



Christ Has Died!

Christ is Risen!

Christ Will Come Again!

May our lives truly reflect the hope that Easter brings to our world!

DAILY LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS:

- Monday, March 24 Easter Monday
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- Tuesday, March 25 Easter Tuesday
8:00 a.m. Jane Rau
- Wednesday, March 26 Easter Wednesday
8:00 a.m. Harry Fox
- Thursday, March 27 Easter Thursday
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- Friday, March 28 Easter Friday
8:00 a.m. Billie Sissom - Healing
- Saturday, March 29 **Easter Saturday**
8:00 p.m. Harold Balskey
- Sunday, March 30 **Second Sunday of Easter**
7:30 a.m. Ellen Jean Baecker
9:00 a.m.* Stacy Gabbart
10:30 a.m. Georgia & Richard Harmon
12:00 noon St. Mary Community

* Co-operative nursery available in Parish Center

EASTER SUNDAY: To many, Christmas is the most holy season of the liturgical calendar. It is the celebration of a birth, a promise, a hope. To others, today is equally or even more joyous; Easter is the celebration of rebirth, of a promise fulfilled, a hope renewed. Where Christmas music is often solemn and reverential, the glorious music of Easter fairly bursts forth, filling us with joy.

Within today's Gospel reading from John, we note once again the description of the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb. What is the significance of this? It should be clear that it was not moved to allow Jesus to arise; instead, it was moved to prove that he had. And so it is with us; in order for us to share in the glory of the resurrection, we must remove the hardness - the stones - from our hearts.

Today, we become brethren, related to one another through the gift of grace. Through Christ's death, we were given liberation from sin; through the Resurrection, we have been given a new way of life (CCC 654). In a secular world that has increasingly devalued life itself, we celebrate our new lives. As you leave Mass today, let the music of this celebration play on in your hearts as you give thanks. He is risen

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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 Clevenger family will be presented the Elijah cup at the



10:30 a.m. Mass. The next scheduled families are:

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

April 6, Givens family at 6:30 p.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>.

**OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY:
March 15-16**

\$13,934.35	331 envelopes	Roof (12 env.)	\$331.00
\$5.00	7 children	SVdP (4 env.)	\$85.00

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.

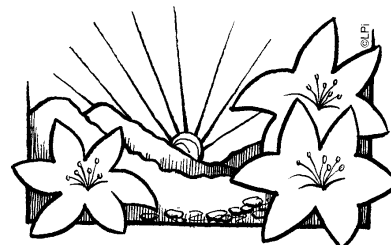
Thought for today

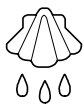
The angel said, "Do not be afraid." Trust that the risen Christ empowers you to go and spread the good news. (Matthew 28:1-10)

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	EASTER Have a Happy, Blessed Easter Week
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MASS INTENTIONS: St. Mary Parish is currently able to easily fill most Mass intention requests and we have no limits. 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.



**ARE YOU EXPECTING A BABY?**

ARE YOU NEW PARENTS? If this is your first child and you would like to have them baptized soon, you are invited to a meeting Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish House. Call the office 937-746-5404, for a reservation.

A BIBLE STUDY IS COMING TO THE PARISH.

The Second Vatican Council stated that the Church "has always regarded, and continues to regard the Scriptures, taken together with sacred Tradition, as the supreme rule of her faith" and that "access to sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful" (*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, # 21 & 22). If you have an interest in exploring the Scriptures and discovering the spiritual treasures they contain, consider taking part in a study of the Bible beginning in May. Watch the bulletin in the coming weeks for more information.

**Parish School of Religion**

THERE ARE NO PSR CLASSES TODAY, EASTER SUNDAY. Classes will resume next Sunday, March 30.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: REJOICE! OUR LORD IS RISEN, OFFERING US NEW JOY AND HOPE. By generously giving through Operation Rice Bowl, you too are offering hope to the millions who benefit from the work of Catholic Relief Services. For six weeks, you have prayed for the people of Cameroon, fasted with the people of Haiti, learned about the challenges people face in Mali, and given sacrificially to create possibilities in India. Their struggles – and the efforts of CRS – are far from over. Visit www.crs.org to learn more about global solidarity, and to discover how CRS is putting your donations to use. Please remember CRS' efforts during times of famine or natural disaster. Together, we continue to plant seeds of real hope throughout our world and to foster their growth.

OPERATION RICE BOWL CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE RETURNED STARTING TODAY. 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!**

**ARE YOU AN ADULT OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO WAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?**

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes our Christian initiation and empowers us to witness to Christ in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to celebrate this sacrament, an informational meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center.** To register, call Deacon Steve at 937-746-1404.

IT IS TIME FOR TRAINING: Each year the Parish

Altar Servers

offers students in the fifth grade and higher the opportunity to take part in the ministry of Altar Server. An initial training session is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. Students interested in this important ministry should discuss it with their parents and let us know if they can attend. If you are interested but not available please let us know so a future training can be arranged. Information and reply sheets are available on the radiators. If you have questions call Anne Langsdale at 937-746-5404.

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! St. Mary

Ladies' Society would like to thank everyone who made the fun St. Patrick's Celebration last Sunday a success. Thanks to all those who organized (Diane, you did a great job!), cooked, baked, served, and worked hard to make this 45th St. Patrick's Celebration a reality. And many thanks to our parish family for attending and supporting our efforts. The money realized from the celebration will be used to help this summer's Vacation Bible School, the Youth Group's Mission Trip, and St. Vincent de Paul. We couldn't do this without YOU! St. Mary Ladies' Society thanks you and wishes everyone a Happy, Blessed Easter.

