST"

FISH FRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Love our Lenten Fish Fry? Why not volunteer with an awesome group of folks who strive to provide the very best fish fry in town?!

- We are currently looking for an “apprentice” willing to assume the duties of floor coordinator next year by learning “the ropes” this year from our current coordinator, Dennis Goldbach.

- A new position is being sought for a kitchen clean-up coordinator. Involvement would require approximately 2 hours each Friday night for six weeks. Our current kitchen coordinator, Stephanie Wagers, will show you “the ropes”.

New this year, we would like to offer our volunteers a babysitting service so you do not have to pay a sitter while you volunteer. We are looking for two adults to coordinate this area.

Please consider serving our parish in one of these capacities. If you have any questions at all, please contact Lakmé Kodros 777-4322 x.105

VCR COMBOS - We are looking for two DVD/VCR units to assist with presentations. Contact Lakmé 777-4322 x105 or kodros@saint-max.org.

ST. MAX MINISTRIES

COMPANIONS ON A JOURNEY

Companions on a Journey Grief Support is open to all who grieve the death of a loved one. We offer the following groups for all types of loss. All groups meet from 7:00—9:00 pm at various locations. The following groups meet at St. Max:

Perinatal/neonatal-1st Monday of the month

Survivors after Suicide-1st Tuesday of the month

Open Grief Group: (Parent/Sibling/Friend)-
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month.

Young Adult Grief Support (ages 19-29)-

3rd Tuesday of the month

Young Widowed Group-2nd & 4th Wed. of the month

The New Beginnings Widowed Group for those who are recently widowed meets the 2nd & 4th Wed. of the month at Huff Realty, 6192 Mulhauser Rd. West Chester 45069.

The Living Again Widowed Group for those who are further along in their healing process meets the 2nd & 4th Wed. at Indiana Wesleyan University, 9286 Schulze Drive, West Chester.

The Bereaved Parents (child loss) group meets the 1st & 3rd Wed. for the month, also at Indiana Wesleyan.

An orientation session for those new to Companions on a Journey is held the 3rd Wed. of the month at Huff Realty.

If you are not a regular member, please call one of the grief specialists listed below before attending so we will know to expect you. Also, if you'd like someone to talk to, we're here to help. Sheila Munafo Kanoza or Tom Kanoza 870-9108 or Linda Sullivan 755-9433.

MINISTRY OF CARE



“Love One Another as
I Have Loved You”

We are always looking for people to volunteer-contact us if you can help! Dena Moulton (779-0248, drmoulton@fuse.net) or Pat Tobergte (874-9605, burgtea@yahoo.com) for more information or check us out on the St. Max website. www.saint-max.org.

CANTORS & INSTRUMENTALISTS NEEDED

We are in need of cantors to lead singing at the 8:30 am weekday Mass. You will receive information and training for this special ministry. We are also in need of specific instrumentalists in order to form new groups for the 4:30 and 12:00 Noon weekend Masses. Especially needed are BASSISTS (acoustic or electric), CELLISTS, BRASS, OBOE and PIANO/KEYBOARD. Of course anyone is welcome to call even if you don't play any of the instruments listed above! If you have some reasonable amount of training and/or experience with your instrument please contact Dan Fuerst at 751-9653 or email at talisman@fuse.net if interested.

TRUMPET INSTRUCTOR

We have a professional trumpet instructor (Indiana University graduate) in the parish looking for talented students. For more information please email Dan Fuerst at talisman@fuse.net and your request will be forwarded.

CHARITABLE IMPACT

Calendar of Events

Dec. 6	Toy Collection for Reach Out Lakota
Dec. 12	Food Basket Drop Off (by 10:30 am)
Dec. 13	Tender Mercies Gift Collection
Dec. 19-20	Tender Mercies Sign-ups
Dec. 26	Tender Mercies Dinner

Please return unwrapped gifts for our **Reach-Out Lakota Toy Collection Drive** to the “toy box” in the Charitable IMPACT area of the Gathering Space by December 6.

For detailed information about these opportunities please see <http://www.saint-max.org/charitableprojects.shtml>

Respect LIFE

Did you know...

Since the Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973, over 50 million babies have died through abortion in the United States. There has been an average of 4000 abortions per day and 166 per hour.

Mass and Rosary for Life

Holy Name Church in Cincinnati, 2448 Auburn Ave. has a Mass for Life at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Saturday of every month. There is a rosary procession to Planned Parenthood on Auburn Ave after Mass. Benediction follows rosary at Holy Name. Join others in praying for the end of abortion.

