



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

May 10, 2020

5TH
SUNDAY
OF EASTER

“ I AM The WAY
AND THE TRUTH
AND THE LIFE. ”

- JOHN 14:6

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
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 ksimmmons@stjohnwc.org
Deacon Jerry Barney jbarney@stjohnwc.org
Deacon Rick Reder rreder@stjohnwc.org
Darren Coe Maintenance
Ellen Krumme Weekend Office Assistant
Janet Raters Weekend Office Assistant
Bette Vorbroker Weekend Office Administrator

Fiscal Year to Date as of April 29, 2020

Sunday Offerings.....\$1,108,377
Weekly Offerings Budget.....\$1,144,000
Difference from Budget.....(\$35,623) 3.1%

April Monthly Numbers

MTD Budget \$104,000.00
Down -\$9,856.95
Down -9.48%

Thank you to all who are able to give!

May 11, Team 4: Agnes B., Arlene H., Dave T.

FATHER DON'S REFLECTION

JN 14:1-12

"Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

This Sunday we are taken back to Jesus' farewell address to his friends. He knows that he is about to be suffer and die on the cross. He is preparing them for a time he will not physically be with them. It will be a time of great loss for them and a time for a transformation of their lives. Jesus loves his disciples and wants them to know that he will prepare a place for them and come back and take them to the Father.

Jesus calls himself the way. He is the pathway to the Father. They will be taken to a place prepared just for them in the Father's house. What a gift Jesus offers to them. It is meant to ease their troubled hearts. It is something that will help them get through to the other side of Jesus' death. For the resurrection will open their eyes to the glory of Jesus and who he is, the Son of God. Thomas speaks for the rest of the disciples when he tells Jesus he does not know where he is going so how can he know the way? Jesus makes it very clear that Jesus is "the way." To get to know the Father one only must know the Son. The only way to the Father is through the Son. Knowing the Son is also to know the Father. Disciples are slow to understand this, and Philip seeks to learn more. Jesus has patience with the disciples and tries to reveal the union of the Father and the Son. It will take the Holy Spirit to truly open the eyes of the disciples. The Spirit will touch their hearts to open them up to the reality of who Jesus is and what he means to them as Lord and Savior. This gospel is one that is popular with funerals. It is filled with such hope and comfort. It calls us to seek comfort in Jesus, who he is and what he has to offer to each one of us. We learn in our faith that Jesus is the source of life. He is the source of salvation. He is the one who reveals the Father to us. Once our eyes are open to this Good News, we can appreciate that Jesus cares deeply for us and wants us to be with him for all eternity. He goes to the trouble of preparing a place for us and will come and take us to himself when we die. He has our backs; he is in our corner watching over us. But we have to recognize Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. We need to learn what that means and how knowing Jesus in this way will open our eyes to the Father. Jesus has shown us the gifts of the Father and has revealed the love that the Father has for each one of us. The Father sent the Son to die for our sins and do the works of the Father.

This gospel should make us feel alive in the Lord Jesus. The hope that is revealed in the gospel this week should bring much comfort to our lives. Jesus has us taken care of out of pure love. He is the way that brings us peace of mind. We do not go it alone. Jesus is with us in all ways. Trust in him and allow him to be a continued source of life for each of us. He will never let us make this journey alone. Surrender to his love and allow him to lead you and calm your troubled hearts. May God's peace be with each of you. He is at work in all of us. "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." That should set our hearts on fire! Have a great week! Know you are loved and held in the loving arms of the Father.



PRESIDER SCHEDULE: May 16 / 17

SATURDAY

5:00 p.m.....Fr. Don West

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m.....Fr. Don West

9:30 a.m.....Fr. Don West

11:30 a.m.....Fr. Don West

(Please note that this schedule is subject to change.)

Readings for This Week: May 11-15

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | ACTS 14:5-18; Ps 115; JN 14:21-26 |
| Tuesday | ACTS 14:19-28; Ps 145; JN 14:27-31A |
| Wednesday | ACTS 15:1-6; Ps 122; JN 15:1-8 |
| Thursday | ACTS 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113; JN 15:9-17 |
| Friday | ACTS 15:22-31; Ps 57; JN 15:12-17 |

Next Weekend: May 16 / 17

First Reading: ACTS 6:1-7

"For unclean spirits came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured."

