



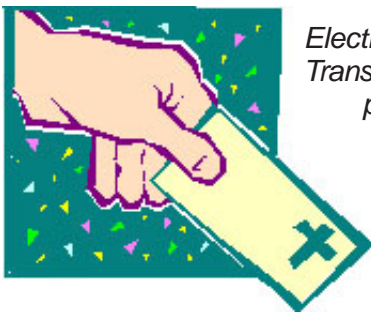
THE

# VOICE

FOR THE FULLER LIFE OF OUR ASCENSION FAMILY

## Inside ...

Adult Faith Formation ..... page 2  
 "One Bread, One Body" ..... page 2  
 New School Staff ..... page 3  
 Parish E-News ..... page 3  
 RE News ..... page 4  
 Food Pantry Update ..... page 4  
 40 Days for Life ..... page 6  
 Athletic News ..... page 6  
 Youth Ministry News ..... page 7



Electronic Fund Transfer  
page 5



**Grow in your faith, understanding of Catholic teachings, tradition and sacred scripture in a small group setting.**

In preparation for launching this fall's series, "The Profession of Faith: What We Believe", we are looking for additional small group facilitators to lead two 6-week sessions (fall/Lent). If you are interested in this faith growing adventure - joining a group or leading a group - call Jim Murray 253-5171 or email [jmurray@ascensionkettering.org](mailto:jmurray@ascensionkettering.org). Groups begin the week of October 5.

## SR. MAUREEN – 50 YEARS AND THE LETTER “R”



Sr. Maureen Heavy, R.S.M., celebrated her 50th jubilee as a Sister of Mercy. She was blessed at the 12:00 Mass on Sunday, September 7. Numerous parishioners attended the reception hosted by the Women's Guild following Mass.

In 1982 Sister Maureen was appointed school principal at Ascension. After 18

years of faithful service to the Ascension School, Sr. Maureen retired as principal in the summer of 2000. She returned as administrative assistant in 2001 and continues in that position at Ascension School to this day. Sr. Maureen has served in a number of other ministries in the parish, most notable as chairperson of the Worship Commission and as director of Leadership Ascension.

Sr. Maureen recalls the humorous way she came to Ascension, "Coming to Ascension was due to a mix up in our Religious Community and two pastors with the last name beginning with the letter "R" – Rudemiller and Robisch. St. Albert was looking for a new principal and the pastor was Fr.

**(Continued on page 2)**

## NEW PASTORAL PLAN IS ONLINE

You've read about it in past issues, now you can view the full Ascension Parish Strategic Plan on our parish web site. Check out the core strategies, benchmarks for the future and lists of action items. It is also available in a 2-page summary format or full document.

Visit our parish web site today: [www.ascensionkettering.org](http://www.ascensionkettering.org).

## SR. MAUREEN

*(Continued from page 1)*

*Dave Robisch. Fr. Robisch had listed the position with the Sisters of Mercy. He was told that they had a Sister looking for a position and would get him more information. Ascension had a pastor named Rudemiller and had not formally listed the school position, but had a cousin in the Sisters of Mercy and was told I was looking to leave Urbana. And so, Fr. Rudy called me instead of following the process – came to Urbana to interview me. (I had fallen and broken my back so I was not able to drive or really travel.) The next day he called and offered me the position. Two days later I received a call from St. Albert about the job. Twenty-six years later, I am still counting my blessings to be part of such a great parish and grateful that Fr. Rudy did not always follow directions.”*

To learn more about Sr. Maureen’s religious order visit: [www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org)

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION – ALIVE AND WELL

These past couple of months have been filled with faith enrichment opportunities for adults and young adults. It was standing room only for Fr. Pat Tonyr’s talk, “Stirring Embers into Flames” back in July. His knack for story-telling enlightened all present. Over seventy Catholic young adults from the area attended Theology on Tap Dayton South, held at the Fox & Hound Restaurant, Centerville. This four week series in July covered topics of dating, faith and politics, pornography, and converts & reverts to the faith. In August, during his annual visit to family in here in Dayton, Archbishop Kelly presented on “Our Events” covering the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist. He also shared the impact of his experiences during his travels to Iran. Just recently, Sean Reynolds, Archdiocesan Director of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry presented, “Will Our Kids Have Faith?” to School and RE parents on the findings of the National Study on Youth and Religion.

