



# 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.

## AN UPDATE FROM

# ST. GABRIEL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Greetings from St. Gabriel Consolidated School! We are blessed to be back in school and slowly resuming activities and honored traditions that had to be put on hold last year. One such activity is the return of our multi-aged Faith Friends groups. Approximately every six weeks our students participate in small group activities led by our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This year our Faith Friends activities venerate saints.

Our first Faith Friends Day was September 29<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of the archangels – St. Gabe's day. Our students honored Angel Gabriel by sending messages of love (cards and letters) to our parish shut-ins, hospital patients and senior care residents.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, our students celebrated the life of St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians. We asked St. Cecilia to pray for the kindergartners, first graders and second graders who were preparing for their Christmas programs with music teacher Mr. Rob Bethune. We also asked her to pray for our fourth and fifth grade students who are participating in beginner's band, and our sixth through eighth graders who participate in advanced band with band director Mr. Chuck Lauterbach, our students who take piano lessons before and after school, and our students who take violin lessons after school. We also asked St. Cecilia to pray for our art teacher, Mrs. Betsy Mendelsohn, and our junior high drama club director, Ms. Sandy Osborne. In our Faith Friends groups, we also celebrated the life of student, Cecilia Feltz, who joined the church triumphant in July of 2017. Cecilia loved music, art and reading. Our students created murals to recognize both St. Cecilia and our Cecilia.

During Catholic Schools Week our students will be learning about the social teachings of the Catholic Church through many of the saints who dedicated their lives to changing the world. During



To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone.

POPE FRANCIS



# THE NAME OF JESUS

By: Fr. Jim Riehle

Names in Sacred Scripture have traditionally been given special significance. Numerous figures, when they have encountered God, have had their names changed. Abram and Sarai become Abraham and Sarah. Jacob becomes Israel. Simon becomes Peter.

When it comes to the Name of our Lord, the Angel Gabriel delivered the Good News not only about His Birth, but even about what His Name would be. Gabriel tells Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)

Similarly, an angel of the Lord speaks to St. Joseph in a dream, telling him that Mary is with child and that "she will bear a son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." (Mt 1:21)

In these days following Christmas, throughout the whole month of January in fact, the Church honors the most Holy Name of Jesus.

The feast of the Holy Name of Jesus originated in the 1500s and soon spread through the universal Church. It was celebrated on the second Sunday after the Epiphany. With the reforms to the calendar following Vatican II, the feast was removed. The reasoning behind this decision was that the celebration of the naming of Jesus is commemorated in the office of the Octave of Christmas and so did not require its own day. However, the feast was restored in 2002 as an optional memorial on the first free day after January 1. This year the feast may be celebrated on January 3, 2022.



While the celebration of our Lord's Name in some formal capacity evolved later in time, the faithful have revered His Name for centuries. Early Christians used symbols and shortened forms of His

Name in artwork. Ancient monuments from as early as the 200s have the "Chi-Rho" symbol etched upon them. The "Chi-Rho" is a symbol made from the first two letters of the word "Christ" in Greek, χριστος.



Later in history, another symbol grew out of the name "Jesus" itself. St. Bernardine of Siena is accredited with the popularity of the IHS symbol. In Greek, our Lord's Name is written as follows: ιησους, or ΗΣΟΥΣ when the those letters are capitalized. St. Bernardine took the first three letters of the Jesus' name in Greek, ΙΗΣ, and surrounded them by a sun. Whenever St. Bernardine would preach, he would encourage the faithful to mark their homes with this symbol. Its popularity spread and consequently many churches and altars were constructed with the symbol visible somewhere upon them. Later, the Jesuit order adopted the monogram as a sign for the order.



