

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

**PALM  
SUNDAY**

APRIL 5, 2020

**“TRULY, THIS WAS THE  
*Son of God.*”**

- MATTHEW 27:54

# WELCOME TO ALL!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family or marital situation, no matter what your past or present religious affiliation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color—you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

## CONTACT US

Phone 513-777-6433 • Fax 513-777-9741 • info@stjohnwc.org • www.stjohnwc.org



St. John the Evangelist Church, West Chester

### Parish Phone Numbers

Pavilion 513-755-4973 • Parish Center 513-755-4973 • For emergencies, please call 513-777-6433 and press 5.

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday ..... 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Friday ..... 8:30am - Noon

Saturday (Church Office) ..... 3:30pm - 6:00pm  
Sunday (Church Office) ..... 7:30am - 1:00pm

### Pastoral Team

**Rev. Don West** ..... **Pastor**  
Ext. 133 ..... dwest@stjohnwc.org  
**Sarah Chivers** ..... **Director of Communication**  
Ext. 116 ..... schivers@stjohnwc.org  
**Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch** ... **P.A. of Adult Faith Formation**  
Ext. 121 ..... ccipollamcculloch@stjohnwc.org  
**Lynn Meisberger** ..... **P.A. of Music**  
Ext. 128 ..... lmeisberger@stjohnwc.org  
**Annie Mesewicz** ..... **P.A. of Youth Ministry**  
Ext. 114 ..... amesewicz@stjohnwc.org  
**Mary Montour** ..... **P.A. of Children's Faith Formation**  
Ext. 118 ..... mmontour@stjohnwc.org  
**Joan Seibenick** ..... **Business Manager**  
Ext. 124 ..... jseibenick@stjohnwc.org  
**Scott Steinke** ..... **P.A. of Liturgy**  
Ext. 115 ..... ssteinke@stjohnwc.org

### Parish Staff

**Katie Behrle** ..... **Early Childhood Coordinator**  
..... kbehrle@stjohnwc.org  
**Karen Hake** ..... **Office Manager**  
Ext. 110 ..... khake@stjohnwc.org  
**Brigid Loebig** ..... **Bookkeeper**  
Ext. 119 ..... bloebig@stjohnwc.org  
**Deacon Fred Merritt** ..... **Senior Ministry**  
Ext. 132 ..... fmerritt@stjohnwc.org  
**Kirt Robb** ..... **Facilities Manager**  
Ext. 122 ..... krobb@stjohnwc.org  
**Karen Simmons** ..... **PSR Administrative Assistant**  
Ext. 111 ..... ksimmons@stjohnwc.org  
**Deacon Jerry Barney** ..... **jbarney@stjohnwc.org**  
**Deacon Rick Reder** ..... **rreder@stjohnwc.org**  
**Darren Coe** ..... **Maintenance**  
**Ellen Krumme** ..... **Weekend Office Assistant**  
**Janet Raters** ..... **Maintenance**  
**Bette Vorbroker** ..... **Weekend Office Administrator**

**Fiscal Year-to-Date Amount as of March 26:**

Actual: \$1,002,992.66  
Budgeted: \$1,040,000.00

As expected, we are currently 3.5% behind budget, and this lag will continue to grow. Thank you to those who are continuing to give in this unsettled time! Please consider giving, if you are able. You can mail a check or drop it off in the parish office lobby. Or you can give online through the donate button on our website. Thank you and we are praying that your family is safe and healthy!

# FATHER DON'S REFLECTION

MT 26:14-27:66

*"The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.' And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, 'Who is this?' And the crowd replied, 'This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.'"*

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowds lay palm branches and spread their cloaks on the ground. "Hosanna to the Son of David" rose to such a fever pitch that the whole town of Jerusalem shook. This is the city where his mission will be complete - the town where Jesus will be crucified. This is the town where the same crowd welcoming him as a King will soon be crying out to crucify him.

