

# ON AN EAGLE'S WINGS



## Lenten Reflection February 2010

### *Staking a Claim on Peace of Mind*

In mid February we will once again begin the great Season of Lent. As I began to think about what I would write here to introduce this great time of reform and renewal, a scene from a novel I read a few years ago came to mind. In that memorable scene a woman is walking up a long sloping path to the home of a well known sea captain. As she walks along the pathway, the woman notices a number of wooden stakes that seem to be scattered around his property. The stakes are handsomely painted in yellow and white stripes that match the yellow and white paint of his house. As she ascends the long winding slope and finally arrives at the captain's house, she is very curious to know the meaning of the stakes. After she has been welcomed by the sea captain, she inquires about the meaning of the stakes.

“When I was first here and began to plow the ground,” explained the sea captain. “My plow snagged on many large rocks just beneath the surface. Some rocks caused me some rather serious injuries, whereas others damaged several plows. So, I set out stakes where the boulders lay in order to avoid them in the future. I use the stakes to remind me that in farming and in life in general there are “trouble spots” that one can avoid once one knows where they are. By marking them well I find I can spare myself and many others a lot of unnecessary pain.”

It seems to me that the Season of Lent is a special time given to us to help us find the “trouble spots” of our lives. It offers us the opportunity to “stake out” those

difficult parts of our daily lives. Perhaps there is a relationship in your life that has gone sour and is causing you great heartache and loss of tranquility. Perhaps you might use the time of Lent to try to find the “hidden rocks” that are the source of the trouble in that relationship. Finding those hidden rocks could be a great first step in bringing about a deep healing.

There can be other “rocks just beneath the surface” that could be causing you and your loved ones a lot of grief too. Hidden rocks like uncontrolled anger or greed or an addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography are well known sources of strife in many families. Discovering such “trouble spots” and “staking them off” can very well restore peace and happiness to many a marriage and family life.

I am sure that you could come up with a list of other “troubles” that can be a source of much suffering. As Lent approaches, I want to encourage you to take some time in prayer to ask the Lord to show you where the trouble spots might be in your life. Then, once you have discovered where they are, the Lord will help you to “stake them off” so you too can avoid a lot of unnecessary pain in the future. May your Lent be very fruitful this year and may you stake a real claim on the gift that only Jesus can give you, peace of mind and heart.

*fr Mark*

## From the Business Manager

At the end of December, we made a payment on our debt in the amount of \$28,000. Our current balance is now \$514,000. Proceeds from:

- Debt Reduction envelopes - over \$19,000
- Stock \$6,700
- Chili Supper \$1,000
- Paper Recycling \$350
- Individual Donations/Miscellaneous - approximately \$950.



The Valentine 50/50 Split the Pot is going well. We have added additional prizes this year. First prize is 50% of the total amount sold. The additional prizes will be awarded through generous donations of the following items:

- Overnight stay at the Westin Cincinnati with dinner for two
- Overnight stay at the Marriott West Chester with dinner for two
- Spa Basket (value \$150.00) donated by the Bitter family
- Dinner for two at McCormick and Schmick Cincinnati

Tickets for Split the Pot are still available after all the Masses or at the Parish Office. The drawing will be February the 14th after the 11:30 Mass.

The weekend of March 6-7 will be Catholic Ministries Appeal Commitment Weekend here at St. John's. God calls each of us to share our gifts with others for the building up of His Kingdom. The theme for the 2010 CMA is "Always and Everywhere, Give Thanks". The Archbishop is asking every Catholic household to participate in this year's 2010 Catholic Ministries Appeal, which funds six vital ministries of our Archdiocese. The 2010 Catholic Ministries Appeal is to the ministries funded by the Archdiocese as the weekly offertory is to our parish - so your participation and support is critical! February 27-28 is the 2010 Catholic Ministries Appeal Announcement Weekend. Please begin to prayerfully consider how you will participate. Every gift matters. For more information, please visit [CatholicAppeal.info](http://CatholicAppeal.info).

Please help us keep our database current and correct. If you have dropped your land line, moved to a new home, or changed your email, we would like to hear from you. Also, if your adult children have left the nest, or you have added new family members, please let us know! Email Karen Hake at [khake@stjohnwc.org](mailto:khake@stjohnwc.org) or call the parish office to update your information.



