

# On Eagle's Wings

February 2012



St. John  
the Evangelist  
Catholic Church



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**"Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God. For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and relenting in punishment." (Joel 2:13)** When thinking about the upcoming season of Lent this passage of Joel came to mind. It speaks of a change of heart...a change that comes from inside a person, not something that is judged by the external view of a person. So often we are encouraged to give things up for Lent, to make sacrifices that show people what we are doing for Lent. Some people make such a fuss over what they are giving up that the people around them seem to suffer more than the person making the sacrifice. When we find that it is our heart that needs the biggest change in our life we can turn to the merciful and loving God to heal our brokenness.

Lent is a time to make new, a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord in his glorious resurrection. It can be a time of purification. It is a time when we look at our lives and see just how good our relationship is with God. If we are honest with ourselves we know we can always do a better job when it comes to faith in God. Lent is a time when we can clean all the cobwebs surrounding our hearts and make room once again for God in our lives. When we listen to the prophet Joel we can really see where the change must come. It is what is inside us that make us who we are. We spend way too much effort on the externals in our lives and we fail to see change of heart that we need. The change can only really happen when we surrender ourselves to the Lord. When we realize that God is the source of healing that we need, then the actual healing

can begin. The season of Lent, I believe, challenges us to become better Catholics. This can cause us to grow deeper in our faith and grow closer to God. When we spend the season of Lent strengthening our relationship with God it can put the joys of Easter in our hearts. Lent should be a time of life-giving efforts to see God more clearly in our lives. If that means we are called to make sacrifices and give things up then do so. If it means we need to spend more time in prayer, then we should make time for the Lord. Perhaps we are called to do works of charity in our community or in our work place; or perhaps at home with our family. It is a time to rend our hearts and seek the healing power of God. Once we have felt God's healing presence then we can find our way onto the path of not only Jesus' death but also his joyous resurrection.

As we journey this season of Lent let us focus on what makes us who we are. When we discover that person and seek the Lord's love we will have a strong faith that will never let us down. The season does not have to be a time just for giving things up but a time to give of ourselves to others. May the spirit of God be with you during your Lenten journey. Have a great February!

St. John Church, 9080 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester, OH 45069

The Season of Lent



## From the Business Manager

Our annual "Split the Pot" Fundraiser is in full swing! The drawing will take place on Valentine's Day and the grand prize will be one-half of the amount raised. Second prize will be \$500, third prize will be \$250 and fourth prize is a \$200 spa package from Hi-Lites Salon. Tickets and information were mailed in January. Please purchase your tickets for a chance to win and to help raise money for our Debt Reduction! Our goal is to raise over \$30,000!

We were able to make a payment on our debt in December for \$16,000. That means that we now owe \$321,000 on our \$2.2 million loan from the Archdiocese. Our goal is to pay the loan off in its entirety by 2014!

A huge thank you to all who were able to participate in the Increased Offertory Campaign. We are sincerely grateful! We realize that due to various circumstances, not all parishioners were able to increase their offerings at this time. We ask for your prayers as we continue to build the Body of Christ in our parish.

Please help us keep our data base 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. Email Karen Hake at [khake@stjohnwc.org](mailto:khake@stjohnwc.org) or call the parish office to update your information.

Have a great February!

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### Split the Pot Raffle

It is that time of the year! Our 50/50 Split the Pot Valentine Day Raffle fundraiser for debt reduction has begun! The grand prize, as always, will be one-half the total amount raised. Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000! Second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. The cost of the tickets will be \$50 each or 5 for \$200. Tickets are on sale on our website, in the parish office or after all Masses through February 12. The drawing will take place on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Good luck!



### Baby Bottles for Life!

**February 4/5 - Bottle Handout**

**February 18/19 - Bottle Returns**

Our parish has an opportunity to work with Pregnancy Center East through a program called "Change A Life". Baby bottles will be distributed during masses the weekend of February 4/5. Each family is encouraged to fill a baby bottle with coins, etc. during the following 2 weeks and return the bottles the weekend of February 18/19. Pregnancy Center East provides services to women who struggle to supply basic needs for their children. They give diapers, formula, clothing and other items to help their clients. Most importantly, they provide counseling and pro-life alternatives to women who are confronted with an untimely pregnancy. Their goal is to encourage those with an unplanned pregnancy to CHOOSE LIFE!





## The Road to Restoration and the Common Good - The Dismas Journey - A Dialogue on Second Chances for Restored Citizens

**Monday, February 13, 7:30-9:00pm in the Chapel**

An Archdiocesan program entitled The Dismas Journey - The Road to Restoration and the Common Good will be given in our Chapel on Monday, February 13, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Since the time of the Underground Railroad, people have found “second chances” in our city. The themes of reconciliation, forgiveness and new life are prevalent throughout our faith tradition. How, then, can we join with returning citizens in their journey to restoration and redemption?



