



THE VOICE

FOR THE FULLER LIFE OF OUR ASCENSION FAMILY

TRIDUUM & EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

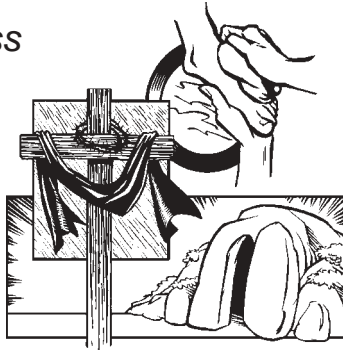
Holy Thursday: *Mass of the Lord's Supper* March 20, 7:00 p.m.

Our Eucharist is verified in acts of loving service and ministry.

Washing of the Feet-
"As I have done, so you must also do."

Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament.

Christ begins His Passion; we join Him in prayer.



Good Friday: *Celebration of the Lord's Passion*

March 21, 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A continuation of the Triduum begun on Holy Thursday. The day when Christ became our Paschal Sacrifice.

The universal Church:

- Commemorates the Church's origin from Christ on the Cross.
- Reflects on the Passion of the Lord.
- Intercedes for the salvation of the entire world.
- Venerates the Cross.

The Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection March 22, 8:30 p.m.

(No Mass at 5:00 p.m.)

By the light of the Paschal candle we recognize Christ rising - new life and dispelling the darkness of sin and death - illuminating the Church and its newly baptized.

We celebrate our own entry into the Paschal Mystery through our Baptism.

We are filled with the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection in our own lives in the Eucharist.

Easter Sunday: *Resurrection of the Lord* March 23, 7:00, 8:30, 10:30 & 12:15

He is Risen!!! ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ascension will welcome new members into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The 4 people (the ELECT) that are being baptized are: **David Agee, Kyle Constantinides, Jay Hodge and Sharon Hodge**. One child and three adult Candidates will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. They are: **Ben Johnson** (child), **Gloria Mercer, Andrea Slonaker and Nic Webb**.

As we have prayed for and supported them throughout their journey, we surround them with our presence and joy at the Easter Vigil.

PARISH MISSION 2008

Preaching, story-telling, music, laughter, prayer ... prepare yourself for Dominican preachers Fr. Jim Marchionda, OP and Sr. Ann Willits, OP as they lead our **Parish Mission April 5-9**. Fr.

Jim and Sr. Ann will preach at all weekend Masses and then present a mission for all generations Monday

through Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Childcare for infants to preK will be offered. See what we're in store for at www.preachers.org/marchionda/marchionda.html.



ASCENSION WOMEN'S GUILD WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Every year, since 1976, Ascension Women's Guild has honored three women of the parish as **The Women of the Year**. They have been honored for sharing their time and talent with our parish. They have been involved in many various volunteer activities. Some have volunteered with the youth in our school and RE programs. Others have done various ministries within the parish. Some have done both. But all have impacted our parish life in a positive way.

Their names are displayed on a plaque in the Witzman Center near the connector. Many of you will recognize some of the women who have been honored and know that they are still active in various ministries. However once you have received this honor, you may not receive it again.

Each year, the Women's Guild asks the parish for help in identifying women in our midst who they feel should receive this honor. If you would like to nominate a woman from Ascension, please fill out a nomination form that can be found on our display in the narthex of the church. Nominations are due by Wednesday, April 2. The three women who are selected will be honored at the annual Mother-Daughter Dinner on Wednesday, May 7.

JOE OLLIER TO JOIN PARISH STAFF

Ascension welcomes Joe Ollier as our new Coordinator of Youth Ministry. He will step into the position after finishing his graduate work at UD in Theological Studies this summer. This position became open following the transition of Jim Murray into the new role of Director of Ministry and Catechesis. These changes developed out of the new parish pastoral plan and Ascension having only one full-time priest.

We are looking forward to Joe joining our parish staff. Joe and his family have been parishioners since 1996. He brings a wealth of youth and pastoral ministry experience with him. Joe has held full-time ministry positions in parishes in both Cincinnati and Dayton (1991-2003) and has presented numerous programs for adults and youth throughout the Archdiocese. Joe shares, *"I believe that my*

previous experience, my passion for youth ministry, and my love for this community will make me a Coordinator of Youth Ministry who is a benefit both to the young people of Ascension and the parish at large." Joe and his wife Mary have four children, Katie, Jacob, Rachel and Maggie.

