

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

<a href="mailto:gdrew@saint-max.org">gdrew@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:tmccarthy@saint-max.org">tmccarthy@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:jmerrell@saint-max.org">jmerrell@saint-max.org</a>

<a href="mailto:kwojo@saint-max.org">kwojo@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:jane@saint-max.org">jane@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:cbergen@saint-max.org">cbergen@saint-max.org</a>

**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

<a href="mailto:cheuser@saint-max.org">cheuser@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:dfuerst@saint-max.org">dfuerst@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:cgerke@saint-max.org">cgerke@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:mmontour@saint-max.org">mmontour@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:culm@saint-max.org">culm@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:gwen@saint-max.org">gwen@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:jmcdaniel@saint-max.org">jmcdaniel@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:mdoughman@saint-max.org">mdoughman@saint-max.org</a>

**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

<a href="mailto:lkodros@saint-max.org">lkodros@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:lwitsken@saint-max.org">lwitsken@saint-max.org</a>
<a href="mailto:bandrews@saint-max.org">bandrews@saint-max.org</a>

**MASS INTENTIONS  
AND EVENTS OF THE PARISH**



**Sun., Dec. 27**

**8:00 am Mass**  
**10:00 am Mass**  
**12:00 Noon Mass**

7:00—10:00 pm

**Mon. Dec. 28**

**8:30 am Mass**  
9:15—10:30 am  
5:00—8:15 pm

**Tues., Dec. 29**

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

**Wed., Dec. 30**

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

**Thurs., Dec. 31**

**8:30 am Mass**  
9:00—10:00 am  
9:00—5:00 pm  
9:30—10:00 pm  
**4:30 pm Mass**  
11:00—12:00 am

**Fri. Jan. 1**

9:00—5:00 pm  
**10:00 am Mass**  
**12:00 pm Mass**

**Sat., Jan. 2**

8:00—4:00 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

**Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph**

Harry & Rosemary Fox  
People of the Parish  
Angela Rizzarda  
Current Men's CRHP Team

**The Holy Innocents**

Mary Fischer  
Shepherds of Christ  
NO RFY

**St. Thomas Becket**

Ed Biehle  
St. Max Boosters  
Natural Family Planning

Steve Ray

NO RFY  
St. Max Boosters  
Boy Scouts Venture Crew

**St. Sylvester I—New Year's Eve**

Jim & Dorothy Grace  
Reconciliation  
Parish Offices Closed  
NO Exposition in the Chapel  
Ken & Carol Cook  
Holy Hour  
(Exposition/Adoration/Benediction)

**New Year's Day—Solemnity of Mary**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

Parish Offices Closed  
Dotty Nolan  
People of the Parish

St. Max Boosters

St. Benedict Bible Study  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Jim Kodros

St. Max Boosters  
Men's Basketball

**A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU**

*We have received many cards, letters, and gifts from many of you this Christmas, and for this we are extremely thankful. We already feel greatly blessed to be here at St. Max serving you. We hope this has been a joyful Christmas for you and that you will continue to enjoy the rest of the Christmas Season. Know that each of you is in our prayers, in a special way for a prayerful and Christ-centered New Year!*

*In Christ,*

*Fr. Geoff and Fr. McCarthy*

**SUNDAY READINGS**



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading	I Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28
2nd Reading	I John 3: 1-2, 21-24
Gospel	Luke 2: 41-52

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

1st Reading	Isaiah 60: 1-6
2nd Reading	Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6
Gospel	Matthew 2: 1-12

**Note:** Daily Mass Readings can be found on the Archdiocesan website [www.catholiccincinnati.org](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org).

VOCATION VIEW

Jesus grew in wisdom, age, and grace in the midst of his family. How is your family growing in the midst of these challenging times? Seek out God's grace. (Luke 2: 41-52)

BAPTISMS

The next Baptismal class will be held Wednesday, January 20 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

For all the sick and hospitalized especially Karen Borgemenke, Melinda Bullock, George Korey, Harold Black, Jim LeGates, Jane Tragesser, Luke Wright, Ann Huss, Christin McCormick, Cameron Brooke McCormick and all those mentioned in the Book of the Sick, that all the ill are returned to health and join us soon at the Lord's table.

REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Jack Donoghue, brother of Peg Hill, Lynn Bowling, sister of Annette Bottoms, and Carlo Gilbert, grandfather of Tiffany Zeuch. May they enjoy the fullness of God's heavenly glory.

