



It is hard to believe that it is already Holy Week! May we use Holy Week to prepare ourselves for the new life of Easter.

Please join us for the Holy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m. which commemorates the institution of the Eucharist. Good Friday reminds us of the sacrificial nature of love. "Greater love has no one than to lay down their life for their friends."

And May this Easter bring new life to us all.

DAILY LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS:

- Monday, March 17 Monday of Holy Week
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- Tuesday, March 18 Tuesday of Holy Week
8:00 a.m. Jane Rau
- Wednesday, March 19 Wednesday of Holy Week
8:00 a.m. St. Mary Parishioners
7:00 p.m. Fr. Bill Kidwell, SJ
- Thursday, March 20 **Holy Thursday**
7:00 9.m. Kathleen Flischel
- Friday, March 21 **Good Friday**
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
- Saturday, March 22 **Easter Vigil**
8:00 p.m. The Neophytes
- Sunday, March 23 **Easter Sunday**
7:30 a.m. The deceased of the McLaughlin Family
9:00 a.m.* Connie Burns
10:30 a.m. Norman Toto
12:00 noon St. Mary Community

* Co-operative nursery available in Parish Center

PALM SUNDAY: Perhaps nothing hurts more in this world than the sting of betrayal. We place our trust and confidence in others, only to learn at some point that they have turned their backs on us, most often to better themselves in some way. It may be as simple as a shared secret between friends revealed to others, or as difficult as a spouse having become unfaithful to his or her wedding vows. Betrayal is pain, and is almost irreversible.

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew, we can learn an important lesson regarding betrayal. Jesus calmly tells his disciples as they prepare the Passover meal that one of them will betray him. We do not know the motivation of Judas' act, but can learn from Jesus' acceptance that even among those closest to us, there is a potential for betrayal, but it is all part of a grander plan. We pray for trust in others, but also to accept God's will.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the very time of Christ's Passion is when the ugliness of betrayal most manifests itself. From Judas to the once-faithful crowds calling for his death to Peter's denial and the other disciples fleeing in fear, betrayal is everywhere. And yet the resurrection to come will ultimately forgive these sins (CCC 1851). To live as Christ, we too must learn to forgive those who may have betrayed us.

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CALLED HOME TO THE LORD: Mary Stickelman, long time parishioner, returned to our loving Father on March 6, 2008.

**OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY:
March 2-3**

\$5,609.00	142 envelopes	Flowers (10 env.)	\$183.00
\$2.00	3 children		

Thank you. Your dedication to the continued fiscal health of the parish is greatly appreciated. Only those who use their contribution envelopes may request a yearend statement of contributions.

THE "ELIJAH CUP" is presented to a family each weekend



at the end of Mass. The family takes the "Elijah Cup" home and uses it as a focal point while praying daily for an increase in religious vocations. Our Elijah cup is Fr. Jim's ordination chalice and paten. This week the Duckett family will be presented the Elijah cup

at the 6:30 p.m. Mass. The next scheduled families are:

March 23, Clevenger family at 10:30 a.m.

March 30, Ruscello family at 9:00 a.m.


Call Rich Hobbs at 937-743-2485 to schedule a weekend or use the e-form at the parish website: <http://www.stmaryfranklin.org>.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	St. Patrick Dinner 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 8th Gr. - HS Youth Night at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	RCIA at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Parish Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Good Friday Liturgies at 12 noon & 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at 2:00 p.m.
Saturday	Holy Saturday Mass at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	EASTER

Thought for today

Be willing to stay with Jesus/with others through difficult times. Pray for the strength to endure hardships.
(Matthew 27:11-54)

 <p>HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE</p>	March 19 – Wednesday of Holy Weekes Mass 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
	March 20 – Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 p.m.
	March 21 – Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 12:00 noon Station of the Cross at 2:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:00 p.m.
	March 22 – Easter Vigil Mass 8:00 p.m.
	March 23 – Easter Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon.



TODAY IS THE DAY TO WEAR GREEN!!

St. Mary Ladies Society's St. Patrick Dinner was rescheduled to this weekend. Enjoy the dinner of baked ham, au gratin potatoes, veggie, rolls, beverage and homemade salad and dessert bars.

Sunday, March 16, 11-2 p.m.

Don't forget the silent auction and raffle!

Come for a good food, good company and good time!



MASS INTENTIONS: Unlike many parishes St. Mary does not have an abundance of Mass intentions waiting to be filled. Consider special occasions or anniversaries when you would like to remember someone and request a Mass intention. Just drop it in the collection basket and we will try to fill your request. There are envelopes on the radiator for this purpose (a plain envelope will do) or call Anne at 937-746-5404.

HOLY WEEK IS ALL ABOUT LOOKING AT JESUS.

