

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

APRIL 2009



Saint Anthony of the Desert was fond of telling the story of a man who was lost in the desert.

Later on, when the man began to tell of his terrible ordeal, his friends immediately asked him how he ever found his way out of such a dangerous, and vast place.

“Well”, said the man. “I was in a terrible way and I began to panic. So, I quickly fell to my knees and cried out to God –‘Save Me Most Holy One or I shall die here in this wretched place!’“

“And did God answer your prayer? His friends asked.

“Oh no way, for you see, before even God could answer me, an explorer rode in on

I ONCE WAS LOST

a camel out of nowhere and he gave me water and showed me the way out!”

St. Anthony would conclude the story by reminding people that God is always two or three steps ahead of us in all our needs. “While the poor bumbling man was going about getting lost in the desert, our Gracious One was already sending an explorer to find the poor fellow.” Saint Anthony would say.

In your life right now, you may be going about getting lost or losing your way. But even now, our Gracious One is way ahead of you, watching over you, and is ready to send you whatever kind of “explorer” you may need to find your way home. How good God is!

Fr. Mark

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The Economy Hits at St. John

As we all are aware, the slowing economy has had a drastic influence on corporate earnings and budgets, which translates to the shrinking of our 401k's and disposal personal income. That reality has affected our operations here at St. John as well.

Last year, we projected a relatively flat 2008-2009 budget. To date, we are down approximately \$60k in income and, while our major expenses have been held in check, we are projecting a deficit for this fiscal year. That means we will be dipping into our reserves for the first time in recent memory. We still have some major expenses (projects) to fund including the sewer replacement from the old church to the street. During extreme weather, we are prone to flooding of the office building and cannot put off this repair much longer.

The staff is working up a budget proposal for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. There will be cuts felt by all in order to maintain a balanced budget. This may have an effect on some of the programs and events planned for the coming year. One decision has been made. Salaries will be frozen and a part time housekeeping position will be eliminated in the new 09/10 budget. More will be discussed in a future issue as details are finalized.

We do **appreciate** all your support during these difficult times and hope we can count on you once again.

—*The Finance Committee*

God's Gardeners Spring Clean-up

We are in desperate need of volunteers to help with our God's Gardeners Spring Clean-up on **May 2, 2009**. Your generous time can potentially save the church thousands of dollars. We will meet in front of the church at 9:00 AM with a continental breakfast. Be sure to bring wheelbarrows, shovels, and other garden equipment. Please note that if it is raining steadily on the morning of May 2nd, God's Gardeners will be automatically rescheduled for the following Saturday, May 9th. Any questions? Please contact Kirt Robb at 777-6433.

Campton Mission Annual Spring Food/Clothing Drive

Campton Mission is our sister parish which serves Appalachian people of Eastern Kentucky. Many in their community have low incomes and are in need of food and clothing assistance. To this end, donations of food and clothing will be collected here at St. John church after all Masses the weekend of April 18 & 19. The following food items are especially needed:

Peanut butter, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti, cereal, canned meats, fruit, canned pork and beans and other canned vegetables. Sr. Ann, the director, of said that the only thing we have a lot of now is soup.



As far as clothing, any lightly used clothing for children and women. Usually men are only interested in jeans and shirts. (Lightly used of course) The people also seem to enjoy any knick knacks and kitchen utensils. If you have questions, call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext. 121.

2009 Lenten / Easter Schedule

- **LUNCH WITH THE LORD**
Thursdays at 12:10pm at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Synod Hall with Fr. Mark
- **ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISM MASS:**
St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Tuesday, April 7th, at 7:30pm
- **HOLY THURSDAY MASS:**
Thursday, April 9th, at 7:30pm in Church
- **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**
Beginning Holy Thursday, April 9th, at 9:00pm in the Chapel, and continuing through Good Friday, April 10th, until 7:30pm.
- **GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
Friday, April 10th, from 12:00pm - 1:00pm in Church
- **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:**
Friday, April 10th, at 7:30pm in Church
- **NO CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH**
- **EASTER VIGIL MASS:**
Holy Saturday, April 11th, at 8:45pm in Church
- **EASTER SUNDAY MASSES:**
Sunday, April 12th, at 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:30am in Church

Mary: Mother of Jesus

Join us on **Thursday, May 21 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m in the St. John Day Chapel** as we present a talk on Mary, Mother of Jesus presented by Fr. Chris Armstrong. Fr. Chris has Doctorates in Mariology and in Canon Law, and is the pastor of St. Antoninus parish. He is very knowledgeable, and able to speak on a popular level thanks to his many years as a high school religion teacher. Don't miss this inspirational talk about our greatest saint.



