

MARCH 9, 2025 | FIRST 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

Ellabelle Juliette Barbara Conley
Daughter of Lucas & Bethany (King) Conley
Dalton Thomas Bertke
Son of Nicholas & Talli (Topp) Bertke
Marley Mae Topp
Daughter of Takis & Emily (Smallwood) Topp



WEDDING BANNS

For the SECOND 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!



GLORY STORIES

The Mother of God Family of Parishes recently had an “All Staff” meeting for all church staff and our school principals. In advance, we were invited to think about any “glory stories” from our efforts at outreach that we may want to share at that meeting. I was excited about this invitation because I love when the Lord reveals how He is accompanying us, especially during times of stress or trial. Because I like to write down what I receive in prayer, I jotted down some reflections. Here is a

summary of my contribution that morning.

“It is easy during this time of transition to focus on where we need to improve, what we aren’t doing as well as we can. But it is important to also consider where we are getting it right!

As I was reflecting on what “Glory Stories” I could share from ministry lately, what first came to mind was seeing people encounter the love of the Lord. I pictured students in front of the Blessed Sacrament, I pictured adult men with tears streaming down their faces as we prayed for them and shared with them God’s love for them as beloved Sons of God. I remembered the joy and encouragement on Father Chibueze’s face and in his words as he talked with Pastoral Associate Chris Jasek about his upcoming diaconate ordination.

I then started contemplating our family of parishes. I was talking with Father Tom yesterday and reflected that it is difficult at times for us who work in ministry, mostly due the prolonged uncertainty of the whole Beacons process. It is no easy task to blend three parishes, with three different histories, with different ways of doing things, with different cultures and traditions, as well as three staffs with different gifts and talents.

However, what has stayed certain and what has stayed dependable and true, is the devotion of our staff and volunteers. Despite our differences, what we have in common is that the people who work for our parishes and schools have their eyes on the Lord and want to help further His kingdom. It is clear that every student who walks into our schools, each family that sends them there, each person who walks into our parish offices, partakes in our programs, as well as those who walk into Mass, are greeted by staff and volunteers who are in it for the long-haul. Who want to bring the Love of Christ to others. Who know God and want to make Him known. I think one thing we are doing right is helping people to know the Love of Christ through our words and deeds and our steadfast dedication to serving and loving others. For these things, I am thankful. I feel like the Lord tends to remind me of these truths when I need it the most!”

Kelly Summers

Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Mother of God Family of Parishes

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, Candice Gibbons, Betty J. Gress, 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, Bob Rankin, Amalia Reckziegel, Mary Jane Ryan, Mary Louise Scott, Bob Simon, Cody Simon, Donna Simon, 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 10

8:30 a.m.	John Reinhard Family—Mary Ellen Reinhard	Fr. Tony	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
9:00 a.m.	Kathe Lewis—Lise Travis	Fr. Chibueze	Church of the Ascension Campus
11:00 a.m.	Funeral for Janet Eilerman	Fr. Tony	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	Eusebio Ragas—Ragas-Monte Family	Fr. Tom	St. Albert the Great Campus

Tuesday, March 11

8:30 a.m.	Kenneth "Bud" Dorsten—Sue Schiller	Fr. Chibueze	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
12:00 p.m.	Ragas-Monte Family—Family	Fr. Tom	St. Albert the Great Campus

Wednesday, March 12

8:30 a.m.	John & Genevieve Schroeder—Jim & Monica Cengia	Fr. Tom	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
11:00 a.m.	Funeral for John Tincu	Fr. Tony	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	The May Family—Family	Fr. Dan	St. Albert the Great Campus

Thursday, March 13

8:30 a.m.	Mary Ann Leschansky—Family	Fr. Tony	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
11:00 a.m.	Funeral for Linda Franke	Fr. Tom	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	Albert Fratini—Faith & Light Community	Fr. Chibueze	St. Albert the Great Campus

Friday, March 14

9:00 a.m.	Catholic Sisters	Fr. Chibueze	Church of the Ascension Campus
12:00 p.m.	John W. Missall III—Gary Calamungi Family	Fr. Tony	St. Albert the Great Campus

