

MARCH 16, 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MOTHER OF GOD

FAMILY OF PARISHES

A JOYFUL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WHO WELCOMES, INSPIRES AND CHALLENGES ALL TO BE CHRIST-LIKE

Rooted in sacramental life, we strive to be a vibrant, active and welcoming Catholic community. We encourage all to give glory and praise to God through knowing and sharing God's love in our homes, in our communities and throughout the world.



We are a caring community united in our love of God and in service to others. Regardless of who you are, or where you are in your spiritual journey, we are so glad you joined us. If you're interested in learning more about our parishes and what we have to offer, we warmly invite you to contact us! We would love to share our Catholic faith with you and tell you more about what makes the Mother of God Family of Parishes a wonderful place to worship, learn and share.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

2025 Woodman Drive
Kettering, Ohio 45420
ascensionkettering.org

PARISH OFFICE: 937-253-5171

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.-Noon

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4-4:30 p.m.

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

3033 Far Hills Avenue
Kettering, Ohio 45429
stalbertthegreat.net

PARISH OFFICE: 937-293-1191

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-Noon

RECONCILIATION:

Friday: after Noon Mass
Saturday: 3:15-4:00 p.m.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

4500 Ackerman Boulevard
Kettering, Ohio 45429
stcharles-kettering.org

PARISH OFFICE: 937- 434 - 6081

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 3-4:30 p.m.

WORSHIP + SACRAMENTS



BECOMING CATHOLIC

Anyone wishing to inquire about the Catholic faith, or seeking to complete their Sacraments—including children age 7+—should contact Chris Kreger, Director of OCIA, at 937-401-0423 or Joe Ollier, Director of Evangelization at 937-253-5171.

INFANT BAPTISM

Parents are required to attend a Baptism preparation class, preferably before the birth of their child, to have a child under the age of seven baptized. Classes are held monthly at rotating locations. For more information, please contact Joe Ollier at Ascension, Kristi Gaston at St. Albert, or Erin Fanning at St. Charles.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the marriage date.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please notify the Parish Office in case of serious illness or upcoming surgery. Communal anointing services are celebrated in the winter, summer and fall.

ADORATION **with Exposition*

Fridays, after Noon Mass*;
+daily 24-hour Adoration Chapel,
St. Albert the Great Campus

First Fridays, after 8:30 a.m. Mass*;
+daily Eucharistic Chapel 5:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.,
St. Charles Borromeo Campus

BAPTISMS

Beau David Barnette

Son of Ryan & Samantha (Klawon) Barnette

Lyla Rose Barnette

Daughter of Ryan & Samantha (Klawon) Barnette

Maggie Rae Barnette

Daughter of Ryan & Samantha (Klawon) Barnette

Logan Reece Baxter

Son of Chace Baxter & Haley Slipper

Levi Martin Gabbard

Son of David Gabbard & Madison Pollack

WEDDING BANNS

For the **THIRD TIME** for Paul Osterfeld and Linda Groover.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILY OF PARISHES BULLETIN!

Mother of God Family of Parishes is excited to share with you our NEW combined bulletin, featuring content from across all three of our campuses. We are grateful to have reached this milestone, and look forward to continuing communication updates in the future to serve you better!



A 40-DAY RETREAT

Lent has been described as a 40-day retreat. I like that description. 40 days sounds like a long time, but the older I get the faster 40 days passes. I have been blessed to attend many retreats in my soon-to-be 40 years of serving as Deacon. I have always tried to approach my retreats with an open heart and mind, asking the Holy Spirit to guide me. Retreat has been a time for me to renew my commitment to Christ and to take inventory of my efforts in loving God and loving my neighbor. And to ask for the grace and guidance to better serve my sisters and brothers.

I suggest we make each of these 40 days of Lent a retreat day; each day, let's take a deep breath and ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with the fire of His love. Each day, we can take a few minutes to renew our commitment to love and serve the Lord. Each day, let us accept God's invitation to make the world a better place, to share of our time, talent and treasure.

In today's Gospel from Luke, Peter, James and John experienced the Transfiguration—what a beautiful WOW moment. This was a life-changing experience for them. I pray for each of us, that our 40-day Lenten retreat will serve to be a WOW experience for us when we celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ on Easter.

Please pray for me as I do for you.