We enter into the strangest Holy Week I can ever remember. It is a time when we will not be able to celebrate the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. To not have liturgies to help us celebrate this time challenges us to look to ourselves to find our way to the cross and resurrection. It would be easy to blow off the week since we can't celebrate as a parish, but we can follow the journey from home. It is a journey that we need to take. We may not have palms to wave for Jesus our king, but we can read about the journey he took. We may not lay out our cloaks for the King, but we can lay down our lives for him and follow him to the cross.

We cannot be like the crowds whose hearts are turned away from Jesus by the Chief Priests, the elders and the scribes. They were blinded by their jealousy. They could not, would not see Jesus for who he is: the Son of God. That jealousy turned to hatred and they found themselves seeking to crucify the King. It is amazing how quickly the crowd turned against Jesus, with their so-called call for justice. Little did they know that Jesus embraced the cross so that salvation may be possible for all God's children.

So, I say we need to make the journey. It is key to our salvation. We can't get to the resurrection without going to the cross. We need to die to our selfish ways and embrace the glory of the Christ Crucified. Because when we do that, we can enter into the Easter joys. So, take time to read one of the passions from the gospel. This Sunday we look at the passion according to Matthew. On Good Friday we read the passion according to John. Get quiet, find a place that can be sacred for you. If you have family, gather all of them and perhaps let members of the family read it aloud. Honor the time between noon and three on Good Friday. Make this Holy Week as special as you can. Jesus has given his all for our salvation. Let us take time to remember what he has done for each of us. Pray for your family and all the country and all the world, that this pandemic may pass soon. Know you are missed; it just isn't the same without you. I continue to pray for each of you, please pray for me. God bless you all! Have a good week!



## PRESIDER SCHEDULE:

**April 11 / 12**

Masses and other liturgical events are cancelled through Easter Sunday. Please see our Facebook page and website homepage for links to Sunday masses to watch from home.

---

### Readings for This Week: April 6 - April 10

Monday	IS 42:1-7; Ps 27; JN 12: 1-11
Tuesday	IS 49:1-6; Ps 71; JN 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday	IS 50:4-9A; Ps 69; MT 26:14-25
Thursday	EX 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116; 1 COR 11:23-26; JN 13:1-15
Friday	IS 52:13-53:12; Ps 31; HEB 4:14-16, 5:7-9; JN 18:1-19:42

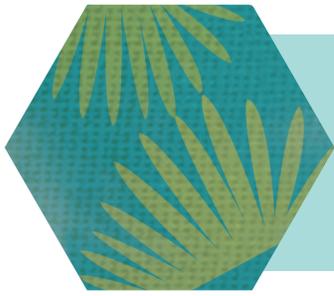
---

### Next Weekend: April 11/12

First Reading: ACTS 10:34A, 37-43  
*"Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."*

Second Reading: 1 COR 5:6B-8  
*"Let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast... but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*

Gospel: MT 28:1-10  
*"He has been raised from the dead."*



# PALM

## HOLY WEEK BEGINS...

Palm Sunday celebrates two seemingly different stories. We begin the liturgy by commemorating Jesus's journey to Jerusalem where he is greeted by shouts and songs of acclamation and joy. Jesus is hailed as a King and people wave palm branches to show their honor for him.

By the time we reach the Gospel, however, we hear the Passion of Jesus Christ, recalling the events leading up to his crucifixion and death on the cross. It may seem strange that these two extremes are celebrated on Palm Sunday, but that is the reality of the Paschal Mystery. There is only one story. Jesus's life, death and resurrection are all connected; it is impossible to separate them as isolated events. The same is true for our lives. Everything we do is united with Christ, the good times and the difficult ones. Even when God seems distant and far

away, we know that we are always connected to the story of Jesus's life, death and resurrection. We are always connected to Christ.

As we begin Holy Week, take a moment to recall this narrative of Christ with your family. What are some events from Jesus's life that stand out to you? Do you have a favorite parable or story of healing? It is important to remember that the Jesus who walked and taught and ate is the same Jesus who dies and rises again. Think too about your own life. What are some of the significant events you have experienced this past year? Recall some of these moments aloud as continue to share the story of your family, which is also the story of Christ!

