

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

FEBRUARY 2008



This past week, I took a few early morning hours to give myself a little mini retreat. As part of that time, I listened to a tape about discipleship. The speaker challenged her listeners to think about what discipleship means. As I spent time thinking about it, I remembered something I had read years ago when I was reading up on China in anticipation of traveling there.

There is a legend, which is said to be a true story, that years ago in Old China, there was a man who became a member of the emperor's orchestra. That doesn't sound very unusual except that the man could not play a note or even read music. He got the highly paid position as a flute player by bribing the orchestra leader. Whenever the royal musicians were called to perform for the emperor, he simply held the flute to his lips and pretended to be playing the music. In fact, he never even dared to blow into the instrument for fear that the slightest sound would somehow throw the whole orchestra off. The ruse worked and for many years the man was able to earn a decent living and live a rather comfortable life. He was quite content to live his life in this way. Then one day the emperor decided that he wanted to have soft music played as he ate his lunch. Since he felt that the whole orchestra would be far too loud, the emperor commanded that each member of the orchestra would be called on to give a solo performance for him once a month. The flutist was terrified at the prospect of being found out, so he pretended to be ill. This bought him some time,

but the emperor was not one who could be put off for long. The emperor sent his own personal physician to tend to the flutist's health problems. When the doctor reported that the flutist was perfectly cured, the emperor ordered the flutist to be ready to play the flute on the following day. On the morning of his scheduled solo, the flutist drank poison and died rather than face the music. This is said to be the origin of the old Chinese saying, "He dared not face the music". That legendary story made me think that each one of us who claims to be Christian is at some time or other going to be called to "face the music". When Jesus called us, he called us to be people of integrity who would not just "go through the motions" of being disciples, but would truly be his own. Just doing external actions without connecting them to our hearts is not enough. Jesus calls us to live what we say we believe, to love as we are called to love, to forgive as we want to be forgiven, and to be true instruments of peace. It's one thing to say that we are Christian, it's quite another thing to actually be a Christian. To be a disciple is no small thing. It is a great calling that requires real courage. Each one of us must be ready and willing to "face the music". This is a great question for each one of us to take to our meditation. If Jesus called you to give a solo performance, could you "face the music" of authentic discipleship?

Fr Mark

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St. John Fish Fry

Every Friday of Lent, except Good Friday, St. John Church will host a Fish Fry in the Center from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to the following Charities:

Feb. 27 – Christ Renews His Parish Committee

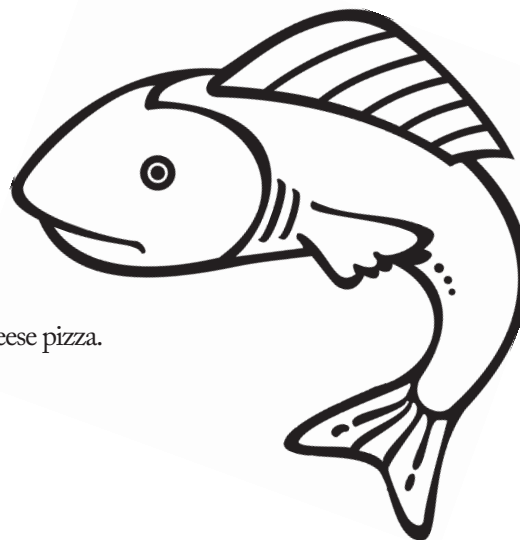
Mar. 6 – Campton Mission

Mar. 13 – Parent Boosters of Girl Scouts

Mar. 20 – Parent Boosters of Boy Scouts

Mar. 27 – Knights of Columbus

Apr. 3 – West Chester Fire Department.



Fish Fry menu: fish sandwich, baked fish, shrimp, crab cakes and cheese pizza.

Sides: macaroni & cheese, green beans, coleslaw and french fries.

Drinks: soft drinks, coffee, milk and beer.

We will also be serving a large variety of desserts.

Come join us for good food and good causes.

Raise Your Hand in Times of Crisis!

Have you lost your job? Society, and sometimes our own friends and family pressure us to “keep a stiff upper lip” in this situation. We’re supposed to be at our best, meeting new people and trying to make a great impression, when we’re feeling at our worst!

Stephen Ministry is here for you. Anyone in crisis or stress from job loss, marital strain, loneliness, grief or plain old sadness can benefit from sitting and talking to someone who will simply listen. No preaching. No selling. No judgement. No guilt. When you’re with a Stephen Minister, it’s your time to safely and confidentially express what you’re keeping bottled up. You’ll be glad you did!

For more information on Stephen Ministry, 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.

Are you a baptized Catholic adult still in need of First 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 Ester 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.

Saving Paper and Postage

In an effort to save money and be “green”, the staff has been working on many ways to save money, water, electricity, paper, etc. Right now, we are using email and the website more and more to communicate in order to save on paper, time, and postage. We understand that not every member of the parish may have equal access to a computer or the internet (or may not even want to), but if we maximize our efforts, we can save several reams of paper a month, not to mention the time it takes to copy, fold, and stuff envelopes, and the cost of postage to mail things. We can save trees and money, plus free up staff and volunteers to do other things.