Deacon Dan Kraus

Mother of God Family of Parishes

OCIA: ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

On the First Sunday of Lent, we celebrated the **Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election** for those catechumens—individuals seeking Baptism—of our Mother of God Family of Parishes. We also celebrated the Call to Continuing Conversion for those candidates preparing to complete their Initiation into the Catholic church at the Easter Vigil. Please keep these people in your prayers during this Lenten season.

The Elect (individuals preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)

Ascension: Adrian Colburn, Penelope Johnson, Cyril Johnson, Zeva Weitz

St. Albert: Libba Markowski, Jack Evans

St. Charles: Mandy Bermick, Dylan White, Karen Graves, Jeff Tromp, Alyssa Davis, Kyler Davis, Averie Pfahl, Ella Ferrouge

Candidates for Full Communion (individuals preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist)

Ascension: Thomas Neal, Chad Tackett, Ruby Tackett, Melissa Tritch-Crawford

St. Albert: Kaitlynn Artis, Kennedy Artis

St. Charles: Micah Messer, Elisabeth Messer, Brittany Ferrouge, Kalynn Hunt, Eric Lien, Dona Rice, Myra Leckey, Ray Leckey, Anna Leckey, Emma White, Elijah White, Laurent Harris, Cecilia Calko

PRAYER LIST

Melanie Abfalter, Mary Borchers, Sharon Borgert, Mary Broderick, Kathleen Brown, Sheryl Bruns, June Chifala, Kathleen Couvillon, Ron DeChant, Marilyn Dehner, Anne Denison, Darlene Duke, Andrea Fahrney, Julie Fasick-Johnson, Betty Gaudion, Sarah Geraci, Candice Gibbons, Betty J. Gress, Louise Hageman, Joan Hall, Beverly Heithaus, Mary Ann Hickey, Larry Hoffman, Marilyn Hull, McKenzie King, Judy Koehler, Margaret Krapf, Joe Ksiezopolski, Reece Lonsert, Kay Lunne, Wally Mederios, Bob Meyer, Darlene Miller, Linda Sue Neal, Joseph Paul, Jackie Pennington, Bob Rankin, Amalia Reckziegel, Mary Jane Ryan, Mary Louise Scott, Bob Simon, Cody Simon, Donna Simon, Deacon Dick Strominger, Tanya Thomas, Gabe Valley, BJ Wack, Tom Waker Sr., Joe Wanamaker, David Warren, Smiley, Susan & Graham Wright, John Zamonski.

*Please call the Parish Office to request a name be added to the Prayers for the Sick in the event of acute illness, upcoming surgery/rehabilitation, etc. Names will remain for three weeks at a time unless otherwise requested.

WORSHIP

MASS SCHEDULE* + INTENTIONS

Monday, March 17

8:30 a.m.	Ruth Connair—Dr. Tom Connair	Fr. Tom	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
9:00 a.m.	Paula Streck—Judy Tudor	Fr. Chibueze	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	Molly Delaney—A/H Delaney	Fr. Tony	St. Albert the Great Campus

Tuesday, March 18

8:30 a.m.	Jeanne & Pat Mosconi—Family	Fr. Chibueze	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
12:00 p.m.	Allan Vandenebeele—Ella & Audrey Vandenebeele	Fr. Tom	St. Albert the Great Campus

Wednesday, March 19

8:30 a.m.	Ruth Schleich—Family	Fr. Tom	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
9:00 a.m.	Pilar & Armand Perron—Debbie Rogers	Fr. Tony	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	Irene deSantis—Patricia & Jim Nagle	Fr. Ken Fortney	St. Albert the Great Campus

Thursday, March 20

8:30 a.m.	Tom Geraghty—Suzanne Geraghty	Fr. Tony	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
9:00 a.m.	Nancy Wager—Mike & Margaret Wager	Fr. Tom	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	Rosemarie Gelm-Jones—K. Gelm	Fr. Chibueze	St. Albert the Great Campus

Friday, March 21

9:00 a.m.	Madlyn Malahy—James Malahy	Fr. Chibueze	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	Funeral for Theresa Wabler Staffan	Fr. Tony	St. Albert the Great Campus

