

# On Eagle's Wings

March, 2011



St. John  
the Evangelist  
Catholic Church



## This Month's Highlights

Page 2:

**Business Mgr Update**

**Lenten Fish Fry**

Page 3:

**Kairos**

**Confirmation/1st Eucharist**

Page 4:

**St. Gabe Update**

**Wow Night Lites**

Page 5:

**Book Club**

**Giving for Lent**

Page 6:

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**Beatitudes and Priorities**

Page 7:

**Adult Faith Formation**

**Liturgical Ministry Retreat**

From the Ash Wednesday Gospel, we hear: *"When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you...when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."* *"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who live to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others might see them...When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret."* *"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting...when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face."* We are ready to begin the rich season of Lent! Lent is a time to give alms, pray and fast.

In the Ash Wednesday Gospel, we are challenged not to be like the hypocrites. We are not supposed to do things just so that others will notice our good deeds. God doesn't need us to remind Him what we are up to. He knows what is in our hearts and He sees the good that we intend to do. Lent is a time to give alms, pray and fast. We are asked to do these things in order to prepare ourselves for the great gift we receive at Easter - Jesus' resurrection. Right after the Gospel, the first thing we do is receive ashes on our foreheads to mark us for the season of Lent. I find it truly amazing how many people begin the season of Lent by receiving ashes. Everyone who sees us on Ash Wednesday knows that we are Christians by our "mark." It would also be wonderful if our actions left our "mark" on others by the good deeds we do. Lent is a time of purification and a time when we reconcile ourselves with the Father through the Son.

We are also called to give alms during Lent. If you are someone who gives something up for Lent, perhaps this year you might take the money you save and give it to the poor. In these economic times, giving of our treasure is very appreciated and needed. It does not have to be with great fanfare, but simple gestures for the good of the kingdom. Jesus calls us into our inner room to pray. He also tells us not to *"babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words"*. Once again, the Father knows what is in our heart and answers us. God knows what we need before we ask him. God always gives us what we need, not necessarily what we ask for.

During this season of Lent, focus on preparing yourself for Easter. Allow the simple tasks of alms-giving, prayer, and fasting be your companions. During your Lenten observance don't force others to listen to you describing what you are doing for Lent. Lent is a time for a change of heart, a time to refocus our relationship with God. It is a time to do penance and create a clean heart with the help of God.

Please keep our RCIA candidates in mind as you pray this Lent. They are beginning their final preparations to receive the Easter sacraments. Take part in all that this Lenten season has to offer! Make plans to take an active part in the Holy Week celebration. Journey with Jesus to his suffering and death and to his glorious resurrection. God bless each of you and know you are in my prayers.

The Season of Lent



## From the Business Manager

The 2011 Festival planning began February 6th. We are looking forward to another exciting year. This year the Festival will be held on August 5-6-7. The Basket Bonanza is an amazing booth. It is one the largest sources of income for the Festival. We are searching for someone who will coordinate the booth along with a committee of volunteers. If you are willing to volunteer to head or be on this committee, please contact Ken Krusling at [kkkrusling@cinci.rr.com](mailto:kkkrusling@cinci.rr.com) or call the Parish Office at 777-6433. Let's keep this popular booth alive and successful!!

Split the Pot Raffle for Debt Reduction is underway. There are only a few days left to get your tickets in for the drawing. Last year one of our parishioners won close to \$14,000. The drawing is March 6th. If you don't win the Grand Prize (1/2 of Ticket Sales), you also have a chance to win \$500, \$250 or a \$200 Spa Package from Hi-Lites Salon. Our current balance on our loan is \$415,000. We would love to see that number below \$400,000 after the raffle. As always, thanks for your generous support.

Our Stewardship Drive for Time and Talent is right around the corner. We will be doing a drive for the Treasure portion in the fall. Stewardship forms will be mailed to your homes by mid-March. Please prayerfully consider the ways that you are able to minister and serve St. John Parish. Your gifts of Time and Talent are instrumental in helping this wonderful community live out its mission. You are asked to return your forms the weekend of April 2 and 3. If you have any questions about the ministries listed, please call the Parish Office or email [info@stjohnwc.org](mailto:info@stjohnwc.org).

Did you know that you can set up your weekly contribution or debt reduction donations automatically? Just go to our website at [www.stjohnwc.org](http://www.stjohnwc.org) and click on "Donate Online" for the secure link. You can use a credit card or set up an Electronic Transfer from your checking or saving account. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Marianne Ball at [mball@stjohnwc.org](mailto:mball@stjohnwc.org) or 777-6433.