Saturday, March 15

4:30 p.m.	Janet Ellis—Glen & Joy Whaley	Fr. Tony	St. Albert the Great Campus
5:00 p.m.	Bill Kelly—Kate Kelly	Fr. Chibueze	Church of the Ascension Campus
5:00 p.m.	Mary Ann Leschansky—David & Julie Harshman	Fr. Tom	St. Charles Borromeo Campus

Sunday, March 16

8:30 a.m.	Church of the Ascension	Fr. Chibueze	Church of the Ascension Campus
8:30 a.m.	Eugene Phellabum—J/J Shock	Fr. Tony	St. Albert the Great Campus
8:30 a.m.	St. Charles Borromeo Church	Fr. Tom	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
10:30 a.m.	Jim McGraw & Family—Family	Fr. Tom	St. Charles Borromeo Campus
11:00 a.m.	Donna Edly—Mary Motto	Fr. Chibueze	Church of the Ascension Campus
11:00 a.m.	St. Albert the Great Church	Fr. Tony	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.*

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Janet Eilerman, Marcella Fisher, Linda Franke, Ann Hart, Barbara Hosford, William "Brad" Mahle, Joan Ritzert, Esther Slagel, John Tincu, Mayra Waymire, Martha "Missy" White, and Sharon Wilson.

2025 MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 may be scheduled in the Parish Office where you would like the Mass to be said.

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.

PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF...

Janet Eilerman, parishioner. Her Mass of Christian Burial is Monday, March 10, 11 a.m. at Ascension Campus.
John Tincu, parishioner. His Memorial Mass is Wednesday, March 12, 11 a.m. at Ascension Campus.
Linda Franke, parishioner. Her Mass of Christian is Thursday, March 13 at 11 a.m. at Ascension Campus.

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!

WORSHIP

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

Join us on a 9-day pilgrimage to Medjugorje!
MOTHER OF GOD
FAMILY OF PARISHES



Led by
Fr. Tony Sanitato

September 23 - October 1, 2025

Space is Limited - Enrollment Deadline April 15th!
To request a brochure E-mail: Peter@petersway.com



SCAN
the QR code
for full details!



NIGERIAN MASS

MAR 9, 2025 | 1:00PM
ST ALBERT THE GREAT CAMPUS

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

MENTAL WELLNESS INFO SESSION

Mother of God Family of Parishes is exploring how we can begin a Mental Wellness Ministry. Would you like to learn more? Lisa Averion from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be here to explain the ministry and answer your questions.

Sat, March 15
9:30 AM, St. Albert the Great Spirit Center, Room D



Mother of God Family of Parishes

Why Do We Suffer?

A Lenten Reflection Series

Thursdays
March 6–April 10

10:15–11:45 AM
St. Albert Campus

or

6:30–8 PM
St. Charles Campus

Scan to Register



stcharles-kettering.org



Scripture is full of passages that remind us that Hope is supernatural, that it takes us beyond our present circumstances. In John 16:33, during the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples that he will soon be taken from them, and concludes with some of the most hope-filled words in all of Scripture: "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." What gives you courage in difficult times? Check back next week for words of hope from the prophet Jeremiah..

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 towards 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

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 \$1.00-500.00 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Would you like to help children grow their faith? Sunday catechists are needed for this program to thrive! If you are interested, or would like to learn more, please contact Faith Formation at 937-281-0032 (Ascension/St. Albert) or 937-434-9272 (St. Charles).

Mother of God Family of Parishes

Baptism Preparation Class

Do you have a child under 7 in need of Baptism? Attend an upcoming Baptism Preparation Class!

Wednesday, March 12, 6:30 PM at St. Albert Campus
kgaston@stalbertthegreat.net

Monday, April 7, 7 PM at St. Charles Campus
efanning@stcharles-kettering.org

Sunday, May 4, 9:30 AM at Ascension Campus
jollier@ascensionkettering.org

OVER THE EDGE

6th-8th graders

SPRING SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Register/RSVP

MGFP's Junior High Youth Ministry Dinner always provided. Contact Annie Wood with any questions awood@ascensionkettering.org

Mar 14	Night on Lent 6-8pm	ASC Witzman Center
Mar 28	Hang Out 6-7:30pm	St. Albert Spirit Center
April 11	Night on Holy Week 6-8pm	St. Charles Youth Room

MGFP DOCK HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

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

MARCH

- 9 - Practical ways to nurture our spiritual health
- 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

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT RAFFLE

MARCH MONEY MADNESS

WINNER EVERY DAY

\$250 Winner on St. Patrick's Day
 \$100 Winner Every Other Day of March!