Saturday, March 22

4:30 p.m.	Forgotten Souls—Patricia & Jim Nagle	Fr. Chibueze	St. Albert the Great Campus
5:00 p.m.	Good Family—Carolyn Good	Fr. Tom	Church of the Ascension Campus
5:00 p.m.	Justin Hemmert—John & Carol Nealon Family	Fr. Tony	St. Charles Borromeo Campus

Sunday, March 23

8:30 a.m.	Church of the Ascension	Fr. Tom	Church of the Ascension Campus
8:30 a.m.	St. Albert the Great Church	Fr. Chibueze	St. Albert the Great Campus
8:30 a.m.	St. Charles Borromeo Church	Fr. Tony	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
10:30 a.m.	Elaine Lunne—The Elizabeth Stone Family	Fr. Tony	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
11:00 a.m.	Familia Mannerin—Sofia Lamanna	Fr. Tom	Church of the Ascension Campus
11:00 a.m.	Joe Hickey—Kay Moore	Fr. Chibueze	St. Albert the Great Campus

**Priest schedules are subject to change. Please note, Church of the Ascension adjusts its Mass schedule accordingly to accommodate funerals. Please check the website or call the Parish Office to confirm Mass times before attending.*

PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF...

Theresa Wabler Staffan, former parishioner. Her Mass of Christian Burial is Friday, March 21, Noon at St. Albert the Great Campus.

LOST & FOUND

Have you misplaced something? Each campus has a Lost & Found in the Narthex or Gathering Space—be sure to check for any missing items! Unclaimed items at Ascension Campus will be donated after March 31.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

Please welcome the following members to our Mother of God Family of Parishes: David Gabbard & Madison Pollack of Dayton; Jackson Macias of Beavercreek; Takis & Emily Topp of Xenia, Theresa Kendig of Kettering.

MINISTRY SCHEDULER PRO

Beginning on Monday, March 17, we are changing our MSP Organization ID from KETTERING_CATHOLIC_COMMUNITY to MGFP to reflect our new Family of Parishes name. When the change occurs, any web bookmarks or links you currently use to log in to the MSP scheduler will no longer work. On March 17, ministers will receive an email that will list the steps necessary to log in to MSP using our new name.

NEW CIBORIUM

At the 5 p.m. Mass on March 15 at St. Charles, a new ciborium was blessed and used for the first time. A ciborium is the sacred vessel that holds the Eucharistic Body of Jesus in the tabernacle. Our new ciborium matches the design of our newest chalice, but it is much bigger and has a lid. The decision was made to purchase the new ciborium primarily because the glass ciborium that had been in use is not in line with norms published in March 2004, in a document called Redemptionis Sacramentum. Paragraph 117 of that document says that sacred vessels should not be made of “glass, earthenware, clay, or other materials that break easily.” It was also decided that our new ciborium should have a stem design so that it could more easily be carried with one hand when needed. We thank the generous parishioner who donated the funds for this beautiful addition to our sacred liturgy.

STATIONS OF *The Cross*

MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES

ASCENSION

MARCH 7- APRIL 11

FRIDAYS

7 PM

CHAPEL

NO STATIONS ON GOOD FRIDAY

ST. ALBERT

MARCH 6 - APRIL 18

THURSDAYS

AFTER NOON MASS

CHURCH

NO STATIONS ON APRIL 17

WE WILL HAVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY AFTER THE NOON SERVICE

ST. CHARLES

MARCH 7- APRIL 18

FRIDAYS

7 PM

CHURCH

SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER WEEKLY AT 6 PM, EXCEPT 3/21 (ENJOY FISH FRY INSTEAD!)

STATIONS AT 2 PM ON GOOD FRIDAY

BEACONS of LIGHT



Read About Parish Vitality & Tell Us What You Think

Curious about progress toward parish vitality and the goals of Beacons of Light in our 57 Families of Parishes? Archbishop Schnurr has released the 2025 Parish Vitality Report to bring everyone in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati up to date. In addition to facts, figures, stories and witness, there's an opportunity for you to give feedback on your experience of parish life, which will be used in future planning for our Family of Parishes.

Check it out at :
catholicaoc.org/pvr



WORSHIP

MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES

Reconciliation Services

THUR, MAR 20

7 PM, ASCENSION CAMPUS

MON, MAR 31*

7 PM, ST. ALBERT CAMPUS

MON, APR 7

7 PM, ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Multiple priests will be available for individual confession. We hope you are able to join our Family of Parishes in prayer to receive this grace-filled Sacrament before we celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior!