Needless to say, there are many opportunities for adults to enrich their faith here at Ascension. We can be proud of the value our parish places on forming ourselves as adults in faith, developing our relationship with Christ, and strengthening our Catholic identity. If you missed any of the above events, attended and are looking for more, or want to know what else is coming, be sure to visit the

parish web site. The welcome page is regularly updated with the latest announcements and the adult faith formation page has a calendar of events available for download.



*Sean Reynolds, Archdiocesan Director of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*

## TRI-PARISH EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION AND DEVOTION

*An opportunity to witness, to worship and pray, and to gather in fellowship*

The tri-parish partnership of Ascension, Immaculate Conception and St. Helen has planned a Eucharistic Procession and Devotion to be held Saturday evening, October 11, at 6:00 p.m., at St. Helen Parish.

Since the name given to this partnership is “**One Bread, One Body**,” it is fitting that this event bringing our three parishes together revolves around the Eucharist. It is also fitting that we will gather to witness Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, to worship and pray, and to get to know one another.

The witness will be in a candlelight procession in the St. Helen neighborhood. The worship and prayer will be in a Benediction service, and the opportunity to get to know one another will be both before and after over food and drinks.

### **The schedule is:**

- 6:00-6:40 Light supper in St. Helen gym
- 6:45 Candlelight procession around the neighborhood, concluding with Benediction in the church. After Benediction, hospitality of desserts and drinks, again in the gym.

Please plan to join our tri-parish partners in this first annual Eucharistic event.



## ASCENSION SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Ascension School is proud to announce the addition of some very talented and

enthusiastic new teachers. **We welcome these new Ascension teachers!**

- **Mr. Tony Bower** will be our new Grade 7 homeroom teacher with responsibilities teaching Grades 6, 7 & 8 Social Studies. He has three years teaching and coaching experience at Piqua Catholic School. He has some creative lessons with patriotism in store for his students. Tony is a Kettering resident and will appreciate the short drive or walk to school.

- **Mrs. Stephanie Klein** will be our new Music teacher. She and her husband are moving this summer from Omaha, Nebraska where she has been the Music teacher at Christ the King Catholic School for the past 4 years. Stephanie is blessed to have both parents as music teachers!

- **Mrs. Monica Meyer**, will be our new Art teacher. Mrs. Meyer has previous experience teaching art at Bishop Dwenger High School and an after school art program at Queen of Martyrs School. She has a family and has coordinated the "Meet the Masters" program and subbed at Holy Angels.

- **Mrs. Gretchen Parker** is a graduate of University of Dayton and will be teaching Physical Education at Ascension. She has experience as an assistant manager for a corporate fitness center and as a soccer coach at Carroll High School. Gretchen actually attended kindergarten at Ascension and her parents Ed and Colleen Wildenhaus are members of Ascension parish.

### THE WRITE STUFF

We're looking for a few good writers/reporters for our parish newsletter, *The VOICE*. Our new parish strategic plan calls for the improvement of our communications and building of parish community. We've already improved *The VOICE* with color. The next goal is to build a *VOICE* staff to assist with articles. Our desire is to increase the focus on parish life with personal life-faith stories and experiences. Does this sound like your calling? If so, contact Jim Murray, [jmurray@ascensionkettering.org](mailto:jmurray@ascensionkettering.org) or 253-5171 for more details.

## 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*

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## ASCENSION PARISH E-NEWS LIST SERVE

A parish email list serve has been set up to help keep Ascension parishioners informed of the latest news and events in our faith community. The Ascension Parish E-News is just one simple step in increasing the level of communication to parishioners. Ascension Parish E-News emails will go out a couple of times a month to help keep you aware of all the wonderful and important happenings in our parish. To subscribe, just send an email to: [list-parish-subscribe@ascensionkettering.org](mailto:list-parish-subscribe@ascensionkettering.org) or visit our parish web site for the link on our home page: [www.ascensionkettering.org](http://www.ascensionkettering.org).

