

On Eagle's Wings

September, 2011



St. John
the Evangelist
Catholic Church



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St. Gabe Update

New Roman Missal Intro

Here it is September already! Where did the summer go? Vacations have come to an end and now the school year is beginning. There is a sense of newness around us. Many a mom or dad has a huge smile on their faces as their children return to the school routine. There is peace in the home during those school hours. But I am sure things are just as busy as ever. It is time for taking your children to one practice or another after school. Then there is that glorious time of the day when the joy of doing homework begins. Such is what September ushers into our daily lives.

Where does prayer come into that daily routine? Do we find time to pray before the day begins? Is there time at the end of the day to give thanks to God for the day that has come to an end? Does Sunday Mass become more of a regular liturgy to partake in with the family? I think we get a little lazy when the summer months are upon us. Things that are normally part of our routine seem to take a "vacation". For some, it may become a sort of vacation from God.

This new school year can be a new beginning for each of us. Perhaps you take a look at the wonderful programs that are offered in our Adult Faith Formation. I know in the Sunday Reflections that I do on Wednesday night (beginning September 14th in the Church Hospitality Room) there is always room for a few more. Perhaps it is time to get back into the routine of daily prayer. We should never stop growing spiritually. We can never say that we have learned all that we need to have a relationship with God because there is always something more we can understand. We can always learn something new about our faith. There will be a couple

of sessions in October and November on the new translation of the Roman Missal. It would be a way to prepare yourself for the changes that are coming up the first week of Advent.

Make a choice to do something to renew the spirit of God within you. It is an amazing feeling when God becomes more alive within us. We see the world in a new light. Try to make God and church a priority this coming year. Don't let this fall just be another season you have to endure - make a difference in your family's life as well as yours. Hope you had a great summer! Enjoy the Lord in your life and share Him with one another. Have a great month!

Ongoing Faith Formation



From the Business Manager

Again this year, our Parish Festival was a huge success! We haven't paid all of the final bills yet, but it looks like we will meet our budgeted goal. The success of the festival is not only measured by the income that we receive, but also by the enjoyment of our community members who attend. As I thanked some of the volunteers that I spoke with, they indicated that working the festival was a lot of fun. We are so grateful to all of the volunteers and booth captains who put countless hours in planning and working the festival. Also, a huge debt of gratitude goes out to the Festival Committee members who plan for a year and then work like crazy the weeks before, during and after the festival. If you enjoyed the food, the music and had fun at the many booths, thank a volunteer when you see him or her. If you enjoyed the weather, thank God!

The fiscal year ended on June 30th. We ended the year well and were on target with the budget. We were able to pay \$30,000 on the loan in June, bringing the balance owed down to \$351,000. We are grateful for all contributions to the debt. If you would like to contribute to the debt using an automatic payment or credit card, please go to our website and click on the DONATE ONLINE button.

St. John Parishioners are indeed generous with their time, talent and treasure, as we experience over and over again! Thank you to all of you!

<u>Thank You to Our 2011 Festival Committee:</u>		<u>Chairs: Ken Krusling & Debbie Meinhardt</u>
Diane Biehle	Jeremy Fauber	Mark Noe
Matt Blackburn	Jim Fenton	Ron Porter
Matt Bolton	Sharon Hall	Kirt Robb
Dan Brankamp	Lindsey Horlander	Barb Rojas
Carey Bush	Tim Hunter	Joan Seibenick
Tate Cooper	Hank Korb	Dick Shoemaker
Errick & Meech Coughlin	Roz & Fred LaChance	Joel Sodano
Jeanenne Denzler	Kathy Mack	Barb Stiflar
Tom Deutsch	Steve Meinhardt	Allison Thorsen
Mike/Ethan Dye	Josh MortonStrauss	Nancy Ward
	Leslie Nelson	

We Want to Listen to You!



Pastor Don West, the Pastoral Staff and Council at St. John want to hear what you have to say about how we function as a parish and how we should prepare to move into the future! These "Listening Sessions" are for parishioners who want to help guide their parish into the next phase of its life. It is important to hear what you have to say! At the Listening Sessions, you will break into working groups to discuss three key questions. Then, the groups will come back together to present their ideas to Father Don and the other groups. We only need a couple of hours of your time! The date of the LAST Listening Sessions is:

**Thursday, September 8
7-9pm in Favret Hall**

In order to register for this session, please email or call Joan Seibenick at jseibenick@stjohnwc.org or 777-6433. Thank you so much for your time! The future of our parish depends on the input from parishioners like you!