One other ancient symbol for the Name of Jesus is worth mentioning. Many people today recognize the fish symbol as a sign for Christianity. It also evolved from the Greek language. The Greek word for fish is ιχθους. Each letter of that word stand for the first letters in the phrase, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." Early Christians noted that and began to use the fish as a symbol for the faith. It was also used at times to let Christians know where Mass was being held. Since Christianity was a persecuted religion, they would have to gather for Mass in secret. The fish symbol would be drawn on the sides of buildings, on the ground, etc., to show the faithful which direction to go so as to find the location for Mass.

*Continues On Page 3*



NAME OF JESUS, Continued from Page 2

Ultimately, as St. Bernardine once said, “The Name of Jesus, is in fact, the great foundation of the faith that turns people into children of God. The Catholic faith indeed, consists in the news of Jesus Christ, as light of the soul, gate of life and foundation of eternal salvation.”

We honor His Name because of who He is and what He has won for us. By taking on Flesh, by taking on a Name in this world, a name which means “Savior”, our Lord has poured out His mercy upon the world and fulfilled the promises He made long ago. His very Name then speaks of the mission He undertook and the magnitude of His love for us. That is why we honor His Name. As St. Paul says to the Philippians, “Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Ph 2:9-11

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SAINT BERNARDINE



### TOGETHER WE GROW CAMPAIGN

Don't forget about our Together We Grow Campaign! You can see status updates about the campaign and make a pledge online at [saint-max.org/TWG](http://saint-max.org/TWG).



# FAMILY, FAITH AND THE MASS



**By: Mary Ella Wielgos**

When I was young, my parents instilled within my five siblings and me many treasures of the Catholic faith. It wasn't only Mass on Sundays for us. It was Stations of the Cross at any time of the year, but particularly during Lent, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament during times of Exposition, family rosaries and faith formation classes. We were surrounded with sacred images in our home. We took turns opening the little 'doors' on our Advent calendar, fought over whose turn it was to light the candles of the Advent wreath before dinner and put blessed straw in our home nativity scene in preparation of Jesus' birth. We went to confession as a family. We attended Holy Day Masses, celebrated Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations.

Being Catholic was a way of life. It seeped into everything we did. What I didn't realize at the time was that everything I learned as a child regarding the Catholic faith really just scratched the surface of what there is to know and understand about being and living as a Catholic and growing in my love for Jesus.

As I became a parent of six children, it took all my effort just to make sure everyone had their shoes on the right feet, was clean, and was getting their homework done. Trying to squeeze in taking everyone to church outside of

the Sunday and Holy Day obligation to pray the Stations or to schedule a Saturday morning to go to confession seemed to be things that kept getting moved down my 'to-do' list. I felt exhausted just thinking about it. Let's face it, when you've got to leave the house with multiple young kids in tow, you have to seriously make sure the reward will be worth the struggle.

Like many of our young families at St. Max, my husband and I committed ourselves to the practicing our faith not only on Sundays, but in the normal everyday things, even when it was hard or felt less than ideal. We held true to the obligation to attend Mass, even if on occasion we had to split-shift and not attend all together. We made sure each child received the sacraments and encouraged participation in the life of our parish – through music ministry, altar serving, youth group, vacation Bible camps, faith formation classes, retreats and several outreach activities.

However, I do have a few regrets. I wish we would have read more Scripture together, more than just the stories typically found in a preschool Bible book. I wish we had intentionally sat down, read the Gospel for the coming weekend and talked about what it meant. I wish we would have prayed more novenas and chaplets together and learned about the saints more.



## MEET THE STAFF: RON MILLER

*Family, Faith, Mass, Continued from Page 4*

With so much to learn and appreciate about our Church and the Mass, where do we begin and how do we continue to teach our children the importance to living a Catholic life?

St. Max staff works hard to provide resources for parents and to encourage and support the spiritual growth of our youngest members. The newest opportunity for young families to gather together and discover the treasures of our faith and the Mass is called "Family Faith and the Mass". This is held from 9:30 AM – 9:50 AM every Sunday in the St. Patrick's Conference Room. This is a weekly opportunity for young families to gather, pray, learn about a saint, listen and reflect on the Word of God and grow together while learning important and beautiful truths about how we pray, worship and live as Catholics. Find out details you never know about the Mass. Bring your questions!

