

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., Jan. 10

8:00 am Mass

10:00 am Mass

12:00 Noon Mass

2:00—4:00 pm

6:30—8:30 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:00—10:00 pm

Mon. Jan. 11

8:30 am Mass

9:15—10:30 am

9:30—11:45 am

5:00—8:15 pm

6:00—9:00 pm

7:00—10:00 pm

7:00—8:00 pm

Tues., Jan. 12

8:30 am Mass

9:30—11:45 am

1:00—2:30 pm

5:00—9:00 pm

7:00—8:00 pm

7:00—9:30 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

Wed., Jan. 13

8:30 am Mass

9:30—11:30 am

6:00—7:30 pm

6:00—9:00 pm

7:00—8:00 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:30—9:30 pm

Thurs., Jan. 14

8:30 am Mass

9:30—10:00 pm

10:00—11:00 am

6:00—9:00 pm

6:00—7:15 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

7:00—9:00 pm

7:00—9:00 pm

7:15—9:15 pm

Fri. Jan. 15

8:30 am Mass

10:00—11:00 am

5:00—9:00 pm

Sat., Jan. 16

8:45—11:00 am

9:00—10:00 am

10:00—3:00 pm

3:00—4:00 pm

4:30 pm Mass

6:00—9:00 pm

Phe Nguyen

People of the Parish

Melvin & Pauline Mathes

St. Max Boosters

Girl Scout Troop 46838

Vocations Panel

Common Grounds-Youth Ministry

Current Men's CRHP Team

Bob Beckman

Shepherds of Christ

Mighty Max

RFY (Religious Formation of Youth)

St. Max Boosters

Current Women's CRHP Team

Holy Hour for Vocations

Steve Ray

Mighty Max

AFF Little Rock Scripture Study

St. Max CYO Volleyball

Reconciliation Prep. Make-up

Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting

Bereavement "Open Group"

RCIA Mystagogia

Patricia Buelter

Women's Faith Lessons

RFY (Religious Formation of Youth)

St. Max Boosters

Child Protection Orientation

AFF Christian Scriptures-Dr. Callan

Young at Heart

Bereavement—Young Widowers

Boy Scout Venture Crew

Choir Rehearsal

Patricia Buelter

Exposition in the Chapel

Mothers' Rosary

K of C Free Throw Contest

Children's Choir

RCIA

Answer the Call Men's Faith Sharing

Prayer Shawl Group

Charitable Projects Committee

Natural Family Planning

CRHP Continuation Committee

Boy Scouts

8:00 Ensemble Practice

Paul Cunningham

SHOJ Children's Adoration

St. Max Boosters CYO Volleyball

St. Benedict Bible Study Group

Returning Catholics

St. Max Boosters CYO

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Gary Hollenkamp

St. Max Boosters Practice

SUNDAY READINGS



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading

Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7

Gospel

Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

1st Reading

Isaiah 62: 1-5

2nd Reading

I Corinthians 12: 4-11

Gospel

John 2: 1-11

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

VOCATION VIEW

Like Jesus, you are called God's beloved.

Renew your baptismal commitment and pray for those discerning a call to priesthood or religious life. (Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22)

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 Melinda Bullock, George Korey, Steve Hazlebeck, Joe Zarick, and all those mentioned in the Book of the Sick that they are lifted up by our goodness and generosity.

REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of
Mary Krzykowski,

Mary Christman, mother of Dave Christman,

John McNally, father of Matt McNally,

Louise Owen, mother of Bill Owen,

Ann Huss, mother of Jim Huss and

Laura Lierman, aunt of Janet Hazlebeck & Pam Bange.

May they enjoy the fullness of God's heavenly glory.

POWER OF ONE

"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it,
But what he becomes by it."

—John Ruskin

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My dear sisters and brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Today is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the last day of the Christmas season. Since this is the first "Pastor's Desk" article I have written in the New Year due to early bulletin deadlines over the holidays, let me simply say THANK YOU to everyone who made my Christmas and the parish's Christmas so fantastic!

First, one last personal word of thanks to everyone who sent cards, gifts, goodies, and greetings to Fr. McCarthy and I. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated! Two special words of thanks here – to the parishioner who didn't sign a gift card and to the anonymous parishioner who paid for Fr. Kyle Schnippel's and my dinner at Union Centre's Red Robin restaurant last Sunday night – thank you!