Proceeds support the St. Albert the Great CTO

VISIT [HTTP://GO.RALLYUP.COM/STAGS25](http://GO.RALLYUP.COM/STAGS25) OR

STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF MARCH 2

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Offertory Income	\$ 32,708.60
YTD Offertory Income	\$ 851,988.13
YTD Budget	\$ 740,250.00
St. Vincent Conference	\$ 3,109.00

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

Offertory Income	\$ 22,196.85
YTD Offertory Income	\$ 840,865.62
YTD Budget	\$ 906,250.00
St. Vincent Conference	\$ 115.00

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

Offertory Income	\$ 36,565.00
YTD Offertory Income	\$ 1,218,604.00
YTD Budget	\$ 1,130,906.00
Diakonia	\$ 400.00

THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS FROM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4022

Thank you to all those who helped and attended the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. It was a fun event with great community spirit, and it raised funds to help support numerous causes at St. Albert Campus. Congratulations to the 50/50 raffle winner, who generously donated the winnings to the fundraiser. Additional congratulations go to our age group winners from the District Free Throw Contest: Evelyn Jacobs (11-year-old girls), Charlie Basom (12-year-old boys), and Sammy Brinkman (13-year-old boys.) Charlie won his category at Regionals and now advances to the State competition in Columbus.

LOVE IN ACTION

LENTEN ALMSGIVING PROJECT

St. Eugene Catholic Church in Asheville, North Carolina is helping community members with various needs. On the weekend of September 27th, Asheville was hit by Hurricane Helene. The city is located in Buncombe County, the hardest hit county, where nearly half of the storm-related fatalities in North Carolina occurred, along with more than 300 homes destroyed. Father Pat Cahill and his staff at St. Eugene's responded by collecting donations and providing shelter as winter approached. The support was so overwhelming that they have had to recently stop collecting clothing and food due to lack of storage space. Monetary donations have helped in keeping people in their homes and providing assistance with legal and insurance claims among other measures. We are blessed to support St. Eugene's efforts this Lenten season through our Lenten project. Father Pat passes along this message...

"We continue to be humbled and immensely grateful for the outreach of support and help people of goodwill from all over have shared with us. God Bless you and let us pray for one another!"

Isaiah 117 House provides a warm and inviting housing option for foster kids awaiting placement. Founder Rhonda Paulson saw a need after hearing that kids were sleeping in offices, while awaiting placement in her home state of Tennessee. In other states, it is not uncommon for this to happen as well. Rhonda began to fundraise and gather volunteers and now has homes in multiple states that help foster kids have a loving and caring environment during a challenging time in their lives.

This organization will be building a youth home here in Dayton to temporarily house those awaiting placement into the foster care program. Our donations will be helping them get this up and running, as they start helping the children in Montgomery County.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Monday, March 10, 9:15 a.m..

St. Charles Borromeo Campus

There will be a Prayer Shawl Ministry on Monday, March 10 at 9:15 a.m. in the Borromeo Room at St. Charles Campus. All knitters and crocheters are welcome, and a special welcome to those from the Church of the Ascension and St. Albert the Great!

MARCH NAIM MEETING

The next widowed Catholics meeting is Monday, March 10, 1:00 p.m. in the All Saints Room at St. Francis of Assisi, followed by cards. Wear green! Contact Mary Jane Ryan with questions at 937-299-3795.

FEED THE HUNGRY CASSEROLE

Casserole pans are available to provide a meal for our neighbors at the St. Vincent shelters. Instructions are with each pan.