*Kathy Mack*

# Lenten Retreat 2010

## Oh God, Is There Hope for Me?



## The Prophets Respond

### Presenters:

Fr. Mark Burger, Pastor, St. John the Evangelist  
Fr. Terry Smith, Parochial Vicar, Good Shepherd

The Community of the Good Shepherd Church  
8815 East Kemper Road

February 27/28 - Introduction during all Good Shepherd Masses  
(Sat 4:30pm, Sun 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am, Noon, 4:00pm)

March 1 - 7:00-8:30PM "Oh God, I'm So Alone"

March 2 - 7:00-8:30PM "Oh God, How Will I Ever Cope With This"

March 3 - 7:00-8:30PM "Oh God, Show Me the Way Home"

Jesus says "Come to me  
and I will refresh you."  
Come and refresh your  
faith with us this Lent!

Please note: There will be no retreat here at St. John's this year, so please join Fr. Mark and Fr. Terry at Good Shepherd! If you have any questions, please contact our parish office at 777-6433.

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# St. John Lenten Services Calendar for 2010

## February 17 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 Mass  
Noon Communion Service  
7:00pm Mass

## Fridays - Stations of the Cross

7:00pm February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26  
Noon April 2

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

7:00pm March 10 - St. Max Reconciliation Service  
7:00pm March 18 - St. Susanna Reconciliation Service  
7:00pm March 23 - St. John Reconciliation Service  
4:00pm Every Saturday (except April 3) in the St. John Chapel

## March 27/28 - Palm Sunday

Normal Mass Schedule 5pm Saturday, 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 Sunday

## April 1 - Holy Thursday

7:30pm Mass of the Last Supper  
9:00pm Adoration (until 7pm Friday) in the Chapel

## April 2 - Good Friday

Noon Stations of the Cross  
7:30pm Communion Service/Veneration of the Cross

## April 3 - Easter Vigil

8:45pm Easter Vigil Mass

## April 4 - Easter

8:00am Easter Mass  
9:30am Easter Mass  
11:30am Easter Mass



Worship  
Schedule  
For Lent

HOLYWEEK

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# Catholics Returning Home

Wednesdays, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

April 7 through May 5

St. John - Room D

Do you know someone who has drifted away from the Church? Most of us don't have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, but we don't know how to help them. Obviously, most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home? As baptized, practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them. Next, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most are just waiting for an invitation to return. Mistakenly, they think they've been excommunicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons. Are negative feelings toward the Church or its members keeping our brothers and sisters away? Many carry with them a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church and are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected. You can make a dramatic difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and want them to come home to our Church family. Once again, St. John Parish will be offering a special program to help those who would like to return to the Church, called "Catholics Returning Home." Please note: You do not have to attend each session. For more information contact Ken Braun at 856-7144 or Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext 121 or [jbarney@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jbarney@stjohnwc.org).

## 6th Annual St. Valentine Dinner Party

Saturday, February 13, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Favret Hall

Following a catered dinner, a light-hearted reflection on "Marriage" will be presented. Our speakers are Jennifer Beste and Steve Penticuff. They have been married for 12 years, and have two children (Anna, 7) and Jamison (4). Jennifer is associate professor of Theological Ethics at X.U., and is the author of *God and the Victim: Traumatic Intrusions on Grace and Freedom*. Steve Penticuff is an English teacher and part-time college counselor at The Summit Country Day School. They are members of Bellarmine Parish at X.U. Don't miss this fun evening to help re-energize your marriage. The cost for the dinner and speaker is only \$15.00 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. Contact Jerry Barney at 777-6433, x121 or [jbarney@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jbarney@stjohnwc.org) no later than February 8 if you plan to attend.



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# St. Gabriel Consolidated School

By the time you read this edition of “Eagle’s Wings”, St. Gabriel Consolidated School will be in full-swing mode of enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year. We hope that those of you with school-age children will take the opportunity to check us out. Our Open House on February 3rd is always well attended. If you missed this opportunity, individual tours can be conducted throughout the school day. A simple phone call and an agreed time is all that is necessary!

Why choose a Catholic school? Several reasons come to mind! Catholic schools infuse faith into every part of the school day - from morning prayer to math class, extra curriculums to behavior codes. Everything we do has Catholic-Christian values at the core. Staff members in Catholic schools have made a commitment to embrace a common set of Catholic-Christian principles in their every day teaching as well as their daily lives. Catholic schools prepare students to reach out to others with a helping hand, are conscious of serving others at an early age, are reinforced by each other through family, staff and fellow student interaction. We do all of this, as well as create an academic atmosphere which has proven to be a solid foundation for our students as they prepare for challenging high school curriculum and beyond.