If you are interested in carpooling, contact: 1st week-Michelle Mort at 226-9582, 3rd week-Mary Jo Suer at 755-1193, 4th week-Jen Thatcher at 889-5400.

March for Life Rally

Travel with pro-life Catholics to the March for Life in Washington DC. A charter bus will leave St. Max the morning of Jan 21 and return Saturday night Jan. 23. For more information, please call Margy Conditt at 476-8934 or holyadventures@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual Direction is a centuries old practice in Christianity. It can provide the opportunity to explore more deeply your relationship with God. Our lives can be so very busy that it can be difficult to notice God's actions in our daily affairs. Yet, we all desire a deeper awareness of God's presence, love and action in our lives. A Spiritual Director can provide that opportunity to listen attentively to the events and stories of our lives to help us notice the presence and movement of God's Spirit. Meeting with a Director takes place in a confidential setting on a regular basis for a few months or longer. My name is Margaret Sherlock and I am available as a Spiritual Director. My education includes a BA and MA in Pastoral Ministry from the College of Mt. St Joseph and Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, the Athenaeum of Ohio. I have completed two years of a Spiritual Direction Training Program from Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT. and two years at the Bergamo Center in Centerville, OH. I am also a Certified Catholic Chaplain and have worked as a hospital staff chaplain for the past 15 years. My husband, Jim, and I have been members of St. Maximilian Parish for 13 years. I would be pleased to meet with you to listen with an attentive ear to the presence of God in your life. I can be reached at 737 7969.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OF YOUTH (RFY)

PRESCHOOL RFY NEWS

Happy St. Nicholas Day! The children will attend music today to prepare to sing before Mass next Sunday, Dec. 13. Please bring your child to class no later than 20 minutes before the hour.

We're also hoping for a visit from one of our favorite saints today. Do you hear bells?

RFY NEWS

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Lk 3:4)
Come, Lord Jesus, prepare our hearts to welcome you with joy.

Attention all RFY Families! On December 14 & 16 during regular class time, the children will be presenting an Advent musical for your enjoyment. Please plan to attend this presentation in the gym, beginning approximately 15 minutes into class time.

Attention all HOMESTUDY Families! Thank you to those current home study and summer home study students who have selected additional RFY parish activities in which to participate during the year and have notified the RFY Office. Please check the website for the updated listing, "Grade Appropriate Parish & RFY Activities." (Each home study student must choose 2 activities and contact the RFY Office with your selections.)

Attention all 5th Graders! Mark your calendars for Mon., Jan. 25, 5:00-6:30 or 6:45-8:15, OR Wed., Jan. 27, 6:00-7:30, for the ACRE test (Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education). St. Max is required to administer the test to all 5th graders, (including summer & current home study as well as home schooled children.) There is no charge to the families for this test. The results serve as a tool for assessing the religious education program at St. Max. Individual students' test results are not provided. We ask that ALL 5th GRADERS PLAN TO TAKE THE TEST.

RFY Classes will not be held on Dec. 21, 23, 28, 30—Christmas break. Classes will resume on Jan. 4 & 6, 2010. Please contact Mary Montour, 777-4322, X-120, if you have any questions or concerns about the RFY Program.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION NEWS:

The next parish reconciliation service will be held on Tues. Dec. 15 at 7:00 pm. Children who have fully prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation can pick up a certificate of preparation after the service. They will also be in the breezeway by the RFY Office.

Reconciliation Make-Up Sessions for any families who were unable to complete the fall preparation sessions will be held on the following days/times:

- Tues., Jan. 5, 7:00-8:00 pm, in Church
- Tues., Jan. 12, 7:00-8:00 pm, in Church
- Tues., Jan. 19, 7:00-8:00 pm, in Church
- Tues., Feb. 2, **6:00-8:00 pm**, begin in Church

All sessions are required with parent plus child in attendance. Please mark your calendars!

First Communion Mass Choice Forms were mailed to all families with children registered to prepare to celebrate the sacrament. We ask that all Mass choice forms be submitted to the RFY office by Jan. 31; they can be placed in the Sunday collection basket, mailed, or faxed. Please indicate "Sacrament Prep" on your communication.

First Communion Preparation Sessions

Sat. Feb. 20	9:00 am—12:00 Noon	Retreat , in Church
Tues. Mar. 2	7:00—8:00 pm	Church
Tues. Mar. 9	7:00—9:00 pm	Church
Tues. Mar. 16	7:00—8:00 pm	Church

All sessions are required with parent plus child in attendance. Please mark your calendars!