From his entry into Jerusalem, to his dying on the cross, to the Resurrection, we enter the holiest week of the year by focusing on the Pascal Mystery. Come join those preparing for the Easter sacraments by attending the next RCIA session, **"Looking at Jesus" on Tuesday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Ministry Center.** The RCIA is for everyone in the parish – we'll save a seat for YOU!

DID YOU KNOW? "The Pascal Mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God's saving plan was accomplished once for all by the redemptive death of his son Jesus Christ." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 571*).



Parish School of Religion

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION

RECIPIENTS! Last Sunday, March 9, our 8th grade parishioners received the sacrament at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati. They are now fully initiated into the life of the Church. May they and the rest of us always bear witness to the works of the Holy Spirit as we make known the message of the Gospel.

A COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY AMONG US: This Sunday, March 16, the Parish School of Religion will be collecting items for the clients of St. Vincent de Paul. Items to be collected include shampoo, conditioner, soap (body and hand), razors, shaving cream, tissues, 4-pack toilet paper, paper towels, lotion, deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and mouthwashes. Please bring your items to the Parish Center after all Masses and help support those in need.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: RIGHTS AND

RESPONSIBILITIES: You know Catholic Relief Services helps people around the world – and some of them may be your own neighbors! Your diocese keeps one quarter of the funds

raised through Operation Rice Bowl to assist the needy in your own community. For example, the Diocese of Venice, Florida, sends money to the social outreach center at St. Peter Claver Catholic Mission to help struggling families in Ft. Myers. Latronia Latson's family faces its own challenges, but that hasn't kept her from volunteering at the center for over four years. She insists "if I give up, there will only be more trouble in the world. By taking care of my family I help take care of my community." We are called, like Latronia, to see the face of the suffering Christ – spit upon, bruised, bleeding – in the faces of our suffering neighbors. Giving with Operation Rice Bowl helps good people like Latronia alleviate suffering and strengthen communities.

OPERATION RICE BOWL CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE RETURNED STARTING ON EASTER SUNDAY. Please use the contribution envelope that came with the rice bowl and drop it in the collection basket. Make any checks payable to St. Mary Church. The parish will then make a single contribution to Catholic Relief Services. **Please do not put the rice bowl itself in the collection basket!**

Q What are some unique features of Matthew's Passion narrative?

A Each evangelist molds the Gospel account to his particular audience, responding to their needs and concerns.

Matthew's primarily Jewish community is struggling with how to be faithful followers of Jesus, the Messiah, amidst possible rejection by fellow Jews. Lessons in discipleship suffuse the entire Gospel, with Matthew's Jesus consistently providing a curriculum in discipleship for both Jew and Gentile. The Passion narrative is no exception.

Understanding of and fidelity to Jesus' teaching, no matter what the cost, is the hallmark of discipleship. The Passion narrative highlights several examples of faithful discipleship, along with examples of discipleship rejected.

In the final hours of the Passion, both Peter and Judas display their weakness contrasted to Jesus, who manifests his fidelity to God's values in both Jewish and Roman court trials. Jesus, the ultimate model of discipleship, remains strong no matter what the cost.

The stark contrast between the two apostles appears in their actions following Jesus' death. Peter recognizes his failure, eventually requests forgiveness and is reconciled to God. Judas recognizes his failure but loses hope, despairs and commits suicide, an account unique to Matthew.

Consider these other examples of faithfulness and rejection. Pilate's wife, a Gentile, recognizes Jesus and tries to protect him, while some Jewish leaders reject Jesus' messianic claim, asking for his blood. A centurion acknowledges Jesus as "Son of God" as women faithfully stand vigil at the cross, while all of Jesus' apostles abandon him.

Reflect on how you model faithful discipleship, especially when rejection and suffering might result.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The Father Chuck Mentrup Council 14400 continues with our March Blitz membership drive after Masses this month. Feel free to pick up KofC literature on the radiators in back of the Church, or see some of the Knights after Mass who will also have some handouts

about joining our ranks. New members will receive a special First Degree Certificate honoring Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Journey to the U.S April 15 - 20, 2008.

We really appreciate your support and patronage during the Fish Fry campaign. We will report the total funds raised for St. Vincent de Paul Society, Right to Life, and Vocations. We will also list the area merchants who donated items to keep cost down making this a successful event for our parish community.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT: The high school group will host a special meeting for the 8th graders who have just been confirmed with a "red carpet" event! We will meet in the Parish Center at the usual time, this Sunday 7:15 to 8:30 – **Don't Miss It!**

FAMILY CONCERT: Itinerant witness, singer, songwriter, storyteller, Jesse Manibusan is the co-founder of Two by Two Ministries, an international music and preaching ministry. He will be at Incarnation Church for a program on Sunday, April 6 at 7:00 in the church. Families are encouraged to attend! You will know his song "OPEN MY EYES, LORD" and love the rest.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT OPPORTUNITY: Young adults, age 21 and up are invited to attend a singles retreat on April 18-20. **River**, a group of single adult Catholics from Greater Cincinnati, Dayton, northern Kentucky and surrounding areas, is hosting a retreat for singles at the Moyer Spiritual Life Center in Melbourne, KY. Topics include celebrating single life, communication, living God's will and self-evaluation. The fee is \$95 per person, with a \$20 deposit required by April 15th. Please contact Janet Huelsman for more information at 937-746-8709.

