



The Profession of Faith on Easter Sunday was done in a question and answer format. As the Presider of the Worship I asked the question: "Do you believe in the forgiveness of sins?" As the congregation you responded: "I do."

The Sunday after Easter is known as "Divine Mercy Sunday." This Sunday asks us to really believe our response on Easter Sunday.

In the Gospel this Sunday we hear the words: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained." In a homily to the recently baptized of the early Church the Second Reading from the First Letter of Peter says: "In his great mercy God has given us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Through the power of the Resurrection may we let go of our sins in the past to live more freely and fully for Jesus in the future!

DAILY LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS:

- Monday, March 30 Easter Monday
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- Tuesday, April 1 Easter Tuesday
8:00 a.m. The Callsen Family
- Wednesday, April 2 Easter Wednesday
8:00 a.m. The deceased of the McLaughlin Family
- Thursday, April 3 Easter Thursday
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- Friday, April 4 Easter Friday
8:00 a.m. Tonya McFaddin, Thanksgiving
- Saturday, April 5 **Easter Saturday**
4:00 p.m. St. Mary Community
- Sunday, April 6 **Third Sunday of Easter**
7:30 a.m. Father Chuck Mentrup
9:00 a.m.* Gary Harvey
10:30 a.m. Margaret Walsh
6:30 p.m. Kathleen Flischel

* Co-operative nursery available in Parish Center

Second Sunday of Easter: My niece was given a writing assignment her first day of public high school. She was asked to do a paper on the following question: Did God create faith and give it to humankind, or did humankind create God and faith? We're not sure if the teacher had some ulterior motive for posing such a question, but we were very thankful for our niece's answer: Faith is a gift freely given from God, and in return it never is doubted.

Today's Gospel reading focuses on Thomas doubting the resurrection until he can physically see the nail holes and the lanced side of Jesus. While one may wonder about the seeming lack of faith of Thomas, he is a somewhat more sympathetic person. After the crucifixion, he was so distraught that he withdrew by himself, away from the others. At times, our faith can be shaken so strongly that we, too, withdraw into doubt and fear.

We should probably realize that when Thomas withdrew by himself, he spent a great deal of time in prayer, asking for forgiveness and strength to believe in the promise of the resurrection. And when he was told of it, his faith let him go back to be convinced. This type of prayer is known as filial boldness (CCC 2610): "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it, and you will."

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**OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY:
Easter, March 22-23**

\$13,849.12	308 envelopes	Good Friday (46 env.)	\$1,412.00
\$9.00	8 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 Ruscello family will be presented the Elijah cup at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. The next scheduled families are:



- April 6, Givens family at 6:30 p.m.
- April 13 Schulte 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>.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	PSR resumes First Eucharist Retreat at 2 p.m. HS Youth Ministry at 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday	Craft Session at 10:00 a.m. Family Life Round Table at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Youth at Food Pantry at 5:00 p.m. Work Camp Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School Meeting at 7:00 p.m. K of C Officers Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Baptism Class at 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Church Cleaning at 8:30 a.m.
Saturday	St. Vincent de Paul at 9:00 a.m.

Thought for today

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are sent to share the peace of Christ. Believe in Jesus' call to you. Act on it!
(John 20:19-31)



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.

GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO SEEK ANSWERS TO THE MYSTERY WE CALL LIFE!

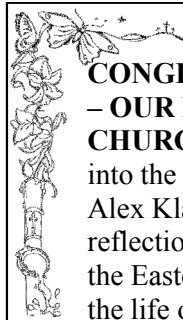


One of the gifts of the Scriptures is to address the issues we face in our everyday lives. The Bible is timeless and we can always turn to it for wisdom and guidance. If you have an interest in exploring the Scriptures and discovering the spiritual treasures they contain, consider taking part in a study of the Bible here at St. Mary's beginning in May. Watch the bulletin in the coming weeks for more information.



ARE YOU AN ADULT OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO WAS NEVER 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.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEOPHYTES – OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH:

At the Easter Vigil, the parish welcomed into the Church Jan Donihoo, Delmar Jessee, and Alex Klaber. After months of preparation and reflection through the RCIA process, they received the Easter sacraments and are now fully initiated into the life of the Catholic faith. We welcome them into our parish family.

IT IS TIME FOR TRAINING:



Altar Servers

Each year the Parish 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.

GRAB YOUR WINDEX AND YOUR PLEDGE!



This Friday, April 4 at 8:30 a.m. we're cleaning the church! If you can lend a hand it would really be appreciated. The "perks" of this job include hot coffee and breakfast goodies, and if you've got a good joke to share bring it along with you. We meet in the Parish Hall Kitchen at 8:30 a.m. Hope you can join the fun.

ARE YOU FEELING CRAFTY?



Do you want to share a fun time with like-minded people? Join the **Christmas Crafters** on Tuesday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. Bring bags that have handles and old Christmas cards, along with scissors, glue and decorative items like glitter. Our April project is the gift bag. Come and let your imagination run wild. Questions: Call Diane and 937-746-6958.

GET READY FOR SPRING PLANTING, THE PERFECT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT!



The Bishop Fenwick After-Prom Committee is selling \$20 Bern's Garden Center Gift Cards as their primary fundraiser. You can purchase your cards immediately by calling Tricia Lee at 937-885-5958 or emailing at tliberti@woh.rr.com. Cards will be available for purchase at St. Mary's after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 26 and after the 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Masses on Sunday April 27. The order form is also available on the Bishop Fenwick website, bishop-fenwick.cnd.pvt.k12.oh.us/. The funds raised will enable the committee to host the 2008 After-Prom at Strike Zone and provide prizes for the students. Thank you for your support.



