



THE VOICE

A Praying, Teaching, Caring, Serving Sign of God's Presence

COME, LORD JESUS

Submitted by Carroll Schleppi

We do not like to wait in line at the store, to wait for our computer, to wait for a phone call, a check, or a birthday party. We are often impatient; we want everything "right now." Come on, let's go! Come on, I'm bored. Come today, please!

"Come" signals both our impatience and our desires. In Advent we, the Church, prays "Come...Come, Lord Jesus." For the first three weeks of Advent readings reflect on the second coming of Jesus. We want the arms of war transformed into plows. We ask for the return of the King of Peace. We long for a life filled with joy for all. God promises us that these prayers will be fulfilled at the end of time. But He asks for us to live His vision of the world at peace.

During the last week of Advent, we meditate on the coming of Jesus into the world on the first Christmas. Christ's Incarnation, His birth in Bethlehem, was God's response to our prayers for peace in this world. Mary set an example for us by willingly accepting God's call to bring the baby Jesus into the world. That is an example we are charged to follow: to carry Christ into the world, the world of the Miami Valley.


We will continue our tradition at Ascension of having an Advent Wreath in the sanctuary. The candles mark our progress to Christmas. During Advent the Kyrie will be sung at Mass. While we wait impatiently for Christ to come, He shows His mercy and love for us, regardless of how we behave. Also the Gloria is omitted from Mass until Christmas (except for the feast of the Immaculate Conception), as another way to emphasize our prayer of "Come, Lord Jesus."

The peace that is promised includes reconciliation between God's people. The One Bread/One Body parishes will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Immaculate Conception Church on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Mary showed us the way by bringing Jesus into the world. The Giving Tree provides an opportunity to bring Christ into the Miami Valley. Take an ornament and share your love of Jesus by giving a gift to bring Christ's joy to another.

Jesus showed us many ways to touch others with His love; He comforted those who were grieving. Many of our neighbors pray for the Lord to come to them with His peace, to ease their sorrow. Share your time with those among us who find this season difficult as they painfully await Christ's comfort by joining in the "Longest Night Prayer Service." This takes place on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. Come, Lord Jesus.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

- Dec. 1** Women's Guild Christmas Banquet, Presidential Banquet Center, 6:00.
- Dec. 5** Martha & Mary Event 1:30 Witzman Center
- Dec. 5** St. Nicholas with/at Greenmont Oak Park Church, 4:30-6:30. Fr. Chris is making the pulled pork.
- Dec. 11-12** Bring giving tree gifts to the narthex. 
- Dec. 16** Penance Service, 7:00 Immaculate Conception.
- Dec. 19** The Longest Night prayer service, 7:00, in church.

**NOVEMBER 2010 - JANUARY 2011
HOLY DAY & HOLIDAY
MASS SCHEDULE**

Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving Day

(Thursday)

9:00 am (St. Vincent food collection)
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Dec. 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

(Wednesday)

9:00 am, Noon, and 7:00 pm
Holy Day of Obligation

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

(Friday)

3:00 pm - with Closed Caption TV in
Witzman Center
5:00 pm - with Closed Caption TV in
Witzman Center
9:30 pm - Lessons and Carols begin
10:00 pm - Mass begins after Lessons and
Carols
There will **NOT** be a Mass at midnight.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

(Saturday)

9:00 am and 11:00 am
(Children's Liturgy of the Word at 11:00)
There will **NOT** be a 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Dec. 26 - Feast of the Holy Family

(Sunday)

No 5:00 pm Mass on Sat. (Christmas Day)
8:30 am Mass
10:30 am Mass
12:15 pm Mass

Dec. 31 - Vigil - Mary the Mother of God

(Friday - New Years Eve)

5:30 pm Vigil Mass – Mary Mother of God

Jan. 1 - Feast - Mary the Mother of God

(Saturday - New Years Day)

Not a Day of Obligation.
No Additional Mass on Jan 1, for this Feast

Jan. 1-2 - Epiphany of the Lord

(Sunday - Mass Schedule)

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)
8:30 am Mass (Sunday)
10:30 am Mass (Sunday)
12:15 pm Mass (Sunday)



