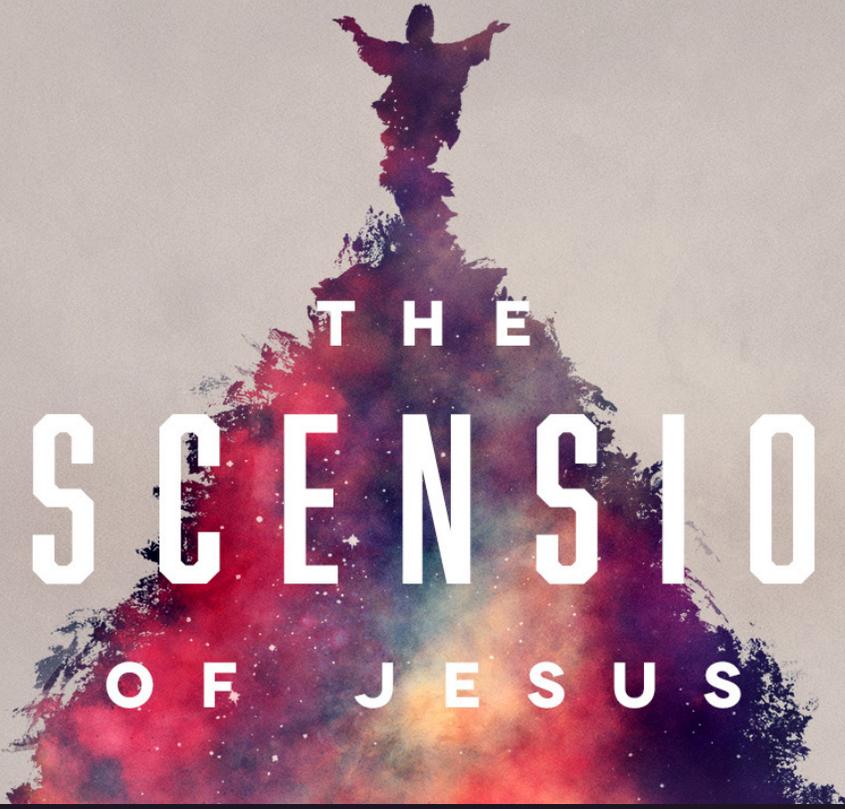


ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

May 24, 2020



THE  
ASCENSION  
OF JESUS

“ I am with you always. ”

- MATTHEW 28:20

# 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 ..... 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** ..... Weekend Office Assistant  
**Bette Vorbroker** ..... Weekend Office Administrator

### Fiscal Year to Date as of May 12, 2020

Actual Sunday Offerings.....\$ 1,169,090  
Budgeted Sunday Offerings.....\$ 1,196,000  
Over/(Under) Budget.....(\$26,910) -2.25%

### Total Month-To-Date Amount:

Actual: \$ 51,784 (as of May 12)  
Budget: \$130,000 (month of May)

**Thank you to all who are able to give!**

# FATHER DON'S REFLECTION

MT 28:16-20

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

We celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Forty days after his resurrection Jesus now returns home to his Father. His mission on earth, in the physical sense, is not over. The work is now in the hands of the apostles. Are they ready? Well, not just yet. They will need one more piece to make all things complete: The Holy Spirit.

We hear in the first reading about how Jesus ascended before the apostles and they were left looking to the sky. Two men spoke to them to remind them they had work to do. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." While that is good news, it does not mean that they can stand around waiting. They are about to get down to the business of baptizing people into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. While Jesus is gone physically, he remains in the good news they preach. Jesus is spiritually alive in the apostles; in us.

So, what the Lord started with 12 apostles now becomes the mission of the 12 to carry on the work. It is what Jesus had planned for them. They now become the teachers of all that Jesus had commanded them to be. They will be challenged and even killed in the work they do. Not everyone will see the Good News they present as the news they want to embrace in their own lives. Change does not come easy, it calls for metanoia; a change of heart. The change must be such that we put away our old ways and embrace the salvation message of Jesus as taught by the first apostles.

