



# THE VOICE

FOR THE FULLER LIFE OF OUR ASCENSION FAMILY

## TRIDUUM & EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

• **Mass of Lord's Supper**

Thursday, April 9 - 7:00 p.m.

• **Good Friday Services**

Friday, April 10 - 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

• **Easter Vigil**

Saturday, April 11 - 8:30 p.m.

• **Easter Mass times**

Sunday, April 12 - 7:00, **8:30**, 10:30 a.m. & **12:15 p.m.**



### MOTHER-DAUGHTER DINNER - MAY 6

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## THE EASTER TRIDUUM

The word Triduum comes from Latin and means "Three Days." These three days, from Holy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday evening, are the most solemn, holiest days of the Christian Year. It is so easy to think of these days as merely a historical commemoration. After all Jesus really did celebrate the Last Supper with his disciples. He really did undergo a trial. He suffered and was crucified. He died and rose from the dead. However, we are doing far more than recalling these historical facts. As we celebrate these three days we celebrate the core of our Christian faith: we ritualize Jesus' transition (or passover) from life to death to risen life, and our own participation in this timeless mystery. Jesus' life, death and resurrection happen to him, but they also happen to all of us who claim to be his followers. Jesus' self sacrifice opened the way for us to share in new life. As we celebrate the mystery of Jesus' passing from life to death to new life, we also celebrate the same passing over for ourselves. Rejoice! It is the Passover of the Lord, Rejoice, we share in His Passover!

## EASTER VIGIL – SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

This year our Elect consist of 4 adults and 4 children; Becky Amato, Randy Jennings, Monica Mickles, Dan Springer, Logan Dunlavey, Timothy Hill, Quinton Slonaker, Christyne Steck. They will become Christians as they receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at the Easter Vigil, on April 11. Our Candidates for full communion with the Church include 4 adults and 1 child; Veronica Dragoo, Jessica Garwood, Ken Maxwell, Steve Updegraff, Kyle Dunlavey. These already baptized persons will complete their Christian initiation as Catholics as they receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. May God bless them all on their spiritual journey.

## SCRUTINIES

The scrutinies are rites for self searching and are important steps in the RCIA process. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. These rites for the elect were celebrated at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on March 15, 22, and the last one will be celebrated on March 29. If you would like to know more about the scrutinies please check out the Witzman Center display case. You will find brief explanations of the RCIA process and pictures of our RCIA elect and candidates.

## WE WELCOME ...

Rita Angerer, Bending Willow Drive  
 Diane Benincasa, Kerwood Drive  
 Douglas & Karole Borgert, Abbeygate Drive  
 Jane Brockman, Black Forest Drive  
 Nicholas & Sara Gerstner, Hadley Avenue  
 Samuel & Sapna Hayes, Collingwood Avenue  
 Steven & Beth Moore, Frontenac Drive  
 Mary Lou O'Connor, Waltham Avenue  
 Nicholas & Holly Romano, Whitlock Place  
 Michael & Kimberlee Ruef, Rosemont Blvd.  
 S. Gonzalex & M. Cox, E. Aragon Avenue  
 Richard & Marilyn Schlegel, Waterbridge Lane  
 Roberta Sines, Hampton Pl.  
 Jerry & Alma Sparks, Wilfred Avenue  
 Donnita Tanner, Kettering Square Drive N  
 Jeremy & Serena Thompson, White Oak Drive  
 Brian Townsend, Bunger Ct.  
 David & Kari Wheeler-Reed, Acorn Drive

## 2009 PARISH FESTIVAL THEME CONTEST

Can you design the Ascension Church Summer Festival theme and logo for 2009? The winner will receive free food during the festival, a Sunday ride band, a T-shirt, and an honorary chairman badge. Deadline for entries is Tuesday, April 7. Winner will be contacted by phone and announced in the church bulletin in April. Entry forms are on the parish web site: [www.ascensionkettering.org](http://www.ascensionkettering.org). For more information contact Festival Committee Members: Tom/Sharleen Rafferty 718-5483, Ralph Hinders 299-2416 or Donna Sheetz 294-1644.