COLLABORATION WITH AREA PARISHES GROWING

The key word bouncing around area parishes is "collaboration" and Ascension is in the thick of it! Our parish vision calls us to boldly proclaim Christ and our mission statement instructs us to do so in partnership with others. We are living our mission well, taking an active role in building the spirit of the broader Catholic community in our area. There are a variety of ministries and projects in which partnership is occurring. Here are just a few highlights:

- **Youth Ministry** - The winter retreat brings together our youth with St. Helen and St. John Neumann; the 24 -hour Food Fast with St. Helen; and the Summer SOAR Workcamp with St. Charles and St. Benedict.

- **Why Catholic?** – These small faith sharing groups and Lent Soup Suppers are done in partnership with St. Helen.

- **Theology on Tap South Dayton** – Ascension, Incarnation, St. Albert, St. Helen, St. Francis, and St. Henry are increasing ministry to young adults by sponsoring a Theology on Tap in south Dayton this July.

- **Matthew Kelly** – We join St. Luke, St. Albert, St. Charles, St. Francis, Incarnation and St. Henry in collaboration to bring Matthew Kelly in for an engagement this fall to St. Francis.



THE LANGUAGE OF THE LOVE OF GOD

A key component of the twinning relationship between Ascension and Nuestra Senor de la Luz is meaningful communication between the people of our two parishes. Both parishes are committed to this component in spite of the language barrier. Father Chris conveyed this determination to Father Máximo and the people of NSL.

"...I believe the relationship our parishes have developed is valuable. We have the opportunity to learn about one another's culture and practice of the faith. In addition, our relationship reminds us of the global Church. We are reminded that we are all part of the Body of Christ."

Father Chris went on to say that the physical distance between us and our differing languages create challenges, but we will use our resources to overcome those challenges.

One of those resources includes people on the Twinning Committee. Johnson has been the primary translator of letters to and from NSL. Javier Hopun and his daughter have translated the most recent letters.

Javier and his family returned to Ascension Parish when they moved from Massachusetts back to Ohio. They immediately resumed their activities with the Twinning Committee. Javier is anxious to give his time and talent to furthering the twinning relationship. Therefore, he will travel with Bill Bell to Lima, Peru in late spring. Their visit will strengthen the ties between the two parishes since Father Maximo has become the new pastor of NSL.

Father Maximo feels that differing languages is not a big limitation because

"thanks (be to) God...(we have) the language of sharing, of love, and of solidarity, etc. through which... (comes) the richness of faith, hope, and charity."

We could say it is the language of the love of God.

(It)...is a joy to have brothers and sisters with whom we have been weaving a friendship, a spiritual sharing, and diverse experiences, which have helped us feel like a Church with the same wishes and dreams as you all."

POWER OF THE PEN



Ascension School seventh and eighth grade Power of the Pen teams competed at the District Tournament at Mad River Middle School on Feb. 16. The seventh graders took first place out of sixteen schools. Individual awards were won by **Brian McLaughlin** (14th), **Kaylee Via** (11th), **Maria Bete** (2nd) and **Billy Barbaro** (1st). Rounding out the team were: **Caitlyn Shiner** and **Nicole Collins** and alternates: **Cory Wallace** and **Elizabeth Wagner**.

Congratulations to both Billy Barbaro & Caitlyn Shiner for winning the "Best of Round" award. The judges re-read every paper that received a "number one" rank and then chose the very best written paper from that round. Billy Barbaro & Maria Bete each wrote three perfect papers that received a perfect rank of "number one".

Congratulations to the eighth grade team for their performance: **Alexa Bergin, Austin Cox, Derek Farrell, Michael Gross, Brianna Roudebush, Stephanie Shubert** and alternate: **Joseph Nelson**. The Regional Tournament will take place at Wittenburg University on Saturday, May 8. By placing in the top 50% at Districts, the following students qualified to compete at Regionals: **Billy Barbaro, Maria Bete, Nicole Collins, Brian McLaughlin, Caitlyn Shiner, Stephanie Shubert and Kaylee Via**. Alexa Bergin qualified to be an official alternate.

The following students were also recognized in the Chaminade-Jullienne Writing Contest:

Derek Farrell won first place in the short story category.

Jennifer McGarry won third place in the poetry category.

Stephanie Shubert won honorable mention in the short-short story category.

Maria Bete won third place in the short-short story category.

