

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

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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

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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

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**MASS INTENTIONS
AND EVENTS OF THE PARISH**

Sun., Dec. 13
8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass
12:00 Noon Mass
1:00—4:00 pm
6:30—8:30 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—10:00 pm
9:30—11:45 pm

Third Sunday in Advent
Peg Walker
Dee Hazlebeck
People of the Parish
St. Max Boosters
Girl Scout Troop 46838
Boy Scouts Adult Meeting
Common Grounds
Current Men's CRHP Team
Men's Basketball



Mon. Dec. 14
8:30 am Mass
9:15—10:30 am
9:30—11:45 am
5:00—8:15 pm
7:00—9:00 pm

St. John of the Cross
Cathy Wilken
Shepherds of Christ
Mighty Max
RFY (Religious Formation Classes)
Grief and the Holidays (Bereavement)

Tues., Dec. 15
8:30 am Mass
9:30—11:45 am
10:00—11:00 am
1:00—2:30 pm
2:00—3:00 pm
6:00—7:00 pm
6:00—7:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm

Vince Munafo & Suzanne Kanoza
Mighty Max
Mom's Club—South
AFF Little Rock Scripture Study
Vocations
St. Gabriel Cub Pack 260 Meeting
St. Max Boosters
"Suicide" Bereavement
Reconciliation Service

Wed., Dec. 16
8:30 am Mass
9:30—11:30 am
6:00—7:30 pm
7:00—8:30 pm
7:30—9:30 pm

Tom McNamara
Women's Faith Lessons
RFY (Religious Formation Classes)
Baptismal Prep Class
Choir Rehearsal

Thurs., Dec. 17
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—8:30 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:00—9:00 pm
7:15—9:15 pm

Hailey Meibers
Exposition in the Chapel
Mothers' Rosary
Children's Choir
St. Max Boosters
RCIA
Girl Scout Jr. Troop 41831
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Boy Scouts
8:00 Ensemble Practice

Fri. Dec. 18
8:30 am Mass
10:00—11:00 am
9:30—11:45 pm

Renee LaSance
SHOJ Children's Adoration
Men's Basketball

Sat., Dec. 19
8:45—11:00 am
9:00—11:00 pm
10:00—12:00 Noon
1:00—4:00 pm
3:00—4:00 pm
4:30 pm Mass
6:00—9:00 pm
9:30—11:45 pm

St. Benedict Bible Study
Rosary Makers
St. Max Boosters
St. Max Boosters
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tom McNamara
St. Max Boosters Practice
Men's Basketball

SUNDAY READINGS

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

1st Reading Micah 5: 1-4
2nd Reading Hebrews 10: 5-10
Gospel Luke 1: 39-45



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

VOCATION VIEW

"What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3: 10-18)

BAPTISMS

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

REST IN PEACE

Your Prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Loretta Rehring, mother of Janet Barker, Ellen Rupert, cousin of Caron Bergen. May they enjoy the fullness of God's heavenly glory.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My dear sisters and brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, the traditional "half-way point" of this season of expectation. Gaudete, i.e. "rejoice," is the Latin word which begins the introit (entrance antiphon) of today's Mass from the Roman Missal, Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near! (Philippians 4:4-5)

At this Advent midpoint, the traditional color of rose is used signifying the joyful anticipation of both our Christmas commemoration of our Lord's birth 2000 years ago as well as our eagerly looking forward to His second coming. The rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath is lit and rose vestments are permitted to be worn. However, since the parish does not have a set of rose colored vestments, you will see Fr. McCarthy and me continuing to wear the deep purple vestments of the Advent season!

Christmas is less than two weeks away. For everyone like me who waits to the last minute to start their Christmas shopping, now is the time to start thinking about gift-buying!

As I mentioned in the November Modern Saint newsletter, my hope and desire is that everyone would have an excellent experience of Christmas Mass here. Since the "big screen" simulcast in the gym of our Christmas Eve Masses just didn't seem to be "putting our best foot forward" for our parishioners and those visiting us, for this year we will be having two Masses simultaneously in the church and gym on Christmas Eve at 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. For those who remember weekly Mass in the gym "as the norm" until our church was dedicated in 2001, from a nostalgic point of view, you might even consider making one of these two Christmas Eve Masses in the gym your "first choice" for liturgy! However, even with this adjustment to our schedule, I am still asking everyone to prayerfully consider when you celebrate Christmas Mass as a family – it would be ideal if our crowds on Christmas Eve were less and that the Midnight Mass and Masses on Christmas Day were fuller. I certainly understand that for some, due to family and travel plans, celebrating Christmas Eve Masses is your only option. But for those who could possibly celebrate Mass with us at Midnight or Christmas morning, we would invite you to consider that possibility to alleviate the crowding at the Christmas Eve Masses. Again, the goal is everyone having an excellent experience of Christmas Mass – and spreading our crowds out more equally among our five Mass times would go a long way in accomplishing that.