Who Benefits From Stephen Ministry?

Everybody benefits from Stephen Ministry. Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry. Our pastor benefits because caring ministry at St. John Parish is expanded, and fewer people will slip through the cracks. Most of all you benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, coworker, relative or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so that they can receive special care when they need it most. Stephen Ministry makes St. John Parish a much more caring place! **To inquire about a Stephen Minister, please stop by the Parish Office or contact:** Fr. Mark, Fr. Don and Scott Steinke at 7776-6433 – or - Marty McClain – 235-7478 | Billi Allan – 642-5010 | Louise Moyer – 860-4538.





2009 Free Throw Contest

The St. John Knights of Columbus has completed its annual 2009 Free Throw Contest. Please join us in congratulating all our winners for their terrific shooting!

This year's contest began with a presentation to Ashley Holder, 2008 Girls 10-year-old winner. Ashley won at every level last year: District, Region, State, and International. The St. John Council and the State of Ohio Council congratulated Ashley on her International win and presented her with a special trophy and a commemorative warm-up jacket.

Twenty-nine boys and girls, ages 10 to 14 participated in the St. John Council round on Jan. 12. The winners were: Sara Kohls (G10), Sam Demmler (B10), Maddie Jewell (G11), Drew Asher (B11), Margie Kammerer (G12), Mark Petersen (B12), Erin White (G13), Trey Blake (B13), and Kimberley Ramhapp (G14).

Eight St. John shooters competed in the district round on Feb. 14 at Countryside YMCA. Five won their age groups and advanced to the regional round: Sara Kohls (G10), Sam Demmler (B10), Maddie Jewell (G11), Margie Kammerer (G12), and Erin White (G13).

The Regional Round, on Feb. 22 at Lehman HS in Sidney showed off some amazing shooting skills. Most of the winners made more than 20 of 25 shots. Our shooters made a lot of shots but were unable to claim another trophy. They represented St. John very well!

We look forward to seeing all our shooters back in January 2010.

St. John K of C 2009 Scholarships Competition

The St. John K of C will award **two \$500 Scholarships** toward expenses to attend a two or four-year degree program at a post-high school institution.

APPLICANTS WILL:

- be a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in West Chester, Ohio
- be accepted and/or enrolled for Fall 2009 in a two or four year degree program at a post-high school institution learning (college, university, trade school)
- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- complete and return the application on or before Sunday, April 19

Applicants may be graduating high school seniors, high school graduates beginning a delayed degree program, students enrolled in such an institution, veterans beginning/returning to a degree program, or other adults training for a new career.

Scholarships will be awarded in early June

Applications are available on the parish website (see K of C), in the parish office, or on the Youth News board in the church.

It is time to sign up for Vacation Bible School!

Attention children of St. John's attending Kindergarten through 4th grade in 2009! It is time to sign up for Vacation Bible School!



*New Friends *Amazing Crafts *Lip-smacking Snacks *Mind-blowing
Bible adventures *Wild Games *Incredible music

- **Crocodile Dock location:** St. John's Education Center
- **Crocodile Dock will last:** Monday, July 6th – Friday July 10th
- **Crocodile Dock fun begins at:** 9:30 am
- **Crocodile Dock fun ends at:** 12:00 pm
- **Registration deadline:** May 31st
- **Cost: \$10 per child** ... free for children of volunteers!

Registration forms are available in the weekday office, the Sunday office and our website. Swamp Staff (aka volunteers) will be needed in order to make this week a success! There are jobs for adult and student volunteers! Anyone entering Jr. High or older can be a member of our swamp staff! Please consider giving your time for such a great event!

For more information, please contact Jodi Krusling at JKrusling@stjohnwc.org or 860-0233.

Early Childhood Registration

Would you like your preschool or Kindergarten aged child to have some fun while learning about God?

Have them come to "Sunday School" and join in on all the fun!

Registration has begun for the 09/10 school year!

When: During 9:30 mass from the end of September through April

Where: St. John's Education Center

Who: Children turning 3 by September 30, 2009 through those entering Kindergarten in the 09/10 school year

Cost: Early bird registration \$55 (by May 31st) Regular registration: \$65

If you already have a child in the program, forms have been sent home with your child. Forms are also available in the weekday office, the Sunday office and on our website.

Volunteers are needed to teach our wonderful children. The cost is waived for teachers and assistants ... although the reward for working with the young children in our parish is priceless!

For more information, contact Jodi Krusling at JKrusling@stjohnwc.org or 860-0233.