The annual Contribution Statements were emailed or mailed in January. If you have not received your letter, please call Karen at 777-6433 or email her, [khake@stjohnwc.org](mailto:khake@stjohnwc.org).

*Kathy Mack*

### Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday during Lent

4:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

- March 11 Benefits Knights of Columbus Council #13608
- March 18 Benefits the Parent Boosters of the Girl Scouts
- March 25 Benefits Campton Mission
- April 1 Benefits the Parent Boosters of the Boy Scouts
- April 8 Benefits Christ Renews His Parish
- April 15 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 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!!



## Been on Kairos yet? **KAIROS XV** **March 11-13, Jesuit Retreat Center in Milford**

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

Everything is Changing. How will you handle it? This retreat will change the way young people approach the rest of their lives. It begins at 9am on Friday and ends at 7pm on Sunday. The cost\* covers rooms, 7 meals, special mementos, and all materials. Registration deadline is Friday, March 5th. Your spiritual life is like a seed. It requires nourishment, love, and light. A retreat allows time to leave the hectic world of applications, career decisions, college, jobs, and deadlines behind. Change your heart. Come on Kairos!

\*The cost went up this year because we had to change location. We don't want anyone to miss out on Kairos because of this! If the cost is a hardship for you, please contact Debbie. We'll make it work! More info...  
<http://youth.stjohnwc.org/kairos.htm> or e-mail Debbie at [dkreiner@stjohnwc.org](mailto:dkreiner@stjohnwc.org).

### Adult Confirmation

Are you a baptized Catholic adult still in need of Confirmation? Confirmation of baptized Catholic adults will occur on June 12, Pentecost Sunday, at the 9:30 a.m. mass. Formation meetings will be held weekly; dates and time TBA. Call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext. 121 for further information, or to register.

### First Eucharist Schedule 2011

March 20 through April 20 - Student Interviews	
April 4	Show and Tell Mass - 7pm in Chapel
May 7	First Eucharist Retreat
May 15	First Eucharist - 9:30 Mass
May 21	First Eucharist - 5:00 Mass
May 22	First Eucharist - 11:30 Mass
May 28	First Eucharist - 5:00 Mass
May 29	First Eucharist - 11:30 Mass

### YOUTH CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2011

Mar 6	Meeting #4 ~ 6:45-8:30 PM
Mar 13	Meeting #5 ~ 6:45-8:30 PM
Mar 20	Meeting #6 ~ 6:45-8:30 PM
Mar 27	Meeting #7 ~ 6:45-8:30 PM
April 3	Meeting #8 ~ 6:45-8:30 PM
April 10	NO MEETING..... Parish Mission (runs April 10-12)
April 17	NO MEETING..... Palm Sunday (Holy Week Begins!)
April 21	Holy Thursday, Mass of the Last Supper, 7:30 PM
April 22	Good Friday, Prayer/Veneration of the Cross, 7:30 PM
April 23	Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 PM (approx.)
April 24	NO MEETING..... Happy Easter!
May 1	Meeting #9.....Special Activity/Meeting/Pizza Party
May 8	NO MEETING..... Mother's Day
May 14	Saturday, Rehearsal, 10 AM at Church
	ALL CANDIDATES & SPONSORS MUST Attend
	5 PM Mass ~ Confirmation Celebration
	(Candidates be in Chapel at 4:30 PM.)



**St. John Youth/Teen Choirs**  
**City BBQ Fundraiser**  
**Monday, March 14**  
**10:30am-10pm**  
**City Barbeque**  
**Voice of America Plaza**  
**(near Target on Tylersville Rd)**

Our Youth and Teen Choirs receive 25% on all carry-out and eat-in orders when you present the St. John Youth and Teen Choir Fundraiser Flyer (available online or at church)! THANKS!



## News from St. Gabriel Consolidated School March, 2011 - From Joe Epplen, Principal

March at St. Gabriel Consolidated School will be a busy month filled with a variety of activities for everyone's individual taste. Our second annual Primary Science Night will be held during the evening of Wednesday, March 16th and will focus on activities designed to stimulate the science interests of students in grades 1, 2 and 3. Each classroom will have a "famous scientist" who will be in charge of the activities geared to our budding young scientists and their families. The goal of this night is to engage younger students in the pursuit of scientific interests. Our junior high students will serve as "Famous Scientists" and facilitators for this event.

Annually, our school focuses on a specific curriculum area with a special week of activities. This year our language arts department has selected the week of March 21st as a special week of Fairy Tales. This magical and whimsical week will start off with an assembly from the Cincinnati Arts Council entitled "Chicken Fishing in America". This action packed program is a cross-cultural mix of stories, drama and music. As the week continues we will have a variety of programs and opportunities to recognize the richness of our culturally diverse school through tales and lore from a number of countries and cultures. This week should be memorable for students and teachers alike.

