



# THE MODERN SAINT

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish is a Roman Catholic Christian community which unselfishly ministers to all people through hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. Eucharist centered and led by the Holy Spirit we strive to be grateful stewards of all God's gifts.

## HELPING OTHERS THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

# ENCOUNTER JESUS ON THE MEAL TRAIN!

By: Jo Zink

New baby? Illness? Surgery? Any other sudden change to your personal or family life that just threw your life for a loop? Wouldn't it be nice to know that when life happens, at least you don't have to figure out what's for dinner?

That's what the St. Max Meal Train ministry is all about! Volunteers provide a home-cooked meal or carry-out for parishioners going through challenging times. In the past, various ministries and groups at St. Max have developed a meal train for a member in need. But it was generally limited to members in that group or ministry helping their fellow member. Sometimes it could be challenging for a smaller group or ministry to fully meet the needs of the member they were trying to provide meals for.

Parishioner Stacy Volpenhein recognized a couple years ago that this meal train effort could become an actual ministry at St. Max and be more coordinated and broader in scope. Stacy and her husband have been members of the parish since 2013 and are busily raising their three young children, while also being involved in ministries at St. Max. After coordinating a couple of meal trains for the ministries she was involved in, she approached Lakme Kodros and the Outreach Commission to see if this could be added as a St. Max ministry. This all happened just before the pandemic shut the world down and real movement and growth for the ministry were put on hold.

Finally, the ministry is up and running. Stacy has a small group of about 17 people willing to provide meals, and they are



Just a few minutes of investment in another person brings the love of Christ to them.

JO ZINK

*Continues On Page 7*



# LOOK TO THE CROSS • LENT 2022



**By: Fr. Jim Riehle**

St. Maximilian Kolbe once wrote, “The Cross is the school of love.” As we enter into the season of Lent, we are called to “Look to the Cross” so as to learn how we are to live, not only in Lent, but throughout our lives.

Lent is the time during which we are called in a particular way to pray, fast, and give alms. The Cross of our Lord teaches how to embrace these practices with the same selfless love by which our Lord embraced His Cross.

The Cross is at heart a prayer. We may not always think of it that way, but the sacrifice of our Lord, the giving of His life for us and to His Father, is a prayer, an offering. It is a sign of the sacrificial gift of Jesus to our heavenly Father. It is the fullness of the ancient deuteronomic prayer, “You shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength” (Dt 6:5), and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Lv 19:18)

Our Lord embraced the Cross because of His willing love for His Father. He gave His whole self on that Cross. He did so also for love of us. This is the heart

we are to take to our prayer, to not just simply find time to fit God into our lives, but give Him our hearts, minds and bodies. We pray because we love Him. We pray to love Him better. We pray for others for the same reasons. The Cross teaches us how to pray.

In Lent we can also look to the Cross as we practice fasting and penance. How insignificant the sacrifices we make are compared to that of our Lord on the Cross. Yet, even the smallest sacrifice offered with a heart of love is powerful and worthy. Nevertheless, we should challenge ourselves beyond the ordinary to set aside the pleasures and blessings of life, especially in Lent. We should strive to truly invite the Cross into our lives as we make our own sacrifices, so that we may be that much closer to the Heart of Jesus.

Lastly, in Lent we look to the Cross as our teacher on how we are to love others. Almsgiving in Lent is not only about financial generosity, although that can and should be a part of it. There are people in need and we must do what we can to help the poor and others in need know the blessings of God that we too often even

*Continues On Page 6*





# Look to the Cross

Lent at St. Max  
[saint-max.org/Lent](http://saint-max.org/Lent)

## *Ash Wednesday, March 2*

All Masses with Ash Distribution  
6:30 AM • 8:30 AM • Noon • 7:30 PM

## *Masses*

Saturdays 4:30 PM  
Sundays 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon  
Monday—Saturday, 8:30 AM  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 AM  
First Fridays – March 4 and April 1 – 7:30 PM

## *Stations of the Cross*

Fridays 7:00 PM\*  
A special Children's Way of the Cross will be prayed on  
Friday, April 1  
\*Please note the new time

## *Sacrament of Penance*

Thursdays after 8:30 AM Mass and 6:00 PM  
(No confessions 6:00 PM Holy Thursday)  
Saturdays after 8:30 AM Mass and 3:00 PM  
Tuesdays after 6:30 AM Mass

### **Additional times:**

Monday, April 11 - 5:00 PM-9:00 PM  
Thursday, April 14 - after 8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
Friday, April 15 - after 8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
Saturday, April 16 - after 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

### **Day of Mercy**

Thursday, March 24 – 7:00 AM-8:00 PM  
(A priest will be available all day to hear confessions.)

