

April, 2010

On Eagle's Wings

Taking Care

An elderly woman I used to take communion to when I was at Holy Family parish likes to send me little items she finds as she goes through news papers and magazines. Some are better than others, but I like this one:

"A little city girl was visiting her grandfather's farm for the first time. Her very first stop was at the barn. "Oh, what a funny looking cow!" she cried out, "but where are its horns, why doesn't it have any horns?"

Grandpa patiently replied, "Well, Honey, you see, some cows are born without horns and never have any at all. Other cows shed their horns. Some other cows we actually de-horn. And there are some breeds who aren't supposed to have any at all. There are lots of reasons why some cows have horns and others do not. But the reason why that cow hasn't got horns is because she isn't a cow - she is a horse!"

The reason you and I don't have horns is because we aren't cows. We aren't horses either. We are human beings and God gave us something more important than horns. "What did God give us humans, grandpa?" the little girl asked.

"Are you telling me you don't know?" grandpa asked.

"Grandpa, how am I supposed to know what God gave us? I'm not old enough to have been around when he was here like you have!"

Grandpa replied, "God gave human beings a special job to do. The job he gave all people is to be care-takers of God's good earth. Everything on the earth is a precious gift from God and he expects that we will take real good care of it. That's why we don't have horns; we have hands, so that we can lovingly take care of all of God's good gifts."

I really like that little story because it sums up rather nicely what we are about when we consider all that has been given to us. We have been called to "take care", to "look after", and truly appreciate all that has been given. By taking good care of God's earth, we pass on to others what we, ourselves, have received from God through other folks who have been conscientiously caring for what had been entrusted to them. This is a great definition for stewardship and when you hear more about stewardship in church throughout the month of April, take time to consider how much God has entrusted to you and please make a heartfelt response to Him.



Fr. Mark

Stewardship



From the Business Manager

The month of April is meaningful and important to St. John this year. Not only does Easter occur on the first Sunday of the month but we also have our Stewardship drive during April. The stewardship theme this year is "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." This saying from the teachings of St. Francis, urges us to show our faith through our actions. During the weekend of April 17/18, we will hear about giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure at all of our Masses. Everyone will receive their stewardship mailing around the middle of the month. By completing the form, you can give of your time and talent for a variety of ministries in our parish. Also, you will be asked to share your treasures. We have a number of projects that we have put off that we would like to complete this year. Please fill out the intent card showing the amount that you will be contributing this year. Also consider giving electronically. You can use your credit card, savings or checking account. This change can be made at any time by going to our website and clicking the donate button or by calling the office if you don't have access to a computer. Everything that you are able to do counts! Please give generously and with gratitude for all you have been given. The forms will be collected on the weekend April 24/25. If you have any questions, please call me.



Our parish began the Tanzania Promise project in 2007. We teamed up with Good Shepherd Parish with a five year goal of raising \$250,000 from our parish and another \$500,000 from Good Shepherd. We are supporting the village of Mbola. Mbola is in west-central Tanzania and falls under the Tabora Archdiocese. Our funding goes through the Millennium Promise organization. We have raised \$236,951.48 so far! This is the third year we have been raising funds for this worthwhile endeavor. Thank you to everyone who is giving generously to Tanzania Promise!



Fr. Daniel from the Tabora Archdiocese visited our parish in the summer of 2008. He is now enrolled at Xavier University and is working on his Masters Degree in Community Counseling. Our PSR students are currently raising funds to help with the purchase of his books for next semester. Please continue the good work that you are doing and keep Mbola and Fr. Daniel in your prayers.

Finally, if you haven't returned your CMA pledge, please do so now. It's not too late.

Kathy Mack



Being Good Stewards, Biblically Speaking

Genesis 1/28 b: "Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth".

What does Sacred Scripture (Gn. 1/28) mean when it speaks of human beings having "dominion" over creation? Unfortunately, over much of Christian history the word was misconstrued to mean "domination". Our world was seen as being at our disposal. We could use, abuse, misuse it in anyway we see fit. For example, in the "Wild West" bison were shot dead for sport alone and left rotting, almost to the point of extinction. Not too long ago our rivers and lakes were used by companies to dump toxic waste such as Carbon Tetrachloride without any thought of its impact on our habitat. Why worry? God has given us this planet to do with what will. It says so in Genesis.