CMA CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL The Catholic Ministries Appeal continues as we strive to reach our goal \$17,000.

The Appeal supports ministries in the Archdiocese covering 19 counties in SW Ohio. These ministries include support for education of church ministers: priests, deacons and lay ministers; campus ministry; hospital chaplains; prison chaplains; St. Rita School for the deaf; retired priests; and Catholic Social Services. No gift is too small or too late to make a difference. Thanks to all who have made their donation or pledge so far.

Q Why is Psalm 118 used consistently and exclusively during the Easter Season?

A The responsorial psalms, both the refrain and the verses selected, shed light on the focus of any liturgical celebration. Psalm 118 with its refrain, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad," is used exclusively during the Easter season. It is never used outside the Easter season in the entire three-year Lectionary. In the Easter season it is used for the Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter in all three Lectionary years, as well as the Fourth Sunday of Easter in Year B.

The psalm is appropriate for the Easter season for a variety of reasons. It is the thanksgiving song of an individual who has been rescued from the clutches of death. This personal deliverance and thanksgiving are then universalized to God's continual care for and rescue of the whole community.

Beginning and ending with, "Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever," the individual speaks of how trust in the Lord alone brought rescue from death. Thus "the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." The insignificant, the rejected and despised are dear to the Lord who acts on their behalf, saving them from death.

Easter celebrates Jesus' triumph over death, and in that victory we are all saved. Psalm 118 captures the Easter faith rather eloquently, focusing our prayer experiences throughout the season.

This Easter season acquaint yourself more deeply with Psalm 118 by making it part of your daily prayer.

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Next Sunday is the Fifth Sunday collection for St. Vincent de Paul. This special collection helps 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.



THE FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION WILL HOST A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:



Because this is a new Commission and there are many questions as to what we do and whom we serve, the Family Life Commission will host a round table

discussion on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Representatives from the different groups in the parish will attend to learn more about how this commission can serve them. Anyone in the parish who would like to know more about this commission is encouraged to attend.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The Father Chuck Mentrup Council 14400 continues the March Blitz Membership Drive thru the end of the month. We are always looking for new members, young and old. It would be great to add some young men to our ranks for some fresh ideas on program



activities. Look for K of C literature on the radiators in the rear of the Church and Knights are available after Mass for any questions or info about what the Knights of Columbus are all about. The four principals we focus on: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. All new members will receive a limited edition, First Degree Certificate honoring Pope Benedict's Apostolic Journey to the U.S. April 15-20, 2008. This is the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world, at 1.7 million members, and growing every day. There are over 60,000 knights in Ohio. Come join us.

WITNESSES SOUGHT: If you saw the accident in front of church last Sunday about 10:15 a.m. please call Carolyn or Sal at 937-748-8069. Thank you.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP TO ATTEND JESSE MANIBUSAN CONCERT: On Sunday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m., the high school group will be going to Incarnation church to experience Jesse Manibusan in concert! Itinerant witness, singer, songwriter, storyteller, Jesse Manibusan is the co-founder of Two by Two Ministries, an international music and preaching ministry. This concert is open to the entire family and **adult drivers and chaperones are needed.** Please contact Janet Huelsman sign up and get your registration form.

MISSION TRIP TEAM MEETING: There will be a meeting for the Mission Trip Team members on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. We are planning our fundraising events to earn our way to Harlan.

FOOD PANTRY: Our next date to work at the Franklin Food Pantry is next Wednesday, April 2. Join this great group of adults and young people who volunteer to stock shelves, prepare personal packages, meat and snack packages for the needy in our area. We will meet at the Pantry at 5 p.m. and return to St. Mary by 7:00 p.m. All youth in grades 7-12 and their parents are encouraged to participate.

BEYOND THE PARISH

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 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 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 DONUT MAN: Bring the whole family to see Rob Evans and find out why "Life without Jesus is like a donut, 'cause there's a hole in the middle of your heart!" Sunday, April 6 at 3:00 p.m. St. Henry PAC. Come and hear Rob's conversion story Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Good Hope, Miamisburg, and rediscover the great gift of our Catholic Faith! For information call 937-866-1432.

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 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.

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 pffirstine@cinci.rr.com. You can also visit www.rachelsvineyard.org or call a national toll-free hotline at 1-800-HOPE-4-ME.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY celebration at Holy Name Church, 222 Hamilton Ave., Trenton Sunday, March 30 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Confessions at 2:00 p.m. and after 3:30 p.m.

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

March 30-31	8:00 p.m. Sat.	7:30 a.m. Sun.	9:00 a.m. Sun.	10:30 Sun.	Noon
Servers	Aileen Duckett Bevin Duckett	Allison Moore	Sean Pfeifer Katie Pfeifer	Colette Telatko Taylor Schlachter	Jenna Onderko Kelsie Onderko
Eucharistic Ministers	Joe Borosic Pat Bosway Deacon Steve	L. Strimpfel D. Kinsworthy Deacon Steve	D. Schaaf K & T Adams Deacon Steve	M. Braun C. Brazie Martha Ilg Deacon Steve	R. Onderko J. Rohde C. Yopez Deacon Steve
Lectors	Mark Haenni	Mike Hutchinson	Mike Pfeifer	Rick Zajchowski	Ben Gross
Gift Bearers		Williams			Gast

Readings for the Week of March 23, 2008

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

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.