

APRIL 13, 2025 | PALM SUNDAY

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 BORROMEIO

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



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 5:30AM-10PM, St. Charles Borromeo Campus

WEDDING BANNS

For the SECOND TIME for Matt Purpus and Brooke Fornes.



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

Please welcome the following members to our Mother of God Family of Parishes:

Pamela Link of Dayton

Daniel Rodriguez of Beavercreek

EMBRACING THE TRUE MESSIAH



The great distance of time and culture since the first Holy Week can make it a challenge for us to effectively use our imagination when prayerfully pondering these salvific events. For example, we may think that our Lord was the only messiah figure active during this time.

However, it was not uncommon for people claiming to be the messiah to recruit a following in the hills of the Galilean region. Due to the 70 weeks prophecy in the book of Daniel, the time period of Jesus' life was a hotbed for people claiming to be the messiah. Often, these "messiahs" had military motivations to overthrow Rome's presence in Jerusalem—to be a militaristic king. This is what made Jesus strikingly different. He perfectly fulfilled the prophecies—just in a way people didn't expect. "Love your enemies," "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth," and Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer greatly, be killed, and on the third day, be raised.

Additionally, none of the other "messiahs" were bold enough to enter Jerusalem on a colt... on which no one had ever sat. This set Jesus apart, as it fulfilled King David's sign that his son Solomon was the true king of Israel. (1 Kings 1:33) It also fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. The crowds saw this, and the building tension, the people's disgruntlement and oppression, and their anticipation gave them hope that Jesus might finally be the one to liberate them from Rome. Jesus was coming to be king and to liberate them—but just not in the way they expected, nor the king they expected. This is why the multitudes greeted Him with praise and joy, but then quickly abandoned Him as He disappointed them and made them uncomfortable. They wanted a savior on their terms. They wanted to define God and His plan for our salvation.

How often do we do this as well? We follow God when it is exciting, convenient, and according to our expectations. Then, we abandon Him when it gets uncomfortable, difficult, or inconvenient. As we enter into Holy Week, let us examine our hearts to ensure we do not pursue false messiahs, but rather surrender and empty ourselves to the true Messiah, King, and Savior. He promises that if we wish to be His disciples, we will have to endure the cross. However, He also promises that He will be with us every step of the way. How blessed are we to have such a loving and intimate King. I hope you have a blessed Holy Week. Let us pray for one another, and I hope to see you at the Holy Week liturgies.

Fr. Stegbauer

Vicar for the Mother of God Family of Parishes

VISIT US ONLINE!

For more information about our Family of Parishes, including additional contacts, visit our websites:
ascensionkettering.org stalbertthegreat.net stcharles-kettering.org

PRAYER LIST

Ken Betche, Barbara Blackstone, Rita Braun, Don Carone, June Chifala, Florence Cobey, Chuck Dean, Darlene Duke, Jessica Gerasi, Louise Hageman, Carol Harris, Janice M., Joseph Paul, Jackie Pennington, Mary Jane Ryan, Mary Jo Mykytka, Mary Louise Scott, Scott Shively, Bob Simon, Cody Simon, Donna Simon, Deacon Dick Strominger, Angela Woessner.

*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, APRIL 14

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Ben Roberts—Family | Fr. Tony | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |
| 9:00 a.m. | Louis Ciambro — Paul Tarlano | Fr. Tom | Church of the Ascension Campus |
| 12:00 p.m. | Mary Ann McDonald — Family | Fr. Chibueze | St. Albert the Great Campus |

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Serafina Berio—Family | Fr. Chibueze | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lewis Blaising—A/H Delaney | Fr. Tom | St. Albert the Great Campus |

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Donald Phillips — Diane Phillips | Fr. Tom | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |
| 9:00 a.m. | Albert Bruns — Daughters | Fr. Tony | Church of the Ascension Campus |
| 12:00 p.m. | Jeanne Paula—Jean Trebnik | Fr. Dan | St. Albert the Great Campus |