And second, a word of collective thanks on behalf of all our parishioners to all our liturgical ministers who made our Advent and Christmas celebrations so beautiful. The altar attendants, lectors, greeters, ushers, sacristans, captains, collectors, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion performed your ministries so prayerfully and well. Our maintenance staff magnificently transformed the gym into "church" for Christmas Eve Masses. And special thanks to our music ministry and art/environment committee whose tireless efforts added so much to our overall parish liturgical experience. I hope I did not forget any group of ministers... if so, let me know and I will acknowledge them next week!

Tonight, Sunday, January 10, we will have a Vocation Panel as we begin Vocation Awareness Week. And next Saturday night, January 16, we will host the play Faith of Our Father in church to conclude Vocation Awareness Week and to commemorate the Year for Priests.

Looking ahead to next week, Friday, January 22, is the annual Day of Penance for Violations to the Dignity of the Human Person and Prayer for the Full Restoration of the Dignity of Life. Please see the special page in today's bulletin which how we as a parish will commemorate this day as well as how individuals might also observe this day of penance.

One of the follow-up activities from the *Pulse of the Parish* Neighborhood Meetings will be my hosting several "Everything You Wanted to Know about the Catholic Church and Were Afraid to Ask" meetings. The sessions are as follows:

- Monday, February 1 – 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- * Monday, February 1 – 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- * Monday, February 1 – 6:45-8:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 2 – 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- * Wednesday, February 3 – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 4 – 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 6 – 9:00-10:30 a.m.

The three sessions marked with asterisks are scheduled during weekly RFY classes. These times are primarily (*but not exclusively*) scheduled for the convenience of parents who will already be on campus dropping off and picking up their children.

There are many issues in our Church which are controversial and misunderstood. It is important that all members of the Church try to understand why the Church teaches what it does to the best of our ability. I am hopeful these meetings will allow for frank, open, honest and informal questions-and-answers about whatever is on the mind of our parishioners.

And finally, we will start celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick communally at the 4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon Mass whenever there is a *fifth Saturday* of the month. That occurs this month on Saturday, January 30. Be on the lookout for a more detailed explanation of this sacrament and who can be anointed in the January "Modern Saint" newsletter.

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

Fr. Geoff

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS & FAMILY

QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

Adults: Am I aware that I am God's beloved child? How do I experience my belovedness?

Children: When do I feel God's love for me? Do I know how special I am?

Catholics Returning Home

Have you been away from the Church for a while? Have you ever thought about returning? If so, we would like to welcome you back to St. Max. We have a special ministry for people just like you who have been away from the Church. Please join us beginning Saturday, January 16 through February 13, 2010 from 9:00 – 10:00AM in the Hospitality Room. We would like to address your questions and make you feel at home once more in the Catholic Church. 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.

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 over view 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.

Celebrate the Year of the Priest with

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Pope Benedict has declared this year to be the "year of the Priest." Join us for this wonderful study of how our understanding of the Sacred Heart of Jesus develops throughout the New Testament. We meet on Mondays, beginning Jan. 11 from 9:30—11:00 am in the Hospitality rm. or on the internet at your convenience. The book is available in the parish office for \$13.

Coffee and Donuts Breakfast Series: Sacraments: Vocations

Join us on Sat. morning, Jan. 23 from 9:00—11:00 am in the Conference room for a closer look at how and why we celebrate the sacraments of matrimony and ordination. Childcare provided by RSVP only. Contact Colleen Gerke at 777-4322, ext. 106

Walk through Mass

All are welcome on Thursday, Jan. 28 from 7-8:30 pm in Church to take a closer look at how we celebrate Mass. For more information contact Carol Heuser at 777-4322 ext. 104.

What Parents Want

On Tues. Jan. 26 from 8:00—9:00 pm in the Conference room all parents are invited to ask questions about the church, faith and raising children in faith. This is the first of four sessions as a follow up from "Will Our Kids Have Faith?" You did not have to attend "Will Our Kids Have Faith" to attend this session. For more information contact Colleen Gerke at 777-4322 ext. 106.

NURSERY

This Sunday

10:00 Mass

Kay and Greg Harmeyer

Next Sunday

10:00 Mass

Mike & Maria Fox
Donna Abdelnour

PARISH EVENTS

ALL TEENAGERS-ALL SINGLE MEN/WOMEN!

Have you ever considered a religious vocation? Join us for our 3rd Annual Vocation Panel on Sunday evening, **January 10**, from 7-9pm. Come hear the vocation stories of Fr. Tom McCarthy, Deacon Tim Ralston (to be ordained in May 2010), 1st year seminary Chris Geiger from St. Susanna Parish, along with 2 nuns from the Dominicans and the Little Sisters of the Poor, and 2 lay consecrated women. We will also have refreshments and a Q & A session. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can hear God's will in your life!