If you are interested in a faith-based education for your child in a strong academic environment, you need to check us out by talking to families who already attend St. Gabriel Consolidated School. Or, find out first-hand by taking advantage of the opportunity to visit. Our doors are open to you!

God Bless!

Joe Epplen, Principal

Contact us at 771-5220 or online [www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org)

## Lenten Reading Tuesday Evenings Feb 23-Mar 16 7:00-8:30pm in the Pavilion

Looking for something different to do this Lent? How about reading a good book and then meeting to discuss its meaning? For four weeks (February 23 through March 16), Father Don will be exploring the book: *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. Each week we will explore a section of the book.

- February 23 – Discussion of Nouwen’s thoughts on the painting by the same title.
- March 2 - Discussion of Nouwen’s view of the Youngest Son.
- March 9 - Discussion of the meaning of the Older Son.
- March 16 - Discussion of the Father and the challenges that come from the book.



*The Return of the Prodigal Son* is an excellent book, based on the story from Luke’s Gospel and the Rembrandt painting of the same title. Henri

Nouwen is a wonderful spiritual writer who gives insight into the beautiful topic of forgiveness. Fr. Don will share his thoughts at each of the sessions, leading a discussion from one another’s observations. We will be meeting in the Pavilion. Each week will begin at 7:00 and we will end no later than 8:30. Check the bulletin for further details.

# Christmas Baskets from a Saint Gabe Student's Perspective

Note: For more than twelve years, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at Saint Gabriel Consolidated School have helped with the Christmas basket project; assisting with some of the larger families in need each year. We want to share a reflection from one of the students involved in the 2009 Christmas Basket Program at Saint Gabe. This is her letter:

All over the world, kids spend weeks talking about what they want for Christmas. Some kids make a list of presents they want and others tell their parents what they want. After Christmas, the same kids call each other and talk about all of the wonderful gifts they received. What many people don't realize, though, is that many children go without presents at Christmas. When my classmates and I learned about a single mother and her seven children, which included an eight-month-old baby, who wouldn't be able to provide for themselves at Christmas, we were glad to seize the opportunity to make sure that each child got gifts for Christmas this year. The opportunity helped us to grow closer together as a class, and more importantly, as a Catholic community.

During religion class, our teacher introduced us to this project a few weeks before our Christmas break. She described this family in general detail—their ages and genders, for example—and told us that we would be helping them to receive food and gifts for Christmas. Splitting us into groups, she assigned a child for each group to shop for, and she had group members exchange phone numbers so we could make a date to go shopping for presents. When one of my partners and I got together to shop, it felt great to be able to give a little time, effort, and money to help a less fortunate family. We picked out some board games, bouncy balls, and other toys to give to the eleven-year-old boy that we were shopping for, but the whole time, we knew that the real present we were giving was joy.

Our class wrapped all of our presents and put them into large boxes with all of the food that we'd collected and a few of my classmates carried the boxes to a car that was ready to take them away. As the car drove away, we went back to class. I began to think about the project that we were involved in. The biggest thing it left me thinking about was where all those boxes were going. I really wish that I could have seen the faces of all of those kids as they opened up the boxes and got the Christmas that they deserved.

As Christmas rolled around and it was time for me to open my own presents, I couldn't forget the project either. Every time I opened a new present and was surprised at what was inside, I knew that their faces would be just as surprised as mine because they are kids, too, and they deserve a Christmas, just like me, so I'm glad that I could give them one.

Sincerely,  
Jane Klaus  
St. Gabe Student



# The Meaning of Lent A Personal Reflection

by Blake Alan, CHRP Team 30

I spent today taking down our Christmas tree and nativity scene and I couldn't help thinking how quickly time was passing and how different life feels as we start the New Year in 2010. Questions kept popping into my mind: Where did the Christmas holidays go? Did we really experience and feel the spiritual euphoria of the birth of Christ or were we too busy and overwhelmed by all that life is throwing at us right now? Is my eldest son safe today as he works on the streets of Los Angeles in the LAPD? How can I write an article about the meaning of Lent when I'm struggling to make sense of why both of my brothers in England have lost their jobs, why my youngest son and several brothers and sisters in our parish can't find a job? And, what chance have I got of making a sacrifice for God when I can't even come up with a New Year's resolution that will last more than a couple of days?

