

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

– We wish everyone a Blessed and Happy New Year! Peace to all! That is also what God offers us in the readings this weekend. It is the promise of life after death and a reason for treating everyone on earth with respect and love as we would our own family, for that is what they are.

God keeps telling us generation after generation that the life here is just a means to eternal life in heaven. Yes, this life is sometimes filled with sorrow and disappointment, hardship and even life-taking sacrifice. No person is without value, from conception to old age or even those without mental capabilities. Our value is not derived from human productivity or ancestry but rather from our creator and God. So even though one might think there is no peace and how much longer must we wait until that peace promised by Christ will arrive; they are thinking in human terms. Peace has already come through Christ. We need only convince our world family of one church united under one Christ.

As in our readings this week, no matter what evil forces may exist, God will help us defeat them and in doing so we will bring more souls to eternal life through our prayers and sacrifices. The longer God waits, the more souls can be saved. Peace on Earth and Good will to all!

Greg

EVANGELIZATION AND SERVICE COMMISSION will meet on Tuesday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the connector meeting room.

VOCATION VIEWS – The light of Christ shines upon you. Share that light with others. Consider the gift of a Church vocation.

2010 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES were mailed. Anyone wanting to have envelopes, but not presently on the list, should please call the parish office by Monday, January 4. Anyone not receiving their envelopes by early January should call as well. It would be appreciated if people would put their *name* on the first envelope they use. No name is needed any other time.

A G A P E U P D A T E R E M I N D E R

- Next weekend is Agape Sunday. This month, we would like to collect breakfast items such as oatmeal, cold cereal, pancake mix, etc. Baskets to collect these items are placed in the church entrance. A jar for cash donations will also be available in the church entrance. Agape Ministries appreciates your continued support in their efforts to help others.

Parish Family Carry-in Dinner

Sunday, February 14 12:00 noon

**Fried chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy
and cole slaw will be provided**

**Carry-in dishes of salads,
vegetables and desserts**

A-H are asked to bring fruit/salads

I-Q are asked to bring desserts

R-Z are asked to bring vegetables

**Entertainment will be provided by
4-Ever Faithful Quartet**

**Sign-up sheets will be posted on the
bulletin board in the church entrance**

**Reservations can be made by calling the
parish office by Monday, February 1**

**No obligation to bring anything – just come
and enjoy the food and fellowship**

THE LOST AND FOUND, located on a bench near the connector doors, has many items, including

sweatshirts, gloves, an umbrella, etc. Please take a moment to see if any of these items belong to you. Remaining items will be donated to Agape.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

CYO games on Sunday, January 3 will be: girls' team vs. St. Remy at Russia, 3:00 p.m.; boys' team vs. McCartyville at Anna, 4:15 p.m.

CCD classes for grades 1-12 will resume on Wednesday, January 6.

Youth presently in grades eight and nine are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will take place in the fall of 2010. There will be a mandatory meeting for all candidates and parents on Wednesday, January 27 in the parish hall from 7:45-8:45 p.m. All information regarding the preparation process will be distributed at this meeting. Anyone unable to attend should contact Robin Goettemoeller at the parish office.

In the event of a three hour school delay, the after school CCD A session will be from 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. All other CCD sessions will be held at the regularly scheduled times.

OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFT-

December 27 - \$7,374.50	Attendance – 837
Adults - \$6,892.00	High School - \$3.00
Grade School - \$13.00	Anonymous - \$466.50
Christmas - \$17,201.60	Attendance - 1632

CATHOLIC FAITH RALLY and Healing Mass will be combined in the year 2010 and celebrated on the second Tuesday of the month in the Chapel (first floor) of the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein. Individual prayer for healing will take place from 6:30-7:00 p.m. with Mass celebrated at 7:00 p.m. The combination of the Faith Rally and healing Mass will include a power filled celebration of the Sacrament of Eucharist and Eucharistic devotions, the Sacrament of healing and healing prayers, meaningful preaching, music and testimonies and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The next celebration of the combined Catholic Faith Rally and Healing Mass is Tuesday, January

12. Reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is encouraged prior to this celebration.

PLAN A FAMILY TIME TOGETHER at Maria Stein Shrine, 2291 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, on Sunday, January 24 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. at "WINTER WONDER 2010". Participants will enjoy nature, craft, prayer, song and activities (the virtual snowball fight is a favorite). Just \$5 per family on the day. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, January 20 at 419-925-4532.

SEPARATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Wish to better understand the differences between Catholicism and other Christian faiths? Wish to learn more about the protest against the Church in the time of Luther? Darlene Tempelton will answer these and more questions on Saturday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein. Registration is requested by email at office@stmarysdeanery.com or calling 419-925-5022. No charge for St. Marys Deanery parishioners (those in Mercer & Auglaize counties).

ROBERT ROGERS will inspire people to "Live a Life of No Regrets" on Sunday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael Church, 33 Elm Street, Ft. Loramie. Robert experienced a tragedy of Biblical proportions when he lost his wife and all four children in a flash flood in Kansas in 2003. Through his immediate trust in God, Robert has risen above adversity and shared his compelling message across the country. An accomplished worship leader, pianist, songwriter and author of "Into the Deep" (one man's story of how tragedy took his family but could not take his faith), Robert teaches others to live a life of no regrets with his inspiring words and original songs at the piano.

LUNCH...LAUGHTER...AND LEARNING takes place on the third Tuesday of the month through May at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein. The day begins at 11:00 a.m. with blood pressure screening; lunch is served at 12 noon and a guest speaker followed by questions/answers will begin at 12:45 p.m. Donation is \$7 per person. Registrations can be made by calling the Spiritual Center at 419-925-7625 at least one day in advance. On Tuesday, January 19 Bob Lammers will speak on *Volunteerism – A Full Time Job*. These events are jointly sponsored by the Spiritual Center of Maria

Stein, Family Life Office, Deanery Center, Miami Valley Pastoral Counseling Center and Schwieterman's Pharmacy.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

January 9 & 10

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

A. Elking – F. Frey – N. Homan – L. Dwenger
H. & P. Overman – A. Speelman – B. Suchland – L. Utz

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

Deacon G. Bornhorst – D. & S. Bertke
G. Dicke – P. Harrod – T. Homan – H. Kremer

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

F. Borchers – A. Flaute – M. Flaute – M. & S. Francis
C. Heitkamp – D. Knapke – L. & R. Rutschilling
J. & S. Thieman

LECTORS:

January 9 & 10

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

R. Tangeman – K. Bornhorst

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

J. Eshelman – G. Heitkamp

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

G. Topp – D. Freeman

USHERS:

January 9 & 10

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

D. Alig – P. Heitkamp – L. Lane

M. McClurg – D. Steineman

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

R. Homan – M. Mueller – J. Niekamp

B. Parker – G. Wendeln

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

R. Brandt – B. Kramer – J. Lehman

T. Wenning – R. Ziegenbusch

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

January 10

Suzanne Wells

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES:

January 9 & 10

Sat. 5:00 p.m. Greg & Diane Gast

ACTIVITIES:

- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
- CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Tues. - Anointing of the Sick during 8:30 a.m. Mass
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), 7:30 p.m. in conference room
- Evangelization & Service Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. in connector meeting room
- Wed. - CCD classes: Grades 1 through 6: 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.; 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.
Grades 7 & 8: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Grades 9 through 12: 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.
- Sat. - Men's Prayer Group, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in conference room
- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
- CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Don & Judy Gehle
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Greg & Joyce Gepfrey family

MASSES:

January 2 to 10

Sat. 5:00 p.m. Steve Flaute

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Betty Bergman-Phlipot

10:00 a.m. Holy Redeemer Parish

Mon. 7:00 p.m. Living & dec'd. Henry Phlipot family

Tues. 8:30 a.m. Richard Boeckman

Wed. 12:05 p.m. Kirk Kuenning

Thurs. 7:00 p.m. Ralph Vehorn

Fri. 8:30 a.m. John Garman

Sat. 5:00 p.m. Peg, Joe and Paul Ritter

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Holy Redeemer Parish

10:00 a.m. Ken Jutte

SERVERS:

January 4 to 10

Mon. 7:00 p.m.

K. Maurer – N. Thobe

Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

C. Francis – M. Kramer

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

S. Brandt – S. Homan – J. Rutschilling

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

K. Goettemoeller – B. Goettemoeller

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

C. Albers – A. Feltz – C. Paul

COLLECTION COUNTERS – January 10

K. Gruebmeier – J. Moore – G. Schwartz

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass

Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,
saying, "Where is the newborn king of
the Jews? We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." Mt 2:1b-2