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.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Come to a Holy Hour for Vocations and pray for the priesthood and consecrated life on Monday, **January 11** from 7:00—8:00 pm. There will be exposition, readings, meditation, and benediction. Bring your friends and family!

FAITH LESSONS FOR WOMEN

We are a group of women varying in ages who gather to share our faith through discussions based on readings and/or videos. We meet Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30AM with coffee and a snack. Our meetings for the new year will begin on January 13th. For this meeting we will be viewing "The 13th Day." On January 20th we will begin our next book, "The Mystery of Faith: An Introduction to Catholicism" by Michael J. Himes. We will be working through it using its corresponding video series. All women are welcome; feel free to show up to see if you like it before getting the book. Childcare is available for children ranging in ages from 6 months to 5 years, but spots are limited. If you are interested, please contact Caroline Tyler (cctyler@fuse.net or 777-0403).

ANSWER THE CALL

Suddenly have Spring Fever? Looking for a spiritual uplift? **Stop and Answer the Call!** We are a group of men like you feeling the same things. Come Thursday night 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.

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 bbimonte@gmail.com or 777-7667 for more information.

BAKERS NEEDED

There will be a Welcome Weekend reception after the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses on Sunday, Jan. 17. Bakers are greatly needed! Please drop off baked goods before the 4:30, 8:00 or 10:00 Masses in a disposable container in the kitchen. We greatly appreciate your help.

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 16th**, 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.

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Information Weekend January 17th

Representatives from our parish school, St. Gabriel Consolidated School as well as Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary, St. Ann and Royalmont have been invited to the complex after all Masses to answer questions and introduce interested families to their schools. Visit the St. Max website for more details at www.saint-max.org.

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 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.

"BOYZ NIGHT OUT"

Come to "Boyz Night Out" on Friday, **Feb. 5** from 8:00—12 Midnight. for a night of fellowship, fun, food and spirits. Cost \$20 (includes 2 drink tickets and unlimited food!). For more info contact Paul Groh at (513) 988-1981 (groh@sbcglobal.net) or Larry Witsken at 777-4322 ext. 110 (lwitsken@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.

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 Munafa 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.

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.

MOTHER'S ROSARY GROUP

Kids Play while Moms Pray

How does a busy mom with little kids ever find time to pray? The Mother's Rosary Group is the answer! The Mothers' Rosary Group is simply a group of moms who gather weekly to pray the Rosary for our children, our schools and all children. We meet in the nursery so our younger children can play as we pray. It's prayerful chaos. We invite all mothers to join us on **Thursday mornings at 9:45 in the nursery**. For more information, please call Lisa Swindeman at 755-3741, or email at redneigh@fuse.net; or Lili Gellner at 777-5159, or email at lili_gellner@yahoo.com.

CHARITABLE IMPACT

Calendar of Events

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

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

Did you know...

50% of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25. Women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all abortions, and teenagers obtain 17%.

March for Life Rally

Travel with other prolife adults (over 21) to the March for Life rally 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 holydventures@gmail.com

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 wee-Michelle Mort at 226-9582

3rd week-Mary Jo Suer at 755-1193

4th week-Jen Thatcher at 889-5400.

Respect
LIFE

VOCATIONS

Iconographers have traditionally represented the descent of Jesus into the waters of the Jordan River for Baptism by John as if He were entering a tomb; for from this moment on, His life is marked by the shadow of the Cross. Even though He knows the struggles that will be His, Jesus still willingly embraces the mission He has been given by the Father for the salvation of the world. To be called to the priesthood and religious life in this day and age involves a life of sacrifice for the salvation of one's brothers and sisters in Christ. During this *Vocation Awareness Week*, let us all pray that those who are called have the courage to lay down their lives so that Christ's love may shine forth in all that they do.

THANK YOU

from the Arts and Environment Committee

The members of St. Max's Arts and Environment Committee would like to thank all those who took time from busy holiday schedules to help decorate the church for Christmas. It takes many hours to iron and hang the banners, prepare and place the live trees, wreaths and poinsettias, and additional time to keep everything maintained throughout the Christmas season. The committee would especially like to thank the adults and boy scouts from Troop 944 who graciously responded to our request for help this year. Your additional manpower in preparing, moving, and placing the trees was a tremendous help.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OF YOUTH (RFY)

PRESCHOOL RFY NEWS

Preschool RFY classes have resumed!

This month, we are looking forward to learning more about our relationships with each other, the environment and God.