Just like in the apostles' day where challenges got in their way, we too have many obstacles in our own lives. Many of them are of our own creation. We can't simply be baptized and spend the rest of our days waiting for the Lord Jesus to return. But once we have embraced the Good News of our baptism, we are called to be disciples too. Through our lives we are to be bearers of the Good News. The call is the same; make disciples of all nations. Our work is never done. We continue to call others to the love of Jesus and the gift of salvation.

We each have a part of the building up of the Body of Christ. No matter how small or large our part is, it is important for the kingdom of God. How will you answer the call? Are you still on the mountain waiting and gazing? We know the kingdom is among us and we are to be active in the role of discipleship. There are amazing things happening in our parish that show that we are the Body of Christ. Keep doing what you are doing. Love one another, call one another to God's unconditional love. Let us fill our community with the goodness that is in each of our hearts. Do not feel the goodness? Let God give you a dose. See it in others and then pay it forward. Have a great week! See you in church and know that you are missed and loved.



## PRESIDER SCHEDULE: May 30 / 31

### SATURDAY

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

### SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.....Fr. Don West

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

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### Readings for This Week: May 25-29

Monday	ACTS 19:1-8; Ps 68; JN 16:29-33
Tuesday	ACTS 20:17-27; Ps 68; JN 17:1-11A
Wednesday	ACTS 20:28-38; Ps 68; JN 17:11B-19
Thursday	ACTS 22:30, 23:6-11; Ps 16; JN 17:20-26
Friday	ACTS 25:13B-21; Ps 103; JN 21:15-19

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### Next Weekend: May 30/31

First Reading: ACTS 2:1-11

*"Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them."*

Second Reading: 1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13

*"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ."*

Gospel: JN 20:19-23

*"Receive the Holy Spirit."*

## St. John Parishioners:

Worship at Mass will begin on Monday, May 25. Our parish will offer one public Mass per day. Here is the schedule:

Monday-Friday .....8:30am in the Church  
Saturday ..... 5:00pm in the Church  
Sunday.....10:00am in the Church



**Please remember that the faithful have been dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Thus, those who wish to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion can do so by attending a Mass any day of the week. Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to join us for a Mass that is live-streamed online each day.**

Appropriate social distancing and the regulations put forth by public health authorities must be observed. Here are the guidelines for St. John:

- We are limited to a maximum of 500 people in the Church
- Entry doors will be open for you to have a touch-free entry into church and the Nave.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter. Please use it.
- We are asking that everyone who is able, please wear a mask. This is for the protection of everyone around you.
- Use all available (every other row will be marked for usage) space in the Nave, including the back two sections behind Fr. Don and the Ambo. Families who live together may sit together. All others must be spaced at least 6 feet apart (front-back-side).
- No physical contact at the Our Father or Sign of Peace.
- No Holy Communion from the chalice by the faithful. Communion will be done by sections, please wait for guidance before coming forward. You will stay 6 feet apart from every individual as you approach for Communion, following the floor tape as a guide. (A family with small children can approach together, keeping 6 feet from other parishioners.) There will be two properly spaced Eucharistic ministers per section. Eucharistic ministers will do their best to drop the host into your hand without touching. Please be attentive so this can happen easily. Eucharistic ministers will be wearing masks and will sanitize their hands prior to distribution of communion.
- You will notice that we will not be using choirs. We may use a musician or cantor at Mass, but not groups that sing together.
- Fr. Don will be presiding Mass without a server.
- A disposable Mass program will be used on Saturday and Sunday, as always. These programs will be handed out individually by an usher who is wearing a mask and has sanitized his/her hands. Following Mass, we ask that you place your program into the recycle bins, or take them home. The bins will be available as you exit the Nave.
- In order to have only one person using the ambo microphone (Fr. Don uses his own microphone, but does stand at the ambo), one reader will lector the first and second readings and the petitions. Fr. Don will be handling our announcements.
- Our nursery/cry room will not be available during any Mass.
- There will be no passed collection baskets during Mass. As you enter or exit Mass, there will be a collection basket in the Gathering Space. Please make use of that. We appreciate your gifts so much during this difficult time!
- Designated ushers will be handing out bulletins after Mass. They will wear masks and will have sanitized their hands. Bulletins are also available online.
- The church will be sanitized every day so that it is clean and ready for the next Mass.

