

On Eagle's Wings

October, 2011



St. John
the Evangelist
Catholic Church



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New Roman Missal Intro

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me...Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brother or sister, you did for me'." These words are taken from Matthew 25. They speak of how the Lord judges who will inherit the kingdom. They speak about most of the "Corporal Works of Mercy". Our next Generations of Faith event will focus on the Works of Mercy on October 18 and 19.

How well do we do with the corporal works of mercy? How do we go about recognizing our brothers and sisters in need? It can be scary to realize that this is the measuring stick with which Jesus measures us. Our self-centered world makes it easy to ignore "marginal" people. "Looking out for number one" is an easy pattern to fall into. But as Jesus is quick to point out, we must rise above the norm. We not only have to be aware of our brothers and sisters but we are called to care for them as well. As a parish, I believe we do a pretty good job of living out the Corporal Works of Mercy. We consistently donate food and supplies to those who need a helping hand through Reach Out Lakota. And, there are many other ways throughout the year that we feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty. We answer the call to clothe the naked with our annual spring and fall clothing drives for the Campton Mission in Appalachia. We always send a full truck on its way to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Another corporal work of mercy is to visit the sick. We have people from Pastoral Staff and many parish volunteers who regularly visit and bring Eucharist to the infirmed. We are truly blessed as a parish. To house the homeless is another work of mercy. The Knights of Columbus and other parish volunteers assist at "Chosen," a homeless shelter in Hamilton. We are called to visit the imprisoned. In the past our parish has helped a retreat team put on a Kairos retreat for prisoners by bak-

ing 200 dozen cookies. We currently have a member of the parish who does chaplain ministry. The last corporal work of mercy is to bury the dead. I believe we have one of the finest bereavement ministry teams around. There is special care given to a grieving family from the time they come to plan a funeral, to the reception our wonderful volunteers provide to the pastoral care that is given to those mourning a loss.

We are a very gifted parish and do many wonderful things to reach out to the least of our brothers and sisters. Is that all that is needed? Of course not - there is always more we can do. But I think that it is interesting to see the Gospel alive in our parish. The examples I have mentioned in no way cover all we do, but it gives a snapshot of the Corporal Works of Mercy alive in our parish. To learn more about the Corporal Works of Mercy and how you can truly be a merciful person, please make plans to attend one of the nights of Generations of Faith. God bless you for what you share with our community!

Generations of Faith



From the Business Manager

FINANCIAL UPDATE: We are currently short of our Sunday Collections budget number by nearly \$34,000 (as of September 18, only the 12th week of our fiscal year). Now that we are settling into the new school year and folks are back from vacations, it is our hope that the collections will pick up again. Please call me if you have any concerns about our Stewardship of Treasure at 777-6433, ext 116 or you can email me at kmack@stjohnwc.org.

GREAT NEWS! As of October 1st, Saint Vincent de Paul (SVdP) has taken over the Outreach Ministry to those in our community who need emergency help with rent, utilities, etc. SVdP will now take the assistance calls which come into the office. Volunteers from SVdP will then be visiting those who request help to determine how their needs can be met. These calls are handled with discretion and confidentiality. As in the past, parishioners and all those who live within our parish's geographical boundaries are eligible for this assistance. There are, of course, criteria that determine types of assistance and/or agency references given to those who request help.



The SVdP ministry will be funded by the four blue envelopes in the box of parishioner giving envelopes that you receive each year. One half of the "reach out" collections go to Reach Out Lakota and the other half will now go to SVdP fund for our parish. Previously, the second half of the "reach out" collection was put into an Emergency Fund that was administered by Kathy Mack, our Parish Business Manager. You may also make direct donations to SVdP by writing a check or donating cash to SVdP. Donations can be dropped off at our church weekday or weekend office or placed in the collection basket at any Sunday Mass. Please make sure to mark all donations "SVdP". This ministry will also receive some proceeds from our annual Christmas Craft Show. Again, that money in the past went to the Emergency Assistance Fund.

Please keep the SVdP ministry in your prayers! This group of volunteers, inspired by the Gospel values grows spiritually as they continue to help those in need. There are many guidelines that outline how SVdP members serve those in need. For example, Rule I:1.2 states, "The vocation of the Society's members, who are called Vincentians, is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact. Vincentians serve in hope." If you are interested in more information about the SVdP ministry and/or how you can get involved, please contact Steve Wertepny at 777-5167 or swertepny@zoomtown.com.