How can we help Cincinnati become more known as a place of hope, freedom and opportunity? Hear personal stories from returning citizens and others, and join in group dialogue on.... How various parish ministries regularly connect us with returning citizens facing difficulties. How people with criminal records (felonies and misdemeanors) face nearly insurmountable odds in their job search. How much returning citizens desire to contribute to society and to become restored citizens. How our common good suffers when so many face such roadblocks and are unable to work. How we, as people of faith, can open our hearts, join in solidarity and work together to help make a difference with those facing such obstacles. (Dismas is the name traditionally given to the unnamed “good thief” in Luke’s Gospel, to whom Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”) This program will be available for online viewing from our website (click on churchcast). Contact Jerry Barney with questions at [jbarney@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jbarney@stjohnwc.org) or 777-6433.

### Parish Lent Retreat – “Change Our Hearts”

**March 4, 5 and 6, 7:00-8:30 pm, in the Church**

Our speakers Judith Dunlap and Noelle Collis-Devito will preach all 4 masses the weekend of March 3 & 4. Also, they will give an evening Retreat from 7:00 – 8:30 Sunday, March 4, Monday, March 5, and concluding on Tuesday, March 6. Ideally you participate in all of the events, but each one is designed to stand alone. Therefore, attend the nights you are able. These events will also be available via live online feed at [www.churchcastonline.com](http://www.churchcastonline.com) (click on St. John West Chester) and will be available for viewing for a week after the event.

### Canned Food Drive for Reach Out Lakota

**February 25/26 Before or After all Masses**



The St. John Athletic Boosters will be collecting shelf-stable food items for Reach Out Lakota before and after all Masses on the weekend of February 25 and 26. Items needed include: Cereal, Oatmeal, Pancake/Baking Mix & Syrup, Canned Fruits/Vegetables, Canned Meat (Chicken or Ham), Canned Pasta, Canned Soups/Stews, Canned Tuna/Seafood, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Snack-packs & Crackers, Applesauce, Gravy & Broth, Chili (Containing Meat) Potatoes: Instant/Canned, Pasta, Rice, Stuffing, Spaghetti & Pasta Sauces, Tomato Paste & Sauce, Flour, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Powdered & Canned Milk, Baby Foods & Formulas. Non-Food Items Include: Toilet Paper & Kleenex, Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Soap & Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner, Shaving Gel/Cream, Disposable Razors, Cotton Balls & Q-Tips, All Purpose Cleaners, Laundry Detergent & Softeners, Dish Detergent, Baby Supplies: Wipes, Powder, Diapers, Shampoo & Lotion. Thank you for your assistance in helping those in need in our community!

# Walk the Road to Jerusalem With Jesus

**- Generations of Faith -**

**Tuesday, March 20, OR Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
(choose one night)**

**St. John Parish Center - Dinner at 6pm  
St. John Church - Program at 7pm**

We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner in the Center. Afterwards, our very talented troupe of actors and singers from the St. John Performers will help you to experience a true miracle (or two)! In Jesus' travels on his way to Jerusalem, he receives a call for help. What happens next will help you prepare for the season of Lent and Easter!

**Why does Jesus help those in need?  
How do the leaders feel about Jesus' miracles?  
What will happen next to Jesus?**

Come, join us for an interactive journey as Jesus travels to Jerusalem on his way to his final experiences on earth. Pre-registration is required and can be done via a form (available in the church weekday or weekend office) or online (after February 21). For more information, call 777-6433.



**This Program is perfect  
for parishioners  
of ALL ages!**



*St. Valentine  
Dinner Party*

## St. Valentine Dinner Party

Saturday, February 11, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in - Favret Hall

Come enjoy a delicious, catered dinner. Afterwards, be enriched by a light hearted reflection on marriage by parishioners Pete and Joan Seibenick. The cost is \$15.00 per couple, the rest of the expenses are covered by our parish. If you wish, bring a bottle of wine for your table. Pre-registration is required. The deadline is Monday, February 6. Call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, x121 to sign-up, or for further information.



## Join Us For KAIROS!

KAIROS 16 2012

March 9-11 at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Milford

Public & private HS school seniors, Younger adults (grads – early 20's), parishioners, non-parishioners, ALL ARE WELCOME! Already been on Kairos? Do it again!

Everything is Changing. How will you handle it? This retreat will change the way you approach the rest of your life. It begins at 9am on Friday and ends at 7pm on Sunday. The \$100 fee\* covers a private room for 3days/2 nights, 7 meals, special mementos, and all materials. **Registration deadline: Wednesday, February 29.**



Your spiritual life is like a seed. It requires nourishment, love, and light. A retreat allows you time to leave the hectic world of applications, career decisions, college, jobs, and deadlines behind. Change your heart. Come on Kairos! \*If the cost is a hardship for you, please contact Debbie. We'll work something out! More info at <http://youth.stjohnwc.org/kairos.htm> or e-mail Debbie at [dkreiner@stjohnwc.org](mailto:dkreiner@stjohnwc.org).

### Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday during Lent

4:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center  
February 25, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



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 or apple sauce.

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! We will see you there!

### Religious Jewelry & Rosary Sale!

It's the perfect time to find those Easter and sacramental gifts!

Feb. 18/19 - sale weekend

Feb. 25/26 - sale & pickup

Mar 3/4 - in-stock sale & final pickup

This is a fundraiser for our parish youth ministry. We earn 50% of the sales! Proceeds help our young people and adult volunteers attend national Catholic youth ministry conferences. Thank you for your generous support!



## Wow - Women of the Word

*Join Us as We Prepare!*

*Come! Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord!*

*Friday, February 17th, 6:30 - 10:00pm in Favret Hall*

*Light Dinner and Dessert Served. \$10 per person. We are saving a place for you!*

*However, space is limited, so please RSVP asap by Monday, February 13!*

*Contact Jo Koch at 207-7749 or [wow.rsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:wow.rsvp@yahoo.com).*

*(Follow us on Facebook - Wow Women of the Word.)*

# St. John Parish 2012 Lent / Easter Schedule

## **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

6:30am Mass in Church  
12:00pm Communion Service in Church  
7:30pm Mass in Church

## **WEEKLY LENTEN FISH FRY IN THE CENTER**

4:30pm to 8:00pm Fridays during Lent  
February 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE CHAPEL**

Every Friday During Lent  
7:00pm to 8:00pm - February 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
Noon on Friday April 6

## **LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES**

St. John, Monday, March 12 at 7pm  
St. Max, March 17 at 10am and March 27 at 7pm  
Good Shepherd, Tuesdays, March 13 and 20 at 6:30pm  
St. John, Weekly on Saturdays at 4pm (except April 7)

## **LENTEN RETREAT WITH JUDITH DUNLAP AND NOELLE COLLIS-DEVITO**

Preach all Masses March 3/4 at St. John  
"Change Our Hearts, Oh Lord!"  
7:00-8:30pm at St. John church each night  
Sunday, March 4, Monday, March 5, Tuesday, March 6

## **ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISM MASS**

St. Peter in Chains Cathedral  
Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00pm

## **HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 5**

Mass at 7:30pm in Church

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Begins Holy Thursday at 9:00pm and continues  
through Good Friday at 7pm in the Chapel

## **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6**

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

## **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 7**

Easter Vigil Mass 8:45pm in Church (No 5pm Mass)

## **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8**

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

Lent/Easter Calendar





## News from St. Gabe School February, 2012

Catholic Schools Week has always found us immersed in many activities from assembly programs, Open House and spirit days to service projects which show a sincere effort to practice one or more of the Corporal Works of Mercy. The efforts of our staff and students show a commitment to discipleship as we strive to make the lives of others, lives with dignity.

During the course of Catholic Schools Week, the focus has been on developing a partnership with the St. Frances – St. Joseph Worker House located downtown at 14th and Walnut Street. The Worker House, modeled after the spiritual values and philosophy of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin and recently inspired by the work of Fr. Mark Schneider who passed away in 2009, gives hope to many homeless men who move on to employment and independent living as a result of working with volunteer mentors.

Students at St. Gabriel Consolidated School spent the week collecting hygiene products and kits, items of clothing and other products which were delivered to the Worker House at week's end. Additionally our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students assembled sandwiches, fruit cups and a treat into decorated share-a-lunch bags which were also a part of our gift to the residents who live there as well as other soup kitchens in the area.

As a result of these experiences, our young people are developing a sense of social justice in our larger community in our quest to have everyone be "Christ to one another."

Principal Joe Epplen - [www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org) or 513-771-5220

### What to Give Up for Lent:

- Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism—become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.
- Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred—return good for evil.
- Give up negativism—be positive.
- Give up anger—be more patient.
- Give up pettiness—become mature.
- Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
- Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
- Give up sin—turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up—hang in there!



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK! SEARCH FOR  
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH,  
WEST CHESTER.**

# Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...

December

Peg Newberry on the death of her son Chris

Rita Abbas on the death of her grandson

Jean Gavigan on the death of her brother-in-law

Mike Shimrock on the death of his mother

The Hitt family on the death of Norma Hitt

Nancy Wyspianski on the death of her great aunt

Gary Bourgraf on the death of his mother

January

George & Natalie Fries on the death of Beth

Ellen Burke on the death of her mother

Mary Lankford on the death of her mother

Betty Cunningham on the death of her niece

Jane Petsche on the death of her husband Frank

Jerry Barney on the death of his uncle



[www.stjohnwc.org](http://www.stjohnwc.org)

(513) 777-6433



**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

**9080 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.**

**West Chester, OH 45069-3129**

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