**ALL SAINT'S
DAY BONFIRE**

Submitted by Lauren
Boyd

The first All Saint's Day Bonfire had a terrific turn out with more than 300 people joining in the celebration. Saints of all ages gathered on the Soccer field Monday November 1, to share a meal and take part in a prayer service. Smiles broke out on the faces of some of the children as they heard the name of their Saint mentioned during the Litany of Saints and Intercessions. After the prayer service Saint Peter (Principal Devitt) lead everyone into the school via an illuminated path. Once inside the children picked up a Heavenly Happenings Checklist, a paper bag to collect goodies from the games and a name tag to decorate.

The Parish Activity Center (PAC) was loaded with Saint themed stations and games including St. Anthony's Lost and Found, Corporal Works of Mercy Dash, The "Lighting" of St. Lucy, and St. Veronica's Heavenly Portrait Studio. My kids enjoyed putting on the green with St Andrew, tossing out the Seven Deadly Sins on corn hole boards, and trying to kick goals past St. Sebastian. After completing a game the kids were able to choose a small prize.

Many thanks to the Ascension PTO, Ascension Religious Education department, the 7th grade Confirmation students and all of the volunteers!



CRECHES ON DISPLAY

Submitted by Jean Nickelman

Crèches from the U.D. collection will be exhibited here at the Church of the Ascension, sponsored by the Twinning Committee. This display comes to the parish through the courtesy of The Marian Library of the International Marian Research Library at the University of Dayton. A variety of Nativity scenes will be in the two cases outside the Witzman Center. The Twinning Committee's case will feature a variety of styles and sizes of crèches from Peru. The second case will contain crèches from the collection donated last year by Elisabeth van Mullekom from Australia.

An Open House for everyone will take place at the Roesch Library on the U.D campus the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 27th, from 1 to 5 p.m. It opens the season of exhibits throughout the Miami Valley with crèches, music, light refreshments, and special activities for the children. More Creches can be viewed from the end of November through the first week of January at the Dayton Art Institute, The Marian Library and the Mt. St. John Gallery.

Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn, the director of the Cincinnati province of the C.P.P.S., is conversing with the Twinning Committee about new ways of thinking about twinning. Meanwhile, the Precious Blood Order maintains a webpage at <http://cpps-preciousblood.org/nsdelaluz.htm>. The page has general information and pictures of Nuestra Señora de la Luz. There is also more information about all their missionary efforts in Peru (and elsewhere) through their general website at <http://cpps-preciousblood.org>

The Twinning Committee is open to new members. Meetings are generally once every 4 to 6 weeks from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on a weekday. The level of commitment varies with each member. Anyone interested in being involved in the twinning relationship *in any small way* can call Steve Mueller at 299-8035 or Lois Keil at 299-0257 (or call the parish office and leave a message for the twinning committee).

HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH SCRIP

Submitted by Sherene Springer

It is coming up on the gift giving time of year. What better gift than gift cards? Women's Guild scrip (the term means, "substitute money") is your one-stop shopping answer. When you purchase scrip you get negotiable gift cards that are used like cash. National and local retailers issue the cards. Many of the stores are where you already shop and restaurants you frequent. Cards can be used for everyday purchases like food, clothing, gasoline and other essentials or can be given as gifts. This is a good way to help your parish without cost to you.

Ascension Women's Guild purchases much of our scrip from Great Lakes Scrip (glscrip.com) and our discounts range from 2% to 15%. The customer pays face value and WG gets the profit. Many of the more popular cards are kept on hand for immediate purchase; others can be ordered and received in about one week.

For Meijer customers, cards come in \$25 and \$100 denominations. They are for one-time use only and earn a profit of 3%. If you use a Meijer Credit Card, pay cash or use a debit card, you can participate in the Community Rewards program. Ascension profits .05% or 1% depending on the method of payment. You must be registered with Meijer to do this. The Women's Guild organization number is 171106. For more information call 1-800-962-7011.

Kroger has a different program and we earn 4% on the money you spend. You purchase a card from WG and reload it using cash, check or credit card (a great idea if you receive rewards from your credit card). We receive a check each month for all reloads.