It's Time to Register Your Children for 2011-2012 Faith Formation for Children

PSR - Our Parish School of Religion classes for grades 1-8 meet from 6:15-7:30 on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings during the school year. The fee is \$70 per child. Classes begin on September 13/14. Forms are available in the parish office or online.

Early Childhood Program - Our "Sunday School" program for children ages 3 through Kindergarten meets during the 9:30am Mass on Sundays from the end of September through April in the Education Center. The fee is \$70 per child. Open House is September 25th. Forms are available in the parish office and online.

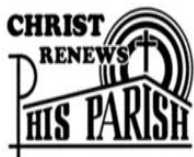
Volunteering! We rely on our volunteers in order to put on all of our Religious Education Programs. If you would like to learn how you can help, please contact Barb Conway or Sharon Miller in our parish office at 777-6433 or bconway@stjohnwc.org or smiller@stjohnwc.org. There are many ways to help!



The Faith Formation of your children is in your hands! We are here to help! Call the Parish Office if you have any questions about your children's Faith Formation!

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH *****SAVE THE DATES*****

Women's Weekend – September 17-18, 2011, Men's Weekend – January 28-29, 2012



YOU have a wonderful opportunity available to help build upon YOUR Christian faith and contribute to the Spiritual Growth of our St. John's community by attending a two-day program called Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP!

The CRHP weekend is held on St. John's church grounds. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and ends around 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Women and men over 21 years old are invited to attend. All are welcome, no matter where YOU are on YOUR spiritual journey. The CRHP weekend provides opportunities for private and communal prayer. A Reconciliation Service and Celebration of the Eucharist are included for those wishing to participate. The entire weekend is mostly very casual and relaxing. YOU will meet new people, reflect on YOUR life and have a chance to slow down and enjoy a bounty of delicious food. There is no cost for the participants to attend the weekend. The renewal weekend is a GIFT to YOU from the parish and the CRHP giving team. It is a GIFT that YOU give yourselves so that GOD can give YOU new life.

For more information, please contact either Lorraine Benson, the Invitation Coordinator for Women's CRHP Team 33 at (513) 755-9176 or blapo@fuse.net, or Scott Steinke, the St. John CRHP Coordinator at (513) 777-6433 or ssteinke@stjohnwc.org.



FESTIVAL THANK YOU NOTES!

Thank you SO much to our wonderful festival booth captains, volunteers, committee members, sponsors, donors and anyone who assisted us with our festival this year. A good time was had by all and we couldn't have accomplished such a wonderful weekend without each and every one of you! You know who you are! Thank you also to all who attended. We will see you again next year!

Sincerely, Father Don and the St. John Parish Staff

St. John Festival Silent Auction Donors

We would like to thank the following local businesses for supporting our 2011

St. John Family Festival Silent Auction.

Gold Merchants - donations over \$300 in value

Advanced Sports Marketing
Beckett Ridge Chiropractics
Cassinelli Shanker & Biddle Orthodontists
CEI Sports, Inc.
Community Montessori School
Coverall Home Improvements, LLC
Hyland Family Chiropractic
McDonald's - Liberty Centre & Tylersville
R.J. Rice Photography
The Dog House
Village Spa
Werling Roofing and Siding, Inc.

Silver Merchants - donations \$100-\$299 in value

Appearance Plus Cleaners
Bob Sumerel Tire & Service
Buckner Martial Arts
Children's Garden Photography
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
Cincinnati Reds
Courtyard by Marriott
Curves
Dave Gold
Eli's
EnterTRAINment Junction
Frontgate
Funtime Sports Cards & Coins
Great Steak
Hairvantage
Hampton Inn & Suites
Handyman Connection
Image Makers 2000
Jag's Steak and Seafood
Jorge Gurgel Mixed Martial Arts Academy
Kutney Automotive/GoodYear
Liberty Veterinary Hospital
Longaberger - Suzy Spence
Mason Family Pet Hospital
Portrait Innovations
Prestige Nails & Tans, Inc.
Riley's Furniture.com
Simplicity Salon
Teasdale Fenton
The Little Gym
Usana Health Sciences - Katie Hoffman
Vonderhaar's Catering, Inc.
Welling's Fine Jewelers
Yelton Fine Jewelers