There is never a need to RSVP or register. Just stop in after the 8 AM Mass or before the 10 AM Mass. Family Faith and the Mass is led by Fr. Jim, who creates a relaxed and fun atmosphere in which family faith is strengthened. Come as often as you can. Plan to meet friends there. It is a quick 20 minutes, but real seeds of faith and charity are planted, and learning together as a family has long term benefits we may not realize until the children are grown. Use this simple opportunity to get to know the faith more deeply, to get to know Jesus more personally, and to discover the joy of allowing your Catholic faith to seep into the everyday moments of life.



In the last year or two, things have changed tremendously. Even the way we worship has changed a few times. One change that happened here at St. Max in October of 2020 was the addition of a new staff member. We can all likely agree that adding Ron Miller as Director of Music Ministry was a very good change. St. Max has always had an outstanding liturgical music program, so expectations were high for this new guy. He met and surpassed every one!

A Cincinnati native, Ron Miller grew up in St. Bernard, attending St. Clement and Roger Bacon schools. He had a love of music from a very young age. He studied various music, mostly taking classical piano lessons from many teachers and attending CCM Preparatory Program and the Cincinnati Musical Arts Center. Ron and his wife, Amanda, now live in Pleasant Ridge with their two daughters, Claire and Lauren. "We are members of and our children attend Nativity, just a short walk from our house. We love the diversity of our neighborhood and school," Ron tells us.

How has music shaped Ron's life? "Music was always on in the house. My father in particular always had records (yes) playing. My oldest sister is an extremely talented piano player and I started taking lessons at a young age after wanting to play like her," Ron says. A musical talent at a tender age, he says "Back then I was pretty quick at picking things up by ear. I was in Children's Choir from the very beginning and it was the director at the time that was brave enough to let me sit at the organ bench in fourth grade. I began to understand just how powerful music can be, both making it and receiving it. I enjoy most genres of music, but liturgical and choral music is where I feel most at home."

After nearly 13 years working at his previous parish, Ron felt called to discern where he was meant to be. "Coincidentally, at the same time I had a conversation with a staff member at St. Max which started me on the path for applying, interviewing & auditioning, and ultimately accepting the position. I had always admired St. Max Parish from my outside view. I consider myself privileged to now be a part of such a wonderful community." His favorite thing about working in music ministry here is when music becomes prayer. "It's one thing to get the notes on the page right. It's another when it's from the heart and lifted to God. My favorite part is working with fellow musicians, youth and adults, just like me who are all after the same goal: honest, sung prayer."

Work in a music ministry can be challenging too, especially change. Ron tells us, "It is always a challenge to temper new ideas and routines and blend that with established tradition. Change is hard for both the person who makes the change and the people receiving it. I always intend to have a healthy balance."

### FUN FACTS

**Favorite way to relax?** I love to be outside. On pleasant days, spring through fall, you'll find me on the porch, rocking in my chair, listening to music.

**Food that you could eat every day?** Skyline.

**Last book you read?** *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer

**If you could pick a theme song for your life, what would it be?**

It's a song that inspires me for what I think the world needs. "If I Can Dream" by Elvis is a song that lifts me up when I fret about how much turmoil the world seems to always be in. I just want everyone to get along.



# FOSTERING COMMUNITY

By: Peter Tozzi

What makes a church a parish, and what's the difference? The dictionary defines a **church** as *a building used for Christian religious services* and a **parish** as *a local church community; a stable community of the faithful who actively worship God*. The distinction between the two is the heart of what makes St. Max a special place for us, the parishioners, and the key reason for the existence of the Parish Life and Stewardship (PLS) Commission.

