

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

MARCH 2009



Lent has begun. This wonderful season gives us an opportunity to pay closer attention to what is truly important. In these troubled times when the news is full of dire warnings about the future, when people are nervous about job security, the markets, bail-outs, and there is a generalized fear of what the next day might bring, it is good for us to slow things down so that we can get in touch with God.

All of us realize, I think, that we are a people who have so much when compared to much of the world, yet we still fret about things. Perhaps a little meditation that I read quite a few years ago would help us to gain a little perspective.

According to that meditation, we are a people who have so much more of some things, and so much less of other things. For example, we have many more conveniences than at any time in the past, which are supposed to save us time, yet, what is the big complaint most of us murmur about? We have more conveniences, but less time. Some have said that our modern way of life may have added more years to our lives, but not more life to our years.

There are many things we seem to have more of, and there are many things we seem to have less of these days. Here are some of them: we have more experts than ever before, but fewer solutions. We have more academic degrees and higher learning, but we seem to have less and less common sense. We spend lots of money on more and more time for leisure, but we seem to have less and less fun. We have gathered more knowledge, but less good judgment and wisdom. Haven't you found this to be true?

CONSIDERING THE FATHER'S LOVING CARE

As I re-read that old meditation I came across even more insights to consider. Looking at the world around us, we have more and more medicines and medical care, yet for so many people there is less and less well-being. Sometimes we may hear more and more laughter, yet we sense that there is less and less true, heart-felt joy. Many have the opportunity to meet more and more people, yet they seem to have fewer friends.

If you think about it, we certainly do have so much more than ever before, yet we also have so much less. What are we to do with this knowledge? I was reminded of all of this the other day when one of our parishioners said to me, "We now have such a wonderful new house that is so beautiful, but our family is so fractured and wounded that I am truly afraid for us. What can we do about this?"

I must say that as this woman was speaking with me, I began to hear the words of Jesus from Matthew's Gospel in my head: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be . . . Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?"

(continued on page 2)

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Considering the Father's Loving Care *(continued from page 1)*

Those simple words of Jesus remind us that we are not to be people of worry who spend their days and nights fretting over the future. We are called in the midst of the things we have in abundance and in the midst of the things we lack, to be people of hope who know that we have a Father who loves and cares for us. We are called to be people who trust God. We are called to put our entire lives into God's hands and to trust that he will give us what we truly need. This is not a message we hear as we listen to newscasts, read the papers or take in on line, yet, this is the message Jesus came to give us. As you enter into prayer this Lent, why not spend some meditation time considering the history of God's loving care for you? I can promise you that if you spend time with the Lord in prayer considering how the Father has cared for you throughout your life, fear will have little power over you.

Fr. Mark



Generations of Faith

Our second Generations of Faith event is scheduled for March 16/17. We will begin with dinner in the Center at 6 p.m. (pizza, salad, cookies, beverages). After a brief introduction of the topic, *May the Force Be with You*, participants will break up into one of three groups: adults only, children only (by grade level) or families. We will conclude the evening with a brief sharing time and prayer. Registration is necessary and the deadline is March 9! Register online at http://www.stjohnwc.org/GOF_Registration_2009

2009 Catholic Ministry Appeal Campaign



The Archdiocese of Cincinnati's 2009 CMA Campaign will be the weekend of March 14th & 15th at St. John Church. Beginning the week of March 8th, pledge packets will be mail by the Archdiocese. The theme for the 2009 CMA is "Do Gratitude... Say Thanks by Giving." God calls each of us to share our gifts

with others for the building up His Kingdom. The Archbishop is asking every Catholic household to participate in this year's 2009 Catholic Ministry Appeal, which funds the many programs and services of our Archdiocese. The CMA ministries are funded by the Archdiocese, as the weekly offertory is to our parish – so your participation and support is critical! Please begin to prayerfully consider how you will participate. Every gift matters. For more information, please visit www.catholicappeal.info.

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 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.

2009 Lenten / Easter Schedule

- **FISH FRY IN THE CENTER AT ST. JOHN'S:**
4:30pm to 8:00pm Fridays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. JOHN'S:**
7:00pm to 8:00pm on Fridays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3rd in the Chapel
- **LENTEN RETREATS WITH FR. MARK BURGER & FR. TERRY SMITH BEGINS AT 7:00PM**
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 7:45 pm at St. John Church
- **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

Are You Looking For a New Job

With the economy in the state that it is in, many of us are currently looking for a new job. If you find yourself in this situation, where do you start? Updating your resume is the first thing to do. Since most of us are not professional resume writers, you can obtain a quality resume through Microsoft Word. Simply go to Microsoft Word, click "File", "New", "Other Documents", and 4 professional resume templates come up. Choose one and fill in the blanks. You can then email your resume to prospective employers or print it off and mail it. A good resume is one key to getting called in for an interview.

“Cast Your Burden Upon the Lord and He Will Sustain You” – *Psalm 121*

Each of us carries burdens in our life; some fade quickly, some occupy our thoughts for many years, others threaten to overwhelm us. The Gospel teaches us that God has already purchased and redeemed those burdens for us in the person of Jesus. So why is it so hard to let him take those burdens from us?