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 6:30 p.m. | No Intentions | Fr. Tony | St. Albert the Great Campus |
| 7:00 p.m. | No Intentions | Fr. Tom | Church of the Ascension Campus |
| 7:00 p.m. | No Intentions | Fr. Chibueze | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 12:00 p.m. | No Intentions | Fr. Tom | St. Albert the Great Campus |
| 3:00 p.m. | No Intentions | Fr. Tony | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |
| 7:00 p.m. | No Intentions | Fr. Chibueze | Church of the Ascension Campus |

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 8:45 p.m. | MGFP EASTER VIGIL MASS | ALL | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |
|-----------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Church of the Ascension | Fr. Tony | Church of the Ascension Campus |
| 8:30 a.m. | Martha Ehler — Michael Ehler | Fr. Stegbauer | St. Albert the Great Campus |
| 8:30 a.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Church | Fr. Chibueze | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |
| 10:30 a.m. | No Intentions | Fr. Tom | St. Charles Borromeo Campus |
| 11:00 a.m. | Easter Flower Memorials | Fr. Chibueze | Church of the Ascension Campus |
| 11:00 a.m. | Easter Flower Memorials | 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.*

THE TRANSFER OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

In the Sacred Triduum, the Church solemnly celebrates the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection—three days liturgically considered as one. On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Last Supper, when Jesus Christ established the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This also commemorates His institution of the priesthood. At the conclusion of this liturgy, there is the Transfer of the Most Blessed Sacrament, which occurs immediately following the prayer after Communion. The priest will first incense the Blessed Sacrament and then reverently carry it in procession through the church to an altar of repose, which often consists of a reserve or secondary tabernacle. Adoration is observed for an extended period that night, just as the disciples stayed with the Lord during His agony on the Mount of Olives before the betrayal by Judas. The Blessed Sacrament returns to the main tabernacle at Easter.

2025 MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 may be scheduled in the Parish Office where you would like the Mass to be said. Phone numbers are provided on the cover.

HOLYWEEK

EASTER VIGIL8:45pmST CHARLES19 | APRIL | 2025

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <div>PALMSunday*13 APRIL 2025</div> <div>8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.ST CHARLES</div> <div>8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.ASCENSION</div> <div>8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.ST ALBERT</div> | <div>HOLYThursday17 APRIL 2025</div> <div>6:30 p.m.ST ALBERT</div> <div>7:00 p.m.ASCENSION</div> <div>7:00 p.m.ST CHARLES</div> | <div>GOODFriday18 APRIL 2025</div> <div>12:00 p.m.ST ALBERT</div> <div>3:00 p.m.ST CHARLES</div> <div>7:00 p.m.ASCENSION</div> | <div>EASTERSunday20 APRIL 2025</div> <div>8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.ST CHARLES</div> <div>8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.ASCENSION</div> <div>8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.ST ALBERT</div> |
|---|---|--|--|

*PLAN TO BEGIN PROCESSION OUTSIDE WEATHER PERMITTING

WORSHIP

PYX POLICY

The Mother of God Family of Parishes is updating the policy regarding pyxes used to carry the consecrated hosts from our churches. Since they hold the Eucharist, pyxes are sacred vessels. Redemptionis Sacramentum (2004) requires that materials should be noble, high quality, with artistic merit. To be in accordance with these norms, pyxes with plastic inserts cannot be used to carry the Eucharistic body of Jesus at any of our campuses. Plastic is not considered a dignified material for carrying the Eucharist. Suitable pyxes composed of metal are available to be borrowed at each campus. Thank you for your cooperation with these changes to be in conformity with the Church's norms.