**Part of the Day of Grace*

MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES

DAY OF GRACE

Reconciliation available **ALL. DAY. LONG!**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is where we can be seen, known and loved by God and receive the grace to start anew. We're never too broken or lost to return to the loving arms of Jesus—He's waiting for you, right now!

March 31

6 AM–9 PM*

St. Albert Campus

*Detailed Schedule

6–8 AM

9:30–11:45 AM

12:30–4 PM

5–6:30 PM

7–9 PM Reconciliation Service with SIX priests available!

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS

LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

The regulations on Lenten fast and abstinence are:

- **FASTING** On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, those who are 18 but not yet 60 are allowed one full meal. Two smaller meals are allowed as needed, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.
- **ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT** Those who are 14 years of age or older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

THANK YOU, WOMEN'S MINISTRY!

Thank you to all the women of the MGFP who helped make our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast a wonderful event for all who attended. The event began in 2016, and has grown to host women of diverse ages and stages from our Family of Parishes. Reflections were shared about "Fasting and Feasting" during Lent, and praying with, and for, a graced heart each of the 40 days of Lent.

ACTS XXIX: SPARK YOUR CORE FAITH!

Fridays, 9:15-11 a.m., St. Charles Borromeo Campus, Borromeo Room.

Session 10: HOW AND WHY SHOULD WE TELL OTHERS?

We are not all called to be evangelists, but we are all called to be witnesses, especially with family and friends! God wants His people back! Let's not be shy about telling others about Jesus' love and invite them to join us at church or a church-related event. Remember, God is by your side! All are welcome to join us on Fridays for a video, coffee and fellowship.

SUNDAYS

9:30-10:45

FEB 2-APR 13

ASCENSION

WITZMAN CENTER RM 119

The
CHOSEN
SEASON FOUR

SIX WEEKS WITH THE BIBLE

Wednesdays, Now–April 16, 6:30-8 p.m.

St. Albert the Great Campus, Spirit Center

ACTS: The Good News of the Holy Spirit in the *Six Weeks with the Bible* series by Kevin Perrotta. The readings in these six sessions have been chosen to take us to the heart of the book's message. We will begin each session meditating on the previous Sunday's Gospel. All interested men and women are invited. Booklets will be provided with an opportunity for a freewill offering for their cost. Please contact Julie Burt at 937-409-6035 for information.

The prophet Jeremiah was the last prophet before the Israelites were sent into exile in Babylon. And yet even as he warns them of their impending doom, he says this: *For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.* He gives them something to hold onto – knowledge that what might look like the end, is not, in fact, the end. The Lord will be victorious. Check back next week for words of hope from Psalm 27.

Weekly Words of Hope



CHECK BACK HERE NEXT WEEK FOR MORE HOPE!

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



A NOTE TO PARENTS

- First graders must be baptized before the age of seven and attend religious education class in order to make First Communion in second grade.
- Seventh graders must be enrolled and attend religious education in both seventh and eighth grade to make Confirmation toward the end of their eighth grade year.

If you have questions concerning enrolling your child in Religious Education as part of sacramental preparation, contact Tara Schumaker at Ascension/St. Albert at tschumaker@stalbertthegreat.net, or Erin Fanning at St. Charles at efanning@stcharles-kettering.org.

MGFP DOCK HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

SUNDAYS 6:30-8PM
@ST. CHARLES YOUTH ROOM

MARCH

16 - Night on Disappointment and Hope

23 - No DOCK: Spring Break

30 - Service: RE Takeover Planning Night

USE QR
Code to
register

MGFP Coordinator of Youth Ministry Kelly Summers
ksummers@stcharles-kettering.org 937-570-1665

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY STOCKHOLDERS SALE

March 15/16 Ascension Campus in the Narthex; March 22/23 St. Albert Church in the Gathering Space

This fundraiser invites you to invest in something truly transformative: the faith journeys of the young people in our community. Just as we make investments to ensure our own futures, it's time to invest in the future of our youth and provide them with opportunities to encounter Christ in meaningful ways. Envelopes for donations ranging from \$1-500 will be provided. For more information, contact Annie Wood at awood@ascensionkettering.org All Stockholders will be invited to the Stockholder Dinner later this year.

STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF MARCH 9



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Offertory Income	\$ 33,867.18
YTD Offertory Income	\$ 885,855.31
YTD Budget	\$ 761,400.00
St. Vincent Conference	\$ 1,342.00

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

Offertory Income	\$ 13,538.00
YTD Offertory Income	\$ 857,581.62
YTD Budget	\$ 937,500.00
St. Vincent Conference	\$ 175.00

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

Offertory Income	\$ 32,541.00
YTD Offertory Income	\$ 1,251,170.00
YTD Budget	\$ 1,156,906.00
Diakonia	\$ 883.00

COLLECTION FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CHURCH OF AFRICA

Mother of God Family of Parishes raised a total of \$3,622.17. Thank you for your generosity.

LOVE IN ACTION



LENTEN ALMSGIVING PROJECT

In 2014, Ronda Paulson and her husband felt the call to become foster parents. The first step to doing so is to undergo training. During this training, their eyes were opened to the many hardships that children awaiting placement go through. One of these struck a chord with Rhonda, a hardship being that children will at times have to sleep in offices during the beginning of their foster care journey. This is evident in the purpose of her organization which states on her website, "When children are removed from their homes out of concern for their safety, they are usually brought to a child welfare services office to await placement. This wait can be a few hours to several days. These children often have nothing with them and are scared, lonely, hungry, and in dirty clothing." This inspired Rhoda and her husband to create **Isaiah 117 House**.

Isaiah 117 House provides a warm, welcoming home that the local community comes together to offer to foster care children awaiting placement. The idea behind the homes, which after success in their Tennessee launch now exist in multiple states, is to provide stable housing and an enjoyable transition period for the child awaiting placement. The mission of Isaiah House 117 is threefold: to reduce trauma for children awaiting placement; lighten the load for child welfare services; and ease the transition for foster families. With a plot of land secured in Dayton, our donations will help foster children for years to come and create good memories in what can often be a trying time for these children.

Donations to both charities can be made through the parish website by clicking on the online giving button, using the special envelopes in your March-April mailed packet, or picking up an envelope at the display in the Gathering Space. At the Isaiah 117 House display, there will also be a list of needed items that you can purchase and place in the bin provided.

Please join us in supporting our almsgiving charities this Lenten season. Look for more information about our charities in this space and other media throughout Lent.



THANK YOU FROM K OF C 14995

Thank you to the St. Charles community for the excellent generous support of the 2025 Bottles for Babies Campaign for the mission and vision of Elizabeth's New Life Center! Thank you to all the parishioners, students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators for this tremendous outpouring of love for the most vulnerable and marginalized. ENLC's mission is: To empower individuals and families to make Godly life choices. ENLC's vision is: By the grace of God, we humbly labor in the culture of life.

Parish Total: \$5,390.00

School Total: \$3,678.23

CCD Total: \$596.77

Community Grand Total: \$9,665.00

For more information on ENLC and their programs, please visit ElizabethNewLife.org.

LOVE IN ACTION

FEED THE HUNGRY CASSEROLES

Casserole pans are available to provide a meal for our neighbors at the St. Vincent shelters. Instructions are with each pan. One-pound cans of vegetables, bags of apples, oranges, and carrot sticks & celery—washed and cut up, ready to serve—are also needed.

Church of the Ascension Campus

Pick up pans: April 5-6, May 3-4, May 31-June 1

Pans due by: March 21, April 25, May 23, June 20 (*Deliver frozen meals either to the Witzman Center or drop off in the parish office by Noon on the due date.*)

St. Albert the Great Campus

Pick up pans: March 29

Pans due by: April 5

St. Charles Borromeo Campus

Pick up pans: April 6

Pans due by: April 13 (*Deliver frozen to the Hospitality Room, 8-10:45 a.m.*)

SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION FOR CJ CAPSTONE

Shane Verdon, a senior at Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School, is completing a capstone service project. His group is running a food drive to help those in the Greater Dayton area who are marginalized and struggling with food insecurity. They are seeking help from St. Albert the Great Church and School. The drive runs until Sunday, March 23, with donation boxes placed outside the chapel, in the hallway, and in the gathering space. The drive is held in memory of Shane's classmate, Leo Lehner, who dreamed of breaking the all-time service record at CJ. For more information, contact Mrs. Hankey, the school principal, at nhankey@stag-school.org.