Bronze Sponsors Donations up to \$100

A Book Nook
A Thousand Words Photography
Ambience Salon Spa
Arby's
Bruster's Real Ice Cream
Busken Bakery
Cincinnati Landmark Productions
Cincinnati Museum Center
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Cincinnati Zoo
Colonial Acres Pet Resort
Creative Memories - Nancy Ward
Dave's Quality Meats
Domino's Pizza
Donatos Pizza
Flower Lady
Frisch's Big Boy
Glamour Shots
Graeter's Ice Cream
Hamilton County Park District
Harding's Lake Monroe
Jet's Pizza
Kroger
Lakota Family Y.M.C.A.
Mad Potter
Martinizing Dry Cleaning - Yankee Road
Mary Kilbane, Electrolysis
Mike's Express Carwash
Mindful Wellness Massage and Bodywork
Monster Mini-Golf
Nancy's Hallmark
Newport Aquarium
P.F. Changs
Paint-n-Play
Pampered Chef - Nancy Ward
Petals & Things Florist
Petz Wash
Photography by KRae
Premier Designs Jewelry - Erin McIntosh
Qdoba
Skatetown USA
Skyline Chili - 747
Smash Burger
Sonic Drive-In
Square Framers
Stan the Donut Man
Statements in Hair
The Cupcake Factory
The Web
Thirty-One Gifts - Angela Bulach
Tire Discounters
Twin Dragon
UDF, Corp.
Venus & Mars Square Dance Club
VIP Back Rubs



Thank You to Our St. John Festival Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsor - \$500

Cassinelli & Shanker Orthodontics
Mike's Car Wash
Mueller Parker Funeral Home
Schmidt, Dhonau, and Kucner Funeral Homes
The Dog House
West Chester Family Dentistry
West Chester Auto Body

Super Sponsor - \$250

Anthony's Bar and Grill
Brookwood Retirement Community
Dr. James Welland, DDS
Dr. Jodie Jenkins, DDS
Dr. Paul Grote, MD
Eagle Tee
Friends of John Boehner
Group Health
Hodapp Funeral Homes
IST International
Johnson Orthodontics

Star One Realty - Joy Diegmuller
Vonderhaar's Market and Catering
Wellington Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine

Sponsor - \$150

Donald Reisenberg, CPA
Dr. Stephen Newell, OD
Frank's Auto Body - Carstar, Inc.
Koebbe Auto Tech
Knights of Columbus, #13608
Lakota Hills Animal Clinic
Larry's Locks, Safes & Security
Mason Family Pet Hospital
Newtown Farm Market
Phelan Insurance
Roth & Hassett CPAs
RTF Fire Protection
Schmidt Builders
Werling Roofing and Siding, Inc.
West Chester Towing and Repair
Your Window Cleaning Company



9/11 Tenth Anniversary Memorial Service

Sunday, September 11, 7pm in the Church



St. John will have a memorial prayer service to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001. We pause to remember that fateful day, the lives lost and the courage of the heroes who responded. We recommit to seeking authentic peace in the days ahead. Come together with your friends and family members to pray for the victims and heroes of 9/11, our country, our service men and women and for peace in our world.



St. Vincent de Paul Wants You

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for these least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

(Matt. 25:31-46)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a lay organization inspired by the Gospel values to offer service to the needy. The St. John conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been working to become fully operational so that we may continue to expand the service St. John parish has long been providing for those in need in our community. Over the past few weeks, in response to the stifling heat, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul delivered a number of fans to needy families along with Kroger gift cards and thrift store vouchers. Once fully established, the Society will be able to offer additional forms of aid including eye care and eyeglasses as well as prescription medication assistance. There are many ways to take part in this ministry from behind the scenes to home visits in the community. All are welcome. Anyone interested in joining the Society or learning more about it may contact Steve Wertepny at swertepny@zoomtown.com.



Stages of Faith Development

by Deacon Jerry Barney

Dr. James Fowler, and other spiritual writers, have discovered in their research that most people go through predictable stages in their faith development. The six stages are:

1. Imaginative: A child-like perception of the Divine with images of God akin to Santa Claus
2. Literal: Understanding biblical images of God in a literal fashion; conceiving of God with anthropomorphic notions such as a strict judge.
3. Group: An adolescent phase, whereby perception of God is heavily influenced by peers.
4. Personal: Accepting individual ownership RE: perception of God and religious values.
5. Mystical: Recognizing the Divine presence in myself and others.
6. Sacrificial: Radical commitment to living in harmony with God's will, sometimes at the expense of her/his own personal safety, e.g., Mother Theresa.

Jungian analyst Richard Sweeney sums it up this way: "Earlier stages of faith are marked by memorizing, imitation, efforts to please others, and reliance on clear rules and teachings. Later stages of faith are marked by increased honest reflection, ability to examine various points of view, willingness to take responsibility for one's life and decisions, greater self-awareness and commitment to others." (Catholic Update - CUI087).

Often it takes a personal crisis, or challenging information, to shake us up and move us forward to the next phase of our faith development. If you wish to grow in your own personal faith, please make a commitment to attend one, or more of the programs offered in our parish Adult Faith Formation Schedule, which is included in this mailing. It lists opportunities for formation and/or information that can help participants come to a richer faith!