Church of the Ascension Campus

Pans due by: March 21 (*Deliver frozen meals either to the Witzman Center or drop off in the parish office by Noon on March 21.*)

St. Albert the Great Campus

Pick up pans: March 28

Pans due by: April 4

St. Charles Borromeo Campus

Pans due by: March 9 (*Deliver frozen to the Hospitality Room, 8-10:45 a.m.*)

MARCH FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The next collection of items for the Ascension Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry will be held on the weekend of March 15-16. Your donation of the items we lack is greatly appreciated! These include: Personal care items: Bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes; Non-food necessities: Dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, paper towels and toilet tissue; Please leave your donations in the large blue containers that will be at each of the Ascension Campus entrance doors. THANK YOU for continuing to help our neighbors in need.

ROSARY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Saturdays, March 15–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 15, at 9:30 a.m. at Ascension; bring a friend or two! For more information, contact Cathy at cmagness@ascensionkettering.org.

TIPS FROM CARE OF GOD'S CREATION

Many people swear by using a bidet instead of contributing to toilet paper trash. You can even get one that uses warm water!

Depending on distance and occasional weather, consider biking, roller skating, scootering, walking or taking public transportation to work and errands. It is certainly not as convenient, but it is better for the environment and possibly for your health.

A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

KNIGHTS COUNCIL 14891 INFO MEETING

Wednesday, March 12, 5:30-7 p.m.

Ascension Campus, Witzman Center, Room 114.

Have you ever thought about joining the Knights of Columbus, but want more information? The Ascension Council 14891, Our Lady of the Light, is inviting all men 18+ to enjoy delicious pizza, while getting to know about the Knights of Columbus. You are also invited to pray the Holy Rosary, immediately following our Membership Meeting from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

We anticipate an evening enriched with fellowship, engaging activities, and valuable information. Kindly mark your calendars and plan to join us for this significant event. Check our website for more details: kofc14891kettering.us For questions or to RSVP, please email kofc14891@gmail.com.

AT A GLANCE

- **Mar 12**— Baptism Preparation Class, 6:30 p.m., St. Albert Campus
- **Mar 12**—Bible: Acts of the Apostles, 6:30 p.m., St. Albert Campus
- **Mar 14**—Trivia Night, 7 p.m., St. Albert Campus
- **Mar 14**—Acts XXIX Group, 9:15 a.m., St. Charles Campus
- **Mar 15**—Mental Wellness Info, 9:30 a.m., St. Albert Campus
- **Mar 15**—Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m., St. Albert Campus
- **Mar 20**—Reconciliation Service, 7 p.m., Ascension Campus
- **Mar 21**—Fish 'n Chips, 4:30-11:30 p.m., St. Charles Campus
- **Mar 31**—Day of Grace, varies, St. Albert Campus

A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

ST. PADDY'S DAY SENIOR LUNCHEON

Welcome back dancers from the Celtic Academy of Irish Dance in Kettering who'll entertain us at an early St. Patrick's Day luncheon Thursday, March 13, at Kohler Place! MGFP seniors are delighted to have this lively group of youngsters in their Celtic dress and dancing shoes with Irish music. The dancers will perform at Noon, with lunch to follow at 12:45. Please arrive promptly; Kohler's doors open at 11:30 a.m. Your meal choices must be called in advance to St. Charles' office (937-434-6081) by Monday, March 10, so the caterer has an accurate meal count; the price is \$20.00 and that is payable at the door. Meal choices are corned beef, cabbage and potatoes or sliced pork loin with mashed potatoes and green beans. Make plans now to enjoy this once-a-year performance of Irish dance. All MGFP seniors are invited!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.

St. Albert the Great Campus, Spirit Center

Join us for a fun-filled Trivia Night hosted by the STAG PTO! Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with trivia kicking off at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own beverages and snacks as you compete for a cash prize and enjoy the excitement of a 50/50 raffle. Teams can be made up of 6-8 people, and the cost is \$100.00 per team. Don't miss your chances to test your knowledge and have a great time with friends and family 21+! Register online by visiting <http://bit.ly/41dNm6t>

CHAIR ONE FITNESS

Tuesdays, March 11, 18 & 25, 4:30-5 p.m.

Ascension Campus, Witzman Center, Room 118.

No special equipment is required. Just wear some comfy clothes and shoes and come with a mind and body open to having fun and being energized. For any questions, contact Alice at alice4chaironefitness@gmail.com For more information about Chair One Fitness, go to chaironefitness.com

MOVE, STRETCH, BREATHE

Thursdays, March 13, 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.