I decided to take a time out, get away from worrying and simply meditate. I started by opening Fr Mark's book, *Hearing God's Voice*, and reading his reflection for today, January 10th, "Appreciate the Gifts you have". This certainly was food for thought, challenging me to think about all of the gifts in my life – my family, friends and community of St John's – and to give thanks. I was starting to feel better already. Then I opened my New American Bible that I received at the Christ Renews weekend two years ago with Men's Team 30 and read John 3: 16-17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have

eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Then, I did the obvious and considered the literal meaning of Lent as a period of fasting and repentance as a sacrifice or gift to God.

There was that word GIFT again! And, it started to dawn on me that there was some sense to all of this contemplation and that I needed to start thinking about my gift to God during the season of Lent. And, let's be honest, giving a gift feels a lot easier than making a sacrifice, right? If we want to hear God's voice, then we need to be sure that we're listening for His voice so that it doesn't get lost in the background of our hectic daily lives. On the other hand, when we do take some time out for God, it's typically when we have a need and we want Him to listen to us and hear our voices. Which brought

me to the gift of listening. This is what Lent means to me this year: to stop worrying, to stop watching time fly by and to give the gift of listening for 40 days and then to make sure that this becomes a permanent item in my "gift inventory". So often, when times are tough as they are today, we simply want someone who will listen to us without any judgement or condemnation, without any desire to solve our problems for us. And, you know what, perhaps this is what this reflection is really all about, I wanted someone to listen to me. Thank you God for listening to me and for the gift of your Son Jesus!



## Lenten Reminder on Fasting and Abstinence

There are always many questions concerning the Church's official position concerning fasting and abstinence from meat during Lent. Ash Wednesday (February 17) and Good Friday (April 2) are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fasting. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat, but do not apply the fasting rule. To sum up those requirements, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obligated to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening—depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, fish, or any type of milk products. If you have any questions about the obligations of abstinence from meat or fasting during Lent, feel free to call the parish office.

## Baby Bottle Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus will be distributing empty baby bottles at all Masses on Saturday and Sunday, February 20/21. These bottles can be filled with coins (or cash) and returned before any of the Masses on February 27/28. The proceeds from this collection assist the Pregnancy Center East, a non-profit center for pregnant girls and women in crisis.

## KAIROS RETREAT

This special retreat for high school seniors and young adults takes place February 19 – 21 at the Athenaeum of Ohio in Beechmont. The retreat begins at 9 AM that Friday and continues through 7 pm Sunday evening after a closing Mass back here at St. John's church. Seniors and young adults – mark your calendars! Registration forms are available at the Church, the Parish Office, and online. Non-parishioners are welcome!

## You Are Invited to the 2010 Knights of Columbus Valentine's Dance

Saturday, February 6, 2010

7:00pm to 12:00am at Favret Hall

Dance to the Music of the **Renovators Band** Music, Soft Drinks, Beer, Wine and Snacks provided for only \$15 per Person!

Split the Pot Raffle to be conducted with proceeds to help fund an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for St. John. Tickets are limited, so please reserve your spot now.



For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:

Chris Gebhart, 513 895-2288  
or cwgebhart@gmail.com

Presented by the St. John the Evangelist  
Knights of Columbus Council

## Anniversary Celebration Mass for Our Parishioners Coming in February!

On February 13th at the 5:00pm Mass, the parish will recognize and congratulate those couples who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th...and so on in increments of 5, Wedding Anniversary this year. There will also be a reception in the gathering space after the Mass.

If you are one of these couples, and wish to be recognized at this mass, please contact the parish office by Monday, February 8th at 777-6433 so you can be part of this wonderful celebration. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



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# Marriage Renewal Retreat for Married Couples

Part I - Friday, February 26

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Part II - Saturday, February 27

9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Favret Hall

Part I: A spiritual reflection on marriage will be presented in two parts. Part I, will be given Friday night, followed immediately after by a wine and cheese party.

Part II will be given the next day, including a continental breakfast and lunch. Married couples from our parish will be giving witness on their personal marriage and faith journeys. The cost is only \$10.00 per couple to cover the food expenses. If you wish to attend, please contact Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext. 121 or [jbarney@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jbarney@stjohnwc.org) no later than Monday, February 23.