Parish School of Religion

Registration for young people entering grades 1-8 for the 2009-2010 school year has begun. Sessions are held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 in the Parish Center. Register and pay by April 30 to get the "early bird" fee of \$55 per child. Registering early also insures getting your choice of evening. Forms will be available in the parish office, the church weekend office and on the website. Direct any questions to Kathy Guenther at kguenther@stjohnwc.org or 755-4974.

Fabulous Flags

Be sure to look for flags along the sidewalk leading to the church early in April. They were made by the young people in our PSR sessions. Each flag depicts a topic covered during this past year. They include: Symbols of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit, Our First Communion, Liturgical Calendar, Sacraments, Stations of the Cross, Journey to Knowing Jesus, Holy Trinity, Noah's Ark, Ten Commandments, the Nativity, the Last Supper, We Follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit Helps Us Make Good Choices. What a great job each group did! Be sure to take a minute or two to check them out.

A Grateful Thank You

Our Tuesday and Wednesday evening PSR sessions have concluded for this year. Thanks to all the parents for their cooperation and support for our faith formation program. Thanks to the young people for their willingness to grow in their faith. A very special thanks to all those who volunteered to teach the children, assist in the office, or provide child care for the teachers. You all are a gift to each other and the parish.

First Eucharist

The parents of one hundred four of our children have been working with them since January in preparation for the celebration of First Eucharist during the Easter Season. They have been learning about the Mass including the responses. **We will be celebrating First Eucharist at the following liturgies:**

- May 3 at the 11:30 Mass
- May 17 at the 9:30 Mass
- May 23 at the 5:00 Mass
- May 30 at the 5:00 Mass
- May 31 at the 11:30 Mass



Keep these children and their families in your prayers.

News From St. Gabriel Consolidated School

by: **Joe Epplen, *Principal***



Saint Gabriel
Consolidated School

Many parent volunteers filled the classrooms of St. Gabriel Consolidated School during the last week of February and the first week of March to interact with our students in our annual celebration of the Everybody Counts program.

Young children learned the difficulty of functioning as a person without sight or the struggle of using a walker in tight spaces. Older children learned about chronic diseases such as diabetes as well as Turret Syndrome, anorexia and bulimia.

Role playing in the sixth grade took them into areas which emphasized the importance of communication and the effect that tone of voice has in terms of escalating or deescalating volatile situations.

Third grade had discussions regarding cognitive delays and learning disabilities.

All in all, the entire student body was given an opportunity to experience and learn about a variety of issues which face fellow classmates and a number of our entire communities on a daily basis. There is an emphasis on developing empathy for other people and, at the same time, recognizing God's plan for each of us.

This program is always well received by SGCS students and the parent volunteers who make this happen annually always come away with renewed feelings for the care and concern that SGCS students have for other people.

Are you a baptized Catholic adult still in need of 1st Eucharist and/or Confirmation?

Confirmation of baptized Catholic adults will occur on May 31st, Pentecost Sunday, at the 9:30 a.m. mass. Formation meetings will be held weekly during Lent and the Easter season from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. **Note:** the particular night for the weekly meetings TBA. Call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext. 21 for further information, or to register.

Liturgical Ministry: *Memory, Mystery and Mission*

The Eucharist is the remembrance of the Paschal Mystery – the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through this act of remembering and the grace of the Holy Spirit, we are united to Christ and to one another. The Eucharistic celebration nourishes us so that we may live out our mission to be the face of Christ to our brothers and sisters.

Liturgical ministry is an act of service with the worshiping community. How and why did God call me to my ministry? How does my ministry contribute to the celebration of the Eucharist? How am I a witness to my faith? How do I prepare for my ministry? How am I sustained in my ministry?

St. John's liturgical ministers (hospitality ministers, lectors, adult altar attendants, extraordinary ministers, sacristans and music ministers), as well as all parishioners with an interest in liturgical ministry or liturgy, are invited to a Morning of Reflection on **April 25, 2009 from 9am - Noon in St. John Hall**. The time will provide an opportunity for us to reflect upon our call to ministry, the significance of our ministry to the Eucharistic celebration and the community, and provide a gift of time to reflect and pray together.

The Morning of Reflection will be led by Ms. Karen Kane, Director of the Worship Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Watch the bulletin and your mail for more information, or please contact Jane Mueninghoff (513-530-9022, jmueninghoff@cinci.rr.com) or Scott Steinke (513-777-6433, ssteinke@stjohnwc.org).

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY GO OUT TO ...

March

- Mary Beth Schneider on the death of her father
- Marie Mann on the death of her mother, Marie Molloy
 - Jerry Koehne on the death of his mother
- Marie Housden on the death of her grandmother
- Lynn Elizondo on the death of her mother
- Terri Ogg on the death of her mother

... and for all those who have lost a loved one serving in the armed forces.


St. John
the Evangelist Church

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