Find Holy Week home adaptations here: <https://bit.ly/33YnDzK>

### Conversation Starters

1. What images, words, or phrases do you associate with Palm Sunday?
2. The Palm Sunday liturgy shows the fickleness of humanity. One minute we shout someone's praises, and soon after we yell, "Crucify him!" When in your own life have you been inconsistent in your actions or beliefs?
3. What is your prayer as you begin Holy Week?

*Father in heaven,*

*Thank you for sending your Son and paving the way for our lives to be set free through Jesus' death on the cross. Thank you for what this day stands for - the beginning of Holy Week, the start of the journey towards the power of the cross, the victory of the Resurrection, and the rich truth that Jesus truly is our King of Kings.*

*We give you praise and honor for your ways are righteous and true. We worship you for you are holy and just. We declare that your love stands firm and endures forever.*

*Your ways are far greater than our ways, your thoughts far deeper than our thoughts. Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you that your face is towards the righteous, and you hear our prayers, and know what lies in the depths of our hearts. Help us to stay strong and true to you. Help us not to follow after the voice of the crowds, but to press in close to you, to hear your whispers, and seek after you alone.*

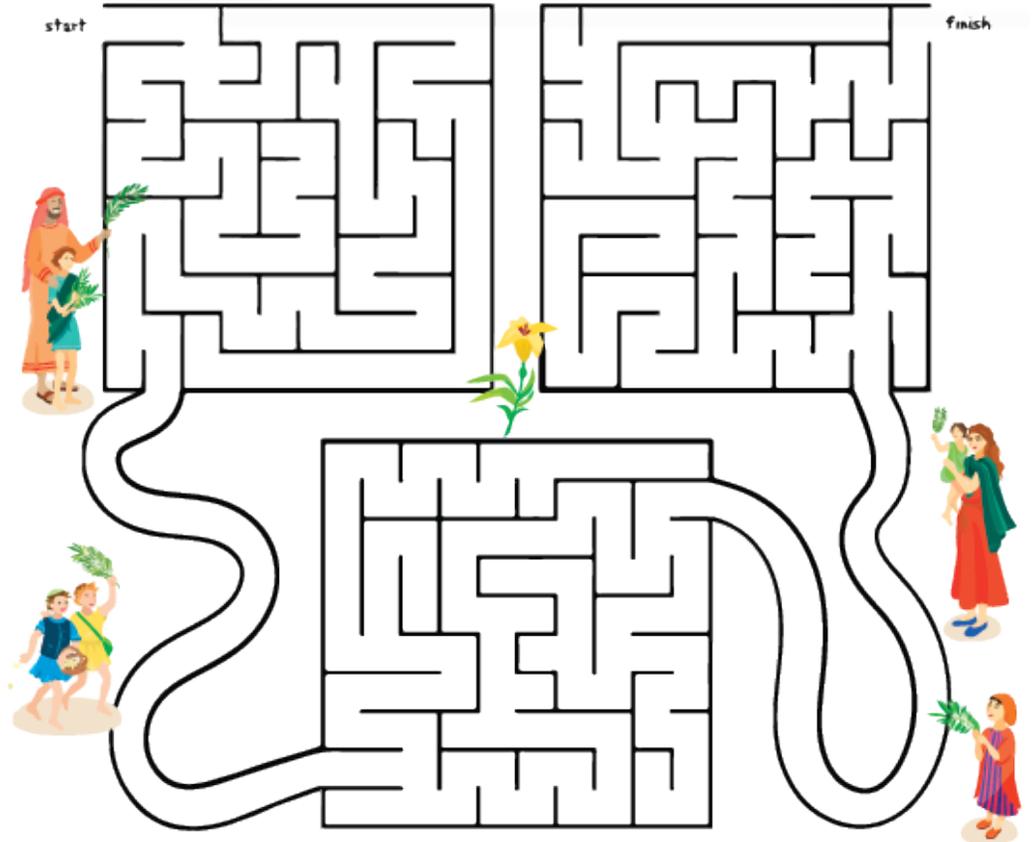
*We praise you and give thanks for the blessings in our lives! May this week bring us closer to you as we journey to the celebration of Christ's resurrection. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