Second Reading: 1 PT 2:4-9

"It is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil."

Gospel: JN 14:1-12

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

New Parish Signs

You will be seeing our new parish signs (one at our entry and one on the corner of Cin-Day and West Chester Roads) this week. Our main entry sign was placed on Friday, May 1. The electronic sign on the corner of our property will begin to be placed on May 5.

These signs were ordered months ago, and we are excited that they will soon be here! Over 60% of the cost of the signs has been donated by parishioners. We look forward to having a more official "presence" back on Cincinnati-Dayton Road. We know that they will create a warm welcome to our church community for all of those who live and work in West Chester.

Here is a photo of our new main entry sign.



Congratulations, Sarah and Daniel!

On Friday, April 24 (Fr. Don's birthday), our Communications Director, Sarah Chivers and her husband Daniel welcomed their first child, Amelia Jane. Everyone is healthy and already settling in at home.

Welcome to the world, Amelia Jane!



Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, grandmothers and mother figures! With love from the St. John Staff



Thank You From Share A Lunch!

What a blessing it is to be a part of this wonderfully generous parish! Thank you to all contributors of Share-A-Lunch on April 26th! At least 50 cars lined up to drop off groceries and household items to help our needy neighbors in southwestern Ohio. We collected enough boxes, cans, jars, and bags to fill 12 large tables. A small but mighty team sorted, repackaged, and delivered all the items. Reach Out Lakota and St. Francis Seraph were elated to get our donations!

FR. DON THANKS YOU!

Dear Parish Family,

April 23rd of this year will be a day I will never forget. It was awesome to walk out of the front of church on the plaza and see ALL of those cars and people. I never felt so much love and support as I did that afternoon. I love you all for doing that for my special day. Thank you for all the birthday cards and presents. I spent the afternoon of my birthday reading them.

Someone asked me if I was surprised and I was. Until I saw a birthday sign did it click that all the people were there for me. I was shocked and moved to tears of joy. I love you all and continue to pray for all of you. You gave me a birthday that I will never forget. It is one for the ages.

What a family I have here at St. John!



May - The Month of Mary

**Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

Beginning with Mary's unique cooperation with the working of the Holy Spirit, the Churches developed their prayer to the holy Mother of God, centering it on the Person of Christ manifested in His mysteries. In countless hymns and antiphons expressing this prayer, two movements usually alternate with one another: the first 'magnifies' the Lord for the 'great things' He did for His lowly servant and through her for all human beings. The second entrusts the supplications and praises of the children of God to the Mother of Jesus, because she now knows the humanity which, in her, the Son of God espoused. - from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Grief Doesn't Stop During a Pandemic

During these tough times, it can even more difficult when you are in the midst of grief. There are limits to what we can do about the pandemic, but there is a lot you can do for your grief. Companions On The Journey has still been meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month using Zoom. If you are experiencing grief and would like to explore healing through this group contact Ron Meyer 376-1277 or Kathy McConnell 560-6151 so that we can answer any questions or get you the contact information. The next "gathering" will be May 14th from 7-8:30pm.

Important Update

The Catholic Bishops of Ohio have issued a letter extending the suspension of Masses through May 29. The goal is to be able to gather to celebrate Mass on the weekend of Pentecost on May 30/31. That date may be extended.

Fr. Don wants everyone to know that we are going to take the proper amount of time and precautions with re-opening. His goal is to keep us all healthy and safe. We will post further updates as they come.

For the most up to date information, check our website, facebook page or parish app!

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

MARY MONTOUR • MONTOUR@STJOHNWC.ORG • 513-777-6433, EXT. 118

Cancellations/Changes!

First Eucharist

Masses have been rescheduled for September. All families were notified to choose a Mass; please check your email and respond as soon as you can. Questions? Contact Mary Montour (mmontour@stjohnwc.org).

VBS is cancelled for this year. We will go forward with Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through in June, 2021.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

If any family would like your child's book from this year, please contact Karen Simmons (ksimmons@stjohnwc.org) or Mary Montour (mmontour@stjohnwc.org) and we will have the book ready for you in the Parish Office (open M – Th, 8 – 3, and Fr, 8 – 12).