During the first two weeks of public Masses, we will be counting attendees and making any adjustments that are needed. So, we may have further changes and share additional communications on this. Remember, the responsibility to keep others healthy is one that we all share. If you are sick or have been exposed to someone who is sick, please consider joining us for Mass online. If you do come to Mass, please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer. This is for the protection of those around you. Most importantly, always be kind and patient. We are in a confusing and sometimes overwhelming situation. Your parish is doing its absolute best to help you, protect you and share our love for Christ with you. Please show your love of Christ by being Christ to others!

## Share-A-Lunch- Bulk Food Drive

Thank you to all contributors of SAL in April! We are adapting this ministry to meet the demands of this pandemic. On Sunday, May 24th from 9-9:30 AM, the ministry team will be accepting the following bulk donations for Reach Out Lakota & St. Francis. Please pack in boxes or paper bags, if possible. If you prefer to ship items to each agency directly, that is fine, too. Their addresses are below along with their needs. Thank you for your generous support!

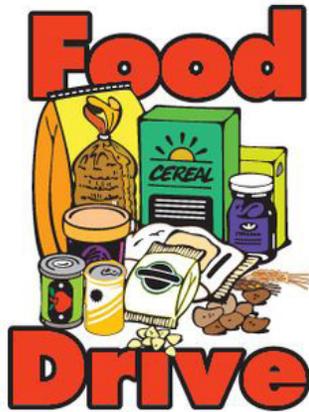
Please contact Diane Claytor at 374-3349 with questions.

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

Pop Tarts; granola/ cereal bars; fruit cups; cracker packs; trail mix packs; large cans: vegetables, fruit, and tomato sauce; boxed pasta; bags: fresh potatoes, onions, apples, and oranges/ clementines; loaves of bread.

Reach Out Lakota  
6561 Station Road  
West Chester, OH 45069

Healthy cereal, jelly (non-glass jars), mac 'n cheese, ramen, boxed pasta, bags: fresh potatoes, apples, oranges/ clementines, canned fruit, canned meat, and peanut butter.



### St. Vincent de Paul

In these unprecedented times, the words of Jesus are reassuring and give confidence for the future. The Holy Spirit provides us with the gifts that we need to continue Jesus' Mission. You are a part of our unique ministry at St. John Parish. We thank you for your continued prayers and support! If you would like to learn more about our service of hope, contact us at 777-6433, ext. 120.

## Thank You Notes! UPDATE

Thank you to Lisa Wolff and Sharon Miller who lovingly sewed masks for our parishioners. These ladies donated their time and talent for an important task! Are you in need of a mask? We have a small supply in the parish office. Call 513-777-6433 and ask for one to be set out for a touch-free pickup.

Thank you to the generous donor who sent their entire annual contribution of \$10,000 in to help us get through these difficult months. We are blessed!

Thank you to Sandy and Marie for feeding the homeless in Hamilton again this month. Your hearts are amazing and we are happy that you are part of our parish family!

Thank you to the generous donor who gave us shares of P&G stock valued at \$3,000. Your charity and kindness are appreciated!

A heartfelt thank you to our maintenance and custodial team! Kirt, Darren and Janet have worked together to make sure our buildings are sanitized and fully functioning all while juggling contractors who were painting, installing HVAC and signs on our property. It has been a lot, and we are very grateful!

Thank you to the donor who gave us \$5,000 on May 2 to help our parish get through the shutdown. We are honored and privileged to be part of such an amazing community of carers!

Thank you to the St. Vincent de Paul Vincentians who have tirelessly worked throughout this pandemic! They have assisted many families and are the most kind and caring people you could meet!

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

### Can We Pray for You?

Let us know if we can pray for you or someone in your circle of family and friends. Email prayer requests to [info@stjohnwc.org](mailto:info@stjohnwc.org).

# CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

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

## Parish School of Religion (PSR)

We hope you have found the weekly resources helpful in your continuing faith formation in the home. Check your email every Thursday for the weekly updates.

## Home Study PSR

If your child has outstanding chapter assessments, you have been notified and we ask that you submit them as soon as possible.