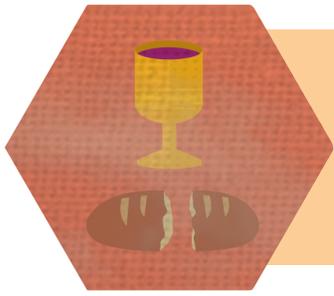
# SUNDAY

C  
K O  
I R  
D N  
S' E  
R



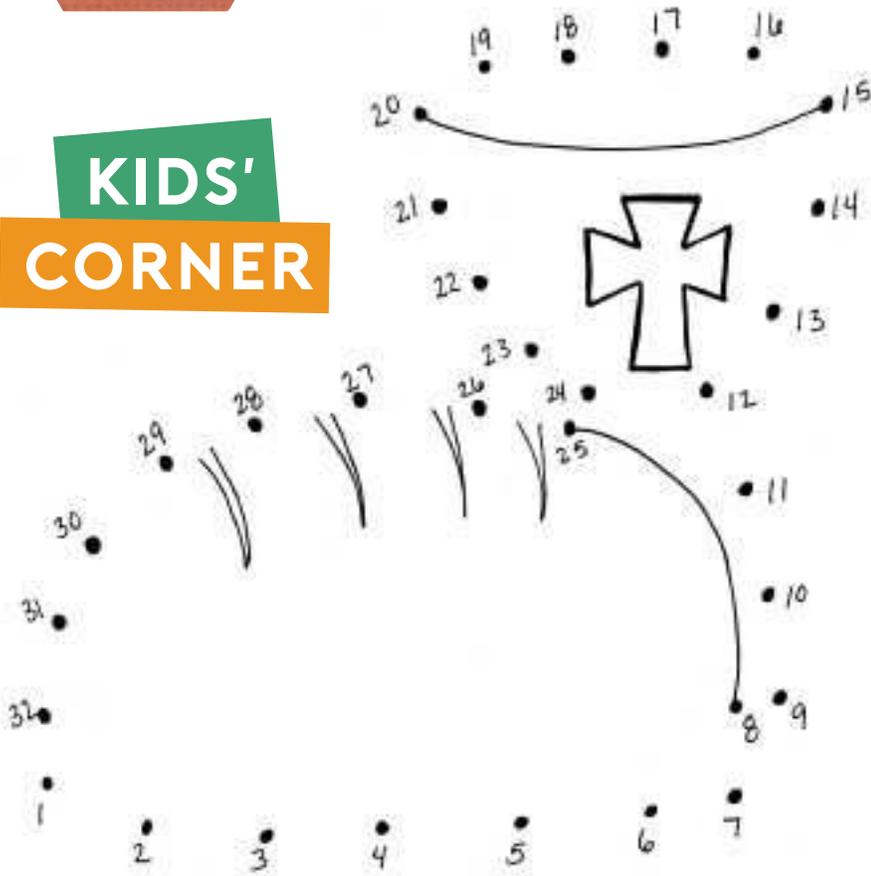
This last week in Lent, walk in Jesus' footsteps through Holy Week and be obedient to God as we: **FOLLOW OUR FAITH FOR 40 DAYS.**





# HOLY

## KIDS' CORNER



*My Most Precious Lord Jesus, this night You gathered with Your Apostles to share with them Your last meal. But this was no ordinary meal. This was the gift of Your most Sacred Body and Blood, soon to be broken and poured out on the Cross for the salvation of the world.*

*Allow me, dear Lord, to spend this night in prayer and meditation with You. After the meal, You invited Your Apostles to join You for one hour, to stay awake and keep vigil as You prepared for Your arrest. The Apostles fell asleep, leaving You in Your bitter agony alone.*