We are hoping to start emailing “Eagles Wings” to every parish household for which we have an email address beginning with our March issue. We are also planning to send even more correspondence via email. Please help us in our efforts! If you have an email address, and have not been receiving emails from the parish, please email Karen Hake at khake@stjohnwc.org to give us your contact information. If you don't have an email address, please note that you will still receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail. Also, if your contact information has changed and you think our data for your household could be out of date, please email Karen with an update.

Youth News



Kairos is coming up! This is our retreat for high school seniors and younger adults. It's a special time to think about your place in the community and the world; your relationships with family, friends, and God; and your role in life as a person of faith. It's a time for sharing, prayer, reflection, and even some fun. This is a full 3-day retreat given by other seniors, young adults, and adult leaders. Please join us February 27 – March 1 for an experience you just can't miss! Registration forms and information

are available at the office, the church, and online at <http://youth.stjohnwc.org/kairos.htm>. Friends and non-parishioners are WELCOME. The registration deadline is February 13.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry ... (513) 755-4972, Debbie or (513) 777-6433, Martha (in the evening).

From the Music Ministry

UPCOMING CONCERT:

Dr. Bryan Mock, current director of the Cincinnati Boychoir and music director at Christ Episcopal Church, Glendale will present a Lenten recital on our Hook & Hastings pipe organ. The concert is Friday, March 20th, at 7:45 pm, after Stations of the Cross. Please join us!

CHRISTMAS CDS:

Thank you to all those who purchased our ministry's CD *A Child is Born*. Those of you who ordered CDs at the end of December may pick them up at the main office. There are also extra copies available for purchase at \$15 each.



First Eucharist Preparation



Students in second grade or beyond and their parents are preparing for First Eucharist. This is a family centered program designed to help the children understand the structure and meaning of the Mass, to form attitudes for celebrating it and to develop skills that achieve the “full, conscious and active participation” of the assembly desired by the bishops at Vatican Council II. It focuses on the parallels between what we do at Mass—gather with others, listen to God’s word, praise and thanks God, bless bread and share meals, and carry on Christ’s mission -- and what we do at home.

Photos of these young people will be placed in the gathering space soon. You might want to choose one child and be a prayer partner for them during their time of preparation.

Loreto Model Registration

Loreto Model Registration forms are available in the parish office and the weekend church office. The Loreto Model Religious Education Program is an alternative to the Tuesday and Wednesday evening sessions. The program takes place Monday through Friday during the weeks of June 15 and 22 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. There are three follow-up sessions held during the remainder of the year. This program is for students entering grades 1 through 8 for the 2009-2010 school year. The children must attend all ten days of class and the follow up sessions. If you cannot make this commitment, you may enroll your child in the Loreto Home Study component. The registration deadline is February 28 or until classes are filled whichever comes first! Contact Kathy Guenther at 755-4974 for details..

Generations of Faith



Generations of Faith is an evening for every member of the parish. It begins with a meal at 6:00 pm and concludes at 8:15. It is an opportunity for all to share faith, nurture faith, grow in faith together and continue the experience with a take-home kit. The next event, May the Force Be with You, is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, March 16-17 (you choose the date that best fits your schedule). If you have not registered for this session, you may do so online. Forms are also available in the parish office and the church office. Don't miss it! Registration deadline is March 9. Questions? Contact Kathy Guenther at kguenther@stjohnwc.org or 755-4974.

Knights of Columbus Baby Bottles



The Knights of Columbus distributed baby bottles after all the Masses on the weekend of Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Parishioners are asked to take the bottles and fill them with coins. Bottles should be returned to church on the weekends of Feb. 14-15 and Feb. 21-22. Proceeds will benefit the Pregnancy Center East. Last year, 643 bottles were returned with a total contribution of \$5,628 for the Pregnancy Center. Thank you for your support.

—*St. John Knights of Columbus*

2009 Lenten / Easter Schedule

- **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH**
6:30am Mass in Church
12:00pm Communion Service with distribution of ashes in Church
7:00pm Mass in Church
- **MARRIAGE RETREAT AT ST. JOHN'S:**
Part I, Friday, February 27, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in St. John Hall
Part II, Saturday, February 28 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. in St. John Hall
- **FISH FRY IN THE CENTER AT ST. JOHN'S:**
4:30pm to 8:00pm Fridays, February 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3.
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. JOHN'S:**
7:00pm to 8:00pm on Fridays, February 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3rd in the Chapel
- **LENTEN RETREATS WITH FR. MARK BURGER & FR. TERRY SMITH BEGINS AT 7:00PM EACH NIGHT**
Thursday, March 5th at St. Max Kolbe Church
Thursday, March 12th at St. John Church
- **LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES:**
St. John Monday, March 9th at 7pm
St. Max Tuesday, March 24th at 7pm
St. Susanna Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm
- **LENTEN ORGAN CONCERT BY DR. BRYAN MOCK**
Friday, March 20th at 7:35 pm at St. John Church
- **LUNCH WITH THE LORD WITH FR. MARK BURGER**
Thursdays at Noon at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral
- **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

“He  is risen; he is not here.”