## Cancellations/Changes!

### First Eucharist

Some families still need to reschedule your child's First Eucharist Mass (recently rescheduled for September, 2020). 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).

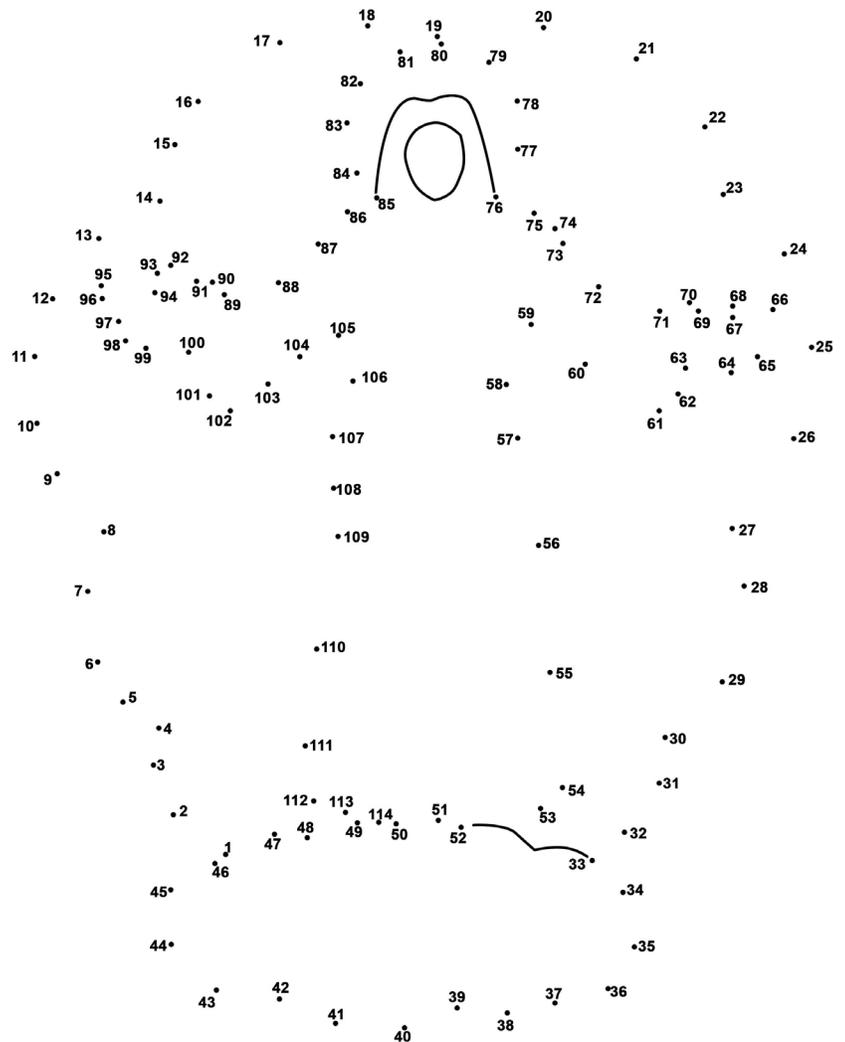
**VBS** is cancelled for this year. We will go forward with **Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through** in June, 2021.

## Pray the Our Father as a Family!

Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy Will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Connect the dots to see Jesus' ascension into heaven!



*God bless you and keep you safe!*

## 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.

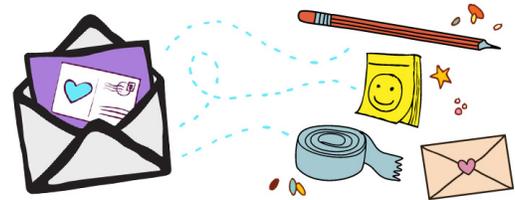
With the technological world we live in, it's easy to find ways to connect. Zoom specifically helped to continue the Youth Group nights "as normal." This blessing of continual community has brought so many graces and ideas, including writing letters to elderly parishioners in strict quarantine and isolation. 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.