*I accept Your gentle invitation of love, dear Lord, to spend this night in vigil with You. May I enter Your Heart as it faced the coming persecution You were to endure for my sins. May I console Your Sacred Heart and know the love and Mercy that flowed forth.*

*Lord, when I face the crosses of my own life, give me Your divine courage and strength to say "Yes" to the Will of the Father. Your love for me is abundant and is perfect in every way. Help me to know that love, to embrace it and to allow it into my life.*

*I make my vigil with You this night, dear Lord. I love You, help me to love You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.*

# THURSDAY

## *Celebrating from Home:*

## THE STRIPPING OF THE TABLE

(all ages, 15-20 min)

Stripping of the altar (removing all ornaments, linens, candles, plants, flowers, etc.) is an ancient custom of the Church. Congregations mark the way Christ's life was stripped from him by stripping the altar of all signs of life and beauty during a special service. This almost-bare worship space reminds us of the bareness of life without the hope of Christ that we have through His resurrection. This beautiful and powerful ceremony can also be practiced in the home, as our homes are also places of worship.

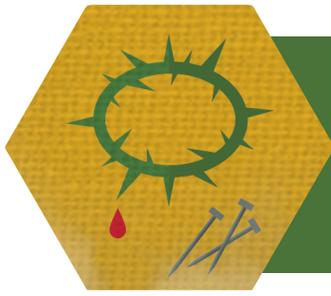
Materials needed: Bible or Prayer Book, storage box or bin, dark cloth, cleaning supplies.

- Read Psalm 22 together (or just the first two verses, if attention spans are short).
- Explain the ancient custom of stripping and washing the altar, what it symbolizes, and how your family will now do a similar stripping in your home – focusing on icons and symbols of your faith.
- Send your family through the house to gather all icons and religious symbols that can be easily moved (crosses, statues, candles, prayer beads, etc.). Ask everyone to work silently as a sign of respect for the task. Pack these items away in the storage bins.
- Use the dark cloth to drape any other items that are too large or permanent to pack away (wall art, door wreaths, Easter Tree and so forth.)
- Finally, remove all items from your dining or kitchen table and together wash the table thoroughly.
- Leave the table bare until Easter morning.
- After all the icons have been packed away or covered, and the table has been washed, take a moment to notice how your home looks and feels. Help kids make the connection between a home without these beautiful and meaningful items and a life without Christ.
- Saturday night, after everyone is in bed, do your best to unpack and uncover all of the religious items, so that when the family wakes up on Easter morning there will be more than just Easter baskets to celebrate!



AND HE TOOK BREAD, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS,  
HE BROKE IT AND GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING  
**THIS IS MY BODY**  
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.  
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

LUKE 22:19



# GOOD FRIDAY

*Jesus,*

*Today we pause to remember your sacrificial love  
That shone light into the darkness  
That bore life from such emptiness  
That revealed hope out of devastation  
That spoke truth through incrimination*

*That released freedom in spite of imprisonment  
And brought us forgiveness instead of punishment.  
Thank you that we can now walk in the light of your life,  
Hope, truth, freedom and forgiveness,  
This day and everyday. Amen.*

## *Commemorating from Home:* **TECHNOLOGY DARKNESS**

Good Friday church services often end in total darkness, leaving worshipers to imagine their lives in the wake of the dark hours after Christ's crucifixion. While functioning as a family in total darkness might not be practical, there is a way to practice living in darkness: go dark with your technology. "Unplug" from noon on Good Friday until noon on Holy Saturday. Turn off (and put away!) all cell phones, tablets, game consoles, televisions, radios and computers for twenty-four hours.

Reflect together on how disjointed, disconnected, lost, anxious, helpless or frustrated each family member feels without their devices. On that first Good Friday, many lives were turned upside down by Christ's death: Mary, Martha, James, John, Peter, Andrew, just to name a few...For these people and the other followers of Christ, Good Friday was more than just sad. It was a day of feeling anxious, lost, disconnected, frustrated, and helpless.