What Are the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy?

The seven Corporal Works of Mercy are the practices of charity toward our neighbors, based on the Gospel of Matthew. They are: 1) Feed the hungry; 2) Give drink to the thirsty; 3) Clothe the naked; 4) Shelter the homeless; 5) Visit the sick; 6) Visit those in prison; and 7) Bury the dead. *Matthew 25:34-40. "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me'."*



Generations of Faith - “Works of Mercy”

Tuesday, October 18

OR

Wednesday, October 19

(Choose one of the two nights)

6:00 – 8:30 p.m Begins in the Center



Generations of Faith events at St. John are meant to be time spent with parishioners from every generation. We schedule these events twice a year and our topics and presenters are designed to speak to all ages. These events are free for all parishioners! We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner in the Center. Afterwards, everyone present will move to the church. Our speaker is Nick Cardilino, the Campus Minister at the University of Dayton and an accomplished Christian speaker, singer and songwriter. He will inspire everyone present with his message on the subject of “The Corporal Works of Mercy”. Don’t know what the works of mercy are? Read Matthew 25 with your family! Or, better yet, join us to learn all about them! Pre-registration is required. You can use our online form at www.stjohnwc.org, or pick up a form in the weekend or weekday office. Call 777-6433 with any questions.



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“A Walk Through the Mass”

Wednesday, November 9th, OR

Tuesday, November 15th

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (attend one session)

In St. John Church

This year, on the First Sunday of Advent (November 26/27), the New Translation of the Roman Missal will be introduced and used from that day forward for our Eucharistic celebrations. If you would like to see in advance the way mass will be prayed with the new translation you can join us in a “walk through the Mass”. It will be an opportunity to practice the responses of the congregation, and hear the prayers of the Priest-Presider. This same presentation is being offered twice. Attend the night that best fits your schedule.

It’s Almost That Time of the Year!

Christmas Food Baskets

Please prayerfully consider helping a needy family have a better holiday this year by participating in our 24th annual Christmas Food Basket project. With the current economy, the number of families needing help is growing. The sign-up date will be after all Masses the weekend of November 5th & 6th in the Gathering Space. The drop-off/delivery date is Saturday, December 10th between 9:00 and 10:00 AM.

If you would like to help with the signups before or after a Mass the weekend of November 5th & 6th or help with the drop-off/delivery on December 10th, please call Charlie or Karen Hake at (513) 779-1713.



Called to Glory!



Beginning with the readings about forgiveness on Sunday, September 11, we've been hearing Jesus tell us how to act, how to treat others, and what to do to fulfill our mission – our calling – to bring about the glorious Kingdom of God on earth. The Kingdom parables continue this month and through November with Jesus telling us about God's generous love, about acceptance, faith, humility, gratitude, vigilance, responsibility, and works of mercy.

Several of our high school teens will be participating in the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis this November, and the theme of the conference is "Called to Glory". The theme song of the same title was co-written by Nick Cardilino who will be presenting at our October Generations of Faith. The lyrics echo the Kingdom parables: Jesus calls us "to serve this world in need. ... to become his hands and feet ... what you do for the least you do for me." The theme of our GOF is "Works of Mercy" (see Mt 25:31-46, Gospel on Nov. 20). Nick will use stories and music to help us understand this message of Jesus calling us to do His work.

If you aren't hearing God call YOU to glory sometime this fall, you need to stop and listen. It's everywhere!

Debbie Kreiner, Youth & Young Adult Ministry

JTHF Book Drive!

OCTOBER 29/30 Before All Masses

Drop off NEW Children's books and movie DVDs!



The Jeffrey Thomas Hayden Foundation (JTHF) was established in memory of Jeff, a former Lakota student and St. John parishioner, who lost his battle to brain cancer. It is dedicated to helping kids affected by cancer. We are collecting NEW Children's books and movie DVDs. The donations will be given to the Liberty Campus of Children's Hospital to stock their book carts and Child Life department. They will be adorned with the JTHF sticker!