**POWER OF ONE**

"Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start now and make a brand new ending."  
*Carl Bard*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My dear sisters and brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ,

A blessed Christmastide to one and all!

This week we celebrate the solemnity of the Mary, Mother of God (the octave day of Christmas) on Friday, January 1. Masses for this holyday of obligation will be on Thursday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. and Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 12 Noon. We will also have a Eucharistic Holy Hour this Thursday (New Year's Eve) starting at 11:00 p.m., concluding with benediction at midnight. During the Holy Hour, in addition to quiet reflection, we will pray the Rosary for Peace and night prayer. For those in attendance we will then head over to the rectory for some light New Year's refreshments. This Friday is also First Friday, so we will have confessions after the morning Mass, but no confessions in the evening due to the holyday vigil.

At this time of year, it seems thoughts of gratitude are often on people's minds. I am no different!

First, I am most grateful to be your pastor. Your warm welcome last summer and continual kindnesses have made these first six months here a wonderful time for me – not to say that it has not been busy though, for it has!

Second, I am very grateful for this parish. A "baby" itself being only two decades old, our parish with all its ministries, organizations, and activities are truly a blessing to all of us. Everyone's sharing of talent and time is a big part of making St. Max what St. Max is! Thanks to all our volunteers across the board!

And third, I am equally grateful for your generosity. In the midst of the continuing precariousness of the global and national economy, your financial stewardship has been truly astounding during these last few months. And even beyond the Sunday collections, your generosity in our charitable works is truly remarkable. One example is witnessed in a thank-you note I received earlier this month from the Little Sisters of the Poor. As you remember two of the sisters were here last month after the Masses to accept your donations to support their work with close to one hundred elderly residents at St. Paul's Archbishop Leibold Home in Clifton. Your spontaneous out-of-pocket generosity that weekend resulted in the sisters collecting almost \$6800.00!! Yes, indeed I am grateful for the exceptional generosity of our St. Max parishioners!

My final words of gratitude are to everyone who has blessed Fr. McCarthy and me with the many Christmas cards, greetings, gifts, and goodies. Your thoughtfulness and kindness is truly appreciated.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, please know of my prayers and good wishes for the St. Max Parish Family as well as for all the individual families who make-up our parish. In the midst of life's challenges and successes, joys and sorrows, work and leisure, we are most certainly blessed to have each other as we journey together in faith. Let us continue to pray for each other always as we continue in 2010 and beyond to build up that unique part of the Body of Christ which is St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.

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 show my love for Jesus to everyone I meet during this coming week?

**Children:** What can I do for each member of my family to show them in a special way how much I love them?

### Get Rid of Those Negative Feelings!

Have you been hurt or angered by the Church? There are others who may share many of your feelings. Please give the Church and yourself another chance by joining us beginning Saturday, January 16 through February 13, from 9:00 – 10:00AM in the Hospitality Room. There is no obligation, and perhaps some of your questions will be answered. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Jeff at 777-4322 ext. 220 or Carol at 777-4322 ext. 104 or e-mail [welcomhome@saint-max.org](mailto:welcomhome@saint-max.org).

### Would You Like a Deeper Understanding and Appreciation for 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 Colleen Gerke at 777-4322 ext. 106 by January 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Fireproof – Free Movie Night

*Fireproof* will show on Friday, January 8 from 7 – 9pm in Favret Hall (formerly St. John Hall) at St. John's in West Chester. This is a heartwarming drama about a small town fireman who, with the guidance of his Christian father, works to save his troubled marriage. This movie's message is that a successful marriage is grounded in the knowledge that God loves us despite our faults. Rated PG. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops rates it All: for adults and adolescents. To read their complete review go to: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

### Little Rock Scripture Studies – New Members Welcomed

Little Rock Scripture Study continues during the day this winter with *James, Peter and Jude: The Catholic Letters* on Tuesdays 1-2:30pm in Rooms 8 & 10 of the Complex from January 5—February 16. Pat McKenna will lead this study of letters "written to strengthen scattered Christian communities".

### The Catechism of the Catholic Church

A brief overview of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* will be on Tuesdays, January 19 and February 2, 16, and March 3 from 7-9pm in the Youth Room. Fr. McCarthy will share his enthusiasm for the Church by exploring its teachings found in this systematic resource.

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## NURSERY

### This Sunday

10:00 Mass      Nursery Closed

### Next Sunday

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

## PARISH EVENTS

### **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 this weekend 12/26-27 and 1/ 2-3 or call Larry Kirwen 894-9197, walk-ins are welcome too! See you then!