Ask questions: How different would our worlds be if the Story of God had stopped on Good Friday? What would life be like if grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness were not available to us?

## **MORE WAYS TO COMMEMORATE AT HOME:**

1. Some churches hold prayer services during the three hours of Christ's suffering on the Cross. Observe a period of silence at home, for devotional reading and private prayer (e.g., no radio, television, etc.), especially between the hours of noon and 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

2. If your family has younger children, it might be difficult to have silence for three hours. Instead, help them make a miniature Garden of Joseph of Arimathea in the yard. Teach the children about the circumstances of Christ's burial and resurrection from the tomb by telling the the story of Joseph, Christ's friend who donated the new tomb where Jesus' body was buried after He was taken

down from the Cross. Children can gather small stones, sticks, acorns. etc., for the little garden.

3. Each member of the family might choose a particularly unpleasant job which has been put off for a long time - like cleaning the garage or a closet, or scrubbing the bathrooms - to emphasize the dreariness appropriate to the day.

4. Good Friday was thought to be a good day for planting seeds (a reference to the Gospel about the seeds which must be planted in the ground to bear fruit as a metaphor for Christ's necessary death and His burial on this day) so if the weather permits, this would be a great activity.

## Stay Connected with St. John

Do you want to deepen your connection with your parish? Want to stay updated with what's happening on campus and get more involved? Be sure to connect with St. John with the following communications:

Follow us on **Facebook** at 'St. John the Evangelist, West Chester.'

Make sure that your e-mail is updated with your parish record and you opt-in to our **Weekly E-Memos!** You will receive reminders for any upcoming events, announcements and updates for parish groups and activities.

Be sure to access the weekly **Bulletin** on the St. John website to stay up-to-date with our parish. The Bulletin will contain regular communication for groups of our parish, Gospel reflections and upcoming readings, and more information on resources and outreach available at St. John.

Check out the St. John **Website** ([www.stjohnwc.org](http://www.stjohnwc.org)) for nearly anything you may need! Read about our parish staff or organizations, listen to weekend homilies, find local resources, read more about events on campus or our parish history, and much more.

## Youth Ministry Updates

**Youth Group Meetings via Zoom:** Since we will not be meeting in person for the next few weeks, let's gather together in spirit through the Zoom app. Download the app on your smartphone, tablet, or computer and create an account. This free app is going to help us stay connected and in community! I hope everyone is staying safe and getting creative!

**Teen Reflections Online:** Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to find a collection of reflections, prayers and thoughts from Annie, your Youth Minister, during this hectic time.



## Vincentian Faith in Action

"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many." -Mark 10:45

In this uncertain time of crisis, we must choose to serve Christ by living the Gospel and sharing it with those in need. St. Vincent de Paul needs your support more than ever to continue our work of charity. To learn how best to help at this time please contact us at 777-6433 ext. 120.

The Church building will be open from 8:00am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday and 8:00am-noon on Fridays for individual prayer.

Spiritual resources and physical copies of the bulletin will be available in the Gathering Space during these times. These materials are regularly sanitized, and there will be sanitation stations present.

## Children's Faith Formation Updates

**PSR:** No classes during Holy Week. Families can continue faith formation at the following links:

Enjoy a Family Night: <https://teachingcatholickids.com/9-activities-for-family-night/>

Loyola Press Faith, Family, and Fun: <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/family/family-faith-and-fun>

Cooking with Catholic Mom: <http://catholicmom.com/tag/cooking-with-catholicmom-com/>

Teaching Catholic Kids: <https://teachingcatholickids.com/>

Saint of the Day: <https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/calendar/day/2020/3/23/#saint>

Franciscan Media Saint of the Day: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day/>

**First Eucharist:** Families are reminded to review the materials in the text, including Celebrating the Mass, p.62 – 71, and the additional prayers on p. 72 – 75. All St. John parishioners are asked to keep our First Eucharist children and families in prayer as they continue their preparation to come to the Table of the Lord.