The second of our two Advent communal reconciliation services is this Tuesday night, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in church. We are hoping to have as many as fifteen confessors so that the service will hopefully take no longer than 90 minutes, thus, those in attendance can stay for the entire service and not just leave after your individual confession has been heard. During Advent, our second grade families are celebrating First Penance in preparation for First Communion in the spring. Our new "prayer wall" in the back of church lists the names of all these children – please keep them and their families in your prayers during this Advent time.

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

Fr. Geoff

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS & FAMILY

QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

Adults: When have I felt most alive in the presence of God?
Children: When are some times that I felt God was near me? Was I happy?

Have You or Someone You Care About Drifted Away From the Church?

Are you angry with the Church or God? Please give us a chance to listen to you and address your concerns. Join us for our informal weekly sessions beginning Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 9:00 – 10:00AM in the Hospitality Room. The meetings will be facilitated by volunteers who you may find share many of your feelings. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Deacon Jeff at 777-4322 ext. 220 or Carol at 777-4322 ext. 104 or e-mail welcomehome@saint-max.org.

BOOK SALE and Gift Buying Opportunity

There is a book sale after all Masses next weekend. This is the time to purchase the yearly books such as *Sunday Missal* for 2010 and *At Home with the Word* for 2010. We will also sell Fr. Mark Berger's Daily reflection book, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as well as books for all ages. Purchase books for Christmas gifts. Go to the Adult Faith Formation Page of the St. Max website for specific titles (http://saint-max.org/adult_faith_formation.shtml).

Advent Retreat and Mass with Fr. Mark Burger

Fr. Mark will present "The Word Became Flesh and Dwells Here Among Us." The reflection on Tuesday, Dec. 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 led 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 777-4322, ext. 106 by January 6th 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 Patrick & Kate Zink

Next Sunday

10:00 Mass Dax & Jennifer Cissell
Mike & Danielle Gingrich

PARISH EVENTS

GRIEF SUPPORT-CANDLE LIGHTING

Companions on a Journey Grief Support would like to invite those parents who have had a child/children die to join us for Compassionate Friends World Lighting Candle Lighting this Sunday evening, Dec. 13, at 6:30 P.M. in the Chapel. Parents will be invited to light a candle for their child or children who have died. We invite you to bring a picture of your child to share. Afterwards some of the families will be going to a local restaurant for dinner. If you would like to join us, or you would like more information please call either Fran Siegel 777-2623 or Sheila Munafo-Kanoza 870-9108.

GRIEF SUPPORT-A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

A Night to Remember - Companions on a Journey Grief Support would like to invite individuals and families to join us on Dec. 14, from 7-9 p.m. in the Conference room as we take time to remember our loved ones who have died. We will create special ornaments and share helpful ways our family can look forward with hope during the Christmas season. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP by calling 777-4322 ext 222.

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!

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. *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 Feb. 27 & 28

You are invited to attend a weekend of Spiritual renewal. 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 lkodros@saint-max.org.

SAVE THOSE STAMPS!!!

With the Christmas season approaching, and Christmas cards and letters bringing good news of friends and family, please remember to save your used postage stamps for the Sr. Elaine Becker and her community, who sell the stamps to stamp collectors and use the money earned to support mission efforts. There is a collection box in the back of church. Scout Troop 41831 forwards the stamps to Sr. Becker – for questions, contact Teri Dean, 777-7936.

VOCATION PRAYER

Hail Mary, full of grace; all generations call you blessed.

Hail Mother of God; when asked by the angel to bear the Son of the Most High, filled with faith, you responded: “Let it be done unto me.”

Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana, you prompted your Son to perform his first sign.

Be with us as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross you mourned the death of your only Son.

Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, turn your motherly care to this nation.

Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to the harvest in this land dedicated to your honor.

Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick, inspire vocations in our time.

Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim the good news of everlasting life.

Amen.

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. 13	Tender Mercies Gift Collection
Dec. 19	Bingo at Hillandale
Dec. 19-20	Tender Mercies Sign-ups
Dec. 26	Tender Mercies Dinner

Please return wrapped gifts for the **Tender Mercies Gift Collection** to the Charitable IMPACT area of the Gathering Space by December 13.

Sign-ups for the December 26 **Tender Mercies** meal and/or hosting is next weekend (December 19-20) after Masses at the Charitable Projects IMPACT table in the Gathering Space; or contact Chung Bui at 520-7583 or Nhatchunz@hotmail.com.

Monthly **bingo** at Hillandale Health Care on Hamilton-Mason Rd. is Saturday, December 19th from 2-4PM. Prizes or assistance are always welcome; contact Bridget at 867-1656.

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

Respect LIFE

Did you know...

There are approximately 30,000 induced abortions a year in Ohio. Over 7,000 are performed in the Cincinnati area. Hamilton County has the third largest abortion rate in the state.