COME TO THE "LUCKIEST" FISH FRY IN TOWN!



MARCH 21
2025



FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

**SILENT AUCTION, STUDENT ART AUCTION,
GAMBLING, TVS TO WATCH NCAA
BASKETBALL, SERVING ELSA'S BAD JUAN
MARGARITAS, BOURBON PULL AND LIVE
MUSIC FEATURING THE BOWL CUTS!!!**

Drive-thru ONLY 4:30-5:30pm \$15.00 per meal
Family Dining in Cafeteria 6-8pm
Adult 21+ ONLY in Gym/Tent 6-11:30pm
Presale ticket \$20 At the Door \$25

LEISURE CLUB

Thursday, March 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Ascension Campus, Witzman Center, Room 118

All seniors from the Mother of God Family of Parishes are invited to attend. We will be playing board games and celebrating St. Patrick's Day! Wear green and bring a snack to share. No RSVP necessary! Questions? Contact Sue Graham at sgraham@ascensionkettering.org.

MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES INFO

PASTOR

Fr. Tom Nevels

tnevels@stcharles-kettering.org

VICARS

Fr. Chibueze Asiegbulem

casiegbulem@stalbertthegreat.net

Fr. Tony Sanitato

asanitato@ascensionkettering.org

FAMILY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor + Parochial Vicars

Cathy Magness, cmagness@ascensionkettering.org

Margaret Wager, mwager@ascensionkettering.org

Joe Ollier, jollier@ascensionkettering.org

Tom Hutchinson, thutchinson@stalbertthegreat.net

Elizabeth Lush, elush@stcharles-kettering.org

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION CAMPUS

PARISH OFFICE 937-253-5171

ASCENSION SCHOOL OFFICE: 937-254-5411

Principal Susan DiGiorgio

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Send all items for publishing consideration to: Sarah Green, sgreen@ascensionkettering.org, Amanda Ortiz, aortiz@stalbertthegreat.net, Anna Godby, agodby@stcharles-kettering.org
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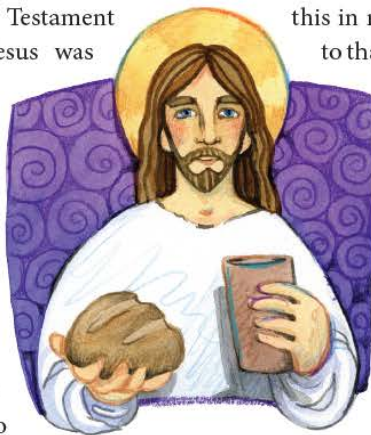
VOLUME XII • Issue 15

"Be Still And Know That I Am God."

Psalms 46:10

Last week's issue mentioned the New Testament evidence supporting the fact that Jesus was worshiped from the earliest days of the Church as a deity. Jesus, Who offered Himself – Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity – for our sins, was, in fact, God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity. While the understanding and wording of this miraculous and mysterious Truth were born gradually, the practice of responding to what they experienced seemed to happen almost immediately.

Add to this the command, "Thou shalt honor the Sabbath," and Jesus' own command to, "Do



this in memory of me," as well as other practices common to that day, and we have the basic framework of the Mass.

The meals became communal, and the Readings shared included those from the past as well as from the life and times of Jesus; however, it was the 'event of Jesus' that gave rise to everything. Practice often precedes understanding: *the law of prayer/praying* (the way we worship) is *the law of belief/believing* (what we believe). The former establishes the latter. This is why the Mass remains the apex of our sacraments and way of life, not to be changed by even a priest. We, like the early Church, live what we know to be true.

What's in a Word?