RESTORING A CULTURE OF LIFE

When an airplane or ship encounters disaster, the captain is expected to make the safety of the passengers on board a priority over their own safety. This very real sacrifice, laying down a life for others, earns them the title "hero." Pro-life speaker Stephanie Gray Connors uses such analogies to encourage us to reframe our perspective on mothers facing an unplanned or difficult pregnancy. Many women have successfully met the challenge of continuing a pregnancy even in circumstances of poverty, rape, or abandonment, experiencing the healing satisfaction of bringing a greater good out of their tragic circumstances. Offering compassion and support to pregnant women can encourage them to see their responsibility to the babies "on board" and the heroic opportunity to bring forth life in a positive light. This Lent, please take time to pray and fast for the intentions of mothers/couples facing a difficult pregnancy and the clinic staff who assist in abortion. You can also consider participating in the 40 Days for Life national effort, joining others in our community praying outside our neighborhood abortion clinic on Stroop Road. Look for more information in each parish or visit 40daysforlife.com/dayton for details.

ROSARY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Saturdays, March 22–April 12, 9:30 a.m.

Ascension Campus, Church

Pray the Rosary for Peace and Justice: In these tumultuous times, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services is offering a Scriptural Rosary for Peace and Justice. The Mother of God Family of Parishes Social Action Committee will be leading this Rosary every Saturday morning during Lent beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Ascension Campus. Prayer is an underutilized resource in the work of justice. We will be praying the Luminous Mysteries to help us follow more closely the example set by Jesus in His ministry to the poor and vulnerable. All are welcome to join us on Saturday, March 22, at 9:30 a.m. at Ascension; bring a friend or two! For more information, contact Cathy at cmagness@ascensionkettering.org.

ATTENTION, MEIJER SHOPPERS!

Now you can shop for your groceries and donate to the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry all at one time! The Meijer store at Stroop Road and Wilmington Pike has once again designated the Food Pantry that Ascension operates with Greenmont Oak-Park Community Church as the recipient of their community fundraising program from now until March 29, 2025. During that time, purchase a "Simply Give Card" for \$10 (available at all registers or at Ascension Church in the Narthex) for a \$10 donation to the Pantry. Meijer is providing **ONE MORE DOUBLE MATCH DAY on Saturday, March 22**. On this day, your purchase of a \$10 card generates a Meijer donation of \$20, making your donation \$30. If you want to donate \$100, Meijer will add \$200, for a total donation of \$300 on this DOUBLE MATCH DAY. Your generous donations go directly to the Food Pantry which is run by Ascension and Greenmont Oak-Park Community Church. Meijer "pays" with Meijer gift cards which are used to purchase needed items to keep the shelves stocked. The last campaign with Meijer this summer generated a \$16,000 donation from Meijer on Wilmington Pike. On behalf of the volunteers and clients of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry, thank you!

TIPS FROM CARE OF GOD'S CREATION

The next Montgomery County Styrofoam Recycling Event will be Saturday, April 12, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Rose Music Center in Huber Heights. With Spring upon us, repurpose take-out containers for seed sprouting mini-greenhouses. Try egg carton sections for seed sprouting on the windowsill, or make your own container from folded up newspaper that can be planted right into the ground (as can cardboard egg cartons).

A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

CARNAVAL LATINO THANK-YOU/RAFFLE WINNERS

The 2025 Ascension Carnival Latino benefited our Twinning Parish in Lima, Peru, Our Lady of the Light. Everyone enjoyed the Marian parade, the Orgullo Mexicano Dancers, door prizes, desserts, and the delicious dinner with so many choices from Los Reyes Restaurant. We appreciated the enthusiastic participation from the Heritage Class from Carroll High School. Check out photos on the Ascension website at ascensionkettering.org. Special thanks to all who supported this event and to the volunteers who helped make this a memorable event.