Parish School of Religion



PSR CLASSES RESUME TODAY, MARCH 30

SOME REMINDERS TO 2ND GRADERS AND THEIR FAMILIES: The First Eucharist family retreat is this Sunday, March 30, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Families whose last names begin with A-L are asked to bring a few slices of bread of any variety to share and those with last names from M-Z are asked to bring some fruit juice of any variety to share. **And remember, if your child was not baptized here at St. Mary's, a baptismal certificate from the church of baptism must be obtained. First Eucharist can't be received without proof of your child's baptism.**

OPERATION RICE BOWL CONTRIBUTIONS MAY NOW BE RETURNED. 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 During the Easter season, why is the first reading in all three Lectionary cycles taken from Luke's Acts of the Apostles?

A Since Vatican II's revised three-year Lectionary went into effect in Advent 1969, the first of the three Sunday readings is usually taken from the Old Testament. This exposes Catholics to more Scripture, as well as emphasizes more seriously the Old Testament as the word of God. An Old Testament passage is chosen to coincide in some fashion with the Gospel passage of any given Sunday.

Early church Lectionaries during the Easter season preferred readings from Acts since they narrated the enthusiasm and excitement of the early followers of the Risen Christ. Those responsible for the Lectionary's revision debated whether to retain the Acts readings or to select Old Testament passages. Readings from Acts were chosen in all three Lectionary cycles since they best articulate what Jesus' early followers felt, said, did and struggled with in their attempt to carry on Jesus' ministry.

However, there is a time differential that comes into play with the Acts readings. All the readings except for Ascension and the Seventh Sunday of Easter, narrate events that occur after the descent of the Spirit at Pentecost. So while still in the Easter season, the readings reference a post-Pentecost time frame. That being said, the Acts readings do capture the fresh enthusiasm and adventures of the early followers of the Risen Christ.

How do you keep fresh the reality and adventure of following the Risen Christ?

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The Father Chuck Mentrup Council 14400 continues to look for new members, young and old. Look for KofC literature on the radiators in the rear of church and Knights are available after Mass for any questions or info about what the

Knights of Columbus are all about. This is the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. There are over 60,000 knights in Ohio. Come join us.

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 1 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.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Today 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.



The St. Vincent de Paul truck is coming the weekend of April 11-13.



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! Jesse is a wonderfully entertaining witness, singer, songwriter and storyteller. 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.

HIGH SCHOOL SPRING RETREAT: Spring is a time of renewal. Take time to renew your faith and enliven your prayer life by attending the Cincinnati 2000 retreat with the high school Youth Ministry. The retreat will be held on April 11-13 at Archbishop Moeller High School. Parent chaperones are needed – it's a wonderful opportunity for adults as well! Cost for the weekend is only \$50 and includes all meals, lodging and the entire retreat. Contact Janet Huelsman for your registration forms today, **deadline to register is Monday, April 7**. See more information on the website at www.CredoIBelieve.org

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER NIGHT: The Youth Ministry will volunteer at the Franklin Food Pantry on 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 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.

SPRINGING AHEAD IN MINISTRY

March 30 – High School Youth Night 7:15
 April 2 – Franklin Food Pantry Service Opportunity 5:00–7:00
 Mission Trip Team Meeting 7:00
 April 6 – High School Youth Night at Jesse Manibusan Concert
 April 11 – 13 – Cincinnati 2000 Retreat
 April 16 – Junior High Youth Night 6:00 – 8:00
 April 19 – 20 – Muffin Sale!
 April 20 – High School Youth Night 7:15
 April 27 – High School Youth Night 7:15

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.

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 pffeirstine@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 today Sunday, March 30 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Confessions at 2:00 p.m. and after 3:30 p.m.

ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES at Fenwick HS, 4855 St. Rte. 122 begin Wednesday, April 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m. for five weeks \$10 per class. You may attend one or all on: computer basics, beginner and advanced word processing and spreadsheets and videos. Register or information Cheryl Brandenburg at cbrandenburg@bfhs.schoolone.com or 513-423-0723.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS! Theology on Tap – Dayton returns Thursday, April 3 at the Oregon Express, 336 E. Fifth Street, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Hear recovering alcoholic Rick Fannin’s testimony in *He Leadeth Me* as he tells how he found God, healing and the Catholic Church. We hope to see you there! Bring a friend! Any questions – E-mail us at totdayton@yahoo.com or check out totdayton.wordpress.com.

NEXT WEEK’S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

April 5-6	4:00 p.m. Sat.	7:30 a.m. Sun.	9:00 a.m. Sun.	10:30 Sun.	6:30 p.m.
Servers	Brian Fry Arizona Craycraft	Peter Schaaf Jack Schaaf	Eric Sillies Luke Sillies	Amanda Everts Patrick Avellano	Marissa Werling Matthew Werling
Eucharistic Ministers	Karen Streit Mark Cable Norm Pfeifer Pat Monnin	Doug Brooker Kristin Brown Larry Strimpfel	Carolyn Cusumano, Mary Buchholz Greg Buchholz Anna Marie Brewster	Judy Martin Teresa Knapke Bob Matson Bette Mueller	Andrea Dapkus Ken Fish Debbie Fish Jeff Rohde
Lectors	Melanie Ledbetter	Diane Kinsworthy	Joan Raberding	Anne Langsdale	Chuck Dallavo
Gift Bearers	1 st Communicants	1 st Communicants	Ball	1 st Communicants	Duckett

Readings for the Week of March 30, 2008

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
 Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21
 Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

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.