## JOE GIAMBRONE'S ORDINATION

On Friday, May 29, 2009, following nine years of preparation, Brother Joseph Anthony Giambrone O.P., a member of the Dominican Order of Preachers and son of Ascension parishioners Al and Yvonne Giambrone, will be ordained to the priesthood. The ordination will take place at St. Dominic Parish in downtown Washington D.C. Father Joe will then come back to Dayton to joyfully celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving. A Mass of Thanksgiving is an occasion for all the many, many people who have in any way been part of a priest's journey to ordination to come and celebrate together, and a time for anyone in the community to come and support a newly ordained priest by their presence and their prayers.

Father Joe will celebrate this Mass on Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke Church. St. Luke is where Joe received the sacraments, attended grade school, played lots of sports and learned to serve at Mass. (Al and Yvonne moved to Ascension when Joe was at Carroll High School.)

Ascension has played such an important role of support for Joe and his family through this long process that he and his family would sincerely like to invite everyone at Ascension to this Mass of Thanksgiving. There will be a reception immediately following Mass.

The family gratefully thanks you for your prayers for Joe and asks your continued prayers for him, Father Chris, Father Pat, Deacon Vic, Deacon Dan and all of our priests and deacons!



## WOMEN'S CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND

When I arrived at Ascension at 8:00 a.m. on February 28 to attend the most recent Christ Renews His Parish weekend, I had no idea what I was in store for. I was hoping to meet a few new people and refresh my faith. My expectations were met and then surpassed in the weekend that followed. It was awe inspiring and spiritually uplifting. I feel truly blessed that I was able to share this weekend and deepen my faith with other Catholic women.

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) began in 1969 in Parma, Ohio. The spiritual program has been used in over 1000 parishes, in 84 Catholic dioceses. The two day retreat is a renewal process that brings parishioners together to strengthen their faith and share personal experiences.

In 2002, Fr. Dave Brinkmoeller formed a committee to choose a renewal program for the Ascension parish. The committee spent about a year researching various programs, trying to determine which would be the right one for Ascension.

Ascension parishioners, Yvonne and Al Giambrone, were two of the members on the original development committee. "We had several speakers come to our meetings to share the benefits of their programs," Yvonne said. "We researched, we listened, we read, we prayed, we debated and as a group we prayerfully decided that Christ Renews His Parish was the program we felt would be a good choice for Ascension."

The first men's CRHP weekend was held in November 2003 and was soon followed by the first women's weekend in January 2004. The two weekends were given by CRHP team members from St. Suzanna's parish of Mason, OH.

Yvonne Giambrone was on the CRHP Team 1 and has enjoyed the program so much that she received the weekend again making her a part of Team 10. "Because I feel so committed to this life changing program I am once again involved. I will now be part of Team 10 women. How exciting it is to see Christ continuing to work in this faith building adventure!"

The effect from the Christ Renews His Parish weekend is unique for each person who attends. Some people cherish the overwhelming sense of sisterhood they discover the moment they set foot in the door. Others value the time they have for reflection and prayer, as well as a break from their everyday schedules. Beth Obringer, a spiritual advisor from Team 9, described the experience as receiving a "hug from God."

I would like to thank all of the women who have been a part of Christ Renews His Parish at Ascension.

The next CRHP women's weekend will take place September 26-27, 2009. It is open to all women from Ascension parish 19 years of age and older. If you would like more information you can contact the Parish Office at (937) 253-5171 or visit the Christ Renews His Parish section on the Ascension web site: <http://www.ascensionkettering.org/christ-renews-his-parish/>

-Lauren Boyd

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick will be at the Noon Mass on **March 29** for those facing surgery, suffering serious illness or weakness. Call the Parish Office to register and come to the narthex before Mass on the 29th to get a name tag and you will be ushered to the reserved seats.