One of our young parishioners, Meggie Zahneis, is heading up the book drive throughout all of West Chester this year. She will be coordinating book collections at the Lakota schools and many other locations. Thanks to Meggie for taking on this big job! Some of our youth will be assisting with the book drive as well. Thanks to our teens as well! We love to see our young people making a difference!

Olde West Chester Christmas Walk & Staff Chili Supper!

On November 19th Olde West Chester will hold their annual Christmas Walk, Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting ceremony. St. John Church participates in this annual event and sponsors a Chili Supper that evening, put on by your pastoral & support staff members. The Chili Dinner takes place in our Education Center from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. We will serve homemade chili and Cincinnati Style Chili, hot dogs, coney, three-ways and baked goods. If you would like to make a pot of your famous family chili or the Cincinnati style please contact Karen Hake at the parish office at 777-6433 x110 or at khake@stjohnwc.org. Hope to see you there, we would love to serve you and your family!



Listening Sessions

We hear you!

On August 15, 23, 31 and September 8, we held Listening Sessions for St. John Parishioners. At these sessions, we asked three questions to all of the participants. Each participant answered the questions individually, and then moved into groups, where all answers were discussed and then broken down into the top 3-5 items per question. The groups then came back to present their final results to Father Don and the rest of the participants. We have compiled all of the feedback from these sessions and will provide you with a summary of the top 3-5 answers from each group from all of the sessions during the month of October. In our October 15, 22 and 29 bulletins (available after all Masses or online), we will give you the feedback that was provided by all of the groups based on each of the three questions that participants were asked to answer.

The feedback will also be shared with the Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff for discussion. We will then plan for and schedule any transitions in programs that need to be made. All plans will be explained to parishioners via the bulletin and newsletter, in addition to other avenues of communication. Simple changes will occur more quickly than the more complex ones. For example, starting with the September 18th bulletin, we started to highlight our parish staff members (two per week) so that you can get to know them better!

Three Questions Asked at the Feedback Sessions:

1. Name 3 to 5 positive things that come to mind when you hear "St. John Parish".
2. Name 3 to 5 things we can do better as a parish.
3. Name 3 to 5 things you would like our parish to do in the future.

A Song for Advent: Magnificat by Nick Cardilino

This month's Generations of Faith features Dayton, OH composer and performer Nick Cardilino. We will be learning and singing one of Nick's beautiful compositions beginning in Advent of this year: the Magnificat. It is an upbeat, beautiful version of Harry Hagan's setting of Mary's Canticle in Luke. Look for, listen to and sing this beautiful song whenever it is included in the repertoire!

Marriage Retreat - "Happily Ever After"

Part I, October 14, 7-9 pm and Part II – October 15, 9 am - 4:30 pm in Favret Hall



Find and use your strengths and those of your partner to renew the most important relationship of your life. Join us as we strive to make our marriages happier! Part I – Friday, October 14, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Parishioners Todd and Pam Holt, married 40 years, will share their marriage faith journey with us. Immediately afterwards, an optional wine and cheese party will be available (bring your own wine). This is not an overnight, so everyone goes home and returns the next day for Part II. Part II is Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Led by Michael and Joan Hoxsey (married 51 + years), and GERALYN and Tom Sparough, (married 24 + years), the day includes a continental breakfast and lunch. It is recommended that participants come to both days; however, if your schedule only permits participation at one of the two days, this is acceptable. The cost is only \$10.00 per couple to help cover part of the expenses. If you wish to attend, please call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext. 121 or email him at jbarney@stjohnwc.org no later than Monday, October 10.



Campton Mission Fall Food and Clothing Drive



The Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Campton serves the Appalachian people of Eastern Kentucky. They have a thrift shop that provides low or no cost clothing to the people in their community. They also have a food pantry. For many years, we have assisted them with food, clothing, school supplies and funds. We also send a youth group there every summer to put on a day camp for underprivileged children. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the next collection for Campton on October 15 and 16 after all Masses.** Here is a list of what they need: **Clothing and Household:** gently worn clothing in all sizes, especially larger sizes and children's clothes, winter jackets, men's work clothing. The emphasis at this time of the year is on fall and winter clothing! Household knick-knacks and costume jewelry are also needed. **Food:** cereal, mac-n-cheese, tuna, spaghetti, sauce, canned meats, pastas, vegetables and fruits, soup, peanut butter, jelly, dry pudding mixes and healthy snacks. Please limit your donations to shelf stable food items that are not in glass containers.