RFY NEWS

John answered them all, saying,

"I am baptizing you with water,

but one mightier than I is coming. (Lk 3:15)

Jesus, you came and stood alongside us, waiting to go under the water like everybody else. Help us to remember your gift of holiness received through the waters of baptism.

In Control (Chastity) Program for 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.)

ACRE Testing for ALL 5th Graders: **Mon., Jan. 25, 5:00-6:30 or 6:45-8:15, OR Wed., Jan. 27, 6:00-7:30.** 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. We ask that ALL 5th GRADERS PLAN TO TAKE THE TEST. Please call the RFY Office with your selection of day and time.

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 with your selections. Please check the website for the *updated* listing, "Grade Appropriate Parish & RFY Activities."

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

RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 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, they can be placed in the Sunday collection basket, mailed, or faxed. Please indicate "Sacrament Prep" on your communication.

Reconciliation Make-Up Sessions

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

Please see the website for dates & times.

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

Junior High 1X1 – January

Go ahead and admit it...you have one somewhere...or can borrow one...or make one...or get one from the Good Will store...wear it to our St. Max Junior High 1X1 UGLY SWEATER PARTY Sunday January 24th, 6-7:30. Donations of baked goods, bags of chips/pretzels/etc. and liters of soda are always welcome!

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

Stations of the Cross on 3/12

We're always collecting aluminum cans!

Crush them and drop them in our big blue recycling contains. Thanks!!!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Come to our third annual **VOCATIONS NIGHT!** Hear great stories from priests, seminarians, and consecrated women from around the area. Enjoy pizza and social time as well! Don't miss this Sunday night at 7pm in the gym!

GACBAB (Gwen at Coffee Beans and Brew) will start up again January 12. Join us from 7-8pm for social time and coffee, and then from 8-9pm for a study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday. It's a great chance to grow in faith and fellowship!!

Our summer trip to the Franciscan Youth Conference has undergone some changes and we will now be attending Steubenville Mid-America in Springfield, MO! Information about the trip from July 15-18, 2010 is in the gathering space and online. Register soon! The trip is open to current 8th grade students through current high school seniors.

Woo hoo!!! It's ski time! Come hit the slopes at Perfect North with us February 6! We will leave at 7:15pm and return around 3am. This year the lift ticket includes tubing!! Permission slips are on the website and in the gathering space. This is a great opportunity to meet people in a fun environment. Adult chaperones willing to ski and willing to chill in the lodge are needed.

Cast Your Nets 2010: Join St. Max Youth Ministry as we participate in an awesome program called *Cast Your Nets*. It is an evening of Sunday Eucharist, praise and worship, a keynote presentation, snacks and more, with priests available for the sacrament of reconciliation. This event will take place in Cincinnati on **Jan. 31, 2010 from 5-9pm** at **Good Shepherd** parish. Take advantage of this opportunity to gather with others in the archdiocese to be invigorated in their faith and become the new disciples of Christ. This event is **free**, so just go to our website for more information! Also, receive more current updates by becoming a fan on **Facebook!**

NOTE: Because we will be attending Cast Your Nets, there will be NO COMMON GROUNDS Sunday, January 31

ST. GABES EARNS CASH FOR YOUR TRASH!

Please save your used printer cartridges and the "Labels for Education" and "BoxTops for Education" printed on packages from General Mills, Tyson and Campbells and put them in the collection box located in the Gathering Space! We appreciate your help, as these sponsors contribute money or goods towards our school based on these collections. If you have any questions about what to save or where to drop them in our Collection Box, please call Teri Dean at 777-7936.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Sunday Offerings (Dec.)	
December 6	44,731.53
December 13	27,361.52
December 20	23,277.20
December 27	20,804.33
Total Dec. to date	116,174.58
December Budget	116,000.00
The above totals include:	
Electronic Contributions	27,640.34
Children's envelopes	103.77
2. Sunday Offerings (Year to–Date) December 2009	
Actual	730,733.43
Budget	754,000.00
Difference	(23,266.57)
Total electronic contributions	163,979.04
3. Designated Offerings December (month to date)	
20/20 Debt Reduction	33,924.00
Campaign for Human Development	125.00
Charitable IMPACT	802.10
Fund for Religious Retirement	9,764.00
Outreach	100.00
Respect Life	5.00
St. Vincent de Paul	564.00
4. Debt on Capital Expenses	
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)
	2,144,000.00

Note: fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30

Thank you for contributing as generously as you are able!

2009 TAX STATEMENTS

If you would like a tax statement for your 2009 contributions to St. Max, please send your request via email to jane@saint-max.org or call Jane at 777-4322 ext. 111. Thank you!