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious education classes for the 2008-09 school year get underway this month. We have over 65 dedicated parish volunteers who serve over 250 children enrolled in the various programs. Volunteers were commissioned at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on September 14.

The Middle School program began with a Parent Presentation, ***Will Our Kids Have Faith*** on September 7. Sean Reynolds, Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry presented information from the National Study of Youth and Religion. The junior high youth had their kick-off with Joe Ollier, our new Youth Minister that same day with activities in the PAC.

Opening day for Elementary classes on September 15 concluded in the church with a prayer service. Early Childhood classes begin on September 21; the children will soon be preparing for their All Saints' celebration with parish seniors on October 26.

Religious Education classes will again participate in the **"Growing Peace at Ascension"** process, focusing on living the Pledge of Nonviolence, and families will be invited to take the pledge at home.

In connection with Mission Sunday this year, the students will have the opportunity to meet and connect with missionaries from across the globe. We have five individuals who have traveled to countries such as Chad and Ghana, who have agreed to come and visit in the classrooms sharing with them their experiences in mission work.

It's never too late — Parents who are interested in enrolling their children for religious education may contact the Religious Education Office at 254-0622. Class calendars can be found on-line at the parish web site under Programs. Classes will not meet on October 13, in order that catechists and assistants may attend in-service training.

## HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR TO VISIT ASCENSION

**Fr. Patrick Byrne, SVD**, international director of the Holy Childhood Association in Rome will be visiting the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, October 6 thru 10. As the month of October is both Mission Month and the Month of the Rosary, the Archdiocesan Mission Office will be organizing several events centered on the World Mission Rosary. Fr. Byrne is

scheduled to come to Ascension the evening of Wednesday, October 8. The evening will be family centered with the goal of teaching about the World Mission and praying the World Mission Rosary. If you wish to learn more about the **Holy Childhood Association** go to [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org) or the **World Mission Rosary** go to [www.worldmissionrosary.org](http://www.worldmissionrosary.org).

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church Food Pantry has been serving families in need, for over fifty years. When Ascension Church started working with them about ten years ago, we became the largest contributor of food and other products that supported them. Now we have a couple of other area churches that help, as well as a large numbers of donations from the generous folks that attend Ascension bingo. It has now become truly, a neighborhood pantry. Because this has become so recognizable, Greenmont-Oak Park Church has changed the name of the pantry to honor all those who help their neighbors. It is now become **"The Neighbor to Neighbor Pantry"**. As Ascensionites, you all share in this tribute. You can be proud of helping your neighbor.

Last year, the pantry, which goes to the downtown Food Bank for the largest portion of its supplies, saw that portion reduced from 60,000 lbs. to 50,000 lbs., due to the decrease in availability of foodstuffs. This appears to be caused by reductions in federal and state support, as well as the increased costs. In the meantime, the number of families served increased to 1,400. This is an increase from 1,155 families the prior year. Above that, we also gave Christmas food supplies to 140 families. This is possible by using the Ascension PAC the Saturday before Christmas.

Jerry Kassman has worked with the Food Pantry for 10 years! Over these years he has played an instrumental role in supporting this vital service to our neighbors in need. Jerry shares, *"You know you're helping the whole community, our neighborhood. It's real rewarding to know your helping your neighbors."* One key role Jerry has is Coordinator of Food Bank Trips. A role he is seeking to pass on to another volunteer with the passion for service to those in need. Jerry will personally mentor the person over the next year or so. The trips currently occur every other Tuesday morning (approximately 3 hours). A job description is available. Occasional volunteers are also welcome! For information contact Jerry Kassman 299-4975 or Jim Murray 253-5171.

## “AMAZING AWAITS” FOR EVERYONE

The Queenship of Mary was celebrated at Ascension on August 26 at 7:00 p.m. This annual celebration began as an action of unity with the people of Nuestra Senora de la Luz (NSL) who celebrate the feast faithfully and elaborately every year. Everyone participated in the opening procession by placing flowers around the statue of Mary and the picture of Our Lady of the Light. Many of the flowers represented a virtue of Mary. Steve Mueller and Bud Nickelman read from scripture. Johnson and Norma Colussi prayed the petitions. Lois Keil, Jacquie Hittle and Javier Hopun led the litany. Dave Timpone directed the choir. The McManus Family crowned the statue of Mary.