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Chris Worland ..... *Pastor*  
 Rev. Pat Tonry, SM ..... *Weekend Associate*  
 Deacon Vic Hildebrand ..... *Pastoral Associate*  
 Deacon Dan Kraus  
 Jim Murray .... *Director of Ministry & Catechesis*  
 Joe Ollier ..... *Coordinator of Youth Ministry*  
 Sr. Agnes Kramer, CDP ..... *Pastoral Associate*  
 Tom Platfoot ..... *Business Manager*  
 Diane Oliver ..... *Parish Secretary*  
 Wendi Mulligan ..... *Evening Secretary*  
 Dave Timpone ..... *Music Director*  
 Diane Larochelle ..... *Organist / Choir Director*

### SCHOOL

Brent Devitt ..... *Principal*  
 Connie Wahle ..... *Administrative Assistant*  
 Sr. Maureen Heavey, RSM ..... *Administrative Assistant*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Sue Graham ..... *Coordinator of Religious Ed*  
 Katherine Wagner ..... *RE Programs Assistant*  
 Cyndy Pellegrino .. *Early Childhood Coordinator*  
 Maryellen Fargey ..... *Sacramental Prep Coordinator*

2025 Woodman Drive, Kettering, OH 45420  
 (937) 253-5171  
[www.ascensionkettering.org](http://www.ascensionkettering.org)

## LOOKING FOR A FUN NIGHT OUT?

### Pizza Party

**Saturday, May 2 - 6:00 p.m.**

*Bring the whole family to the Witzman Center as we celebrate our community at Ascension. Enjoy pizza and socialize with fellow parishioners. Bring your favorite game.*

*Pizza, lemonade, coffee, and water will be provided. Feel free to bring a dessert and / or chips to share.*

*Sponsored by our Parish Council.*

## FR. WITZMAN & ASCENSION PTO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Fr. Witzman Scholarship and Ascension School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) scholarships for 2009 have been announced. The Witzman Scholarship is available annually to any student from Ascension Parish planning to attend a Gr. 9-12 Catholic High School next school year. Three scholarships were awarded for \$600 apiece. The winners are **Wesley Nash** (Ascension, 8th Grader), **Lucas Cron** (Ascension, 8th Grader) and **Katie Beach** (Ascension, 8th Grader).

The Ascension PTO scholarship is awarded annually to three 8th graders of PTO member families planning to enroll in grade 9 at an area Catholic High School. The winners of the PTO Scholarships are **Billy Barbaro**, **Nicolas Bova**, and **Joseph Minardi** who plan to attend Carroll High School. These three students will receive \$350 towards Catholic high school tuition.

Selection of the scholarship winners was based upon the students' academic effort, teacher recommendation, extra-curricular involvement, and essays on the topic of people in their lives who have been an inspiration.

The Fr. Witzman Scholarship was founded in 1986 with the estate of founding Pastor Arnold Witzman. In addition to the winners of the high school scholarships over 40 children of Ascension families have received elementary school and religious education tuition assistance for the 2008-09 school year through the Fr. Witzman and Education Ascension Funds.

## ASCENSION SCHOOL ENROLLING STUDENTS

Enrollment for 2009-10 is open for all grade levels K-8. Application for Enrollment is online from the Parish & School website under Prospective Students at [ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/](http://ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/) or call the school 254-5411. Catholic Christian values are integrated throughout the curriculum. Ascension School has comparatively reasonable tuition rates with a variety of payment schedules. Ohio EdChoice & PACE Scholarships are accepted as well as International (I9) students. Bus transportation is provided in most cases to residents of the Kettering, Dayton, Beavercreek and Sugarcreek school districts. Classroom teachers are state licensed and certified in religious education by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Ascension School was Accredited 2001 and Reaccredited 2007 with the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Students in the elementary and middle school grades are observing Lent with a variety of activities, including reconciliation services, Stations of the Cross, and participation in Operation Rice Bowl. Five students are preparing to be received into the church and celebrate the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

Thirty-five students received First Reconciliation. Now they are preparing for First Communion in April and May. Their parents attended a meeting in February and received materials to use in preparing the children at home. The children will gather for their Jesus Day retreat on April 18 and for a family session, "A Walk Through the Mass" and practice in the church on April 24, followed by an ice cream social.