Finally, our seventh grade drama program, "After Hours" will be performed on March 24th and 25th. "After Hours" is a play filled with comic dialogue and stage action designed to lighten your day, as bungling burglars and mannequins interact in a way that causes the play goer to think "out of the box." All of these activities are open to the public as well as our parents and students. A busy time, but a rewarding one as well as students and teachers use the opportunity to learn about new things and appreciate the value of working together in fun and interesting ways.

St. Gabriel Consolidated School ([www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org) or 513-771-5220)

### ***YOU'RE INVITED!***

*The Journey of Faith Team  
and*

*WoW - Women of the Word*

*are beginning a*

*Small Group for Women - The WoW Night Lites!*

*Join us for some faith-filled sharing and caring.*

*Info Night - Monday, March 7th*

*7-9pm at St. John Favret Hall*

*Contact Lonetta Kelly for more information*

*at [lonetta@fuse.net](mailto:lonetta@fuse.net) or 791-8780*



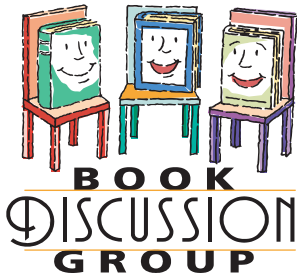


## St. John Book Club

### *The Whole Parish: On The Same Page*

St. John's Book Club has just started its first book reading for 2011 with *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. (Books are \$13 and are available in the Parish Office while supplies last.) This account of faith sharing by three mothers from different backgrounds is engaging, thought-provoking and entertaining as you follow their candid conversations during their search for understanding. As one reviewer stated, "*Sometimes poignant, always direct and honest, The Faith Club is far and away the most credible popular discussion of interfaith relationships that I have seen to date. Every 21st-century citizen-believer should read it*".

Not only will the parish be on the same page, we'll be on the same web page! An online blog is located at <http://stjohnwbookclub.blogspot.com/> (you will find a link on our website) and will serve as our book club's meeting space. Have an opinion? Log on and leave your comment. Can't understand the authors in chapter 4? Check out what others have written. You do not need to find a babysitter or attend meetings! You can connect with your parish family without leaving the comfort of your living room. Discussion questions are in the back of the book and will be available online, so if you want to get together with friends to start a small group discussion you can create your own reading circle. We will also have one "live" meeting on **Sunday, March 27 from 12:45 until 2:15pm in the Chapel** for those who want to discuss the book in person. Let's all get "On The Same Page" this year!



---

## Giving Or Giving UP For Lent

Lent is about following Christ's way of life and worshiping Him through our daily behaviors. From childhood, most Catholics are told to "give up" something during Lent. Many choose to give up things like sweets, a favorite game, a night of TV, or another favorite item. "Giving" something rather than "giving up" can also be a significant way to express our gratitude during Lent. Some examples of this could be giving your time each week at a soup kitchen, giving a half hour a day to family prayer, or giving some time for volunteer work with events at the church.

Regardless of what is given or given up, it is important that the action or activity is helping to teach the value of sacrifice, restraint and appreciation in our lives. The ultimate value and core meaning in this is to bring all Catholics closer to their faith by emulating, to the best of their abilities, the behaviors of Christ.

Lent, as a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice, and good works in preparation of the celebration of Easter, gives us the opportunity to renew ourselves in many ways. So let's take this special time to make sure we don't give up ON Lent, but instead "give up" or "give" something FOR Lent to make Christ-like living the ultimate goal in our lives!



~ *Scott Steinke* ~



# Society of St. Vincent de Paul Starting at St. John Parish!

The number of people in poverty and financial crisis in our community continues to grow. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a non-profit organization providing personal assistance with furniture, rent, utilities, emergency aid, transportation, other needs, and companionship to people facing economic, emotional or spiritual crisis. In our Parish, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will work with Reach Out Lakota to provide additional services to our community that are not offered today.

No work of charity is foreign to the Society. Vincentian helping can include any person-to-person assistance that promotes human dignity and integrity. The Society is concerned not only with relieving need but also with addressing the situations that cause it.



St. Vincent de Paul members, Vincentians, are people who strive to grow spiritually by offering person to person service to others in need. They are young and old, some are wealthy, some are financially poor, but all are blessed with awareness that their gifts of time, talent and treasure are to be shared with our brothers and sisters in need. There is no special education or training required. What is needed is a sense of caring for others. Vincentians provide a source of Help and Hope to those in need. An essential part of the Society's work is to provide help while conscientiously maintaining the confidentiality and dignity of those who are served.