Through the Eyes of a Child...

This week my gifts to God are:

Time: Helped sister get toys out of packaged boxes

Talent: helped my mom make Christmas candy

Treasure: bought a gift for sister

(as written on a Children's envelope)

STEWARDSHIP POINT

The gift of our treasure is probably the most challenging to each of us as well as being a test of our faith. Our secular culture holds wealth and possessions as symbols of our independence, power and personal success.

But what of our spiritual efforts? We must prayerfully consider "moving forward in faith" in an unconventional way – without guarantees of a return or gratification from our financial gifts. We are not "buying" anything with our gifts but rather making a return to the Lord for the many gifts He has bestowed on us.

Our blessings are only ours through the grace of God and those blessings can help to do God's work by supporting our parish's mission and its many ministries. We are called to serve others with our gifts.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS & PARENTING POINTERS

Marriage Moments: "All I have is yours and all you have is mine." (John 17: 10) Although these are the words of Jesus to God the Father, they also reflect the total self-giving of spouses to each other. What possession might I find difficult to share with my spouse? Maybe there's a good reason. Think about it.

Parenting Pointers: Apologizing isn't a sign of weakness, it shows you are big enough to admit your mistakes and models an important skill for your child. Is there anything you've done (or not done) during the past year that an apology would help heal? Be big enough to do it.

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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. Click on Parish info/Parish Council/Minutes.

"WISH LIST"

BREAKFAST BONANZA WORKERS NEEDED – Our next breakfast is Sunday, January 24, 9-noon. We begin at 7 am and are done no later than 1pm. Work as little as a couple hours or the entire time. Contact Lakmé Kodros 777-4322 x.105 or kodros@saint-max.org.

FISH FRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Love our Lenten Fish Fry? Why not volunteer with an awesome group of folks who strive to provide thee 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 – THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR DONORS!

NATIONAL DAY OF PENANCE

Friday, January 22, 2010

On this day, commemorating the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court ruling *Roe vs. Wade*, legalizing abortion in our country, we pause to remember the millions of innocent lives which have been lost through the murderous act of abortion.

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #373*)

In observance of this day of penance, all are invited to choose one or more of the following:

At St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

- 8:30 a.m. – “Mass for Peace and Justice” will be celebrated
- At the end of Mass, day-long exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 2:00 p.m. – The Rosary for Life will be prayed
- 6:15 p.m. – Simple meal of soup, bread, drinks
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Holy Hour for the Unborn (*quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament, vespers, benediction*)
- 8:00 p.m. – Showing of the movie *Bella* (2007, 91 minutes, rated PG-13 for thematic elements and brief disturbing images) with discussion afterwards

Bella tells the story of a young, unmarried waitress who finds herself pregnant and without work after coming in late several days because of morning sickness. The restaurant's chef, taken by her plight, becomes her sole confidant. He helps her walk through her decision on what to do with her pregnancy. In the process, he bears secrets from his own mysterious past, which reveal his tenderness and passion for her and the child she is carrying.

In other churches and at home

- Make a visit to any Catholic church to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
- Spend some extra time in prayer at home, e.g. pray a family rosary
- Use the prayer below remembering the millions of babies who have been aborted as well as those coping with and grieving the loss their aborted children

Some other suggestions

- Abstain from meat
- Fast for the day, from a meal, or from snacks between meals
- Give up television, music, video games, or some other entertainment
- Donate monies saved from above to any pro-life group or agency

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, we praise and thank You for the gift of our lives, and for the lives of all human beings. There is nothing more destructive to human life than abortion, yet we rejoice that You have conquered death by the resurrection of Your Son. Help us to do our part to end abortion – never to be silent, never to be passive, and never to be forgetful of the unborn. Give us strength to defend human life, especially in the womb, until all humans are protected. Guide our nation to truly be a nation with liberty and justice not just for some, but for all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Attention:

All Teenagers - All Single Men/Women!

**Have you ever considered a
religious vocation?**

**Join us for our 3rd Annual Vocation Panel
Sunday evening, January 10, from 7-9pm**

Come hear the vocation stories of Tom Fr. McCarthy,
Deacon Tim Ralston (to be ordained in May 2010),
1st year seminary Chris Geiger from St. Susanna Parish, along with
2 nuns from the Dominicans and the Little Sisters of the Poor, and
2 lay consecrated women.

Enjoy refreshments and a Q & A session.
Don't miss this opportunity to learn how
you can hear God's will in your life!

**St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church
Father John Porter Family Life Center
5720 Hamilton-Mason Rd, Liberty Twp, OH**

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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