Confirmation candidates will gather for their Afternoon of Reflection retreat on April 19, in anticipation of the celebration of Confirmation with Archbishop Pilarczyk on April 28.

Congratulations to the "Peacemakers of the Month" for January: Sarah Meyer in Grade 4; for February, Haley Hart (Gr. 4) and Abby Steineman (Gr. 3).

## RE REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2009-2010 religious education classes will begin on Sunday, April 19. Students who are currently enrolled will bring home a re-enrollment form in the April Family Envelope on April 5-6. All others should stop by the RE Office to complete a registration card or call the RE Office at 254-0622. Young children must be three years old by September 30, 2009 in order to enter the Early Childhood Program. Fees are due at the time of registration. Families experiencing financial need may apply for a full or partial waiver of fees.

Early Childhood classes for children age 3-Kindergarten take place in the school on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Classes for children in Grades 1-5 are held on Monday afternoons, 4:15-5:30 p.m. Students in Grades 6-8 have a choice of times: Sunday mornings, 10:15-11:45 a.m. or Monday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m., but class sizes are limited, so early registration is advised.

There will be no increase in fees. Beginning on May 12, fees for the 2009-2010 school year will be: one child, \$85; two children, \$170; each additional child \$40; non-parish member, \$170 per child. Families who register and submit full payment by May 11 will receive a discount by paying: one child, \$75; two children, \$150; each additional child, \$35. Early registration is encouraged!

Parents of children entering the first grade in public school in August or who are home-schooled should register their child now for religious education in order for the child to receive First Communion in second grade. Any questions, please call the RE Office at 254-0622.

## SPORTS UPDATE

During the 2008-09 season, Ascension had a number of girls and boys basketball teams participating in CYO leagues. Many teams had a successful season developing their basketball skills and knowledge of the game.

Grade 8 boys coached by Paul Nash and Steve Keller posted a record of 9-1, winning their CYO league. The team also posted an exciting overtime victory defeating an undefeated Our Lady of the Rosary team for the CYO tournament championship. This team included Joey Accrocco, Richie Koesel, Joseph Minardi, Mike Schamel, Zach Zwiesler, Billy Barbaro, Aaron Haney, Zak Keller, Wesley Nash, Sal Sparaco.

Congratulations to all basketball players on yet another great season.

## Featured Organization ...

### EASING THE PAIN OF A FUNERAL

Comb through the binder stuffed with thank you cards and it's easy to see how the funeral luncheon mission at Ascension Church is touching lives.

"Although nothing could bring my wife back, it is truly wonderful to have such a warm atmosphere to come together and celebrate a long life," wrote one man. "In our time of sorrow, we couldn't believe there were so many willing volunteers at Ascension," said another parishioner.

Dealing with the death of a loved one can be a trying time, but the funeral luncheon mission works to cushion the blow by facilitating a gathering place and meal for the grieving following a funeral. The mission is run by Sondra and Owen Gibbons and Arlene and Jerry Keller - along with help from Jenny and Bud Sprauer - and relies on about 80 volunteers from the church, including many couples.

Here's how it works: the Women's Guild provides a meat and cheese tray to every family that has a funeral at Ascension. For those that want a luncheon at the church, the mission will serve the tray and provide table coverings, utensils, condiments, coffee, water and lemonade. Mission coordinators will also receive and serve donated food or catering.

Another option: Gibbons or the other coordinators will pick up extras from GFS such as chips, fruit dish, relish tray and baked beans. The mission prepares and serves the extra food and charges the family only for the cost, which is typically about \$1.50 per person.

In any case, the funeral luncheon mission does all the work to facilitate the meal, cleans up, and then sends leftovers home with the family or offers to take them to St. Vincent shelter. Marie Gaeke's 8th grade classes at Ascension School volunteer for much of the table setup work.