Mass for Rosary and Life

St. Teresa of Avila Church in Western Hills, 1175 Overlook Ave. will have a Mass for Life at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 12. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr will preside. There will be a rosary procession to Planned Parenthood in Western Hills following Mass.

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

YOUNG AT HEART



Sat. Dec. 19 Holiday concert with Air Force Band and the Dayton Philharmonic Band. Meet at the church at 3:30 so we can carpool for the trip.

Wed. Jan. 13 Regular meeting at 7:00 pm in the conference rm.

Sun. Jan. 17 Attend 12:00 Noon Mass as a group, wear red, followed by brunch at Grand Finale, 3 E. Sharon Rd., Gelendale.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OF YOUTH (RFY)

PRESCHOOL RFY NEWS

The children will attend a special prayer service today in celebration of St. Lucia's feast day. As a child, St. Lucia wore candles on her head so that both of her hands would be free to carry food and drink to the poor living in the catacombs under the city of Rome. Our focus will be that even as children, we are able to spread the light of Jesus.

Preschool RFY classes will not be held on Dec. 20 & Dec. 27. Classes resume Jan. 3.

RFY NEWS

"John answered them all, saying, 'I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.'" (Lk 3:16)

Come, Lord Jesus, fill us with joy and thanksgiving as we wait for your coming.

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 church, beginning approximately 15 minutes into your child's 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—777-4322, X120, or mmontour@saint-max.org 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, 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, 2010; 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, 9:00am-12:00noon	RETREAT, begin in Church
Tues., Mar. 2, 7:00-8:00 pm	Church
Tues., Mar. 9, 7:00-8:00 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.

Stations of the Cross on 3/12.

Kids Against Hunger 3/16.

Confirmation LAST CHANCE to hand in Sponsor Forms!!!!

Well, last chance before we start making reminder phone calls. Please send them in this week. We're still waiting to hear from about 100 candidates. We'd rather be baking Christmas cookies than making so many calls!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Please join us for Common Grounds this Sunday, Dec. 13 from 7-9 pm in the lounge.

There will be NO GACBAB on Tuesdays nights until the new year!

FINGERPRINTING & CHILD PROTECTION

The next Child Protection Orientation at St. Max is Wednesday, Jan. 13 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

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Sunday Offerings (Dec.)	
December 6	44,731.53
December 13	
December 20	
December 27	

Total Dec. to date 44,731.53

December Budget 116,000.00

The above totals include:

Electronic Contributions	19,213.84
Children's envelopes	14.15

2. Sunday Offerings (Year to-Date)	
December 2009	
Actual	659,290.38
Budget	667,000.00
Difference	(7,709.62)
Total electronic contributions	155,552.54

3. Designated Offerings	
December (month to date)	
20/20 Debt Reduction	6,779.50
Charitable IMPACT	667.10
Fund for Religious Retirement	5.00
Respect Life	5.00
St. Vincent de Paul	107.00

4. Debt on Capital Expenses	
Principal owed 12/1/09	2,164,000.00
Interest due 12/15/09	38,669.00
	<u>2,202,669.00</u>

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: soccer defender
- Treasure: Grandpa's birthday cake

(as written on a children's envelope)

STEWARDSHIP POINT

"To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; To seek Him, the greatest adventure; To find Him, the greatest human achievement."

St. Augustine

MARRIAGE MOMENTS & PARENTING POINTERS

Marriage Moments: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13: 33) Although death comes most often to the old, don't put off words and acts of love for later. We don't know how much time we have. Love your spouse today.

Parenting Pointers: As we wait for Christmas, it's a good time to develop the virtue of patience as a parent. Focus on being patient with your children this week, whether they are infants who don't want to sleep when you planned, toddlers who break things, teens who think they know everything, or young adults who are far away.

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POWER OF ONE

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and conveniences, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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.

W.I.N.

Are you concerned about the mortgage crisis? Have you seen more empty houses in your community? Do you know of someone who is behind on their mortgage payments or in danger of foreclosure? The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Social Action Parish Collaborative and Working In Neighborhoods are collaborating to provide information about resources and ways you can respond to the problems of foreclosure. If you are having issues with your loan, know of someone who is, or just want to get involved in helping to address this issue contact David Scharfenberger at Working In Neighborhoods 541-4109 ext. 105 or dscharfenberger@wincincy.org.

BULLETIN ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK!

HERITAGESPRING

(Insert ad here!)

Please patronize our bulletin sponsors. It is through their generosity that our weekly bulletin comes to you at no publishing cost.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HEALING SERVICE

Sunday December 20th 7:00P.M.



St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

5720 Hamilton-Mason Road *Liberty Township Ohio* 45011

Questions: Contact SUSAN BROWN 227-0844

Sponsored by: LIVING WATERS PRAYER GROUP

HOLY DAY AND HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULES



Advent Penance Services

Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OTHER MINISTRY CONTACTS

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