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## Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday during Lent

4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Parish Center



February 19	Benefits Campton Mission
February 26	Benefits Christ Renews His Parish Committee
March 5	Benefits Parent Boosters of Boy Scouts
March 12	Benefits Parent Boosters of Girl Scouts
March 19	Benefits Knights of Columbus Council #13608
March 26	Benefits West Chester Fire Department

The menu includes a fish sandwich, cheese pizza, shrimp, fish, crab cake or combo meals! Side dishes include macaroni and cheese, green beans and cole slaw. Drinks are soda, tea, coffee and beer and there are many different desserts to choose from as well. The food is great and the prices are too!!

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## Christian Morality

Mondays: March 1, 8, 15, and 22, from 7:00 – 9:45 p.m

Favret Hall

Deacon Jerry Barney will give an overview of Catholic teaching RE: “Morality”. This four evening course is sponsored by REAP (a regional organization for parish catechetical leaders). It is required by the Archdiocese for “General” level Catechist certification. There is a \$25 charge that catechists can bill to their parish upon request. RSVP by calling Kathy Guether, DRE, at 777-6433, ext. 118.

# Generations of Faith 2010

Our second Generations of Faith event, *Got Prayer? Getting in Touch with God*, is scheduled for February 8-9. Registration forms for this session are available on our website and in the church offices. Registration forms are due by February 1st. There are several breakout sessions to choose from for this Session. They are:

## • Lenten Devotions



- Family Prayer at Home
- Praying on Empty
- Praying through Song
- Ways to Pray for Little Ones
- Prayer-filled Ideas for Young People

Please join us in the Parish Center beginning at 6pm on either Monday, February 8 or Tuesday, February 9th! If you have questions, contact Kathy Guenther at [kguenther@stjohnwc.org](mailto:kguenther@stjohnwc.org) or 755-4974.

## A Note of Thanks

St. John Parishioners:

Carmel Presbyterian Church and Zion Baptist Church wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve our community through the generosity of St. John's members. The five schools and other recipients were grateful and appreciative of the Christmas boxes. Please thank your congregation and assure them that the boxes are making a difference in the lives of many. We look forward to working with you in 2010.



# LORETO PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Loreto Model Registration forms will be available in the parish office, the weekend church office and on our website beginning February 1. The Loreto Model Religious Education Program is an alternative to the Tuesday and Wednesday evening faith formation sessions. The program takes place Monday through Friday during the weeks of June 14 and 21 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 2010-2011 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!

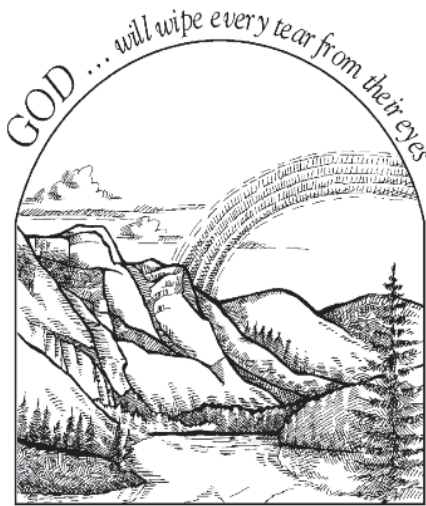
We always have a need for volunteers in the classrooms, with games, snacks, craft activities and music. If you register your child/children, please consider sharing your time and talent as well. If you DON'T have a child in the program, we still need and can use your gifts as well! Contact Kathy Guenther at 755-4974 or [kguenther@stjohnwc.org](mailto:kguenther@stjohnwc.org) for details.

## Is God Calling You to Something More?

Classes are now forming at the Athenaeum of Ohio's Lay Pastoral Ministry Program for the Fall of 2010. Come and see what lay ministry formation can do for you. Education that is geared for busy adult learners! For more information call 513.231.1200 or email us at [kboss@athenaeum.edu](mailto:kboss@athenaeum.edu).

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# Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...



*There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.*

Revelation 21:4

## November

*Dale Prisco on the death of his mother  
Tina Mesker on the death of her father  
The family of Francis Choate*

## December

*Jane Irwin on the death of her father  
Darlene Pierce on the death of her husband Chuck  
Barb Helsing and Sandy Kelly on the death of their mother  
Sandy Hagenbarth on the death of her sister  
Loretta Herberth on the death of her husband Bill  
Lynn Duba on the death of her mother  
Mary McLocklin on the death of her husband Frank*

## January

*Patty Hunkler on the death of her husband Ted  
Kathy Hillyard on the death of her husband Bob  
Carey Criswell on the death of her father*

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



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the **Evangelist Church**  
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