Remaining Zoom Dates: May 24, 31  
(all sessions are from 7-8pm)



## Youth - Refugee Pen Pal Opportunity

Catholic Charities of Southwest OH and Saint John are pairing up for another Cross Cultural Experience. We will be assigning pen pals between refugee teens living in Ohio and students at St. John that are interested in participating. For all students who are interested in this project, we will be handing out letter writing packs with stamps, paper, cards, envelopes, and prompts for writing. To express interest please go to <https://www.stjohnwc.org/ym-service-survey.html>.



### 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

ANNIE MESEWICZ • AMESEWICZ@STJOHNWC.ORG • 513-777-6433, EXT. 114

## Parish Festival Update

We are very sad to announce that we feel it is in the best interest of our parishioners and community to cancel our festival this year. Until there is a vaccine, we just don't feel safe sharing our space with hundreds of people.

However, we ARE going to do two things associated with the festival! We are going ahead with our grand raffle ticket sales and drawings. With early bird prizes of \$250 (twice) and first, second and third prizes of \$10,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000, the total winning opportunity is \$13,500. You will be receiving the tickets in the mail at the end of this month. Please consider buying all of your tickets! Ticket sales will be online as well. Ticket prices are \$10 each and 6 for \$50. We would love to be able to earn a good amount on this drawing, as our festival income is an important piece of our annual budget. We will do the early bird drawings in June and July and the big three drawings on Friday, August 7.

Secondly, we are going to do a Basket Bonanza. We are still working out details, but our current plan is to have the basket tickets online and sold in our Parish Center where the baskets will be on display for a week in early August. More information on that will come as soon as we have figured this all out!

If you usually work at or attend our festival, please consider buying grand raffle or basket tickets. Or, you can make a donation to our festival income fund! We are blessed here at St. John. Thank you for all that you do!

## Our St. John Stephen Ministry

There are two important truths at the foundation of our St. John Stephen Ministry.

1. People will always need care, and that's as true now as it has ever been. Individuals in our congregation and community are facing a variety of challenges—including ones that may not be directly related to the current crisis.

2. Our Stephen Ministers are excellently equipped to provide great one-on-one care. They are a crucial source of support for those who are struggling in our congregation and community.

Congregations all over are continuing to care for people through their Stephen Ministers—even when they aren't able to meet in person. We have been doing phone calls and video chats with our current care receivers in our ministry. We will not stop giving care to those in need. We find ways to connect. The COVID-19 crisis has impacted everyone—raising the level of stress and anxiety for many. That is why our one-on-one care giving Stephen Ministry is still very active and here for you if you need someone to talk to.

All of us Stephen Ministers at St. John hope and pray that you, your loved ones, and the people you care for are healthy and safe. If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister about a current struggle in your life, contact Scott Steinke at the parish offices.



## 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](http://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.

# 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)

Anne 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

### Pastoral Council

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

### Spirited Seniors

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

### Worship Commission

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

# May

Chapel.....CHA	Pavilion.....PAV
Church.....CHU	Plaza.....PLZ
Conference Room.....CR	Reconciliation Room.....RR
Center.....CTR	Staff Conf. Room.....SCR
Favret Hall.....FH	Spirit House.....SPH
Gathering Space.....GS	South Wing of FH.....SW
Hospitality Room.....HR	Youth Room.....YR

## MONDAY, MAY 25 Memorial Day - Office Closed

8:30am..... Mass.....CHU

## SATURDAY, MAY 30

4:00pm..... Reconciliation.....RR  
5:00pm..... Mass.....CHU

## TUESDAY, MAY 26

8:30am..... Mass.....CHU

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

10:00am..... Mass.....CHU  
10:00am..... Adult Confirmation.....CHU

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

8:30am..... Mass.....CHU

## THURSDAY, MAY 28

8:30am..... Mass.....CHU

## FRIDAY, MAY 29

8:30am..... Mass.....CHU

### Mass Intentions

#### Weekday Masses - May 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

Monday....in memory of Linda Marie Carr  
Tuesday.... in memory of Dominic Pham H Thao  
Wednesday.... in honor of Maureen Deeds  
Thursday.... in memory of Jack Flynn  
Friday....in memory of Patricia Koth

#### Saturday, May 30

5:00pm..... in memory of Bob Durham

#### Sunday, May 31

10:00am..... in memory of Pat Keefer