We buy Kohl's scrip directly from Kohl's and earn 5%. It is the only card that can also be used to pay your Kohl's charge account.

Items Women's Guild have contributed to the church include the Witzman Center video system, new Communion vessels, vestments for priests and deacons, collection baskets and repaired chairs on the altar and in the sacristy to name a few. We also made a donation toward a new piano for the school last spring and paid for 50% of the cost of our new bells.

Scrip order forms are always on the narthex table to put in collection basket. Call Judy McManus (299-0997) or Phyllis Hildebrand (435-7114) for questions or to order.

WELCOME CATHY MAGNESS, NEW PASTORAL ASSOCIATE!

Submitted by Lauren Boyd

You may recognize another familiar face in the Parish Office Building beginning in December. Cathy Magness will be joining the parish staff as our new Pastoral Associate. Cathy has been a member of Ascension for 18 years and is already involved with many of the parish's ministries. These include being a Eucharistic minister and greeter, a member of the Why Catholic planning committee, the establisher and coordinator of the Fair Trade sales and the current president of the Pastoral Council. She was also named one of Ascension's Women of the year for 2010.

Cathy is originally from Tipp City, and grew up as a member of St. John the Baptist parish. She credits her mother and grandparents for encouraging her involvement in the church. Cathy says *"Their dedication to giving and caring for others and their love of the Lord continue to be an inspiration to me."*

To find out more I asked her a few questions.

How long have you been a member of Ascension? What brought you to the parish?

"The first Mass I attended at Ascension was Thanksgiving 1992, and I have been giving thanks for Ascension ever since then! This is a common answer, but I truly felt the warm welcoming of the parishioners which kept me coming back and eventually joining the parish. I had been church shopping for several months prior to that."

What drew you to the Pastoral Associate position?

"After I completed the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program through the Athenaeum of Ohio, (a program she highly recommends) I had the desire to be an active participant in the ministry of the Church. Although I am already involved in several projects and ministries, it is an incredible opportunity to be a part of the ministry team at Ascension."

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What do you hope to accomplish in the position?

"As Pastoral Associate, I hope to inspire other parishioners to become involved in the activities and ministries of Ascension. Every role is important, no matter how small, and the rewards are immense! It's like the old cliché, you get out of it what you put in. The fulfillment of a sense of giving is one reward, but the friendships that develop are also great. As more and more people become involved at Ascension, the mission of being a welcoming, caring parish is enhanced."

-Cathy Magness

Cathy says that she is eager to continue the work of Sr. Agnes, who did so much for the Ascension community. *"I look forward to encouraging others to answer the call to give of their time and talent by saying, "Here I am, Lord. I come to do Your will.""*

Cathy, thank you for all of the ways you serve our parish and for sharing your time and talents with the Ascension community. We are blessed to have you as a member of our parish staff.

GIVING TREE 2010

*Submitted by Ann
McManus*

Once again, Ascension Parish will continue its tradition of outreach through the Giving Tree project.



We have received the names of 80 needy families/households through Catholic Social Services. For each of the children whose names we receive from Catholic Social Services, there will be two ornaments (one for clothing, one for a toy) on the tree – each ornament has the gender, age and size of the individual and a gift suggestion given by the parent. There is also one tag for an adult in the household.

Catholic Social Services makes the following recommendations:

- *Gifts should be between \$10.00 and \$35.00. Gifts should not exceed \$35.00. If a request costs more we ask you to decide on something within the recommended cost range.*
- *Gift suggestions are provided on the ornaments. However, substitutions for more appropriate items are allowed. Correct sizing is important, returns and exchanges are not encouraged.*
- *Please, NO guns.*

Past experience with clothing and sizing suggests that **gift receipts are helpful**; please include them inside the package with the clothing when possible.

In addition there will be gift tags for Elizabeth's New Life Center and Ascension's own Elizabeth Ministry program. As both of these programs use the gifts throughout the following year we suggest that these gifts not be wrapped but simply placed in a gift bag or under the tree with the gift tag attached.