A Stephen minister can't answer that question or teach you how to give your burdens to God. A Stephen Minister is an ordinary person, a fellow parishioner, someone who walks by your side, accepts you “warts and all” and listens without judging. A Stephen Minister will simply share your burdens - help you bring them out of the darkness and carry them down the road. Who knows, as we walk together, maybe you'll find that some of those burdens seem a little lighter. Maybe you'll just be stronger. Or maybe you'll drop them as you walk.

To start walking with 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.

First Eucharist



The children and families preparing for the celebration of First Eucharist are well into the process. They have completed the lessons in the Eucharist books, are getting ready for their interviews with members of the Pastoral Staff and will participate in a retreat on March 23. If you haven't already done so, be sure to take a look at the poster of these young people that is in the gathering space in church. Our First Eucharist Masses will be on: May 3 at 11:30, May 17 at 9:30, May 23 at 5:00, May 30 at 5:00, and May 31 at 11:30. Pray for all of these children and their families.

Parish School of Religion

Registration for young people entering grades 1-8 for the 2009-2010 school year will begin March 15. 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 week-end office and on the website. Direct any questions to Kathy Guenther at kguenther@stjohnwc.org or 755-4974. **DON'T PUT THIS OFF!**

Loreto Model Faith Formation

Registration for young people attending our Loreto Model program this June has ended. Classes are full. Thanks to all who made the effort to get the forms in on time. A registration confirmation note will be sent to all who registered. If you registered your children (or think you did) and you do not receive this notice by March 10, contact Kathy Guenther at kguenther@stjohnwc.org or 755-4974.

News From St. Gabriel Consolidated School

by: Joe Epplen, *Principal*



Saint Gabriel
Consolidated School

Parents and students have embraced our desire for an increase for vocation prayers after the initial blessing of our vocation cross in January. We now have the vocation cross with accompanying prayers traveling from family to family on a weekly basis through the last week in May. Many parents have found that before or after dinner is an ideal time for vocation prayer.

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Shelton, organized a meaningful and successful Career Day held on February 10th. Students in grades 6th through 8th had the opportunity to listen to a variety of speakers about their jobs and the training needed for them. While most of the presenters were parents of children in our school, a unique feature to this year's Career Day was the inclusion of a Sister of Charity, the founding order of our school, and a deacon. We feel a special need to showcase as many careers as possible in order to expose children to the opportunities available to them.

Finally, we have been especially blessed to have our Coadjutor Archbishop Dennis Schnurr preside at our weekday children's liturgy on February 11th. He accepted our invitation shortly after his appointment and it was gratifying that he made time to tour the school and interact with the staff and children. Several pastors of our consolidated school concelebrated with Archbishop Schnurr which provided our students with an experience which very few have had.

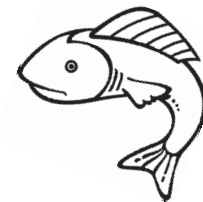
St. Gabriel Consolidated School continues to be blessed with clergy, parent and volunteer support which enables our students to grow and serve in the love of the Lord.

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 groups:

- Mar. 6 – Campton Mission |
- Mar. 13 – Girl Scout Parent Boosters
- Mar. 20 – Boy Scout Parent Boosters
- Mar. 27 – Knights of Columbus
- Apr. 3 – West Chester Fire Department



FISH FRY MENU:

- **Fried Fish Dinner** (fish sandwich, coleslaw, 1 side, drink) \$6.00
- **Crab Cake Dinner** (2 crab cakes, coleslaw, 1 side, drink) \$6.00
- **Baked Fish Dinner** (3 baked fish, coleslaw, 1 side, drink) \$7.00
- **Shrimp Dinner** (8 shrimp, coleslaw, 1 side, drink) \$7.50
- **Sampler Dinner** (1 crab cake, 4 shrimp, 1 baked fish, coleslaw, 1 side, drink) \$7.50
- **Sides:** french fries, mac & cheese, green beans
- **Drinks:** soft drink, milk and coffee

OTHER MENU ITEMS:

- **Fish Sandwich** (white or rye buns) \$3.50
- **3 Fish Sandwiches** (white or rye buns) \$10
- **Crab Cake** \$1.50
- **Pizza slice** \$2.00
- **Beer 16oz cup** \$2.00
- **Pitcher Beer** \$6.00

Come join us for good food and good causes!

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY GO OUT TO ...

January

- Gisele Kelly on the death of her mother
- Chris Hauer on the death of his brother
- Ellen Burke on the death of her father

February

- Sandy Briggs on the death of her sister
- Sam Jones on the death of his brother
- Norma Cromer on the death of her sister
- Donna Denning on the death of her sister-in-law
 - Paul Kreiner on the death of his father
 - Julie Brankamp on the death of her father
- Judy Miller on the death of her brother-in-law
- Norma Hitt on the death of her husband Glenford (Toby)
- Greg Wagner 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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