### **Communal Penance Service**

March 28 - 7:00 PM at St. Johns WC

## *Blessed Sacrament Chapel*

Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for individual and communal prayer.  
The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet are prayed communally before and after all 8:30 AM weekday Masses in the Church.

## *RCIA Rites*

Please continue to pray for those journeying toward full communion with the Catholic Church, as they mark these important steps:

Sunday, March 6 – Noon Rite of Sending  
Sunday, March 6 – Rite of Election 3:00 PM  
Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains  
Sunday, March 13 — 10:00 AM Penitential Rite for  
Candidates for Initiation  
Sunday, March 20— Noon First Scrutiny for the Elect  
Saturday, March 26—4:30 PM Second Scrutiny for the Elect  
Sunday, April 3—10:00 AM Third Scrutiny for the Elect

## *Special Mentions/Events*

**Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Saturday, March 19  
Mass at 8:30 AM

### **Annunciation of the Lord**

Friday, March 25  
Mass at 8:30 AM

### **Lenten Hour of Reflection**

Sunday, April 10  
8:00 PM

## *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

Mondays after 8:30 AM Mass until Benediction at 5:00 PM  
Thursdays after 8:30 AM Mass until Benediction at 7:00 PM  
First Fridays – March 4 and April 1 Benediction at 6:30 PM



# WORKS OF MERCY

## *Shelter the Homeless & Clothe the Naked*

By: Lakme Kodros

The corporal works of mercy are charitable deeds that provide for the bodily needs of others, and at the top of that list of critical bodily needs are shelter and food. The third and fourth corporal works of mercy are to clothe the naked and to shelter the homeless.

Have you ever imagined what your life might be were you to suddenly become homeless, and it was absolutely nothing you did or chose to do intentionally? What if your home burned or was destroyed by an “act of God”? What if you had no insurance and were still responsible to pay the mortgage? What if you were a renter and your apartment was infested with mice or rats or mold and were evicted for your own health and safety? If you became suddenly unemployed, would you have the savings to pay your rent or your mortgage...for even one month? One can only imagine the horror, the shame, and the embarrassment of homelessness.

We have all seen homeless men and women standing at street corners with their signs begging for a handout and perhaps even a little mercy. Do you immediately judge them, as I have? “Why doesn’t he or she get a job? There are help wanted signs everywhere!” “I work for a living, why should I give that person a penny of my hard earned dollars?” “What a loser.” Yet, who on earth am I to judge another’s life situation? After all, it is only by the grace of God that I too am not homeless. Is it possible that I am only one paycheck away from tragedy?

A myriad of thoughts may go through your mind, but honestly, have you ever REALLY met a homeless person and engaged in an honest discussion? When you meet homelessness face-to-face in the form of a real person with real needs and real problems – just like you! – it

is only then that you can, just maybe, begin to have a compassionate heart and a desire to help them discover a plan to become what God has called them to be.

Meet Jessica.

One summer, the staff of Family Promise of Butler County took the families to the Butler County Fair. Jessica and her siblings had never been to a fair before, nor had they ever had a chance to touch or see a farm animal up close. While discussing how she loved the pigs, Jessica shared that this has been the best summer of her life! This year she didn’t have to worry about where they were going to stay or whether there would be food, and she now has new friends. Jessica let the volunteers at the church know that she would be coming back to see them because she had so much fun. For this child, Family Promise brought a sense of well-being and belonging. Her parents were able to take a breath, secure better jobs, and were well on their way to becoming stable and balanced.

There are millions of children and families who are on the move, fleeing war, illness, hunger and impossible living conditions, searching for peace and safety. Christ Himself encourages us to go out and meet these people, affirm their worth, and help them find resolutions to the challenges they face. There are many circumstances that lead families to finding themselves without a home, oftentimes living in their car. Through Family Promise of Butler County, St. Max houses families right here in our own classrooms and prepares meals for them as well! This very important ministry allows a hand-up to these children and their families as they make necessary changes in their life.