"Urban Plunge"

Would You Like to Learn More about Helping the less Fortunate in Butler County?

Saturday, October 1, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm - Meet at St. John Pavilion



This fall, our parish Justice and Peace Commission will again offer an "Urban Plunge" experience. We will tour some of the agencies of Middletown that help the needy in Butler County. Our goal is to learn more about the issues and concerns facing low income, and homeless people, and to find meaningful ways we might be of assistance.

You do not need to be a member of the Justice and Peace Commission to participate; anyone interested in learning is welcome to join us. The "plunge" will be on Saturday, October 1. We will leave St. John (near the Pavilion) at 9:00 am and return by 4:00 p.m. The tour is free; please "Brown bag" your lunch. If you would like to participate, register by calling Jerry Barney @ 777-6433, x121 no later than September 12.

Happy Birthday, Girl Scouts!

Did you know Girl Scouts of the USA is turning 100? Girl Scouts is more than cookies and camping - join now and enjoy the fun! St. John Girl Scouts are active in the parish! Join an existing troop or help us start a new Daisy troop. Learn more by stopping by the gathering space after masses the weekend of September 17/18 or contact Diane Biehle at 777-4946 or d_ejb4@yahoo.com.



Our “Spiritual Radar”

by Scott Steinke, Pastoral Associate



Yes, I'll admit it. I am a Doppler radar junky. If my middle name wasn't already Anthony, it would certainly be Doppler. I say this because the first thing that comes up on the TV in the morning when I wake is the weather channel radar system, and it is also the last thing I see before it goes off at night. I'm lucky, I suppose, that I don't have a smart phone or a blackberry in my possession because I would most likely have every weather radar app mankind has to offer on that phone. But I like to know what to expect when it comes to the weather. What's the day going to bring; Rain, Sunshine, blistering heat that will burn me to a crisp or cold winds that will chill me to the bone? Are there storms coming our way, and if so what time should they be expected? All these little things are fun for me to watch and track, and I know I'm not the only one who does this. Nonetheless, I get a good sense of what I can expect as I head out the door and face anything the radar may bring. It may not be exact, but it certainly gives a pretty good picture of the day's journey.

This got me thinking about another “radar” that I should be paying more attention to in my life. It's my Spiritual radar. I'm telling you, it would certainly be great if I could get up in the morning, press a simple button on a remote and have a ten day forecast of my Spirituality pop up on a screen in front of me! I would know exactly where the highs and lows are going to be and if I might have a cold or warm “spiritual” front moving in that will test my day. And if there was a Spiritual radar app, you bet I'd have a smart phone glued on my side.

But can it really be as easy as looking at the Doppler radar when it comes to our Spiritual radar...to be able to get a good picture of the day's or week's journey? Yes, it can. It takes being “tuned in”. Unlike tuning in to the TV for Doppler, the way we tune in to our Spiritual radar is by tuning in to Christ in our lives. In doing this, we can get that good sense of what to expect in ourselves and in others as we head out the door in the morning. It gives us the ability to face anything that comes our way. It, again, may not be exact, but we can certainly get a pretty good picture of our day.

Tuning in to our Spiritual radar is important in our lives as Christians. It means filling our days with Christ's Word and works, and radiating that around us from dawn to dusk. So no matter what the Doppler radar says, as long as you are tuned in to Christ and your Spiritual radar, you'll know that your day's journey will be sunny and bright.

Whole Family Faith Formation

Another summer is coming to an end, fall will arrive with a change in the weather and a change of activities. Our lives generally take on a little more structure, vacations are over and outdoor events are winding down, time to settle in and begin new things. Our Parish School of Religion classes for grades 1-8 begin on September 13/14. If you have not yet registered your children, please call the parish office right away! There are many other Faith Formation opportunities beginning for another year. Whatever your family chooses to participate in this year, it will bring your family closer to the community and closer to our Lord. Review the bulletin, check the website, please read about the options for faith formation, service, fellowship, and most importantly prayer, worship and spiritual growth that are available right here in your parish. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Barb Conway, Pastoral Associate for Children's Faith Formation



REALITY

Faith Formation for Teens begins in September!

Our faith formation for teens in high school is called REALITY. Why? Because we deal with it! We discuss topics that young people want or need to talk about like trust, forgiveness, friendship, relationships, dating, drinking, drugs, sex, abstinence, hunger, poverty, war, justice, service, and what does God and being Catholic have to do with any of it . We do this in a safe environment with peers and adult ministers, and we stress the importance of our faith community. This is NOT like school or a classroom! Of course, we also have fun. We always have munchies and sodas, and sometimes even pizza. Also, we have a pool table, air hockey, foosball, other games, and music for social time.