If you have questions or concerns about the sacrament preparation program, please call Mary Montour, 777-4322, X-120, or e-mail at mmontour@saint-max.org. Thank you!

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

1X1 Regular Monthly Events - During Jan & Feb we will meet for our regular monthly event on Sundays 1/24 & 2/28 from 6-7:30 starting in the gym.

Special Upcoming One-time Events

Youth are encouraged to attend the Vocations Panel on 1/10 with your family.

Fish Fry Bake Sale 2/26. Pick up a flyer with details, on-line, from the rack in the Gathering Space, from a bulleting board.

Kids Against Hunger 3/16.

Stations of the Cross on 3/12.

Confirmation News

Things to be doing now...

1) Choose a date for the Spring Retreat at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford and return your permission slip. **IMPORTANT - MARCH 14th RETREAT IS FULL AND CLOSED.**

2) Come to any mass the weekend of Jan 23/24 for The Rite of Commitment. **NO NEED TO SIGN UP.** Sponsors are encouraged to attend if possible. Arrive 20 minutes early to sign the Book of Commitment. Please, please start practicing writing your name in script so this goes quickly and we can read your name.

3) Small Faith Group Social Event – you may have already been contacted about this and have attended. Most groups have at least scheduled this.

4) Small Faith Group Service Event – you may have already been contacted about this and served at this group event. Facilitators, please let us know what your group will be doing by Dec 20th.

Things that should be complete...

1) Opening Event Attendance with Small Faith Group.

2) Sponsor Form – should be complete and handed in

3) Individual Service – candidate should have decided what they are doing and possibly already started on this. Some have even have completed this. Please let us know when you are finished.

4) Family Service – candidate and family should have decided what they are doing. You do not need to notify the office about this but will be reflecting on this when you write your portfolio in the spring.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Please pray for all those away on retreat this weekend.

Come to Common Grounds next Sunday, Dec. 13 @ 7:00 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Sunday Offerings (Nov.)	
November 1	44,067.44
November 8	25,360.95
November 15	27,236.21
November 22	23,782.57
November 29	23,139.16
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Total Nov. to date	143,586.33
November Budget	145,000.00
The above totals include:	
Electronic Contributions	28,956.34
Children's envelopes	102.36
2. Sunday Offerings (Year to-Date)	
November 2009	
Actual	614,558.85
Budget	638,000.00
Difference	(23,441.15)
Total electronic contributions	136,338.70
3. Designated Offerings	
November (month to date)	
20/20 Debt Reduction	26,127.18
Camp. For Human Development	1,626.00
Charitable IMPACT	2,623.07
Little Sisters of the Poor	5,010.88
Mission Sunday	17.00
Outreach	1,022.72
Retirement Fund for the Religious	100.00
St. Vincent de Paul	2,031.00
Memorials for Maria Liva (20/20)	495.00
West Liberty	1,855.00
4. Debt on Capital Expenses	
Principal owed 11/1/09	2,184,000.00
Principal payment 11/11/09	(20,000.00)
Interest invoice due 12/15/09	38,669.00
	<hr/>
	2,202,669.00

Note: fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30

Thank you for contributing as generously as you are able!

Through the Eyes of a Child...

This week my gifts to God are:

Time: 10:00 mass

Talent: football

Treasure: God's gift in me

(as written on a Children's envelope)

STEWARDSHIP POINT

Christian stewardship is not to be confused with poverty. This is one of the mysteries of stewardship: The great irony is that when people share their gifts, they don't have less; they have more, because God trusts them as stewards to care for the world. God knows how to make good things from good things because He is goodness!

MARRIAGE MOMENTS & PARENTING POINTERS

Marriage Moments: Advent is a time of holy waiting. Practice waiting on your spouse today. Calmly wait for your spouse to arrive (instead of stewing if he or she is late). Or "wait on" your spouse in the sense of doing a favor for him or her.

Parenting Pointers: Advent is the season of waiting. Don't hurry Christmas. Help your children practice patience this week. Use tools such as the Advent wreath or an Advent calendar to mark the time. Help your children wait by not celebrating before Dec. 25—at least at home. (We can't control the rest of the world). Decorate slowly and in stages. Consider waiting to do the tree. (See **Christmas is Dec. 25**).