HELP NEEDED FOR EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

On Saturday, April 19, we will welcome 32 fully initiated members into the Mother of God Family of Parishes at the Easter Vigil. This glorious evening celebration will be followed by a reception to welcome our newest members. For the reception, we are looking for many volunteers to help in various ways:

- **4 people** (10:15 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.): **Set up food, assist with serving**
- **4 people** (11:00 p.m. – 11:45 p.m.): **Finish serving, clean up**
- **Many people** (Friday and Saturday morning): **Drop off reception food (appetizers, cheese, fruit, cookies)**

If you are willing to help prepare food or serve that evening, please contact Chris Kreger at ckreger@stcharles-kettering.org or call 937-434-6081.

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Do you want to rediscover the joy you and your spouse shared when you were first married? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can help you do just that! The 2025 Marriage Encounter weekends in this area are now scheduled:

- **September 19-21** at the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, Ohio
- **November 7-9** at the Spiritual Center at Maria Stein, Ohio
- **July 25-27** at our newest retreat location, the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio

Weekends can fill up quickly, so applying early is encouraged to avoid the waiting list. Apply today at <https://esharing.org/applyWeekend.php>. For questions or more details, contact Andy and Melanie Reinersman at 859-653-8464, application@esharing.org, or visit esharing.org.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday, our Gospel readings take us from the highs of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the lows of His Passion and death. He suffers abandonment, betrayal, and a truly gruesome death. Where is the hope? In Luke's account of the crucifixion, which we hear today, Jesus suffers alongside a thief who pleads, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus answers, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Let those words sink in... Even on our darkest days, Jesus is right beside us; and if we reach out in faith, heaven awaits!

Weekly Words of Hope

CHECK BACK HERE NEXT WEEK FOR MORE HOPE!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite you to participate in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, following this schedule:

St. Albert the Great: The Stations of the Cross will take place after the Noon Liturgy.
St. Charles: The Stations will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Both services will be held in their respective churches. We encourage you to take part in this meaningful Lenten tradition of prayer and reflection.

IN MEMORIAM

Dave Scherer, Elizabeth Norris, Janet Applegate, Kenneth "Bud" Werner, Kenneth Tomashot, MaryLou Braun, Susan O'Dee, Judy Whitehead

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON END-OF-LIFE CARE

Bob Wurzelbacher, Director of the Office for Respect Life at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, will discuss Catholic teachings on end-of-life medical decision-making, including cancer treatment, artificial feeding, and the preparation of living wills, advance directives, and healthcare power of attorney.

**Wednesday
April 30th
7:00 PM
Ascension Church**

Questions? Contact Doris Sills
(937-396-0728)
drsills3@yahoo.com

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

EASTER EGG HUNT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sat. April 19,

At Noon – Ascension Campus at the Soccer Fields

Knights of Columbus Council 14891 will hold their Annual Easter Egg Hunt, free and open to any child 12 years old and younger. Children will be divided into 4 age groups for the Hunt. In case of bad weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will be held in Ascension's PAC.

Questions? Contact Tim Magoto at 937-603-5027.

ST. EUGENE PARISH

On September 26, Hurricane Helene struck as a powerful Category 4 storm, leaving widespread devastation across Florida's Big Bend and western North Carolina. Asheville and Buncombe County were hit hardest, with at least 72 lives lost and many more missing or stranded. The community faces immense emotional, physical, and spiritual challenges as they begin the long road to recovery. Amid the chaos, St. Eugene Parish has been a shining light, supported by the generosity of kind-hearted strangers. The funds they've received have provided shelter, home repairs, and stability to parishioners in need. This Lenten season, the Social Action Committee has chosen St. Eugene's community for their project, pledging to stand by them as they heal and rebuild from this devastating storm.