Home Study PSR

Thank you to families and students for your attention to faith formation in your home. If your child has outstanding chapter assessments please submit them as soon as possible.

Based on John 14:1-12...

Read this week's Gospel, then answer the following questions. Use the letters in the boxes to fill in the spaces below.

1. In verse 5, which disciple is mentioned? — — — — —
2. Jesus said he was going to prepare a... — — — —
3. In verse 6, Jesus said: "I am the..." — —
4. Not only is Jesus the way and the truth, but he is the... — — — —
5. Can anyone come to the Father without going through Jesus? —

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO....

— — — **V** — —

Find the answers on page 9.

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE

— John 14:1-14 —



Prayer for A Friend

God, Thank You for my friend.
You tell us that it is not good to be alone, God.
You bless us with family and friends all around us.

Thank You for giving us people to talk to and laugh with.
I pray for my friend today,
that they have a good day and a blessed life.

They are a blessing to me, God,
when I need them the most.
Just like Jesus is to me.
Help me to be kind like Jesus.

To be a good friend to others and spread His love.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Youth Ministry Continuing Community

Community has always been an important thing to Annie, the St. John Youth Minister. Ever since the quarantine, her vision of community has been forced to shift dramatically. This applies not only to her personal life but also for her ministry serving the teens of our parish community.

As the pandemic grew, she thought to herself, *how am I going to make this time valuable and sacred for the teens at St. John?* The answer for her was simple: look for ways to bring community amidst the roadblock of quarantine.

With the technological world we live in, it's easy to find ways to connect. Zoom specifically helped to continue the Youth Group nights "as normal." This blessing of continual community has brought so many graces and ideas, including writing letters to elderly parishioners in strict quarantine and isolation. If we cannot gather physically, we will gather spiritually. Annie invites all teens at St. John to join us each Sunday as youth ministry comes together as the Body of Christ.

Zoom dates: May 10, 17, 24, 31
(all sessions are from 7-8pm)



Cancellation Notices:

Campton Mission Trip (Hope Mountain Camp) scheduled for June 17 – 20, 2020 is now officially cancelled.

Junior High Summer Camp scheduled for June 23 – 26, 2020 is now officially cancelled as well.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we will not be able to ensure social distancing and proper health measures for the kids and teens for these events.

**We look forward to JHSC and
Campton in 2021!**



YOUTH MINISTRY

Parish Festival

We are praying that we will be able to hold our festival this summer on August 7-8-9. Our goal is to spread things out so there is more space between people. The Committee is thinking of creative ways to make this possible! We always look forward to our festival, but especially this year! But, before that weekend happens, our Festival Committee spends time on so many activities. We decide on the layout, games, food and beverages. We configure electrical lines, order prizes; determine how many booths and tents and grills we need. We advertise, set up a volunteer website, go shopping for baskets and find sponsors and donors. The list is pretty endless. Luckily we also have a team of about 20-25 people who make this all happen as seamlessly as possible. I am honored and privileged to work with this group of people.

As many of you know, when you give of your time and talent, the rewards that you receive are greater than the time and energy that you give. And, as exhausted as we are on Sunday night at 9pm on the first full weekend in August, we get up and do it again each year. Why? Because we love it and also because we know how much it means to our parish. A full 10% of our parish income comes from these three days each August. Last year, we earned \$160,000 in net income from our festival. That is an amazing feat accomplished by an even more amazing team of people. You can imagine how important our festival income will be this year!

If you are interested in serving on our festival committee, we have several positions open this year: Prizes Co-Chair, Basket Co-Chair, Grounds Co-Chair, Entertainment Co-Chair. We also have several booth captain positions open. All committee meetings will be remote for the next couple of months. Please consider helping! We need you. Contact jseibenick@stjohnwc.org to volunteer.

Thank You Notes!

Thank you to Mary and Gary Bourgraf for changing all of the church decor during Holy Week. These behind-the-scenes workers are so important to our parish. They humbly fill the needs presented to them and are such a blessing to us.

Thank you to Sandy Kinney. She and one other volunteer made an entire Easter meal for Chosen, the shelter in Hamilton. We know how hard you worked prepping the food in your home and then cooking it all in the Center kitchen. You and your assistant are amazing people. Thank you for blessing the homeless of Hamilton so they could have an enjoyable Easter dinner.