Also, maintaining awareness of the needs of local families we will include envelopes on the Giving Trees for gift certificates for food. If you take one of these envelopes we encourage you to enclose a check payable to Ascension or gift certificate/card purchased through our Women's Guild Scrip program. You may then place the envelope in the Sunday collection basket.

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Giving Trees will be placed in the narthex and baptistry on the weekend of November 20-21 so that you may get an early start with your shopping. Return all gifts (wrapped and unwrapped) with the ornament securely fastened to the gift, back under one of the Giving Trees, preferably on the weekends of December 4th or December 11th. **ALL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED BY THE 12:15 MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH.** Gifts are bagged, closed and labeled on that Sunday and delivered first thing Monday morning. Please note that bows attached to gifts frequently come off and are NOT RECOMMENDED. As such, please do not attach ornaments to bows or ribbons, rather securely tape them to the package.

If you know of someone in our parish area who could use assistance for their family this Christmas, please call Sister Carol in the parish office at 253-5171 ext. 113. We make every effort to respect the dignity and privacy of those we help. For more information about the Giving Tree project, ornament information or other questions please contact Ann McManus at 643-4064.

Thank you for your generous participation in this Ascension outreach project.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CONTINUES

The Refugee Resettlement Committee is planning to take another step into working with the refugees in the Dayton area. Some members of the committee have decided to help clean and prepare apartments when new refugees are on their way to Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley.

Why do they come to CSSMV? It is one of the 100 Catholic agencies in the United States, under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which receives federal funds to resettle refugees. Once the refugees arrive here, they need a place to call home, namely, the apartments prepared for them. Lynn Adams and her staff and volunteers at CSSMV assist the refugees during their first month with "housing, applying for Social Security, applying for Job and Family Services benefits, applying for "English as a Second Language," teaching the bus system, employment assistance, etc." They spend the next few months helping the new arrivals acclimate themselves to our way of life which can be alarmingly different than the life they fled in order to save their lives.



A PRAYERFUL SPACE

Submitted by Lauren Boyd

Ian Cali, son of Tony and Angie Cali, will soon be receiving Scouting’s highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award. For his Eagle Project, Ian chose to help create an outdoor meeting place on the back patio of the Parish Office Building (POB). Ian presented his idea to the Church saying that his wish was to create a meeting area and prayer center where the youth groups and all parish groups could enjoy the beauty and nature of God’s creation. “I hoped to include the church’s mission statement in my work by creating a place of teaching and love for youth,” Ian said.

To prepare for this project, Ian power washed the patio foundation, relayed two brick paths, planted new flowers and mulched the flower beds. He raised money by asking family and local hardware stores for donations. With the donations, he created four benches for the patio that can be changed into picnic tables. With help from 33 volunteers (including family, friends and Troop 234) and a combined work time of 135 hours, the project was completed on September 6, 2010.

Ian has been involved with scouting for nine years. He has his Arrow of Light from Cub Scouts and has completed the Ordeal of O.A. (Order of the Arrow) with Boy Scouts. He is currently a sophomore at Beavercreek High School.

Thank you to Ian and all of his volunteers for creating a prayerful space for us to share!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GEARING UP FOR SUMMER SERVICE AND NCYC: INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS COMING SOON

Two major Youth Ministry events are months away, but the start of planning is right around the corner! SOAR is our annual Summer service opportunity, highlighted by a week of work in Cincinnati with the Franciscans for the Poor. This summer’s dates for that trip are June 26-July 1. The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is a bi-annual event that attracts over 20,000 young people to celebrate their faith and their part in the universal Church. 2009’s trip to Kansas City was amazing, and we’re already getting geared up for the 2011 event, which will take place next November 17-19 in Indianapolis.