MARK 16:6

Homosexuality: A Pastoral Response

Monday, February 9, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the St. John Day Chapel

Fr. Ken Overberg, S.J. has his Doctorate in Social Ethics and is a moral theologian at Xavier University. Fr. Ken will give an overview of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral letter "Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children . . ." Come find out about our church's loving approach to all its members. There is a place for everyone around God's table. All in attendance are asked to be respectful and compassionate concerning this very sensitive topic.

Lenten Retreat w/ Fr. Terry Smith & Fr. Mark Burger

Two Parts: March 5 at St. Maximilian Kolbe & March 12 at St. John Church, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Once again we will be enriched this Lenten season by the insights of pastors, Fr. Terry Smith and Fr. Mark Burger. Their retreats always delight everyone present. Fr. Terry and Fr. Mark entertain and inspire with their humor and rich story-telling. Not to be missed. Bring a friend!

WoW (Women of the Word)

Friday, February 20, from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. in St. John Hall (our former church)

Taste & See the Goodness of the Lord! We would like to invite all the women of St. John's and our neighboring faith communities, to join us for an evening of FOOD, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP (Let's rephrase – SISTERHOOD). Our evening begins with a light dinner; followed by some amazing ladies sharing their "not to be missed" wit, wisdom and faith journey; add in the Word of God, some prayers, songs and dessert; and you have an evening in which God could possibly change you for a lifetime. We would like to especially encourage those of you, whose busy schedule do not allow you time for an ongoing or long term commitment, to share just one evening with us as we all take one step closer to the Lord. If you would like more information or if you would like to be a part of the Giving Team for this event, please feel free to contact Jo Koch at 759-5093 or mojokoch@fuse.net.

A Morning of Reflection

Men's Reflection:

Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 9:00am – 1:00pm at St. Max - begins in in Conference Room (Chapel)

Women's Reflection:

Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 9:00am – 1:00pm at the St. Max Conference Room

For more information or to register, please call 777- 4322.



News From St. Gabriel Consolidated School



St. Gabriel Consolidated School celebrated National Vocation Awareness Week during the week of January 11th under the planning of Maria Laib, this year's PTO chair of our Catholic Identity Program.

The week's celebration consisted of daily prayers for vocations, distribution of materials to parents which guide the nurturing of vocations, a parent led rosary for vocations said after our weekday mass on January 15th and the sharing of the School Vocation Cross.

The Vocation Cross was blessed at our regular Thursday Children's Mass the Thursday prior to Vocation Week. The ultimate goal is to have as many families as possible share in the experience of praying for vocation on a week to week basis throughout the remaining weeks of the school year.

In addition to the focus which Vocation Week brings to us, we will be inviting a Sister of Charity (the founding order for our school), a priest and a deacon to be participants in our 6th through 8th grade Career Day which will be held on February 10th.

SGCS has created an atmosphere which supports and recognizes God's special calling for each of us as a way to share in Jesus' baptism and mission. We will have culminating activities on May 3rd and 4th as we recognize a World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

We are hopeful that all of our parishes lend us support through your prayers as we bring emphasis to God's call in our lives.

5th Annual Valentine's Day Dinner Party

Saturday, Feb 14, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in St. John Hall (our former church)



Following a catered dinner, a light-hearted reflection on "Marriage" will be presented *Ron and Michele Stegman.

Don't miss this fun evening to help re-energize your marriage. The cost for the dinner and speaker is only \$15 per couple. B.Y.O.B if you wish to have wine with your meal. Because the dinner is catered, pre-registration is a must. Call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, x121 no later than February 9 if you plan to attend.

**Our speakers will be Ron and Michele Stegman. They have been married for almost 39 years and have two grown daughters.*

Ron taught relationships and social justice at St. Xavier H.S. and has published two books on family relationships. Michele writes human interest stories for a newspaper and has published five romance novels. They live in a 170 year old log cabin in Indiana.

Marriage Renewal Retreat

This Lent, take a break from the rat race and take a marriage pit stop. Come to the Marriage Renewal Retreat to be held in St. John Hall on Friday, Feb. 27 from 6:30 – 8:45 pm, with a short social gathering immediately following. The retreat continues on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9:00am until 4:45 pm. Continental breakfast and lunch are included and babysitting will be provided. A free will offering of \$10 per couple is requested to cover the food expenses. Check your levels, fill 'er up and celebrate your marriage! To register, call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, x 121 no later than Monday, February 23, 2009.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY GO OUT TO ...

December

- James Wimmers and his children on the death of his wife and their mother Linda Wimmers
 - Kim Hill on the death of her sister
 - Jose Alvarez on the death of his father
 - Ron Hoffman on the death of his father
- Janalee Lennartz on the death of her mother
 - Portia Thomas on the death of her father
- Agnes Biehle and her children on the death of her husband and their father Ed Biehle
 - Joni Carlson on the death of her sister
 - Jim Raffel on the death of his wife Mary Raffel "Miss Mary"
- The family & friends of Fr. Ray Favret who passed away on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist

January

- Anne Petersen on the death of her grandfather
- Chris Hauer on the death of his brother

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



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