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POWER OF ONE

"Most of us, swimming against the tides of trouble the world knows nothing about, need only a bit of praise or encouragement and we will make the goal."

—Jerome Fleishman

YOUNG AT HEART



Wed. Dec. 9 Christmas Party at 6:00 pm at Valley Vineyards (2276 E. US 22, Morrow, Ohio 45152).

Cost is \$29.50 per person which includes regular gratuity. Optional \$5 gift to exchange.

Sat. Dec. 19 Holiday concert with Air Force Band and the Dayton Philharmonic Band.

Sun. Jan. 17 Attend 12:00 Noon Mass as a group, wear red, followed by brunch at the Grand Finale.

Contact Leo Gray (President) 779-3251 for details.

FYI

To view the Parish Council minutes from any given month, go to the St. Max website at www.saint-max.org.

Click on Parish info/Parish Council/Minutes.

BULLETIN ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK!

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A NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE

Grief & The Holidays

Companions on a Journey Grief Support

Join us for a fun, informative evening as we remember our loved ones with special ornaments and memories as well as learning how to live through the holidays.

When: Monday, December 14, 2009

Where: St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Conference Room
5720 Hamilton-Mason Road
Liberty Township, OH 45011

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Pizza & Drinks provided

To Register: Call 777-4322, ext. 222 by Friday, December 11, 2009



HOLY DAY AND HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULES



Advent Penance Services

Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 pm

Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 8th at 8:30 am and 7:30 pm

Advent & Christmas Liturgical Celebrations (the week of Christmas)

Morning Mass, Dec. 21st at 8:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Dec. 21st from 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Dec. 21st from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Morning Mass, Dec. 22nd at 8:30 am

Morning Mass, Dec. 23rd at 8:30 am

Christmas Eve

Morning Mass, Dec. 24th at 8:30 am

NO Thursday Exposition/Benediction on Dec. 24th

Christmas Eve Mass, Dec. 24th at 3:00 pm

Christmas Eve Mass, Dec. 24th at 5:30 pm

Christmas Day

Christmas Eve Carols, Dec. 24th begins at 11:00 pm

Midnight Christmas Mass, Dec. 25th at 12:00 am

Christmas Day Mass, Dec. 25th at 10:00 am

Christmas Day Mass, Dec. 25th at 12:00 pm

Holy Family

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Dec. 26th from 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Mass, Saturday, Dec. 26th at 4:30 pm

Mass, Sunday, Dec. 27th at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 Noon

Week of New Year

Morning Mass, Dec. 28th at 8:30 am

Morning Mass, Dec. 29th at 8:30 am

Morning Mass, Dec. 30th at 8:30 am

New Year's Eve

Morning Mass, Dec. 31st at 8:30 am

No Thursday Exposition/Benediction on 12/31 after Morning Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation, 9:00 am (after Morning Mass)

No Thursday Confessions in the evening before First Friday

New Year's Eve Mass, Dec. 31st at 4:30 pm

Holy Hour (Exposition/Adoration/Benediction) Dec. 31st from 11:00 pm – Midnight

New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation

New Year's Day Mass, Jan. 1st at 10:00 am

New Year's Day Mass, Jan. 1st at 12:00 Noon

Epiphany

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jan. 2nd from 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Mass, Sat. Jan. 2nd at 4:30 pm

Mass, Sunday Jan. 3rd at 8:00 am, 10:00 am, and 12:00 Noon

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OTHER MINISTRY CONTACTS

Altar Servers

Jenny Vanden Eynden

ascoord@saint-max.org

Bereavement

Sheila Munafa-Kanoza

sheilakan@aol.com

Boosters President

Ted Capossela

tcapossela@fuse.net

Charitable IMPACT

Mary Blake

Impact@saint-max.org

Extraordinary Ministers

Gerri Walsh & Dory Schade

emcoord@saint-max.org

Greeters

Mary Perrino

grtcoord@saint-max.org

Knights of Columbus

Bill Johansen

gk@kofc11355.org

Ladies Fellowship Network

Christy Burke

LFN@saint-max.org

Lectors

Mike Lippman

LECCoord@saint-max.org

Newsletter Editor

Dianne Feltz

modernsaint1@yahoo.com

Prayer Requests

Rose Kaepfner

777-4322 ext. #6

Sacristans

Tom Corkhill

SACCoord@saint-max.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Ann Corkhill

SVDP@saint-max.org

Ushers

Walt Schaefer

USHCoord@saint-max.org