ISAIAH 117

In 2014, Ronda and Corey Paulson were inspired to create Isaiah 117 House after discovering the painful experiences children face when removed from their homes. Witnessing children wait in cold, sterile offices filled with fear, Ronda felt a calling to provide a warm, loving space for them during these difficult times. Isaiah 117 House offers a comforting refuge with clean clothes, toys, blankets, and compassionate volunteers. Its mission is to reduce trauma, ease transitions, and support foster families, showing every child they are seen, loved, and cared for.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Shoes of all sizes
Baby clothes
Teen-sized clothes
Gift cards (for meals for children and foster families)
Diapers and pull-ups

Learn more at:

ISAIAH117HOUSE.COM

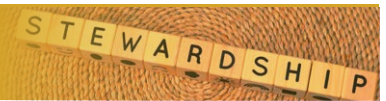
LENTEN ALMSGIVING

OUTDOOR ROSARY WALK

**Tuesday evenings, 7 PM
at Church of the
Ascension
Begins April 22!**



STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF APRIL 6



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Offertory Income | \$ 21,623.50 |
| YTD Offertory Income | \$ \$964,361.06 |
| YTD Budget | \$ 846,000.00 |
| St. Vincent Conference | \$ 2,087.00 |

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

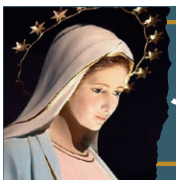
| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Offertory Income | \$ 20,174.00 |
| YTD Offertory Income | \$ 925,570.00 |
| YTD Budget | \$ 1,025,000.00 |
| St. Vincent Conference | \$ 120.00 |

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Offertory Income | \$ 32,728.00 |
| YTD Offertory Income | \$ 1,362,890.00 |
| YTD Budget | \$ 1,273,239.00 |
| Diakonia | \$ 1,444.00 |

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, offer religious education, and preserve the sacred shrines. For information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit <https://myfranciscan.org/good-friday-2025/>.



SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 1, 2025

JOIN US ON A 9-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE!

SPACE IS LIMITED - ENROLLMENT DEADLINE APRIL 15TH!

LED BY
FR. TONY SANITATO



THANK YOU FOR EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Over the next few weeks, we wish to thank the many generous people—those listed below, as well as those who requested to remain anonymous—who donated to the Easter Flower Fund at each of our campuses. May God grant you continued blessings throughout Lent and the Easter season!

DOMINIQUE GOSSELIN -

M/M PAUL LAROCHELLE

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE METZGER &
WAGONER FAMILIES