Family promise volunteers spend time with the families and make them feel at home.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me.

MATTHEW 25:35



## WHY IS ST. PATRICK'S NAME ST. PATRICK?!

## *Serving the Homeless:* FAMILY PROMISE

We CAN do our part in our little corner of southwest Ohio.  
Please consider helping in any capacity during our remaining  
Family Promise 2022 host dates:

**MAY 15-21 | JULY 31-AUGUST 6 | DECEMBER 11-17**

Please consider:

- Providing a dinner here at St. Max
- Planning children's activities for an evening
- Becoming an evening volunteer
- Providing food items
- Providing supplies
- Spending an overnight on our campus
- Joining our setup/cleanup team
- Helping with laundry needs

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Lisa Ciccio (513) 484-6131 [familypromise@saint-max.org](mailto:familypromise@saint-max.org)

*Other St. Max ministries that serve the homeless and hungry include:*

### CHOSEN (CHURCH HOSPITALITY NETWORK)

Paul Groh (513) 324-2937  
[chosen@saint-max.org](mailto:chosen@saint-max.org)

### LUNCH FOR THE HOMELESS

Chuck Ciccio (513) 708-3545  
[LunchForTheHomeless@saint-max.org](mailto:LunchForTheHomeless@saint-max.org)

### TRANSITIONAL LIVING

Peg Hill (513) 907-1148  
[IMPACT@saint-max.org](mailto:IMPACT@saint-max.org)

### SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Marianne Lingardo [svdp@saint-max.org](mailto:svdp@saint-max.org)

### TENDER MERCIES

Bridgette McGuire [TenderMercies@saint-max.org](mailto:TenderMercies@saint-max.org)

### WEST LIBERTY OUTREACH

Kyle & Lisa Schafer (219) 916-0130  
[westliberty@saint-max.org](mailto:westliberty@saint-max.org)



People gather near the new St. Patrick' Church  
in Madera, Soroti, Uganda.

Our sister parish in Uganda is named St. Patrick, but many have asked how a church in the middle of Africa got to be named after the Patron Saint of Ireland whose Feast Day we celebrate this month.

Christianity first came to Uganda with the British colonization in 1877, starting primarily with Anglicans. Catholic missionaries came a few years later in 1879. Starting in the Lake Victoria region, missionaries from France named the Missionaries of Africa, or the White Fathers, as they became known by the color of their garb, began evangelizing in the region. Between 1885-1887, Christians began to be heavily persecuted and ultimately killed at the orders of the King. Known now as the Ugandan Martyrs, 23 Anglicans and 22 Catholics were killed in those years.

Nevertheless, Christianity still spread throughout the country. In 1912 the Mill Hill Missionaries made their way to area known now as the Catholic Diocese of Soroti and founded the first parish in Ngora. Two years later our St. Patrick's was founded in Madera by a Mill Hill Missioner named Fr. Michael Dunne.

Fr. Michael Dunne came from Conssett in County Durham, England and named the parish after his home parish St. Patrick. Fr. Simon Peter says that when Fr. Dunne came he brought mango trees with him and began planting them in the area. He says those Mango trees still stand today. Since then they have provided food to the people of Madera and shade to pray under, especially in the years when the church didn't have a roof.



# Serve One Another



Each spring we seek new members for our parish councils and commissions through a process of discernment. Since Her earliest days, members of the Church have called upon the Holy Spirit to guide their activities and decisions (e.g. see Acts 1:15-26). Each spring our parish prays to the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of potential new members to guide this discernment process. Please carefully consider how you might be called to help serve our parish as a member of one of our parish councils or commissions.

- Do you feel the call of the Holy Spirit to participate in this discernment?
- Do you know someone who has the gifts to serve as a member of one of our consultative groups?

**Nominate yourself or a fellow parishioner at [www.saint-max.org/serve](http://www.saint-max.org/serve)**

*LOOK TO THE CROSS, Continued from Page 2*

fail to notice. We give so that others may know God's love in this life, and, hopefully, may strive to live for life with Him in heaven.

Almsgiving is also about having a "giving" heart. It is about acts of love and service, not just donations. Our Lord left not a penny to His followers or His Mother. He died in total and complete poverty. Yet there has been no greater gift, no greater act of generosity, than the gift of the Cross. We must strive to imitate that example.

