

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH



March 5, 2017
First Sunday of Lent

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

Date	Observance	Mass Time & Intention	Server(s)	Readings	Event/Meeting
Mon Mar 6		5:30 pm Midgie Knepp Sutter by Winnie Leonhard	Morgan	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46	
Tues Mar 7	Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs			Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15	Free Store 4:30 - 7 pm MH
Wed Mar 8	John of God, Religious	5:30 pm Ralph & Ina Keegan by Family	Morgan	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32	Practice Mass 7 pm CH Please arrive at 6:45 pm
Thur Mar 9	Frances of Rome, Religious			Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12	
Fri Mar 10		5:30 pm Amelia Durosko by Family	Morgan	Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26	
Sat Mar 11		5:30 pm Zachary Kramer by James Kramer	Cole	Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48	Free Store 9:30 - Noon MH Confessions 9 - 10 am CH
Sun Mar 12	Second Sunday of Lent	8:30 am Patrick Busson by Kevin Hudak 11:00 am People of the Parish	8:30 am Brown 11:00 am Hamilton Ortscheid	Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9	

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

Let my heart rejoice in your salvation; let me sing of the Lord, "He has been good to me." Psalm 13:6

COLLECTION REPORT

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Sunday Offering – \$2,856

Cap. Imp./Debt. Red. – \$75

85 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 16th & 23rd 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

•**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 this Wed., Mar. 8th 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!

•**Altar & Rosary Society** – Our first meeting of 2017 will be Tues., Mar. 14th at 6 pm in Hitch Hall. Please join us!

•**Evening of Confession** – On Wed., Mar. 15th from 5 – 8 pm every Catholic Church in the diocese is to be open to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a penitential season and we encourage you to celebrate the sacrament of forgiveness either on Saturday mornings from 9 – 10 or on this special night.

•**LifeLine Screening** will be coming to the parish on Tues., April 25th. Discount coupons are available on the bottom of the posters at the doors of the church.

St. Vincent de Paul - February report: we provided food for 183 people in 59 households.

Lenten Reflection & Prayer from "Pope Francis - Living Lent with Love"

In Baptism we receive not only a creed to profess but also a particular way of life - one that calls for full engagement and sets us on the path to goodness. (Pope Francis - The Light of Faith) Loving God, through my baptism you welcomed me into the family of God. Every day you unfold the path before me and invite me to move forward with a loving heart. Limited by my human condition, I may sometimes make following you a rather complicated set of steps, but it's simple really: to cling to you who made me, to live in your love, to walk in your paths, to hold as sacred the call to enter each day trying my best to imitate your son, Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Think about it, we were wired for love, service, and stewardship when we were created. Because we were created in the image and likeness of God we were wired for love because God is love. We are called to serve God and others because Jesus chose to serve God and not abuse His powers, as we see in today's Gospel, and gave himself in the ultimate act of love and service by going to the cross for us. Stewardship is also a part of our make-up because God is the source of all good gifts and has chosen to share them with us, especially the gift of His son. What is our response? We are called to do the loving thing - to care for those in need, to sacrifice for others and to make good, positive choices and decisions. We are called to be of service to our families, our parish, our community, our nation. We are called to share the gifts given to us by God through our stewardship of time, talent and treasure to build up the church and make our world a more loving, God-centered place. How are you using your gifts to fulfill God's plan? Are your decisions and choices loving and positive? Do your actions illustrate the love of God for others? This Lent let's take a look at what we do and why.

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.

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.

Adopt-A-Plot - If you would like to adopt a plot, please call the rectory.

Lent 2017

Lenten Fasting & Abstinence - Fridays in Lent are days of complete abstinence (from meat & meat products) and is obligatory beginning at age 14. However, out of pastoral solicitude, *Bishop Daniel Thomas has formally dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Cleveland from the obligation to abstain from meat on the Memorial of St. Patrick which will be observed this year on Fri., Mar. 17th.* Those who choose to partake of meat that day are encouraged to undertake another penance that day in the form of a corporal or spiritual work of mercy. In this way, a faithful Catholic still keeps the penitential spirit of a Friday in Lent & unites oneself more closely with the suffering Christ and His church. Ash Wednesday and 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. **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.

Off-Site Events

- **K of C Fish Fry:** Fridays during Lent, Mar 3rd - Apr. 14th, 4:30 - 7 pm, 2055 Glenmount Ave.
- **Julie Billiart School at St. Sebastian** will open August, 2017 for Kindergarten - 2nd Grade for children of all faiths who have special learning needs including autism, dyslexia, ADHD/ADD, social delays, etc. By 2020, the school will expand to K thru 8th grade. Open house dates are March 22, May 24 and July 12. For more information, call 234-206-0941 or visit www.juliebilliartsschool.org.
- **First Glance Open House:** Sun., Mar. 19th, 943 Kenmore Blvd. Doors open at noon; presentation at 12:45 pm. Light lunch & tour provided. All are welcome.
- **Cemetery/Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop:** Sat. Mar. 25th, 1-2 pm, Holy Cross Cemetery Office, 100 E. Waterloo Rd. Receive a Catholic Personal Reference File, along with information about burial, cremation and Catholic funeral traditions. Special pricing for all in attendance. This workshop is free (registration is appreciated). Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Visit www.clecem.org for all dates and locations. Please call the cemetery office to register at 330-724-1297 ext. # 7.