Over the weeks to come, we will be taking a look at the Mass, and specifically, the Most Holy Eucharist – the preeminent

Sacrament, personal prayer, and community worship. The Catechism calls the Eucharist "the source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324) and "the sum and summary of our faith." (CCC 1327) Among other names, it is called the Breaking of the Bread because, given to us by Jesus, it is the most complete meal as well as a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet to come:

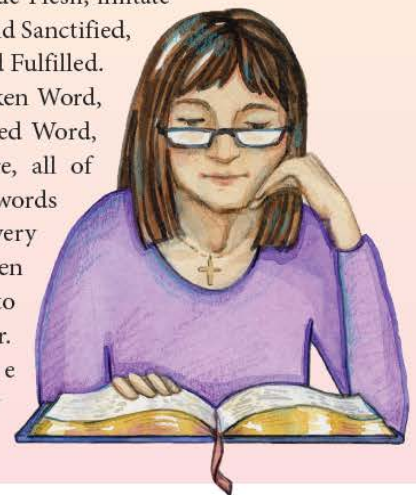
the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, when every part of our body will be fed by, with, and through God. But first, we must review a thing or two, then learn a word or two, in order to be able to approach the Mass with a heart opened to the life-giving breath found therein, and with a will that is ready to surrender to this reality.



We need to remember that we are fed by the Word, in the Word, and through the Word. In the words of God given in the Old Testament, our stony hearts are chiseled by and with the Law, our veiled minds are given clarity with but a glimpse of the Wisdom Books, our earthbound sentiments take sustenance from the Prophets' plaintive cries, and our souls are carried aloft to the heavens on the song of the Psalms. We are a People of the Word. We abide in the Word Incarnate, feed on the Word Made Flesh, imitate the Word Sacrificed and Sanctified, and hope for the Word Fulfilled.

Written Word, Spoken Word, Incarnate Word, Prayed Word, Sung Word... We are, all of us, each of us, single words spoken by God, every child of God spoken by Him and loved into creation. Words matter.

Next week, we will learn two new words...



Scriptural Secrets

Jesus "...ate nothing during those days and, when they were over, he was hungry." (Luke 4:2) This has intrigued readers – forty days without food in a desert?! How is this possible for Him who is like us in everything except in sin.

(Heb. 4:15) Looking back, Moses had neither food nor drink for forty days atop Mount Sinai. (Deut. 9:9) Surely, if Divine intervention sustained Moses, why

not Jesus? Jesus probably had a source of water, though, because the account didn't say He was thirsty after forty days without food. Forty-day food fasts are not uncommon today, although food and water fasts cannot safely exceed seven days. So, do we really have no need of further explanation?

What we should attend to are Jesus' responses to the devil (Hebrew; *ha satan, the adversary*). To each of satan's temptations, Jesus countered with

a quote from Deuteronomy:

1. Changing a stone to bread: Dt. 8:3a, "One does not live by bread alone."
2. The world's kingdoms in exchange for worshipping the devil: Dt. 6:13, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him alone shall you serve."
3. Leaping from the Temple's parapet to prove God would save Him: Dt 6:16: "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." In effect, while rebuffing satan's deceptions, Jesus served notice that His followers could also use these answers to overcome the tempter. Other armaments for rejecting satan are the Sacraments and a fervent prayer life. Prepare now for the tempter's arrival.

Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13



Catechetical

Corner

The word Lent comes from an old English word meaning 'spring,' or 'new birth.' Paradoxically, new birth comes from old practices. For Christians, these practices are rooted in Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18, the Gospel Reading for Ash Wednesdays. Summarizing, Jesus tells us to pray in secret, privately perform our charitable acts, and fast so that no one will notice. These three *acts of religion* are

often referred to as the *Pillars of Lent*, even though they are also the pillars on which our practices are founded year-round. (CCC 1969) These instructions are meant to transform our very souls, not just the body others see.

Not coincidentally, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving act to counter three temptations that have been with us since the beginning, the same temptations

that Jesus Himself fought and conquered in the desert: the seductive satisfaction of power (via prayer), the cozy comfort of pleasure (fasting), and the glittery draw of glory (via almsgiving).

We pray so that, humbled before God, we may be brought into humility. We deny ourselves some bread and live with discomfort to be mindful all day long of God, the only One we need. We give alms and do acts of charity in

order to detach from possessions and greed and connect to what is real and lasting. We do all these in secret to remain authentic, not playing to the audience that always surrounds us. This brings our souls new life in prudence, fortitude, temperance, justice, humility, and whole-hearted reliance on God. *Totus tuus, Domine!*



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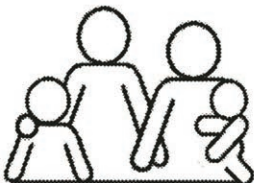
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