Thanks to modern biblical scholarship we now have a more accurate understanding of Genesis' term "dominion". Correctly interpreted, it means to have "proper stewardship" over creation. Genesis is saying that God has entrusted us with the care of this world. We are to be responsible stewards using this precious gift prudently and with great respect. We are to make every effort to live in harmony with Nature. Theologians call it the "Kinship" model, i.e., we are to consider ourselves as living interdependently with the environment. We are part of the greater whole. St. Francis of Assisi appreciated this fact almost eight hundred years ago when he spoke of "Brother Sun and Sister Moon".

Therefore, the next time we recycle, or conserve energy, think of ourselves as following the biblical mandate to be good caretakers, i.e., good stewards of Mother Earth.

Jerry Barney

Through Another's Eyes

A little while back, we had a staff member from the Archdiocesan Worship Office come and lead a retreat here at St. John. Something this person said struck me and has continued to stick in my mind regarding our parish. This person noted that St. John, in his opinion, has been, and continues to be, one of the most hospitable parishes in the Archdiocese.

Every one of us, as parishioners and also as volunteers in any of our ministries, plays a HUGE role in this. Through our time, our talents, our gifts, and our great HOSPITALITY to all who walk in our door, we can certainly be glad to be seen through another's eyes in that way. Thank you very much for your continued hospitality at St. John!

Scott Steinke

Stewardship Through Music



"Praise the Lord in his sanctuary... Praise him with the blast of the trumpet, praise him with lyre and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipe. Praise him with sounding cymbals, praise him with clanging cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Alleluia." -Psalm 150

The simplest way we practice musical stewardship in church is to sing. The Lord gave each human being a particular voice. Whether male or female, loud, soft or silent, trained or untrained – we are all called to offer our voice to the Lord in some way. Notice the Scripture does not say: "Those with the most beautiful voices praise the Lord!" Let everything that has breath means everyone – all of us!! If you are shy about your voice, do not worry; simply listen to the whole choir (congregation) and join in.

If you have a musical gift and have been looking for a place to use it, consider joining one of our ensembles to help our parish pray: the choir, contemporary ensemble, youth chorus, handbell choir or instrumentalists! Call Mike Dailey for more information at (513) 777-6433, ex. 128.

Michael Dailey



Saint Gabriel Consolidated School Update From Joe Epplen, Principal

We have completed our parish registration for the 2010-2011 school year and projected enrollment is strong and positive. At this writing, we still have a few openings in some grades and would still hope to talk with families interested in the St. Gabriel Consolidated School experience. A simple phone call to 771-5220 will put you in touch with staff who can answer all of your questions.

In the meantime, we continue to engage our students and families in programs throughout the school. On March 10th we had over 200 parents and children attend our first annual Primary Science Night. This program was designed to spark interest in our science program for students in grades 1, 2 and 3 as well as to enable parents to see the many things we do to foster a love for science. Displays included demonstrations about gravity, light and shadows, water and air and the solar system. Each station found primary and junior high students working together to show and explain the topics designated for the evening's presentations. Parents were impressed with the knowledge shared by the students and thankful for the opportunity provided by the school.

Our Grandparent's Day, held on March 25th, began with a mass attended by students from grades 2, 3 and 4 and their grandparents. Mass was followed by a reception in the school and classroom visits. This day has become an annual spring event at St. Gabe's and is always well attended. A lack of space limits us in the expansion of this program.

We look forward to our 7th annual Race for Education which will be held on April 30th. This fundraiser enables the school to purchase needed equipment in the area of technology and other educational areas. Students from all grades walk or run and the pledges promised are collected at the conclusion of the race. Please be on the look out for letters from students requesting a donation.

Father Don's Corner

"What good is it, my friends, for someone to say he has faith when his actions do nothing to show it? Can that faith save him? Suppose a fellow-Christian, whether man or woman, is in rags with not enough food for the day, and one of you says, 'Goodbye, keep warm, and have a good meal,' but does nothing to supply their bodily needs, what good is that? So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is by itself a lifeless thing." (James 2:14-17)

We are called to be people of action. It is not enough to show up for liturgy on the weekend and call ourselves Christians. James' letter speaks about taking our faith and putting it to use for the good of those who are less fortunate than we are. We are called to use our time, talents and treasure to help build the community of God. It is not enough to be in attendance at liturgy, doing nothing more than "taking Jesus and a bulletin until next week."