Both these events take some major league prior planning and advance registration, so we’re starting now. And since we know your schedule is busy, this year we’re combining the informational meetings for both events. If you’d like to know more about NCYC or SOAR, please come to **one** of our informational meetings on November 29 **or** December 2. Both meetings will take place from 7:00 to 8:30. Check the bulletin for locations. SOAR is open to the H.S. classes of 2011 to 2015. NCYC is open to the H.S. classes of 2012-2015. For more info, contact the Youth Office at 253-5171 x 111 or jollier@ascensionkettering.org

MEN – SAVE THE DATE
FEB. 12, 2011
MEN’S DAY OF REFLECTION
 Led by Brother Mike O’Grady, S.M.
 Watch the Bulletin for Details

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Students are keeping busy with a variety of activities -

Our Early Childhood “saints” entertained their grandparents and senior members of the parish at the All Saints party. Soon they will begin preparing for their Advent celebration. Students in Grades 1-8 observed **MISSION SUNDAY** with visits from each of the Outreach Ministries here at Ascension. It is part of a new Mission program we are implementing this year called Helping Others. Each grade has been assigned a different ministry which they will learn about and support. Each family received a letter telling them of the outreach ministry their child’s grade will be connected with. A representative from each outreach came to the classroom and talked about their ministry and how the class can be supportive of them throughout the year. It is our hope that in this way our students will have a better understanding of each of the outreach ministries we do here at Ascension as they move up through the grades.

Sixth grade students were presented with personal copies of the Catholic Youth Bible to use in their studies. The Thanksgiving Mass for Grades 1-5 will take place on November 22. During the Mass a representative from each class will sign the School Pledge of Nonviolence as part of our Growing Peace process, and non-perishable food for the food pantry will be collected. Grade 8 students will plan and lead the Middle School Thanksgiving prayer services. Many families have chosen to take the Family Pledge of Nonviolence; their names are inscribed on doves posted around the Peace Board on the wall outside the Religious Education Office. Congratulations to the Peacemakers of the Month for October: Molly Hart and Amanda O’Brien.

Parents of students preparing for First Reconciliation met in October to hear Father Chris speak about the sacrament and to receive the materials they will use to prepare their children at home. Again this year we will celebrate a communal penance service with both school and Religious Education students combined. Parents will also have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament with their child.

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Seventh grade Confirmation students participated in a Spirit Day retreat in October. Eighth grade Confirmation students participated in their Retreat in November and will be ritually welcomed to the preparation process during the 8:30 Mass on November 21.

The students will soon be observing Advent with prayer services and other activities. Our volunteer catechists work very hard to uphold the spiritual dimension of Advent and Christmastime.



JR. HIGH TO SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

On Saturday, December 11 our 6th to 8th graders will once again spend the afternoon delivering Christmas carols and fresh cookies to our parish homebound. This day of service is a ton of fun for our young people, and a heart-warming way to spend a Saturday. We begin by gathering in the school cafeteria to bake cookies, create homemade cards, and decorate Christmas candles. We then package up our goodies, divide into carloads, and scatter throughout the area to deliver our handiwork plus plenty of smiles and songs. If you or a loved one would like a visit, please contact Joe Ollier, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, at 253-5171 x111 or at jollier@ascensionkettering.org and we'll make sure to put you on our list!



ASCENSION WALK-A THON!

The PTO sponsored Ascension School Walkathon for 2010 has raised pledges and donations so far for a total of \$21,328.51. This is the highest amount raised in the three years of the event. The Walkathon is the single major fundraiser for the year for the PTO. Proceeds from last year's walk helped fund new playground surfacing this past summer. On Oct. 22 students and faculty assembled to hear the announcement of school, grade level and classroom winners for Teacher of the Day and Principal of the Day. We thank all families, relatives, friends, neighbors and commercial sponsors of this year's walk!

**EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
INTERN AT ASCENSION**

Fr. Hung Tran is pursuing a degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Dayton and is in his final internship semester. Fr. Tran is shadowing Mr. Devitt about once a week and working on special assignments concerned with the vision and management of the school. Fr. Tran is currently the pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Dayton serving the Vietnamese Catholic community of approximately 200 families. We welcome Fr. Tran to Ascension.

**SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR
THE VOICE**

If you would like an announcement or article in the Voice follow these guidelines.

- Limit the words to about 250-300.
- Include an image or picture.
- Include a contact person.

Email articles to Karen at kwestgerdes@yahoo.com



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