Blessing of the Animals

October 4, 7:30pm in front of Church

In celebration of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, we will be blessing pets in front of the church on October 4th. Bring your pets (friendly animals only please) to receive a blessing! If you have any questions, feel free to call the parish office at 777-6433.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY FOR JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

SATURDAY, OCT. 29, 8:00PM-MIDNIGHT

FAVRET HAUNTED HALL



**WEAR YOUR SCARIEST (OR CUTEST) COSTUME!
GAMES, SNACKS, MUSIC & DANCING!
COSTUME CONTEST! FRIENDS ARE WELCOME.**



FREE! Chaperoned. Sign in with name, emergency contact and transportation info required at the door. Parents can send in scary treats! Pick up younger teens inside please. No "coming and going". Appropriate behavior and modest costume required. Email Martha Era (mera@stjohnwc.org) or call 777-6433 for more information.

God's Gardeners - Fall Cleanup -



Please join us again this year for our Fall cleanup of the Parish Grounds on **Saturday, November 5th**. We will meet in front of the church at **9am** for a light breakfast. The generous gift of your time can save the church thousands of dollars in landscaping costs! Please bring wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, gloves and any other equipment you have available. For more information, please contact Kirt Robb at 777-6433, extension 122 or krobb@stjohnwc.org. Thank you for your time and assistance!



News from St. Gabe School October, 2011

St. Gabriel Consolidated School, a 2010 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, has experienced a fine growth in enrollment this fall adding 32 students to our roster. We are blessed to see this growth and, with a couple of exceptions, all of our classes are full and actively engaged in the process of learning.

Our Catholic Identity theme for the year is "We Are All One Body." This theme will carry us through the year as we find ways to help those less fortunate in our greater communities, by volunteering, by recognizing and appreciating the many diverse cultures in our school and by sharing what we have with others. From an academic point of view, we have conducted three curriculum nights which have given parents the opportunity to interact with teachers in such a way that parents have a sense for the direction all coursework will be headed in each grade for the entire year. As educators we find these sessions to be good building blocks in helping parents and students to see the "bigger picture" about our programs.

In the process of preparing for this year, we have also looked at ways that our parent communication can be more effective and less costly. In addition to our website which contains many links to our school related organization and helpful information about the many facets of our school programs, our traditional "Thursday Envelope" which has been a vehicle for sending forms and pertinent information to the homes of our students will now be totally electronic. Parents will be able to view all of these materials after receiving login information and passwords, assigned by the school, during our curriculum nights. This change should prove to be a great cost savings for the school.

Finally, as you read this article, our PTO is in the midst of its annual candy sale. Monies made in the past have gone to improving and refurbishing our school playground, retiling the floors in St. Mary's Hall, the cafeteria and lower level hallways along with the purchase of musical instruments for our general music program. We are always thankful for PTO efforts and for the involvement of our great school community in this fundraiser. God has been good to us and we are thankful for our parents and students who continue to approach spiritual and academic growth in supportive and positive ways.

Principal Joe Epplen - www.stgabeschool.org or 513-771-5220

An Introduction to the New Roman Missal: Why the change? What is it?



Monday, October 3, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - St. John Church

Our speaker is Jeremy Helmes, Pastoral Associate for Music and Liturgy at St. Max church. Jeremy has an M.A. in Theology degree and serves on the Archdiocesan committee charged with implementing the New Roman Missal. Note: This program is a repeat for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the last time it was offered this past May. Contact Jerry Barney for more information at jbarney@stjohnwc.org. If you are unable to attend this program, it can be viewed LIVE online at www.churchcastonline.com.

Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...



August

Paulette Fischesser on the death of her father
Caitlyn Russell on the death of her husband Tab Russell
Dan Ficker on the death of his father
Carol Strubbe on the death of her husband Don Strubbe

September

Kathy Braswell on the death of her sister
The Beckham family on the death Tom Beckham
Gerry Deehan on the death of his uncle
Marilyn Pollard on the death of her daughter Jill Pollard
Dave, Mike & Katie Ranochak on the death of his wife and their mother Connie
Maureen Schwab on the death of her mother
Ron Rice on the death of his mother
Sharon Skerski on the death of her mother

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