IN HONOR OF: BOB & PAT

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - FAMILY

GIL & MEAFELIA PASCUAL -

MR. & MRS. DANILO JUAN

RITA GOSSELIN - M/M PAUL LAROCHELLE

RUDY & ROSEMARIE STEMPFER - FAMILY

JEFF PIEPER - MR. & MRS. LEONARD LUSH

FRANCIS & BETTY GRAHAM -

M/M PETER GRAHAM

RICHARD CIMPRICH - S. & C. CIMPRICH

LORENZO SANTANA - MS. MARÍA VÁZQUEZ

CHARLES GRESS - M/M LARRY MADER

STAN WEINEL - ROSIE WEINEL

CARL SCHNEIDER -

MRS. CAROLUS SCHNEIDER

EDMOND & VERONA GRESS -

M/M LARRY MADER

JAMES GANTT - MARILYN GANTT

GEORGE & CLARA SCHNEIDER -

MRS. CAROLUS SCHNEIDER

NORB GROEBER - CAROLE OSWALT

CAP & MARY VOIT - JUDY WECKESSER

BENJAMIN F. SCHNIER, JR. -

MR. & MRS. BENJAMIN SCHNIER

CHARLOTTE HACKER - ANN STOFF

URBAN & MARY WECKESSER -

JUDY WECKESSER

MARTHA SCHNIER -

MR. & MRS. BENJAMIN SCHNIER

MAURA HAMILTON - EDWARD HAMILTON

ROBERT & DORIS SHERWOOD -

MR. & MRS. GREGORY SHERWOOD

EARL & ELAINE HAMMAN -

M/M CLARENCE HAMMAN

DON, SR. STEMLEY - MRS. PAT STEMLEY

DAVE & JULIE HARSHMAN -

JULIE HARSHMAN

ÁNGEL VÁZQUEZ - MS. MARÍA VÁZQUEZ

DAVE & JULIE HARSHMAN -

JULIE HARSHMAN

JIM & MARY HARTMAN -

M/M J. THOMAS HARTMAN

JOSEPH M. HARTSHORN -

M/M BRIAN BLACKER

SHERRY HEITKAMP - M/M BRETT SIEFRING

PAULINE HENNESSEY -

MICHAEL HENNESSEY

JOSEPH HERLIHY - CAROLINE HERLIHY

KENNETH HILL - M/M JOSEPH DUDASH

RAYMOND & TERESA HILL - JENNY COKER

HIMES, CARLENE - VIRGINIA HIMES

MARY CANDICE HIMES - VIRGINIA HIMES

MICHAEL HIMES - VIRGINIA HIMES

SANDRA HIMES - VIRGINIA HIMES

WILLIAM, SR. HIMES - VIRGINIA HIMES

Easter Flower Envelopes were mailed home with the regular envelope packet at Ascension and St. Charles Campuses. At St. Albert Campus, envelopes are available in the Gathering Space and Church. All three campuses accept online donations on their websites.

LOVE IN ACTION



The St. Vincent de Paul Society will have a collection trailer in the parking area of St. Albert the Great the weekend after Easter, April 26 and 27. Volunteers will be at the trailer from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. Donations of clean, usable clothing, linens, household goods (bagged and boxed) will help our neighbors in need and fulfill the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is the Gospel message in action: "As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

FEED THE HUNGRY

Casserole pans are available to provide a meal for our neighbors at the St. Vincent shelters. Instructions are with each pan. St. Vincent de Paul Council at St. Charles Borromeo Campus is always in need of one-pound cans of vegetables, as well as bags of apples, oranges, and carrot sticks & celery—washed and cut up, ready to serve.

Church of the Ascension Campus

Pick up pans: May 3-4, May 31-June 1 **Pans due by:** 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: April 26th **Pans due by:** May 3rd

St. Charles Borromeo Campus

Pick up pans: May 4, June 1 **Pans due by:** May 11, June 8 (*Deliver frozen to the Hospitality Room, 8-10:45 a.m.*)

ST ALBERT PTO:

*Knollwood
Gift Cards
Sale*

\$25 GIFT CARDS TO KNOLLWOOD GARDEN CENTER WILL BE SOLD IN THE GATHERING SPACE AFTER MASSES DURING THE WEEKENDS OF APRIL 26TH & 27TH.

YOU GET TO SPEND ALL \$25 ON GARDEN GOODIES AND \$5 OF EVERY CARD SOLD GOES DIRECTLY TO OUR SCHOOL!

A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

MOVE, STRETCH, BREATHE

Thursday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.

St. Charles Campus, Borromeo Room

An accessible exercise for individuals with limited mobility, combining gentle movement and breathwork to reduce stress and improve lung capacity. Instructor: Certified Instructor Julie Fasick-Johnson - Cost: \$5 per class - Questions? Call Julie at 937-207-8408

CHAIR ONE FITNESS

Tuesdays – April 15, 22 & 29 from 4:30-5:00 pm in the Witzman Center, Room 118, at the Ascension Campus.

No special equipment is needed—just wear comfy clothes and shoes, and come ready to have fun and feel energized. For questions, contact Alice Ernst at alice4chaironefitness@gmail.com.

MGFP BOOK DRIVE

Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

St. Charles Borromeo Campus

To celebrate spring and honor Earth Day, the sustainability committee is hosting a Book Drive in partnership with Project Read, part of Goodwill Easter Seals. Project Read promotes literacy through in-person tutoring in the Miami Valley. The Drive, which collected 8,000 books in 2021, will be held at the St. Charles Campus and is open to the entire Mother of God Family of Parishes. Volunteers will be available to collect books, rain or shine, and there will be a designated area for worn-out books to be recycled. Pope Francis' message on environmental care encourages us to protect God's creation through actions like this.