Each week, at Mass, we are sent forth with a mission statement: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and each other." We can't do that with just our prayers and good intentions. There are many opportunities throughout the community that answer the call that the letter of James speaks to. Search your community and see how best you can build the Body of Christ. It may begin with a neighbor or it could be someone in your very family that calls their needs to be met. Listen to the words of James and realize we are a people of action. In our responding to the needs of others, we will show the depth of our faith.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

High School Spring Retreat: Mark your calendars! Our spring retreat will be Friday, April 16 through Sunday, April 18th at St. John. The theme this year is HOPE! If you have questions or would like to register, please contact Debbie Kreiner at dkreiner@stjohnwc.org.

Confirmation: Our celebration of the Confirmation of our young people takes place this year on Saturday, May 15, at the 5 PM mass. Please pray for our Candidates, their sponsors, catechists, mentors, and parents as they complete their preparation and discernment period. Join us on May 15 to celebrate!

THTM: Teens - are you interested in giving more of your time and talent? We have a new Youth Ministry group that is serving our community through volunteerism! Two Hands Teen Ministry may be for you. Contact them via the St. John website or you can email them at two.hands.teen.ministry@gmail.com.



What Do the Bible, Stewardship, & Social Justice Have in Common?

I was trying to find the words I needed to write about stewardship, and I so I was flipping through my Catholic Youth Bible from St. Mary's Press, and found a suggested reading list on the topic "The Justice of God" that starts out by saying, "God, it seems, has a preference for the poor." In light of some odd and mean-hearted comments made in the media last month about the Church's teaching on social justice, I thought I'd check this list out to make sure I hadn't just dreamed up everything I've ever learned from studying scripture and church teaching. Guess what! I'm okay. It's all there just as I remembered it. In a homily a few weeks ago, Fr. Mark said that the story of the wedding at Cana teaches us that to be like Jesus we must be ready to make sure that everyone has "enough" of whatever they need. In other words, we must take care of each other, see to each others' needs, make sure that EVERYONE has enough – enough food, water, clothes, healthcare, love, a place to live, safety, peace, dignity. In Matthew 25: 35-46, Jesus tells us that if we don't do this for the least of our brothers and sisters, we will be judged by God accordingly.

As Christians and Catholics, we are stewards not just of earthly things, but of each other, with a responsibility to fulfill this mission that Jesus has given us. As adults, we have a responsibility to pass on the faith to young members of the Church. We pass on the faith by the way we live our lives, by the way we prioritize, by the way we treat people, by the movies, TV, and news we watch. You name it – the kids see us do it.

We've been discussing these and similar passages at REALITY on Sunday evenings this year. Please read and pray about these passages yourself, and keep our young Church in mind as you pass on the faith. *Debbie Kreiner*

Gn 1:1-2, 3
Ps 82
Gn 45

Mt 5 :43-38
Lk 22:24-27
Mt 19 :13-15

Dt 24:10-21
Am 5 :21-24 ; 8 :4-10
Ex 3:7-10

Lk 16::19-31
Jas 2:1-13
Mt 25 :31-46

Earth Day, April 22

In order to raise our consciousness about environmental issues, Senator Gaylord Nelson worked to establish "Earth Day" forty years ago. This annual celebration has succeeded in fostering greater awareness about the various threats to our habitat. Likewise, U.S. Catholic Bishops and recent Popes, including Benedict XVI, have challenged Catholics to be better stewards of our planet. Consequently, in celebration of Earth Day, our parish "Green Committee" has included a flyer in the middle of this issue of the Eagle's Wings that includes a list of local recycle centers and practical things we can do at home to help save our planet. It is also available on our website under the "Green Committee" link. Furthermore, the Green Committee will also sponsor a prayer service and seminar near the end of April. Please watch the bulletin for details.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISM MASS

St. Peter in Chains Cathedral
Archbishop Schnurr, Presiding
Tuesday, March 30th at 7:00pm

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm in Church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Begins after Holy Thursday Mass and continues through Good Friday at 7:30pm in the Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND

Noon - Stations of the Cross in the Church
7:30pm Communion Service in the Church

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD

Easter Vigil Mass 8:45pm in Church

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH

Masses at 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:30am in Church





WOMEN OF THE WORD

Truth and Judgment
Friday, April 30



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. \$10 per person covers your meal and the entire evening! These evenings fill quickly, so RSVP to Jo Koch at 759-5093 or mojokoch@cinci.rr.com.