### **MIGHTY MAX**

#### **Join us in our fun!**

Mighty Max is starting a NEW SESSION **January 4th**. Parent and Me classes are Monday 9:45 and 10:45 and Tuesday at 9:45. Parent's Morning In class is scheduled on Tuesday at 10:45. The 7-8 week session cost is \$52.00. Please contact Gena Leisten at genaleisten@fuse.net or 759-4692 to register or for more details. Classes are for children 18 months to 4 years old.

### **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 Mass and fellowship on the parish website at [www.saint-max.org](http://www.saint-max.org).

### **WALKING IN FAITH WHILE UNEMPLOYED**

After all Masses the weekend of **Jan 9-10**, Deacon Jeff and Janet Merrell will be available to discuss a possible faith sharing ministry with those individuals and spouses who have recently suffered through unemployment, have been unemployed, or may have possible unemployment in the near future. If you are interested in sharing how your faith has and can help in this journey please drop in the conference room after Mass.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Free Throw Championship**

The free throw contest is open to boys and girls ages 10 to 14. Shoot-offs are conducted on council, district, regional, and state or provincial levels to determine winners. The results from the state or provincial contests are forwarded to the Supreme Council office where international winners are determined. This event will take place **January 14th** from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the St. Max Gym. Please contact Bob Bimonte at [bimonte@gmail.com](mailto:bimonte@gmail.com) or 777-7667 for more information.

### **MEN'S NIGHT OUT**

We are looking for a lot of good men to join us on Friday, **Feb. 5** for a men's night of fellowship, fun, food and spirits. Mark your calendar!!! More to follow. Anyone interested in helping with this event contact Larry Witsken at 233-5812.



### **FAITH OF OUR FATHERS: The Story of a Priest**

Produced by nationally recognized Theater of the Word, Inc, this is a funny, profound, and heartwarming story dedicated to those who dedicate themselves to us—our priests. This play is geared toward a general audience. It is appropriate for adults, teenagers, and older children. Younger children (under age 10) may be able to understand parts of the play, but it is not specifically geared to them. "Faith of Our Father" is a four person play (three actors and one actress). Each actor plays multiple parts throughout the story. The live performance will be Saturday, **January 16<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:30 pm in the church. A free will offering will be accepted. For more information about Theater of the Word, Inc visit [www.thewordinc.org](http://www.thewordinc.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.

### **FREE PREVIEW OF FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY!**

#### **What would your life look like if you had NO DEBT and were really IN CONTROL of your money?**

Join us on Thursday, **January 21** at 7:00 PM in the Rooms 2 & 3 for a free preview of Financial Peace University. FPU is a 13-week video-driven program taught by Dave Ramsey, a nationally renowned expert on personal money management. FPU, which has been conducted in over 800 Catholic churches nationwide, including St. Max, teaches families to communicate about money and equips them to beat debt and build wealth God's way. Small group discussion, accountability and fun are incorporated into every session. You can register for FPU by contacting Kevin Nelson at [knelson@transunion.com](mailto:knelson@transunion.com) or you may register in person at the free preview. The cost of the program is \$99 per family and includes a Member Kit. If you have any questions please contact Kevin at 755-3951.

### **"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](mailto:lkodros@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](mailto:drmoulton@fuse.net)) or Pat Tobergte (874-9605, [burgtea@yahoo.com](mailto:burgtea@yahoo.com)) for more information or check us out on the St. Max website. [www.saint-max.org](http://www.saint-max.org).

### TO ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The new schedule has been run and posted.

If you did not receive your schedule, please go online to <http://ministers.saint-max.org> and click on 'Schedules'.

Thanks for your patience and service to  
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish!



### YOUNG AT HEART

**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., Glendale.

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

## CHARITABLE IMPACT

### Calendar of Events

Dec. 26	Tender Mercies Dinner
Jan. 14	Charitable IMPACT Committee Meeting
Jan. 16	Bingo at Hillandale
Jan. 16-17	Tender Mercies Sign-ups
Jan. 23	Tender Mercies Dinner

Chosen Homeless Shelter has an opening for preparing meals on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Chosen greatly appreciates those who prepare the meals each month. If you are able to prepare a meal on either of these dates you can call Greg and Pepper Plowman at (513)779-6823. Help make the holidays happy for the whole community.

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

## *Respect* **LIFE**

### Did you know...

St. Max High School Youth Ministry recently made 46 baby blankets at their fall retreat and donated them to the Pregnancy Center West.

### Mass for Rosary and 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 will follow the 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 other prolife adults (over 21) 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](mailto:holyadventures@gmail.com).