AT A GLANCE

Apr 15 — Chair One Fitness at 4:30 p.m. at Ascension Campus

Apr 17 — Holy Thursday Masses (MGFP Holy Week Schedule)

Apr 18 — Good Friday Masses (MGFP Holy Week Schedule)

Apr 19 — Easter Vigil at St. Charles Campus at 8:45 p.m.

Apr 19 — Egg Hunt at Noon at Ascension Campus

Apr 20 — Easter Sunday Mass (MGFP Holy Week Schedule)

APRIL NAIM MEETING

Join us for the Naim meeting on Monday, April 14 at NOON in Friendship Hall at St. Francis of Assisi, 6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville.

Pizza Lunch at 12 PM (\$5 per person)

Regular Meeting at 1 PM, followed by cards

Discussion on plans for the Derby Party (May 3) and 60th Anniversary Celebration (late May)

For more information, contact Sunny Hickey at 937-433-1437.

TIPS FROM CARE OF GOD'S CREATION

Consider joining a neighborhood swap or free-to-you groups, such as those on Facebook and Nextdoor, to give and receive usable items without waste.

Cut up overripe bananas and other fruits for storage in the freezer, to later use in smoothies, baking, or as ice cream toppings.

MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES INFO

PASTOR

Fr. Tom Nevels

tnevels@stcharles-kettering.org

VICARS

Fr. Chibueze Asiegbulem

casiegbulem@stalbertthegreat.net

Fr. Jeff Stegbauer

jstegbauer@stalbertthegreat.net

Fr. Tony Sanitato

asanitato@ascensionkettering.org

MGFP KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 14891, kofc14891@gmail.com

Council 4022, GrandKnight@kofc4022.org

Council 14995, stcharlesknights14995@gmail.com

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

Bulletin – 10 days prior to publication date

Flocknote/E-news – Thursday at noon

The LIGHT – 12th of Nov., Feb., May, Aug.

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

MGFP FAITH FORMATION OFFICES

Ascension Campus 937-254-0622

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Charting a Course to Christ

13 April 2025 • Cycle C: **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

VOLUME XII • Issue 20

Our Father... Mt. 6:12

Jesus' entire life illustrated The Way, the path we must walk to find heaven: "forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us...*" (*emphasis added*) Putting aside pride, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone." (Mt. 18:15) It is a tall order that calls us to go to the one who wronged us.

Yet, doesn't God love us as we are sinning? He asks us to let go of our wants in order to love another to repentance. We remember that, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more." (Rev. 21:4) *Please, Lord, heal us so we may forgive as You do.*

As we forgive those who trespass against us...

Words: Hints of the Future

With hearts prepared and surrendered, we enter the Communion Rite. The Our Father, with its petitions descending in order from the exalted to the particularly human, finds us praying that God "forgives us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..." As we ready ourselves to receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, we recall the meal He instituted for our benefit on the Holy Thursday of His Passion Week, and the New Command He then gave His Apostles.

At this Last Supper, Jesus washes the feet of His Apostles, yet another example of how the Lover subjects Himself to His beloved, even those who betrayed Him, who fell asleep on Him, or who scattered to the winds in His need... even those who have forgotten Him now. He came to serve, and His New Commandment calls the Priesthood, ministerial and common, to this service: "Love one another as I have loved you." This is no small order.



This *New Command* (*mandatum novum*) guides Christ's priests as they absolve the sins of penitents coming to seek forgiveness. This Command also guides us, members of the Body of Christ, as we try to forgive those who have hurt us, wronged us, or given offense, even as we seek healing for our own woundedness. In preparation for our future, the Divine Physician, in His 'super-substantial Bread,' (CCC 2837) helps us let go of obstacles to His Love, and begin our ascent to Him here and now.