CMA+ CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL Thank you for continuing to make your donations and pledges to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. We are now at 62% of our \$17,000 goal! This is from only 13% of our parish families. No gift to the ministries appeal is too late or too small to make a difference. Many Catholics count on these ministries for assistance in education and help through Catholic Social Services and chaplaincy programs at area hospitals and prisons.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: The last Sunday in March is a Fifth Sunday collection for St. Vincent de Paul. This is a special collection to help take care of the needs of the poor in our area. 100% of all money collected goes to the poor in our area. We use none of the collection money to run our organization. All of those expenses are pick-up by the SVdP members. The money collected will provide shelter, heat and electric to our clients. This money is a life saving gift from your family to a SVdP family in our area. We thank you for your continued support.



IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

March 16 – St. Patrick's Dinner Volunteer opportunity 11-2 High School Youth Night with 8th grade 7:15
 March 23 – Happy Easter! – No Youth Night
 March 30 – High School Youth Night 7:15

BEYOND THE PARISH

COLLEGE AGE MEN AND OLDER: you have a first-rate opportunity to see if the priesthood is for you. If you have ever thought about being a priest, if you desire to be a force for the Lord as a priest, to spend your life for the salvation of souls, you are invited to an informative **Welcome Weekend** at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. The weekend will give you an excellent sampling of what it would be like for you to be in training for the priesthood. The date is Friday, March 28 and Saturday March 29 2008. To get more information and to make your reservation, please call the Vocation Office at 513-421-3131 or register online at www.cincinnati vocations.org/frm03282008.php by March 13

A DAY FOR SOLDIERS AND SPOUSES: The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein is sponsoring a day of sharing and support for soldiers and their spouses on April 19, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This day is open to all veterans and is fully funded by a grant from the Sisters of the Precious Blood, so there is no charge. A highly qualified team of presenters will facilitate the day and will be led by Fr. Phil Salois. Phil entered the priesthood after combat in Vietnam. He has directed veterans' couples retreats for over 20 years. For more information or to register call the Spiritual Center at 877-925-7625. Please share this information with soldiers and their spouses you may know.

JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is still accepting registrations for the 2008-2009 school year. Registration forms can be picked up in the school office, 3806 Manchester Rd., Middletown from 7:30-3:30. New families must provide: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, social security card, current picture and previous 2 years report cards. Questions, call the school office at 513-424-1196.

THE ATHENAEUM OF OHIO LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM is accepting applications for both the Masters in Pastoral Ministry and non-degree Certificate programs. For more information or for dates of upcoming informational meetings please call 513-231-1200 for the Cincinnati area or 937-277-0116 for the Dayton/Northern area.

A RACHEL'S VINEYARD weekend retreat for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion will be held in Cincinnati on April 25 – 26, 2008. The confidential, supportive retreat is for anyone hurting inside from abortion. For more information, please call Peggy at 513-588-0080 or email Peggy at pffeirstine@cinci.rr.com. You can also visit www.rachelsvineyard.org or call a national toll-free hotline at 1-800-HOPE-4-ME.

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

March 22-23	8:00 p.m. Sat.	7:30 a.m. Sun.	9:00 a.m. Sun.	10:30 Sun.	Noon
Servers		Peter Schaaf Jack Schaaf	Carrie Mathes Taylor Lauricia	Genevieve Nenninger Claire Nenninger	
Eucharistic Ministers	Marlene Hartsfield Norm Pfeifer Karen Streit Pat Monnin	Tim Cable Mark Dietsch Connie Fields	Gary Mathes Amy Mathes Wilse Nickerson Dave Potts	Betty Mueller Tina Rychlewski Judy Beatty Walt Beatty	Ken Fish Debbie Fish Ed Koslow Greg Mahle
Lectors	Lynn Wurzelbacher Anne Langsdale	Catherine Fagan	Shaun Yu	Rich Hobbs	Karen Koslow
Gift Bearers	Neophytes	Williams	Williams		Duckett

Readings for the Week of March 16, 2008

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14--27:66
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
 Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42
 Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ex 14:15-15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Rom 6:3-11/Mt 28:1-10
 Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 /Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rocky Adams 937-743-0226
 Eileen Avellano 937-748-0043
 Dan Darragh 937-746-1914
 Dan Fedders 937-746-4123
 Mark Fields 937-743-9077
 Roger Lorelle 937-885-1230
 Ron Onderko 937-748-4281
 Don Quigley 937-748-5362
 Roger Stebelton 937-855-6897



OUR DOORS ARE OPEN: No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self-image; you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. Mary Parish.