ASCENSIONITES ATTEND MARCH FOR LIFE

On Saturday January 19, Ascension school students, **Michael Gross, Matt Speyrer, Alex Ulrich, Joe Minardi, Katie Wilhelm, Caine Barber, and Zac Fortener** left for the March for Life in Washington DC. Fifty-two participants traveled on this extended family trip. Sunday morning we walked to Mass at St. Patrick's then raced through the blustery streets to the Washington Monument to wait our turn to go to the top. The view was phenomenal.

It was a clear day, so we could see all across town. One of the highlights of the day was the Sea Monsters 3-D IMAX movie at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. Many from the group toured the National Archives to see the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution, etc. Later all met for a pizza party at the hotel before Lenny (our bus driver) picked us up for a Monument tour by the full moon, we hit the biggies - WWII, Roosevelt, Lincoln, Jefferson, Korean and Vietnam. Even with the bitter cold and wind the crowds were out that night - many busses carrying Marchers.

On Monday we went to Mt. Vernon, a new item on the itinerary for this year's trip. They have added two museums now and a introductory movie for insight into George Washington's life. As we were about to leave an announcement was made that the basement of Mt. Vernon would open for tours at noon. Many from our group had seen "National Treasure 2" where Nicolas Cage kidnaps the President and they go into a tunnel under Mt. Vernon house, so we stayed and got right into the basement - no lines. We did a drive-by tour of the sights in Alexandria, the Pentagon, Embassy Row,

and the Vice President's house on the way to the vigil Mass for life at the Basilica. Many of us sat on the floor in the main part of the church this year - very close to the front, it was awesome to be right there! Of course another hit with the youth is our traditional pro-life youth rally at the Verizon Center -

we went earlier this year and were all able to sit together. The doors were closed by 8:30 a.m., already at capacity. The Ohio groups all met up this year in front of the Castle on the mall and tried to stay as a group for the March behind the Ohio Right to Life banner. It seemed as though there were many more people

than the 200,000 of the past - the throngs of people never stopped being shoulder to shoulder all the way up to the Supreme Court. After we prayed for an end to abortion we went on to a reception from Cincinnati's Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, who was very welcoming to our group and any questions we had. She is trying to pass some bills to honor the birth mothers who give up their babies for adoption.

The 2009 trip planning is underway to include the Presidential inauguration or parade which is 2 days before the March.



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. One young man is preparing to be received into the church and celebrate the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

Thirty-eight 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 12 and for a family session, "A Walk Through the Mass" and practice in the church on April 18, followed by an ice cream social.

Confirmation candidates will gather for their Afternoon of Reflection retreat on April 6, in anticipation of the celebration of Confirmation with Fr. Dave Brinkmoeller on April 23.

Congratulations to the "*Peacemakers of the Month*" for January: **Daniel Rodriguez** and **Maria Taulbee** both in Grade 4; for February, **Molly Hart** (Grade 1) and **Madison Hurwitz** (Grade 2).

RE REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2008-2009 religious education classes will begin on Sunday, April 6. Students who are currently enrolled will bring home a re-enrollment form in the April Family Envelope on March 30-31. 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, 2008 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.

Beginning on May 12, fees for the 2008-2009 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.

FR. WITZMAN & ASCENSION PTO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Fr. Witzman Scholarship and Ascension School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) scholarships for 2008 have been announced. The Witzman Scholarship is available annually to any student from Ascension Parish planning to attend a Grade 9-12 Catholic High School next school year. Three scholarships were awarded for \$600 apiece. The winners are **Darren Nash** (Carroll High School, Freshman), **Alex Ulrich** (Ascension, 8th Grader) and **Stephanie Shubert** (Ascension, 8th Grader).

The Ascension PTO scholarship is awarded annually to two 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 **Emily Baldwin**, **Austin Cox**, and **Brianna Roudebush** who plan to attend Carroll High School. These three students will receive \$300 towards Catholic high school tuition.

Selection of the scholarship winner was based upon the students' academic effort, teacher recommendation, extra-curricular involvement, and essays on the topic of student leadership.

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 50 children of Ascension families have received elementary school and religious education tuition assistance for the 2007-08 school year through the Fr. Witzman and Education Ascension Funds.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



High school Winter Retreat participants use boards, poles and coffee cans as they attempt to cross the 'Chemical Stream' - one of the team challenge and community building activities held Saturday morning.

Youth take a break from skiing to relax and warm up in the lodge at Perfect North Slopes at the annual Youth Ministry/Boy Scout ski trip.



Teens show off their balloon muscles after playing 'Muscle Mania' ice breaker at the high school Winter Retreat held in February.




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