Inspiration for the mission came from a trip to Florida by the Gibbons for the funeral of Sondra's mother, where the family had no place to go afterward. She launched the funeral luncheon mission in 2000 when the couple retired.

"It's very, very gratifying work," Sondra said. "It takes that burden off the family and makes you feel like you've made a difference in someone's life."

For more information on services the funeral luncheon mission provides, or to volunteer, contact Sondra Gibbons, 429-9257.

## CAMPOS PROGRESSES IN DEACON PROGRAM

Ascensionite Brian Campos was recently installed as an acolyte into the Church by the Bishop of Covington as a final stage in becoming a deacon through his studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati. An acolyte is the last installation a permanent diaconate candidate receives before ordination. Brian will be ordained a deacon in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in April 2010 upon completion of his studies.



In the ancient church (until the beginning of the 20th century) the offices of acolyte were "minor orders" that a young man would receive before entering the seminary to be formed in the priesthood. Today the installed acolyte serves at the altar assisting the priest and deacon during the liturgies; is *the* extraordinary minister during the distribution of Eucharist; purifies the sacred vessels at the credence table or sacristy; assists/leads in the preparation of the liturgies. Church of the Ascension is fortunate to have two other permanent deacons, Vic Hildebrand and Dan Kraus.

Campos admits it was only after years of discerning that he decided to commit to the diaconate process. "I always knew I wanted to serve God and the Church in a deeper way. For years I wrestled between priesthood, diaconate, and lay religious life. It is also important to point out that I did not always live out my faith during these times. I was seeking satisfaction outside of a faith life and Church teachings, but God never let go. He always drew me back to Him no matter how far I had drifted. When I did make the decision to surrender to His will is when I started living the satisfaction and life I had always sought. That is not to say all is well all the time, and that's okay."

Campos works full time as database administrator in the development office at Chaminade-Julienne. He retired from the United States Air Force in 2005. He has been a member of the Ascension family for seven years. One of his early ministries in the parish was

that of scripture catechist in the religious education program. It was there that he met his wife, Corrina! He has also volunteered at the festival as the main booth chairman and the announcer for the festival. He is a member of Christ Renews His Parish Team 2, and he currently serves as the lector coordinator. Campos also serves as fire chaplain for Kettering and Huber Heights fire departments. Brian and his wife, Corrina, have two daughters, Cecelia, 19, a freshman at the University of Toledo, and Monica, age 2. (They are expecting their third child in June!)

Campos has advice for men who may be contemplating life as a deacon in their future. He received the same advice during his discernment, the 3 P's—Prayer, Parish and Priest. In other words, prayerfully remain in touch with God and listen; continue your ministries in the parish; and inform your priests (and deacons) that you are interested. Campos adds a fourth P, that of Partner. He believes you need to discuss, discern and pray with your wife as she will play an important role in your formation and ministry.

Men seeking additional information about the diaconate program should go to [www.mtsm.org](http://www.mtsm.org) (Mount St. Mary's Seminary) or they can contact Brian at [bcampos@cjeagles.org](mailto:bcampos@cjeagles.org). Keep Brian and all the candidates in the diaconate program in your prayers as they continue their endeavors in this important vocation.

- C. Magness



*Brian is in the fourth row, second from the right.*

## RETREAT! FAST!

Two Youth Ministry highlights over the last few weeks include our annual Winter retreat and a 24-hour Food Fast to benefit Catholic Relief Services.

The big thaw in February coincided with our High School Winter Retreat – “The Game of LIFE”. Almost 40 teens and adult leaders from Ascension, St. Helen, and St. John Neumann gathered February 6-8 for a weekend at Villa Madonna Retreat Center in Villa Hills, KY. On the grounds of a Benedictine monastery which overlooks the Ohio River, Villa Madonna offered us the perfect setting to reflect on God’s place in our lives and our place in God’s own heart. Highlights included awesome witness talks by our young people, creative prayer and team-building activities, Sunday mass with the Sisters at the monastery and the chance to form close bonds with friends, new and old. Perhaps the most telling thing about the experience is that those teens who participated were looking forward to next year even before we left!