Sunday 9/11 Prayer Service

Sunday 9/18 REALITY begins! 6:30 Social Time, 7-8:30 pm REALITY (no registration necessary)

RCIA Begins September 15

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a formation process that affords participants the opportunity to grow in their relationship with God. Primarily it is designed to help non-Catholic adults discern whether or not the Lord is calling them to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. If they choose to become a Catholic, they will be initiated at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 7, 2012. The process is also for adult Catholics wishing to grow in their own Catholic faith, and to serve as spiritual companions for the Candidates. Starting September 15, meetings will be held in Spirit House from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM almost every Thursday evening until shortly after Easter. If interested or if you have questions, please call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext. 121.

Saint John Music Ministry



Are you feeling called to join in song at the weekend Masses? Do you love to sing, or just love music? We have a ministry for you! We need choir members, handbell ringers and instrumentalists to help celebrate our love for God at our weekly Masses. Put your talents to use for the best possible reason - Jesus! If you are interested in any of the following groups, please contact Michael Dailey at mdailey@stjohnwc.org or 777-6433, ext. 128. We need YOU!

9:30am Sunday Choir

Rehearses Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9 pm
Sings weekly at the 9:30 am Mass

5pm Saturday/11:30am Sunday Choir

Rehearses Thursdays from 7:30 – 9 pm
Sings weekly at the 5 pm and 11:30 am Masses

Youth Chorus

Rehearses Mondays from 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Sings once a month for Mass, at Christmas and Easter
Tours yearly

Handbell Choir

Rehearses Mondays from 7:15 – 8:45 pm
Plays for one Mass per month + Christmas and Easter
While previous musical experience helpful; it is not required.

Teen Choir

Rehearses two Sundays a month from 12:30 – 1:30 pm
Sings for one Mass per month + service events
Regular socials
Tours regularly

Instrumentalists

Rehearse prior to Mass
Youth Orchestra plays at 11:30am Sunday
Rehearsals are weekly at 10:45am on Sunday



News from St. Gabe School

September - Back to School Edition

Thanks to the fundraising efforts generated by our PTO and our school's Race for Education, St. Gabriel Consolidated School has used this summer as a spruce up, fix up kind of summer. Students, all 430 of them, will note a new piece of playground equipment and a refurbishment of many of the pieces already in place. New tile has been laid in our multi-purpose room (St. Mary's Hall), our cafeteria and the hallway from the Kindergarten area to the double doors at the opposite end of the hallway. Window treatments have been installed in some classrooms to complete an on-going project. Thanks to a group of volunteers, both Kindergarten rooms have been painted and the maintenance staff installed smart boards in both Kindergarten classrooms. The installation of the smart boards means that all classrooms in the building are now equipped with smart boards. None of this work would have been possible without the work of many folks who supported us with their time, talent and treasure.

Our enrollment continues to be strong. We show an increase of 33 students as the new school year begins. The enrollment of 430 students is the highest ever for our school. With the exception of 4th grade, which has three openings and 8th grade, all other grades have 25 students in each of two classrooms with waiting lists in most grades. We are thankful for the interest in our school and gratified to know that we have been entrusted with the spiritual and academic growth of so many young people.

One of our teachers of many years retired at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Martha Fehr has taught at St. Gabe's for well over 40 years and has been a great blessing to us and the many students with whom she had contact primarily in the areas of math and social studies. Her assignment will be filled by Anne Joseph, a 2003 graduate of St. Gabe's, a 2007 graduate of Mt. Notre Dame and a 2011 graduate of the University of Georgia.

We continue to move forward, ever forward in the development of our young people and in thankful acknowledgement of parents and friends who provide us with the encouragement so necessary to achieve our schools mission. "We are dedicated to nurturing the faith, academic and service lives of our students with an emphasis on enriching the whole child. Together, we share a partnership with parents and parishes to create a Catholic environment which empowers each individual to become a valuable member of church, school and community. Welcome back to our students as of August 23. We look forward to another outstanding year at St. Gabe Consolidated School!

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.

Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...



JUNE

Paula Parsons on the death of her mother

JULY

Martha Ray on the death of her aunt
Leslie Brankamp on the death of her grandfather
Louis Vilaro on the death of his wife Moira
Mary Ann Lampe on the death of her brother
Larry Henson on the death of his mother
The Cicchinelli family on the death of Andrew

www.stjohnwc.org

(513) 777-6433



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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West Chester, OH 45069-3129

Return Service Requested