

## FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

— God is constantly pushing us to do better. He takes us wherever we may be and pushes us to be all we can be. When the Israelites could finally eat their own produce in Canaan, God stopped the manna. He forced them to keep growing in independence. He does that with us too.

God does not hold over us the sins of previous generations. He allows us a free start when we repent and does not bury us in debt for sin. Each generation must pay its own dues and is only responsible to improve on the previous. God is patient because Christ has paid the dues before for us. Christ has included us in the family so we are never rejected. As the prodigal son the only way we could be excluded is through our own selfishness and pride. Even then He will send us challenges, which will help us return to Him on our own. Our trials are there to bring others and us to God. Our trials are for our benefit, not God's entertainment. Praise to God for being so loving and patient.

Greg

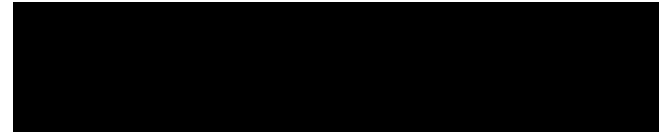
**WAY OF THE CROSS** will take place after the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Thursdays during Lent.

**LENTEN BLACK BOOKS**, with daily reflections based on the scripture of the day, are available in the church entrance.

**VOCATION VIEWS** – God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

**OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFT-**  
March 7 - \$5,313.07                      Attendance – 904  
Adults - \$4,836.00                      High School - \$10.00  
Grade School - \$34.25                      Anonymous - \$432.82

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will be celebrated on Monday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. A number of priests will be present for individual confessions. Other options for penance services that week are: Tuesday, March 16 at St. Augustine Church, Minster and Thursday, March 18 at St. Michael, Ft. Loramie. ***Because of the Reconciliation Service, Eucharist at Holy Redeemer on Monday will be at 8:30 a.m.***



**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL**  
“The gifts we have, we are given to share.” Success in the eyes of God is not about the quantity or quality of our material goods. Instead, it's about how we use those goods: do they move us closer to God, or are they an obstacle? God calls us to share what we have to help others. By providing support for many different ministries of the Church, the Catholic Ministries Appeal offers everyone a chance to exercise Christian stewardship. Please consider how you will participate in the Catholic Ministries Appeal this year. Thank you to everyone who has pledged thus far. For more information, please visit [www.CatholicAppeal.info](http://www.CatholicAppeal.info).



**EASTER FLOWERS** help make the church a sign of Christ's resurrection. Parishioners are invited to contribute \$10.00 toward the cost of a potted plant in honor of their family or a deceased loved one. The offering can be dropped off at the parish office or dropped in the collection by Wednesday, March 24. Plants will be placed in the church entrance after they've finished blooming and can then be taken home.

**BOOK CLUB MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:45 p.m. in classroom #1. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom will be discussed. All are welcome. Anyone who wants to borrow a copy of the book or has any questions should call Becky Koverman at 419-629-3470.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

**Confirmation Candidates** are reminded that Autobiography/Saint reports were due. Anyone who has not yet turned in their projects should do so as soon as possible. "Confirmand Information" forms, as well as "Legacy Projects", are due by Wednesday, March 31. Contact Robin Goettemoeller with questions regarding these projects.



**A NEW PICTORAL PARISH DIRECTORY** will be produced early this summer. Sign-up dates for the June sessions will be after the weekend Masses on April 10-

11 and April 17-18. Sign-ups can also be made by contacting Janet Suchland at the parish office. Photo sessions will be Tuesdays through Saturday:

**June 1-5**

**June 8-12**

**June 15-19**

**Weekday times are 2:00 – 9:20 p.m.**

**Saturday times are 9:30 a.m. to 5:10 p.m.**

Everyone is asked to participate. Each family/household who comes for the photography and portrait viewing will receive a complimentary directory and 8x10 custom color portrait.

**CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE** will be held on Saturday, March 20 at Cincinnati Music Hall, beginning at 8:30 a.m. For reserved tickets, interested men and youth should contact Don Gehle at 419-629-2052 by 10:00 p.m. Monday, March 15.

**CATHOLIC ADULT SINGLES CLUB** enables its members to share, trust and enjoy the ideas and company of fellow single adults through weekly activities. For more information, call 419-678-8691. On Sunday, March 14 they will enjoy Entertainment Junction, West Chester followed by supper. The group will go bowling at Minster on Sunday, March 28, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Supper will follow. Past Catholic Adult Singles Club members are invited to the 25<sup>th</sup> CASC anniversary

party on May 2. Please call 419-678-8691 or 937-295-5234 by March 31 for more information.