## Getting Involved From Home

**Free Online Bible Study:** If you're looking for a free resource to utilize at home, check out this bible study available online until the end of Lent: <https://bit.ly/33kdRHO>

**Join Yoga for the Spirit Online:** Want to stay healthy in body, mind and spirit while connecting with others? Join the Facebook group 'Yoga for the Spirit - St. John Community' here.

**Mass Streaming and Readings Online:** To find our mass streaming click here, or find the video on our YouTube page here. To find each week's readings, click here.

**Donate to the Parish Festival:** Are you keeping yourself busy by cleaning or de-cluttering your home? Save items for the Parish Festival! Collection will begin in June. Contact Julie at 513-400-5504 or e-mail [stjohnwcfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnwcfestival@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

# PARISH OUTREACH, RESOURCES & ORGANIZATIONS

## Parish Ministries

### Baptism

Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 121

### Communion to the Sick/Shut-Ins

Julie Chapman ..... 513-807-8004

### Companions on the Journey

*Grief support for those who have lost a loved one; meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month in the Hospitality Room at 7 p.m.*

Ron Meyer ..... 513-376-1277

### Confirmation Preparation

Annie Mesewicz ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 114

### Funeral Preparation

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Hospital Notifications

*If you know that you are going to the hospital and would like to be remembered at Mass or have a pastoral staff member visit, please call the parish office at 777-6433. We are no longer notified by hospitals or chaplains about parishioners who are ill.*

### Liturgical Ministry

*Opportunities available as Altar Attendants, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Lectors and Sacristans.*

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Meal Ministry

Joan Seibenick ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 124

### Music

*Opportunities available in the Adult Choir, High School Choir, Youth Choir, or as Singers & Instrumentalists.*

Lynn Meisberger ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 128

### Prayer Network

*If you or someone you know is struggling w/ a difficulty or crisis, contact the Prayer Network. They will ask members of the Network to pray.*

..... prayernetwork@stjohnwc.org

Margaret Kellogg ..... 513-777-4253

Mary Moore ..... 513-492-9015

### RCIA Fullness of Joy / Ministry to Returning Catholics

Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 121

### Sacrament of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office ..... 513-777-6433

### Small Church Communities (Journey of Faith)

Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 121

### St. Vincent de Paul

Guy Lavergne ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 120

### Stephen Ministry

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Wedding Preparation

Fr. Don West ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 133

## Formation & Education

### Early Childhood Program (during 9:30am Mass)

Katie Behrle ..... kbehrle@stjohnwc.org

### Liturgy of the Word with Children

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### PSR (grades 1-8), 1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation

Mary Montour ..... mmontour@stjohnwc.org

### St. Gabriel Consolidated School ... stgabeschool.org

..... 513-771-5220

*St. Gabriel Consolidated School in collaboration with our three parishes, St. Gabriel, St. John - West Chester and St. Maximilian Kolbe, in partnership with the families of our diverse student body believe Christ is the center of all that we do.*

### Shaylen Gettelfinger ..... Marketing Coordinator

513-578-3640 ..... segettelfinger@hotmail.com

### Amy Tanaka ..... Parish Representative

..... 513-702-8361

## Parish Organizations

### Boy Scouts Troop #940

Steve Bush ..... 513-206-2937

### Festival Committee

Kevin & Gina Kohls ..... 513-256-8934

### Finance Committee

John Insco ..... 513-755-7594

### Girl Scouts

Laura Smith ..... 513-378-6709

### Knights of Columbus

Patrick Leeper ..... 513-604-4449

### Knights of Columbus Membership

Bob Heglin ..... 513 509-6537

### Justice & Peace Commission

Tony Klimek ..... 513-787-0038

### Pastoral Council

Dan Woods ..... pastoralcouncil@stjohnwc.org

### Spirited Seniors

Deacon Fred Merritt ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 132

### Worship Commission

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433