In a reflection on the Stations of the Cross, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "Brothers and sisters, our gaze is frequently distracted by scattered and passing earthly interests; let us direct our gaze today toward Christ. Let us pause to contemplate His Cross . . . permanent proof of an oblation and infinite love that brought God to become man, vulnerable like us, even to dying crucified. His nailed arms are open to each human being and they invite us to draw near to Him, certain that He accepts us and clasps us in an embrace of infinite tenderness: 'I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself' (Jn 12: 32)."

Our lives are indeed "frequently distracted by scattered and passing earthly interest." Set those things aside this Lent. Look to the Cross. Look to the love of God poured out for us. Pray. Fast. Give. Do these things, not only in imitation of our Lord, but as an offering to Him, so that each day, with each prayer, sacrifice and act of service, you may be more and more conformed to the saving Heart of Jesus Christ.

*The Cross  
is the  
school of love.*

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE





MEAL TRAIN, Continued from Page 1

doing just that. This ministry could definitely use more people willing to provide meals for others in need—especially as word gets out and requests for meals pour in at a higher volume than they do now. It's an easy way to really make an impact on a family who is in a temporarily rough spot. It is truly an opportunity to encounter Jesus, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35) And it is an opportunity to be Jesus' hands and feet.

The Meal Train ministry is probably one of the easiest, least demanding ministries with a giant impact. There is no minimum meal requirement. "You could literally volunteer for one meal a year!" Stacy says. Once someone contacts Stacy with interest in helping with meals, they are put on the email list to receive Mail Train alerts when there is a need for meals. A volunteer can sign up for as many or few meals as they want. The great thing about being in the meal train loop is that you might discover someone you know is in need of meals that you would never have known about otherwise. Maybe a neighbor or someone a few streets over is going through a tough time. What an awesome

opportunity to help that neighbor, maybe meet them for the first time, and offer a prayer for them. Stacy has personally experienced the unexpected blessing of getting to know someone who she prepared a meal for and found they had a lot in common. She was also able to give words of encouragement to that person—another opportunity to bring Jesus to someone. Just a few minutes of investment in another person brings the love of Christ to them. Anyone can do that, and the blessing goes in both directions.

What if you or someone you know is in need of Meal Train assistance? Stacy is the one to contact for that as well. She'll gather information such as number of adults and children in the household, allergy and sensitivity information, food likes and dislikes, etc. She generally sets up the meal train sign-up for every other day for however many weeks (or even months) the need may be. And then the meals show up!

For more information, to volunteer, or to receive meals contact Stacy Volpenhein at [mealtrainministry@saint-max.org](mailto:mealtrainministry@saint-max.org) or you can find information on the St. Max Website.

Either life is an accident  
or a beautiful mystery

THE  
SEARCH

BROUGHT TO YOU FROM  
FORMED

## THE SEARCH

All humanity seeks to find purpose and meaning in life. No matter the circumstances, we are all looking for something more.

This Lent, discover the quest and answer the questions to your deepest call for belonging.

**St. Max hosts The Search. Find out more at [www.saint-max.org/Search](http://www.saint-max.org/Search).**







## Saint Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

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## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 AM

First Fridays 7:30 PM

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays after 8:30 AM Mass & 3:00-4:00 PM

Thursdays after 8:30 AM Mass & 6:00-6:45 PM

Tuesdays after 6:30 AM Mass

### SEND US AN UPDATE

Have you moved, or do you have a new phone number or new email address? Please contact the office at 513.777.4322 ext. 101 or [cgroh@saint-max.org](mailto:cgroh@saint-max.org) to give us an update!



### WHAT IS THE 1% CHALLENGE?

**1% OF YOUR DAY IS 14 MIN AND 24 SEC.**

JUST 1% OF YOUR DAY given to God in focused prayer will change your life. We would like to challenge you to spend just 1% (let's round up to 15 min) OF YOUR DAY EVERY DAY PRAYING with Scripture through a Catholic tradition called lectio divina.

### WANT TO RECEIVE THE 1% CHALLENGE DAILY EMAIL WITH SUGGESTED READING?

Text 1percent to 42828.

More info on the 1% Challenge can be found on our website at [saint-max.org/takethechallenge](http://saint-max.org/takethechallenge).