Basket Winners:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Jan Moran | 4. Libby McKinney |
| 2. Mary Beth Murray | 5. Kay Moore |
| 3. Karen Waitzman | |

AT A GLANCE

- **Mar 20**—Reconciliation Service, 7 p.m., Ascension Campus
- **Mar 21**—Fish 'n Chips, 4:30-11:30 p.m., St. Charles Campus
- **Mar 22**—Rosary for Peace & Justice, 9:30 a.m., Ascension Campus
- **Mar 22**—DOUBLE MATCH DAY at Meijer
- **Mar 31**—Day of Grace, varies, St. Albert Campus

FRIENDS & FANS OF UD TALK SERIES AT ST. LEONARD

Dr. Glen M. Duerr from Cedarville University will be speaking about U.S./Russia Relations on Thursday, March 20, 6 p.m. in the Franciscan Center at St. Leonard, 8200 Provincial Way in Centerville.

A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEW MEMBER INVITE

Let your Knights of Columbus membership be your gift to God during your Lenten journey in celebration of His Resurrection. Join now for FREE at kofc.org with promo code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY.

ASCENSION GOLF LEAGUE

Open to all men and women of the Mother of God Family of Parishes. Play is nine holes every Tuesday evening beginning April 29. We will be playing the inside (Dales) course at Community again this year. The league is reaching out to anyone wishing to join in the fun. All skill levels are welcome. The goal is to enjoy each other while getting fresh air and exercise. For more information, call Dennis Grosjean at 937-427-2550 or email at dfgrosjean@yahoo.com.

KNIGHTS SUPER CASH BONANZA

The Knights of Columbus is holding its annual Super Cash Bonanza Charity Fund Drive. This is our biggest fundraiser of the Fraternal Year. Tickets are \$5.00 each, and the drawing will be held on May 24 in Cleveland at the Annual Ohio State Council Convention. Council 14891 will be selling tickets after Masses at Ascension on March 22-23. Please see any of your favorite Knights or contact the Council directly: Council 14891, kofc14891@gmail.com, Council 4022, GrandKnight@kofc4022.org, Council 14995, stcharlesknights14995@gmail.com.

MOVE, STRETCH, BREATHE

Thursdays, March 20, 27, April 3, & 24, 9:30 a.m.

St. Charles Campus, Borromeo Room

Chair movement is an accessible form of exercise for individuals with limited range of motion. This movement, along with breathwork, helps to release stress and encourage increased lung capacity. Taught by certified instructor Julie Fasick-Johnson. Cost is \$5.00 per class. For any questions about the class, please call Julie at 937-207-8408.

CHAIR ONE FITNESS

Tuesdays, March 18 & 25, 4:30-5 p.m.

Ascension Campus, Witzman Center, Room 118.

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Charting a Course to Christ

16 March 2025 • Cycle C: Second Sunday of Lent

VOLUME XII • Issue 16

The Human Soul

Psalm 8:4-10

The Catholic Imagination is the power of the human soul, breathed into man by God at Creation to know what is most deeply real – eternity and the infinite. With the help of the soul's senses, the Catholic imagination can take us nearer to God to apprehend Him in ways we cannot totally put into words. However, with God's permission, we can sometimes experience Him in a place just beyond our words. Let us pray for this...

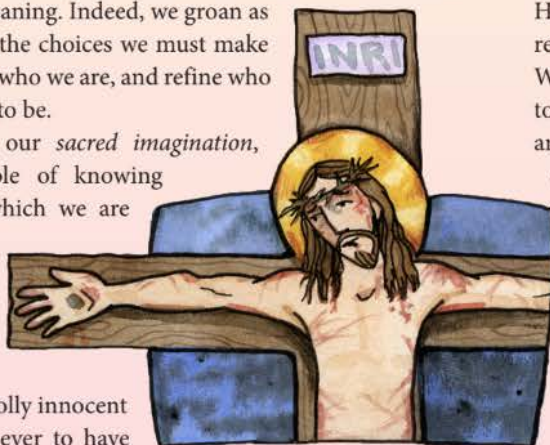


What's in a Word?

The first new word this week is *mimesis*, or *to imitate*. This is no simple repetition of what someone says, or an imitation of mannerisms. This involves more. As *mimetic* creatures, human beings have highly honed observational powers from our beginnings. Before birth, we are bathed in sound – words, music, tone, rhythm, and cadence – sometimes gentle, sometimes not. After birth, we take in sights, smells, tastes, and touches, rejecting and retaining as we choose.