### VOCATIONS

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life grow in families. Just as Jesus was raised in a family and was taught to pray and serve His Father in the midst of a family, let us make our families 'holy' by centering everything we do on Christ, that our homes may be houses of prayer. Then, as we prepare to send our children and grandchildren into the world, we may do so knowing that they will be about their Father's business in spreading the Kingdom of God with all that they say and do. During the upcoming *Vocation Awareness Week*, January 10-16 may parents be courageous in offering their children to God, the Father, and allowing Him to choose them to serve as priests and religious.

## HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

### RELIGIOUS FORMATION OF YOUTH (RFY)

#### **PRESCHOOL RFY NEWS**

Preschool RFY classes are not in session this week.  
Classes resume on Jan. 4!

#### **RFY NEWS**

"Brothers and sisters: put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another... (Col 3:12-13)

***Children, remember to thank God for the gift of our families. Pray that we remember to treat the members of our families with honor and respect.***

***Happy New Year to all our RFY Families and Catechists!***

**NO RFY Classes** on Dec. 28, 30—Christmas break.  
Classes will resume on Jan. 4 & 6.

**Parent Meeting for In Control Program** -6th, 7th & 8th Graders:  
Tuesday, Jan. 5: 7:00 pm – Conference Room

#### **Upcoming Activities for RFY**

including Current & Summer Home Study:

**Vestments Talk** -1st Graders—Mon Jan 4 & Wed Jan 6  
during class times

**Tour of the Church** -2nd Graders—Mon Jan 4 & Wed Jan 6  
during class times

**In Control Program** -6th, 7th & 8th Graders:

Sixth Grade Program—Mon. Jan. 11 – 5:00-6:30

Seventh Grade Program—Mon, Jan. 18 – 5:00-6:30 &  
Mon. Feb. 1 – 6:45-8:15

Eighth Grade Program—Mon, Jan. 18 – 6:45-8:15 &  
Mon. Feb. 1 – 5:00-6:30

(Please call the RFY Office if you need more information on these activities.)

#### **Attention all Current and Summer HOME STUDY Families!**

Please remember to select your two additional RFY parish activities in which to participate during the year (if you have not already done so) and contact the RFY Office—777-4322, X120, or [mmontour@saint-max.org](mailto:mmontour@saint-max.org) with your selections. Please check the website for the **updated** listing, "Grade Appropriate Parish & RFY Activities."

**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.

Please contact Mary Montour, 777-4322, X-120, if you have any questions or concerns about the RFY Program.

#### **SACRAMENT PREPARATION NEWS:**

**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.

**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 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](mailto: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 bulletin board.

Kids Against Hunger 3/6 (note – wrong date was given last week, sorry).

Stations of the Cross on 3/12.

#### **We're still looking**

We are still in need of about 30 sponsor forms and 15 service assignments. Please forward the sponsor form (available on the web site) and e-mail your individual service ASAP. All candidates who need to send in this information have been contacted.

#### **Pure Energy – Middle School Youth Rally for grades 6-8**

Jan 15 – speaker, Michael Walsh, topic is 'renewal of your mind'

Feb 12 – speaker is Dan DeMatte, topic is 'deal or no deal – Catholic edition'

April 1-2 – 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat, topic is 'Night to Remember'

May 14 – TBA

Location: Immaculate Heart of Mary, 7820 Beechmont Ave. 45255, Time: 6-8:30pm, Contact: Patrick Reis 388-4185 or [patrickr@ihom.org](mailto:patrickr@ihom.org)

#### **Save those cans**

Remember to save pop cans from your parties during the Christmas season. We appreciate every donation we receive for Haircuts from the Heart.

#### **What's Happening in Youth Ministry around the Archdiocese**

Book mark the web page and keep up to date with youth events happening around the archdiocese at

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/youthmin/>.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

There will be NO Common Grounds this Sunday ☺

We will **not** be attending the March for Life this year in Washington D.C., but we won't let this date pass without notice! Please mark Friday, January 22 on your calendar as a Day of Penance, and plan to spend your evening at St. Max. We will have a Holy Hour and time after for reflection.

Excited about the retreat we just had? Bummed you missed it? Curious about what we are talking about? Plan ahead for the SPRING RETREAT March 5-7! Mark your calendars!