As we build this new Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we will be providing more information to our parishioners. The first step is an **"Information Night"**, which is scheduled in Favret Hall at St John on March 29, at 7PM. Members from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give a presentation and answer our questions.

If you have questions or need more information about St. Vincent de Paul at St. John Parish, you can contact Steve Wertepny at 335-7175 or swertepny@zoomtown.com.

## Beatitudes & Priorities

Our priorities push and pull us along our path through life. In a way, they are our path. What helps us decide what our priorities will be? While we might write a list to answer that question, the guide that should be at the top of that list is Jesus Christ. The Beatitudes are about priorities. Jesus meant that we can be rich in so many ways, but still be poor in spirit because we don't have our paths or priorities straight. Happily, the Kingdom of Heaven can still be ours because the rest of Jesus' sermon in Matthew 5 shows us how to get on the right path.

In fact, throughout the Gospels Jesus asks us to give up everything and change our priorities in order to follow him. "Everything" isn't just your things. It's who you are and what you do. It's what you think is important in your life. All of the Sunday readings in February and throughout Lent challenge us to change our hearts and our priorities. Jesus is saying: Give up YOUR priorities. Make MY priorities your priorities.

What's most important in your life – your priorities? If you made a list with Jesus at the top and you used the Beatitudes to guide you, what would make the list? This is not easy stuff. Don't have time to think about this because you're busy with a hectic schedule full of activities, appointments, practices, etc.? It would be easy to shrug off making this list, but you don't have time for that. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

*Debbie Kreiner*



Change Our  
Hearts, Oh Lord!



## “Change Our Hearts” Adult Faith Formation Opportunities for March/April, 2011

### Jennifer Shaw in Concert

**Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 pm at St. Susanna Church**

Singer, songwriter Jennifer Shaw is coming to St. Susanna for an awe-inspiring evening this Lent. The first radio single off her most recent CD, *Love Broke Through*, has already become a top 5 hit on the national radio charts. Jennifer’s concert experience blends story, song and scripture to inspire and encourage people to live their lives wholly for God. Learn more about Jennifer at [www.jennifershaw.com](http://www.jennifershaw.com) and don’t miss this amazing evening of worship.

### Kids/Parents Show ‘N Tell Mass

**Monday, March 28, 2011, 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. in the St. John 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. 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 of our liturgy. Note: The presentation will be geared for the children but informational to everyone!

### Lenten Mission – “Called, Blessed and Sent!”

**St. John Church - During all Masses April 9-10, Evenings 7-8:30pm April 10, 11 and 12**

Fr. Norm Langenbrunner and Jeanne Hunt preach all 4 weekend Masses on April 9 & 10. Afterwards, an evening Parish Mission will be given from 7:00 – 8:30 Sunday, April 10, Monday, April 11, and concluding on Tuesday, April 12. Is it time for you to be called, blessed and sent?

---

## “Some Assembly Required” - The Role of Liturgical Ministers”

### Morning Retreat for Liturgical Ministers

**Saturday, March 5 - 9am-Noon Presented by Father Larry Tensi**



On Saturday, March 5th, St. John Church will be holding a retreat for all Liturgical Ministers. Liturgical Ministers include: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Music Ministry and Sacristans. The retreat will begin at 9:00am and be finished by noon. Our guest speaker will be Father Larry Tensi, current pastor of St. Columban Church in Loveland and former director of the Worship Office for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati from 1994-2003. This is a great opportunity for all ministers to deepen their

faith and spirituality by understanding the major role they play in the parish. And since Father Tensi will also be discussing with everyone the role they have in the new upcoming Roman Missal, it is strongly encouraged that all Liturgical Ministers attend. Please RSVP to Scott Steinke at 777-6433 ext. 115 or at [steinke@stjohnwc.org](mailto:steinke@stjohnwc.org) to let us know that you will be attending. If you are not a Liturgical Minister, but would still like to attend, please rsvp to Scott as well.

# Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...

## *January*

Heather Lally on the death of her father  
Jeanenne Denzler on the death of her aunt  
Barb Conway on the death of her granddaughter  
Norine Smith on the death of her brother  
The Gedney family on the death of Elinor Gedney  
Marilyn Havlin on the death of her mother  
Tim Havlin on the death of his brother-in-law

## *February*

Dave Moushey on the death of his father  
Karen Hake on the death of her uncle  
Hilda Michaels on the death of her husband, Don  
The Baringhaus family on the death of Carolyn Baringhaus



[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

*Non Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #1  
West Chester, OH*

PLACE LABEL HERE