On March 6-7, eighth graders and high school students participated in a 24-hour Food Fast for CRS. High schoolers were hosted by St. Helen, while 8th graders from both parishes gathered here at Ascension. Our keyword for the weekend was “Solidarity”, and to that end we focused our activities on being one with the poor and hungry. Prior to the Fast, participants raised pledges, and then while we went without food, we learned about the problems of world hunger and the value of fair trade practices in the coffee and chocolate industries. We were also treated to a great presentation from Joe Weber, a volunteer from Catholic Relief Services, who shared with us his experience in Zambia.

Overnight, we traded our warm beds, pillows and blankets at home for cardboard boxes on the floor. And on Saturday at lunch hour, high schoolers made

food for St. Vincent hotel, while the 8th graders went on a scavenger hunt through the nearby neighborhoods to stock our food pantry. We broke the fast at 5:00 Mass and then shared a simple, but very welcome meal with parents. While raising a few hundred dollars for CRS, we also raised our awareness of the problems facing the poor in our own community and in the world at large, and took real, concrete steps to make a difference. It’s amazing how 24 hours can change the world, one heart at a time!

For more pictures from Winter Retreat and Food Fast, check out our Facebook page. Just type in “Ascension Youth Ministry” into your Facebook search box and look for our logo!



## CHRIST REIGNS! NCYC 2009 PLANNING HAS BEGUN

The National Catholic Youth Conference will take place November 19-21 in Kansas City, and like past conferences in places like Columbus, Atlanta, and Houston, this one promises to be exciting, exhilarating, and life-altering! Join 25,000 other members of the young church of today for speakers that will touch your heart, workshops that will challenge you, and Mass and prayer experiences that will absolutely blow your mind! They simply must be experienced to be believed, but if you can imagine the UD Arena for the UD-Xavier game, and then **double** that, you have a clue what you’re in for.

NCYC 2009 is open to the high school graduating classes of 2010-2013, and **those interested must attend one of our informational meetings later this month: Monday, March 30 or Tuesday March 31. Both meetings will be in the POB from 7:00-8:30.** For more info, contact Joe Ollier at [jollier@ascensionkettering.org](mailto:jollier@ascensionkettering.org) or check out our website: [www.Ascensionkettering.org/youth-ministry](http://www.Ascensionkettering.org/youth-ministry).

# TROOP 167's EAGLE'S NEST

## ...continued

In the last issue of the *Voice*, we recognized the accomplishments of the five most recent recipients of the Eagle award from Ascension's Troop 167. Listed below are the other five who reached this goal during the last two years.



**Andrew Stroud** graduated from Fairmont HS and is currently attending Ohio University, majoring in audio production. His project involved the designing and construction of scenery and stage props at Greenmont elementary school.

**Josh Domer** is a Carroll grad who now attends Sinclair Community College pursuing a degree in journalism. Josh's project consisted of collecting and organizing supplies and donations for St. Vincent de Paul for their effort to serve the needy in Dayton.



**Chris Fischer** also graduated from Carroll. For his project, Chris designed and led the construction of



storage units for the Dayton St. Vincent de Paul facility. This project benefited single moms and their children living in this temporary housing facility.

**Andrew Larochelle** attends Carroll and plans to attend U.D. or Capitol Univ. to major

in business and music. Working with WPAFB Family Services, Andrew raised over \$5800.00 to purchase and distribute custom made stuffed bears for children whose parents are deployed overseas. Each bear contains a voice recorder with a message from the parent. For his efforts, Andrew received the prestigious Air Force Angel Award.



**James Walters** graduated from Carroll and now attends Indiana State U. He is studying pre-med and is considering a future in sports medicine or podiatry. James project consisted of landscaping the area around the Marion Shrine at Carroll High School.



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