Thank you to one of our parishioners for giving your entire stimulus check to three charities that St. John supports - St. Vincent de Paul, Share-a-Lunch and Reach Out Lakota. Our hearts are filled with gratitude. You truly are the meaning of "Christ for others"!

Every day during this Pandemic, our parish staff has seen an overwhelming amount of kindness and charity. Have someone to thank? Email Joan at jseibenick@stjohnwc.org and let us know.

The Power of Prayer

The day was long, the burden it had borne
Seemed heavier than I could longer bear,
And then it lifted - but I did not know
Someone had knelt in prayer.
Had taken me to God that very hour,
And asked the easing of the load,
And He,
In infinite compassion, had stepped down
And taken it from me.
We cannot tell how often as we pray
For some bewildered one, hurt and dis-
tressed,
The answer comes, but many times those
hearts
Find sudden peace and rest.
Someone had prayed, and Faith, a reaching
hand,
Took hold of God, and brought Him down that
day!
So many, many hearts have need of prayer:
Oh, let us pray.

Ministries in Action During Quarantine

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we as Christians and as St. John parishioners were given opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ. Many at St. John did just that through monetary contributions, delivery of services, reaching out to those who were isolated, and serving food to the disenfranchised and homeless.

The work at St. Francis Seraph Ministries on Republic Street in OTR continues during the pandemic, providing the homeless with daily carry-out breakfasts and hot dinners 5 times a week, as well as bag lunches 6 days a week.

The Share-A-Lunch ministry of St. John provides peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and non-perishable foods to Reach-Out Lakota and St. Francis Seraph. Even with the various St. John ministries physically shut down, supplies were collected through a bulk food drive and those supplies found their way to St. Francis and Reach-Out Lakota. Once at St. Francis, sandwiches were made and bag lunches assembled in their kitchen by the volunteers there.

But pantries remain low at this time. To contribute to Share-A-Lunch either through buying supplies, through monetary contributions or through monthly volunteer opportunities, please contact Diane Claytor 513-779-6895 or visit the St. John website.

If you would like to contribute monetarily to St. Francis Seraph Ministries so that they can continue their important work, please do so online at sfsministries.org/ donate or send a check c/o Jay Olzak to:

St. Francis Seraph Ministries
1615 Republic Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Your donation is tax-deductible and will help feed the most vulnerable. If you wish to physically volunteer at St. Francis, please contact Theresa Diersen at tdiersen@sfsministries.org. It takes all of us.

We are directed by Christ to nurture and nourish the poor in mind, body and spirit. Thanks for your continued support. It truly makes a difference.

Sincerely, Lynn Jones
St. Francis Seraph Volunteer and
Proud St. John the Evangelist Parishioner

Stay Connected with St. John Parish

We miss you! While you are home, be sure to stay connected to St. John through the following communications:

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

Download the **MyParish App** and add St. John the Evangelist.

Make sure that your e-mail is updated with your parish record and that 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** at www.stjohnwc.org.

The **Church** building is open from 8am-3pm Monday through Thursday and from 8am until noon on Fridays for individual prayer. Copies of the bulletin, music programs and other items are available in the church Gathering Space and Chapel Hallway.

As always, feel free to contact your parish office at 513-777-6433 if you have questions or if there is anything that you need.

St. Vincent de Paul

Even in our current uncertain times, there is still a lot of work to be done. The Society continues Jesus' mission of good works. We serve Jesus by serving others. We share the "Good News" with our good works. Help us in our mission. Contact us at 513-777-6433 ext. 120, to learn how you can support and share in this unique ministry of hope!



Puzzle answer: 1. Thomas 2. place 3. way 4. life 5. no
"Jesus is the only way to... HEAVEN!"

PARISH OUTREACH, RESOURCES & ORGANIZATIONS

Parish Ministries

Baptism

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

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 / Ministry to Returning Catholics

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

Sacrament of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office 513-777-6433

Small Church Communities (Journey of Faith)

Annie Mesewicz 513-777-6433, ext. 114

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 Insko 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

Spirited Seniors

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

Worship Commission

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433