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>1. Sunday Offerings (Dec.)</b>	
December 6	44,731.53
December 13	27,361.52
December 20	
December 27	
<b>Total Dec. to date</b>	<b>72,093.05</b>
December Budget	116,000.00
The above totals include:	
Electronic Contributions	22,408.34
Children's envelopes	47.90
<b>2. Sunday Offerings (Year to-Date) December 2009</b>	
Actual	686,651.90
Budget	696,000.00
Difference	(9,348.10)
Total electronic contributions	158,747.04
<b>3. Designated Offerings December (month to date)</b>	
20/20 Debt Reduction	14,219.50
Campaign for Human Development	5.00
Charitable IMPACT	687.10
Fund for Religious Retirement	7,042.00
Outreach	100.00
Respect Life	5.00
St. Vincent de Paul	172.00
<b>4. Debt on Capital Expenses</b>	
Principal owed 12/1/09	2,164,000.00
Interest due 12/15/09	38,669.00
Interest paid 12/15/09	(38,669.00)
Principal payment	(20,000.00)
	<u>2,144,000.00</u>

Note: fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30

**STOCK DONATIONS**

Donating stock has never been easier! An account has been set up at Fifth Third Bank exclusively to receive stock transfers for our parish. Please contact Lakmé for specifics 777-4322 x.105 or [lkodros@saint-max.org](mailto:lkodros@saint-max.org).

*Thank you for contributing as generously as you are able!*

**Through the Eyes of a Child...**

This week my gifts to God are:

**Time:** 4:30

**Talent:** football

**Treasure:** baseball cards

(as written on a children's envelope)

**STEWARDSHIP POINT**

The Christian Stewardship concept holds that all we are and all that we have are gifts from God, and that we have been truly blessed by Him. Stewardship suggests that we are given three gifts which can be symbolic of the three gifts presented by the Magi at Christ's birth: the gift of our time, the gifts of our unique talents and the gift of treasure.

**MARRIAGE MOMENTS & PARENTING POINTERS**

**Marriage Moments:** "On the fourth Day of Christmas my true love gave to me, four calling birds..." How do you call your true love? Do you have a pet name? Say your spouse's name with special tenderness today.

**Parenting Pointers:** Take time to savor each gift you open and appreciate the giver. Help your children learn that as they receive, so they are also responsible for giving. Choose a charity to support as a family. Remember, those who have less through prayer and a donation.

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**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

To view the Parish Council minutes from any given month, go to the St. Max website at [www.saint-max.org](http://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](mailto:dscharfenberger@wincincy.org).

**\$50.00 KROGER CARD WINNER...**

Each month we will be drawing a winner of a \$50 Kroger Gift Card. If you use your Kroger card during a given month, you will be included in the drawing. Please call the parish office at 777-4322 ext. 111 if this is your number on the back of your Kroger card to redeem your **free gift card!!!**

**#298 175 620**

**BULLETIN ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK!**

**John XXIII Catholic Elementary School**

**(Insert ad here!)**

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HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

**OTHER MINISTRY CONTACTS**

**Altar Servers**

Jenny Vanden Eynden

[ascoord@saint-max.org](mailto:ascoord@saint-max.org)

**Bereavement**

Sheila Munafa-Kanoza

[sheilakan@aol.com](mailto:sheilakan@aol.com)

**Boosters President**

Ted Capossela

[tcapossela@fuse.net](mailto:tcapossela@fuse.net)

**Charitable IMPACT**

Mary Blake

[Impact@saint-max.org](mailto:Impact@saint-max.org)

**Extraordinary Ministers**

Gerri Walsh & Dory Schade

[emcoord@saint-max.org](mailto:emcoord@saint-max.org)

**Greeters**

Mary Perrino

[grtcoord@saint-max.org](mailto:grtcoord@saint-max.org)

**Knights of Columbus**

Bill Johansen

[gk@kofc11355.org](mailto:gk@kofc11355.org)

**Ladies Fellowship Network**

Christy Burke

[LFN@saint-max.org](mailto:LFN@saint-max.org)

**Lectors**

Karen Agricola

[LECCoord@saint-max.org](mailto:LECCoord@saint-max.org)

**Newsletter Editor**

Dianne Feltz

[modernsaint1@yahoo.com](mailto:modernsaint1@yahoo.com)

**Prayer Requests**

Rose Kaepfner

777-4322 ext. #6

**Sacristans**

Tom Corkhill

[SACCoord@saint-max.org](mailto:SACCoord@saint-max.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

Ann Corkhill

[SVDP@saint-max.org](mailto:SVDP@saint-max.org)

**Ushers**

Walt Schaefer

[USHCoord@saint-max.org](mailto:USHCoord@saint-max.org)