**RETREAT IN THE REAL WORLD** is an opportunity for those who cannot get away from daily responsibilities to take a residential retreat. Beginning in April, the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein is offering a retreat with several options.

- First is the online format through Creighton University. This can be done in participants' homes at their convenience. All they need is internet access. This option includes daily readings and reflection.
- Second is an audio version of this retreat that can be downloaded and listened to while commuting to work or at home.
- The third option is to use the book entitled *Retreat in the Real World*.

To view this retreat, go to [www.creighton.edu](http://www.creighton.edu) and click on Ministry then follow the link to Online Retreat. The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein will host a small group meeting every two weeks to help guide participants during this retreat. It will last from April to December and offers an opportunity to do an Ignatian Retreat without leaving other responsibilities. For more information, join Suzanne Lammi at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. Books will be available for purchase that evening for anyone wishing to use that format. Donation is \$5/session. Please register by Friday, April 2 by calling 419-925-7625.

**HAS YOUR MARRIAGE** grown cold, distant, unloving or uncaring? Consider Retrouvaille (ret'ro-vi) – a program designed to help heal and renew marriages. Retrouvaille is for marriages that have lost some of their spark, for couples having difficulties in communication and even those couples on the edge of separation or divorce. The next program begins April 16-18. For more information, call 513-922-6045 or on the internet at [retrouvaille.org](http://retrouvaille.org). Other weekends and locations are available – call for details.

**ST. MARYS DEANERY** has a website at [www.stmarysdeanery.com](http://www.stmarysdeanery.com). Included in the listings are weekday and weekend Mass times, Exposition and confession times, pictures of the pastors and churches for the 27 parishes in the deanery and parish/cluster website links to access parish information and bulletins. Links to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Vatican, daily

readings and local religious sites are included, too. Check it out!

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

**March 20 & 21**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

R. Dicke – J. Hirschfeld – S. McCollum – S. Niekamp  
L. & R. Rutschilling – A. Schwartz – D. Stachler – C. Turner

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

C. & R. Brookhart – P. & S. Kaiser  
B. Killian – L. Kuenning – K. Smith

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

W. Albers – J. Berning – A. Borger – M. Broerman  
A. Speelman – J. & S. Thieman – L. Topp – A. Wellman

**LECTORS:**

**March 20 & 21**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

S. Bertke – M. Sommer

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

A. Thieman – H. Krieg

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

G. Topp – R. Bertke

**USHERS:**

**March 20 & 21**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

R. Homan – M. Mueller – J. Niekamp

B. Parker – G. Wendeln

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

R. Brandt – B. Kramer – J. Lehman

T. Wenning – R. Ziegenbusch

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

D. Alig – P. Heitkamp – L. Lane

M. McClurg – D. Steineman

**PARISH REPRESENTATIVES:**

**March 20 & 21**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Dennis & Rita Heitkamp

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Eric & Jennifer Heitkamp family

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Mon. - Parish Reconciliation Service, 7:30 p.m. in church
- Adult choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. in music room
- Tues. - 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
- 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.
- Children's choir rehearsal, 4:15 p.m. in chapel
- Handbell choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. in music room
- Thurs. - Anointing of the Sick during 7:00 p.m. Mass
- Way of the Cross after 7:00 p.m. Mass in church
- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
- Ensemble sings during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Baptism of Josie Lynn, daughter of Kurt and Christine (Homan) Albers, 11:00 a.m.

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.** George & Evie Heitkamp

**MASSES:**

**March 13 to 21**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Ruth Wilker

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Murry Chalk

**10:00 a.m.** Holy Redeemer Parish

**Mon. 8:30 a.m.** Betty Bergman-Phlipot

**Tues. 8:30 a.m.** Ralph Fortkamp

**Wed. 12:05 p.m.** Rev. Edward P. Anderson, S.J.

**Thurs. 7:00 p.m.** Rev. Charles E. Ford

**Fri. 8:30 a.m.** Janelle Schmitmeyer

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Master Sgt. Brian Naseman

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

**10:00 a.m.** Jan Brockert

**SERVERS:**

**March 18 to 21**

**Thurs. 7:00 p.m.**

K. Maurer – J. Niekamp

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

A. Huecker – M. Russell

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

D. Bergman – J. Kuenning

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

C. Topp – S. Wendel

**COLLECTION COUNTERS – March 21**

D. Meyer – B. Poeppelman – B. Phlipot

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**March 21**

Nancy Topp

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, SUNDAY, MARCH 21**

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11



His son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son." But his father ordered his servants "let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again."

Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a