The mission of PLS is to “foster gratitude for the many gifts that all people bring to the parish community, and to promote the sharing of these individual gifts of time, talent, and treasure in accord with the parish mission to be Eucharist-centered and led by the Holy Spirit.” A significant component of how our commission lives out this mission is through the many events we sponsor throughout the year. Hopefully you recognize and have been to some of these events: ice cream social, trivia nights, football tail gating at St. Max, movie nights, game nights, potlucks and the chili cook-off to name a few.

Our objectives are many. We work to draw upon the time and talents God has bestowed upon each one of us and to promote and recognize these talents through our various activities. By the way, we have a lot of fun too! Most importantly, our goal is to foster fellowship which builds community. In a church as large as ours, it's easy to feel disconnected when you see hundreds of different faces every Sunday. Meeting others in a fun, casual atmosphere helps to foster parish community, getting to know folks not just as a random face in the pews, but hopefully as a new acquaintance and possibly even a new friend! My wife and I have several friends that we made while attending parish social events over the years. They have become important people on our journey to deepen our faith in Christ and part of our extended family. It is our hope that by attending some of our events, you too will have similar experiences. In short, our focus is to move the experience from “St. Max is my church” to “St. Max is my parish, my community.”

During COVID-19 restrictions on group gatherings the past two years, most of our activities were either cancelled or abbreviated. However, we have also had a significant loss of parishioners willing to serve on our commissions and ministries in the parish. It is our sincere hope that if you and your family are comfortable returning to group activities, you will please consider attending an upcoming



The winners of the Halloween themed trivia night

event or two, or maybe even volunteering to help out. Whatever your special gift or passion may be, you will indeed find a ministry at St. Max that best utilizes it! We have something for everyone!

The PLS Commission has been busy planning monthly events this fiscal year. Our next upcoming event is the always popular chili cook-off, Saturday January 15th at 5:30 PM in the gym. This year the winner will be determined by popular vote and there will be no charge for the event, however, we are relying on your crock pots of chili to make this evening a success! Please make your favorite chili to share. Chili not your thing? We have other food items you can bring to share as well. Sign up for all food items, including chili, at [saint-max.org/ChiliCookOff](http://saint-max.org/ChiliCookOff).

Families are encouraged to bring boardgames and activities to share at their tables. We will have desserts to purchase, and the NFL playoff games will be on the big screen. Would you like to help out? Visit [www.saint-max.org/ChiliCookOff](http://www.saint-max.org/ChiliCookOff). Please join us in any capacity you can, as we work to make St. Max our parish and our community.

## CHILI COOK-OFF

JANUARY 15, 2021 • 5:30 PM IN THE GYM

Sign up for all food items, including chili, at [saint-max.org/ChiliCookOff](http://saint-max.org/ChiliCookOff).



ST. GABRIEL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL, Continued from Page 1

Catholic Schools Week we welcome prospective and new families to attend our Open House. Please consider joining us on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 PM to witness our commitment to Catholic Education. Our Faith Friends will meet again during Catholic Schools Week to proclaim the Gospel and serve others like the saints who came before us, and to have a lot of fun celebrating our Catholic school!

In March we will celebrate the feast day of St. Patrick and recognize the many gifts Father Simon Peter has shared with our school before he heads back to St. Patrick's in Soroti. Students at St. Gabriel have raised money and made rosaries to send to Father Simon Peter's parish and school.

The church's social mission is alive here at St. Gabriel School! We feel blessed to serve our parishes, the community around us and our brothers and sisters in different countries. May the Holy Spirit continue to shine down upon this great school.

Yours in Christ,

Stacie Wendt  
Principal



The church's social mission is  
alive here at St. Gabriel School!

STACIE WENDT, PRINCIPAL



**ST. GABRIEL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL**

A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

ESTABLISHED IN 1866

SERVING AS THE PARISH SCHOOL FOR ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



**Now Enrolling Grades K-8**  
**Visit our Open House**  
**January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022      1:00-3:00**

**[www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org)**  
**513-771-5220**

Bus transportation available  
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## 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).