Looking to the past, to Creation, we know our future: we were created for union. Meant for communion, we try to listen, learn, imitate, recall, sacrifice, and love as Jesus does. We pray to Him to perfect our efforts and our sacrifice. Every time we receive the Eucharist, we deepen our union, enrich our communion, and consummate our marriage. We want to hear said about us: "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:14b) Let us let go of everything for Christ's love so that we may hear Him say, "this one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23), "Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb." (Rev. 19:9a)



Scriptural Secrets

Palm Sunday marks the prelude to Passion Week, the last days of which will have us *endure* the Lord's death for our sins. *Endure* is the word which our Catholic Imagination takes as its guide, for we must *will* to go where He *willed* to go. We said that we loved Him. We pledged to follow Him, never allowing ourselves to scatter into hiding away from Him. We would even die for Him, for we are His disciples. We would keep watch with Him for one hour at Gethsemane, even encircling

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Philippian 2:6-11

Luke 22:14 - 23:56



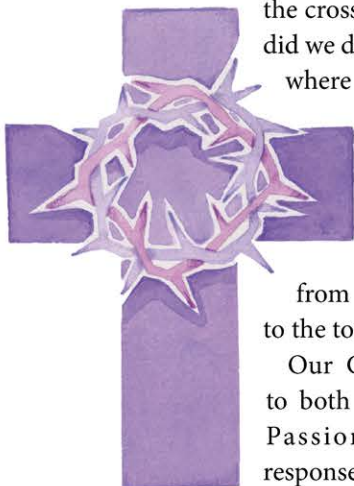
Him in a line of defense against His captors. He would not be taken away from us.

Yet, He was dragged away to an illegal trial under cover of darkness, found guilty, and brought in the light of day to

Pilate for a legal writ of execution. Did we acknowledge ourselves as His followers to the servants in the High Priest's courtyard? Did we cry out against the shouts of "Crucify Him" at Pilate's inquiry? Did we draw near to comfort Him during the scourging and crowning with thorns. Did we rush forward to assist Him bear the weight of

the cross. At Calvary, did we dare approach where Jesus lay as soldiers nailed Him to the cross? Did we stand at the foot of the erect cross? Finally, did we assist in removing His body from the cross and in transporting it to the tomb?

Our Catholic Imagination brings us to both the time and place of Christ's Passion and Death. What is our response?



Catechetical

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The Bible "begins with the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God and concludes with a vision of "the wedding-feast of the Lamb." (CCC 1602) By comparing God's covenant with His Chosen People to marriage, Scripture not only readies us for a deeper and more sacred notion of the faithful and lasting nature of marriage, it also invites us to ponder what our union with God may one day *be like*.

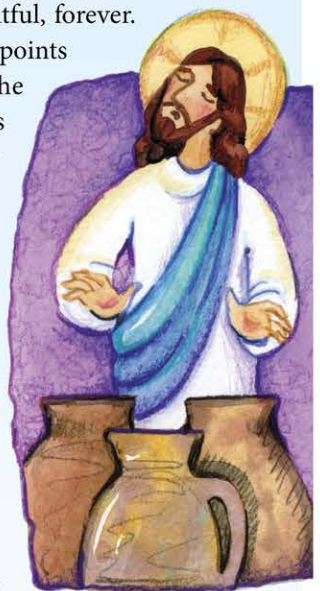


Our union with God is so beyond our words that we use "like," as well as embrace comparisons that only point to this reality: faithful, fruitful, forever.

The Wedding Feast of Cana also points to this future, especially in the miraculous supply of wine Jesus provided. An ancient prayer gives voice to this miraculous union: 'O sacred banquet in which Christ is received as food, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of the life to come is given to us.' (CCC 1402) The Eucharist is, indeed, "an anticipation of the heavenly glory." (CCC 1402)

For now, let us use this comparison to approach our earthly marriages differently:

"Christ dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another's burdens, to 'be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ,' and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and fruitful love." (CCC 1642) When God is invited in, all things are possible.



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