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 at St. John church after all masses the weekend of April 17 & 18. Look for the large rental truck next to the church. 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. The only thing they don't need right now is canned 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). Any household knick knacks and kitchen utensils are also welcomed. If you have questions, please contact Jerry Barney at jbarney@stjohnwc.org or 777-6433.

Are You a Baptized Catholic Adult Still in Need of Confirmation?



Confirmation of baptized Catholic adults will occur on May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Formation meetings will be held weekly from April 7 until May 19 on Wednesday evenings from 7:00–8:30pm in Room E. Contact Jerry Barney at jbarney@stjohnwc.org or 777-6433, ext. 121 for further information, or to register.

Catholics Returning Home

Wednesdays, from 7:00 – 9:00PM

April 7 through May 5

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 info contact Ken Braun at 856-7144 or Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext 121.

Preach the gospel at all times.

Use words, when necessary.

~ St. Francis of Assisi ~



Show 'N Tell Mass

Monday, April 12, 7:00 – 8:15PM
Chapel

Have you ever wondered why the priest places a small piece of the Host into the chalice during the communion rite at Mass? Are you puzzled by some of the symbols or rituals used in our Eucharistic liturgy? Deacon Jerry Barney will answer your questions during a Show 'N Tell Mass. Always engaging and interesting, Jerry will role-play a Mass adding commentary to explain the meaning of symbols and rituals used. No matter how long you've been attending Mass, there is something you will learn. Enhance your weekly church experience with a deeper understanding of the significance and history of our liturgy. Note: the first 30 minutes will be geared for children **ages 7 through adult**; the remainder of the presentation will be geared for teens and adults.

First Eucharist

The parents of ninety-seven of our young people have been working with their children 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:

April 24	5:00pm Mass
April 25	11:30am Mass
May 2	9:30am Mass
May 16	11:30am Mass
May 22	5:00pm Mass



Keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Counting Our Blessings

The 2009-2010 PSR sessions have come to an end. A large number of dedicated people have lived out their baptismal call and shared their time and many talents with the young people of our parish. What a gift and blessing these men, women and teens have been. Without them, how would our community assist parents in sharing the gift of faith with their children? St. John Parish is truly blessed to have these parishioners and they deserve a huge "Thank You" for a ministry well done. May we continue to be blessed with members like this.



WHO ME??

When you see clip art like this, do you just ignore it and move on to the next item in the bulletin or newsletter? If so, you're part of a very large group of people.

One of the most challenging tasks I have faced in my years as a Director of Religious Education has been trying to recruit all the volunteers necessary to make our faith formation programs meaningful and faith-filled.

"I can't do that!" "I don't know enough." "I'm not a teacher." These are a few of the most common responses I hear when asking someone to help share the Good News with the young people of the parish. Why are so many good Catholics so—choose one: apprehensive, fearful, reluctant, busy? Aren't we all called to evangelize, to go out and spread the Gospel message? It's right here in our own backyard, so to speak. And it's working with children--what's not to like about that?

For those who are open to the call, the request, and even sometimes, the pleading and begging, the rewards have been overwhelming. Many of our volunteer catechists have told me that they have gotten much more from the children than they have given. It's that line about "It's in giving that we receive" that comes to mind. There is a sense of accomplishment at the end of the year when the little ones share with others what they have learned about God, Jesus, sacraments, church, loving others, being followers of Jesus, and various other topics that they have covered in class.

What are you waiting for? Don't be shy. Pray over it and see if this is what God is asking of you for the coming year. Maybe you'll even learn something, too.

Kathy Guenther

SAVE THE DATE!!



Our next Christ Renews His Parish weekend for Women is September 18-19, 2010. For more information, contact Bonnie Garay at 777-5701 or garay_family@yahoo.com or check the parish website.

Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...



February

Steve Wertepny on the death of his mother

Gina Kohls on the death of her grandmother

Margaret Doyle on the death of her mother

Sandy Glass on the death of her mother

March

Doug Davis on the death of his mother



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