We imitate so acutely that we see and hear and intuit actions, emotions, wants, and responses to people, situations, and events. We 'try on' certain laughs, phrases, facial expressions, and interactions almost constantly. As we grow, we include in our imitation others from our community and from stories we are told. We imitate as we build our life, to both blossom and to find meaning. Indeed, we groan as we grow with the choices we must make to both define who we are, and refine who we most want to be.

Because of our *sacred imagination*, we are capable of knowing realities for which we are not present: We know the horrifying depths of the crucifixion of the only wholly innocent human being ever to have



lived. We *know* the embracing breadth of Jesus Christ's willing sacrifice that comes to rest in places within us that are too deep for words... but not too deep for imitation.

Anamnesis, from the Greek, is a 'a calling to mind, a remembrance.' This word is given to the part of the Mass that recalls the events of Jesus' life, making them real to us. Jesus, once living in our time and place, now exists outside of time. Just as our sacred imagination in the 'lifting up of our hearts,' reaches out into the fabric of time to give ourselves over to Christ's Passion and Death, so

too does Jesus reach out from eternity through the fabric of time to bring us to the foot of His Cross. We don't drag Him into our time to be re-crucified at each Mass. We, by willing ourselves to surrender to this event, are fed by these words and deeds as they happened,

once and for all, so long ago. This kind of time travel is not mere imagination: A power of our soul, our sacred imagination allows us to, ever-so-briefly, touch eternity.

Knowing now what Jesus meant by 'love,' we are forever changed. We are invited to take on and imitate Christ's sacrificial love enacted in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and submit ourselves to the transformation He desires for us.



Scriptural Secrets

In today's Second Reading, St. Paul instructs the Philippians: "Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us." Paul is bidding them to adopt behaviors appropriate to their status as followers of Christ, so that they would be able to stand firm in the Lord.

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9, 13-14
 Philippians 3:17-4:1 or Phil 3:20-4:1
 Luke 9:28b-36

Paul notes that many "conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ... Their minds are occupied with earthly things." Is Paul referring specifically to those who don't follow Christ, collectively called pagans, or is he tossing a wider net to take in lukewarm converts? Most likely, he is in tears over those who claim a belief in Christ, yet cannot or will not fully commit to Him. The inclination to 'go along to get along' was as strong then as it is today. It is hard being demonstrably different in a culture whose values in many respects oppose Christ's teachings.

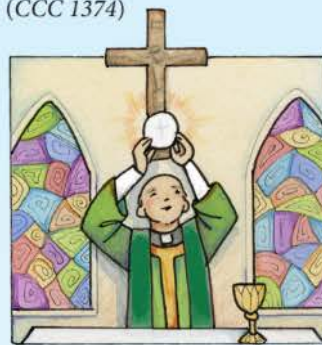
Consider, for example, that in imitating Jesus, we must give ourselves over to the Spiritual Works of Mercy, to 'instruct, advise, console, comfort, forgive, and bear wrongs patiently.' Or, to engage in the Corporal works of mercy – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead (CCC 2447) – we ask if we are lacking state licensing or in conflict with local ordinances? How do we engage in civic affairs, address our children's education, protest injustices, and so on? Following Christ is not for the uncommitted. Take up your cross.



Catechetical

Corner

The Mass is 'a visible sign of our communion with God.' (CCC 1071). And yet, in a religion of *paradoxes* (or seemingly contradictory realities which in fact are harmonious), we struggle to feel this communion. In death comes life? God's glory is seen on the Cross? We are fed by the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, 'Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity'? (CCC 1374)



The Mass continues with confusing lessons: It is a meal, but it is more. It is a celebration, but it is more. As a *sacrificial meal*, and a *memorial celebration*, we are brought into seemingly conflicting realities: Do we feel joy or sorrow? Reverie or introspection? Yes. The Mass is a place where we gradually wade into the depths of God and feel His Loving Touch.

Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes how we will one day know Jesus' Glory. With our bodies transformed, the Glory we see now in the Cross will be experienced as the brilliant warmth of Jesus' transfiguration. How? "This 'how' exceeds our imagination and understanding... (yet) our participation in the Eucharist already gives us a foretaste of Christ's transfiguration of our bodies:

Just as bread that comes from the earth, after God's blessing ... is no longer ordinary bread, but Eucharist, formed of two things, the one earthly and the other heavenly: so too our bodies, which partake of the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, but possess the hope of resurrection." (CCC 1000)

Let us pray that this hope grows in us.



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