

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH

February  
Month of  
The Holy  
Family



February 26, 2017  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

HH - Hitch Hall  
R - Rectory CH - Church  
WH - Waldeisen Hall  
MH - Maher Hall

Date	Observance	Mass Time & Intention	Server(s)	Readings	Event/Meeting
Mon Feb 27		5:30 pm <b>Charlotte Zagar</b> by Alex & Patrice Adams	Keegan	Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27	
Tues Feb 28				Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31	<b>Free Store</b> 4:30 - 7 pm MH
Wed Mar 1	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	7 pm <b>Tom Kunkel</b> by Alberta Kunkel	Hamilton Morgan	Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	
Thur Mar 2				Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25	<b>Generations of Faith</b> 7 - 9 pm WH
Fri Mar 3	Katharine Drexel, Virgin	5:30 pm <b>Franco Fanizzi</b> by Tony Bowers	Keegan	Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15	
Sat Mar 4	Casimir	5:30 pm <b>Sr. Mary Justine, C.S.A.</b> by Chris & Noreen McDonald	Cole	Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32	<b>Free Store</b> 9:30 - Noon MH <b>Confessions</b> 9 - 10 am CH
Sun Mar 5	First Sunday of Lent	8:30 am <b>Living &amp; Deceased Members of the Altar &amp; Rosary Society</b> 11:00 am <b>People of the Parish</b>	8:30 am Brown 11:00 am Hamilton Ortscheid	Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11	

## Sanctuary Lamp - Special Intention

**Holy Hours:** Mon. & Tues. 9 am - 5 pm.

Please come to the rectory for entry to the church.

There were 5 Holy Hours last week

*You indeed, O Lord, give light to my lamp; O my God,  
you brighten the darkness about me. Psalm 18:29*

### COLLECTION REPORT

*Sunday, February 19, 2017*

**Sunday Offering - \$2,949.14**

**Cap. Imp./Debt. Red. - \$577**

86 of 339 Envelopes Used.

*To receive your 2016 Contribution Statement, call the  
rectory at 330-753-8429, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm.*

**Lenten Mission/Retreat** - We invite you to do something spiritual for yourself this Lent by attending a video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron entitled "Conversion: Following the Call of Christ." Bishop Barron will present the stories of six Biblical figures whose lives were changed by acts of true conversion. Hear about Bartimaeus, the Rich Young Man, Matthew, Jonah, the Woman at the Well & the Magi. This retreat was filmed at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Dayton, Ohio. Our retreat will be held on Thurs., March 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> in Waldeisen Hall from 7 - 8:45 pm. Let us draw closer to our God as individuals & as a community of believers.

## Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

• **Ash Wednesday** - Mass will be celebrated at **7 pm**. Lector - Needed, EMHC - Needed; M. of H. - Needed; Servers - G. Hamilton & L. Morgan.

• **Generations of Faith** - This Thurs., Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 - 9 pm in Waldeisen Hall. Our topic is "The Last Things." Bring a snack to share & join us as we strive to grow in our Catholic faith. All are welcome.

• **Altar & Rosary Society** - Communion Sunday, Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> at the 8:30 am Mass.

• **Practice Mass** - All transitional deacons preparing for ordination in May are required to celebrate a "Practice Mass" which is observed & evaluated by their seminary professor. Bobby will celebrate his "Practice Mass" here on Wed., Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the church. As he's not yet ordained to the priesthood, he can't consecrate the bread & wine so there'll be no Communion. He'll need a congregation which is part of the grade so we need everyone to come and participate fully. Please be in church by 6:45 pm for any instructions that are given. Let's all come & support Bobby!

### Family News Corner

**Leslie Coffey** was named the 2016-17 PTA Outstanding Educator for Garfield High School, which led to her being named Outstanding Educator for the entire city. She has been named Teacher of the Year for Garfield by Akron Public Schools, making her eligible for Teacher of the Year for the district. You go, girl! We are so proud of you!

### Excerpts from "Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2017"

Dear Brothers & Sisters, Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. *Homily, 8 January 2016*). Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer & almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply... Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, in his word, in the sacraments & in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the 40 days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers & sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favor the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

#### **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS**

We have a beautiful reminder of God's merciful, tender, loving care in our reading from Isaiah. One cannot imagine a mother forgetting her child, but in reality we know this happens for a variety of somber reasons. Isaiah reminds us that even if we are forgotten & feel abandoned, God will never forget us. This powerful promise of God gives us hope even in the darkest times. The question on our part is: have we forgotten God? How often do we bring God to mind? How much stewardship of time in prayer do we give to God each day? As faithful as God is to us, how faithful are we to God in the practice of our faith and our worship? In our Gospel, Jesus reminds us that our heavenly Father knows our needs & will supply them, but from where do we seek our needs – from God or from our materialistic, secular society? Let us heed the words of Jesus & "seek first the Kingdom of God & His righteousness." Let us seek to put our priorities in right order for when we do this our lives will become more meaningful. Let us strive to use our time, talent & treasure to serve God & others.

#### **STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**In His Name** –We continue to accept donations for the Peter Maurin Center which serves the poor and the homeless in Akron. They are in **desperate need** of travel-size toiletries. Please drop your donations in the designated baskets by the main doors of the church.

#### **Lent 2017**

**Lenten Fasting** - Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast & abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all between 18 & 59 years old, allowing a person to eat one full meal, two smaller meals, not to equal one full meal with no in-between meal snacks. Abstinence (from meat & meat products) is obligatory beginning at age 14. Fridays in Lent are days of complete abstinence. **Lenten Fridays** – We invite you to participate by attending the 5:30 pm Mass, staying for some private reflection and prayer and then praying the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm. **Stations of the Cross** - A sign-up sheet is posted at the main doors of the church for cross & candle-bearers. You may sign-up as an individual, a family or as a ministry group.

**Lenten Almsgiving** –The 3 pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting & almsgiving. Containers & information sheets are available. This year, our Lenten alms will help people in El Salvador as we partner with St. Barnabas Parish in Northfield who is working in the mountain region of Teotepeque. Cleveland diocesan priest, Fr. John Ostrowski is on the ground there ministering to 26,000 people in 23 cantons or suburbs. He is stationed at St. Peter the Apostle Church, home also to St. Peter the Apostle Academy both built by St. Barnabas Parish. Our alms will support 2 programs: Education & Works of Charity (Obras de Caridad) which provides food, prayer, consolation, bus money and medicine to those in most need. We encourage you to put your spare change in every day, eat a simple meal once a week & put monies saved into your container, cut back or give up a favorite snack or drink and put the savings in your container.

The Parish Activities Committee would like to thank everyone for coming to our **Soup for the Soul** event. We would also like to especially thank all of our Chefs for their wonderful soups and/or chilis, Acme for the donation of the salad mix and dressings and everyone who helped make this a wonderful event. Just a reminder for the chefs, if you have not turned in your recipe yet please do so as soon as possible.

#### *Off-Site Events*

- **Theology on Tap Akron:** Wed., Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, Winking Lizard Tavern, 1615 Main St, Peninsula. All adults in their 20's and 30's are welcome. Rev. Marty Miller will speak on "A Short History of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Catholic Church." Admission is \$5 & includes appetizers. Cash bar will be open.
- **Free Online Lenten Series:** Experience the power of the Church's seven signs of grace in the St. Paul Center's new video study, **The Bible and the Sacraments**. Sign up for the free study at [BibleandtheSacraments.com](http://BibleandtheSacraments.com) which begins March 1 and will continue throughout the Lenten season.
- **Caring & Sharing** for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held Mon., Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9 pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Bldg. This event is open at no charge to people of all faiths. For more information call Marlene at 330-607-6284.