Martha Saurine presided and shared her reflections on the Queenship of Mary. Martha reminded us that in Hebrew Scriptures the Queen Mother was often the “advocate for the people” and “an influential counselor to her son.” Mary is the Queen Mother of Jesus Christ, acting on our behalf with humility and love. Martha used one of the 2008 Olympics’ phrases, “Amazing Awaits,” applying it to Mary and us. If we accept God’s invitation to be fully human, fully loving from hearts transformed through our humble love for God, then what is “AMAZING AWAITS” us. Mary may not have known what awaited her as she said “yes” to God, but her life became truly amazing. The same holds true for everyone who says “yes” to God with love and humility.

The evening concluded with an ice cream social. It was also an opportunity for fellowship and viewing slide shows from Javier Hopun and Norma Colussi. They showed pictures related to their recent visits to Peru, focusing on community events at NSL along with the building projects. The church property is fully used even though the roof has not been built and is not funded yet.

The spirit of the people is undaunted by the lack of a roof. The cost of the roof is expensive but the people of NSL are raising funds in every way possible, to include bingo and selling food after each weekend Mass. They converted the small area where Mass had been held into the kitchen where they can prepare the food for sale or for church functions.

Through the Twinning Committee, the people of Ascension gave a monetary gift to help NSL complete an area in the basement of the new

church for funeral wakes. The people of NSL send their sincere thanks for all the prayers and support of their brothers and sisters in Christ at Ascension Parish.

Norma Colussi, her brother, Daniel, and his friend, Jeanne, were in Peru in August. They spent time with Father Joe Deardorf at his new parish and then went to Lima to visit with the people of NSL. Fr. Joe now lives in the mountain town of La Oroya in the district of Junin. His parish boundaries incorporate at least 40 chapels, some of which he can only get to once every 3 or 4 months. He is trying to organize some women in the town of Morococha so that they can sell their woven products and support their families. There is a lot of mining in the area of La Oroya. One of the mining companies is helping the women weavers by supplying some of their materials. Overall, though, the effects of the mining have caused serious problems for the people there. The sledge run off from mines contaminates the water and the dust from pulverizing the minerals contaminates the air, causing bronchial illnesses, especially among the young children. Fr. Joe has become involved in a project in La Oroya to help clean up the water and the air.

The Twinning Committee is endorsing two programs in September. Norma Colussi will complete her LPMP Studies with the Archdiocese by presenting a workshop Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Witzman Center. The workshop focuses on Catholic Social Teaching and its relevance to the immigration issue, facilitated by Sister Marie Stacy who works with the Hispanic people of Dayton. The Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese is sponsoring programs featuring Cardinal Rodriguez as the main speaker in New Carlisle September 14 and in the Dayton area the 15th and 16th. Check the bulletin for more details.

### ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

We have an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) payment option of Sunday contributions. You determine your contribution level for each month and the donation is transferred for you. Forms are available in the narthex of church or the parish web site. This form of giving costs you nothing and provides many advantages to both you and the parish.

## MARCH FOR LIFE & INAUGURATION TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC - 2009

Plan ahead! Join members of Ascension Parish and hundreds of thousands of fellow Americans in Washington D.C. - it is a peaceful and enriching way to add our voice for life, to show our opposition to the ongoing killing of over 4,000 pre-born babies daily in our nation. Take a stand and make a difference in the greatest human rights issue of our time!

**Short Trip** will leave Wednesday, January 21 at 7:00 a.m. and return Friday, January 23 around 2:30 a.m. Cost (TBD) includes one night hotel stay and bus. Enjoy the opportunity for Mass at the Basilica, sight seeing and the march. More detailed information to come. Contact Diane Stroud 298-4804, [dmstroud62@earthlink.net](mailto:dmstroud62@earthlink.net) or Ed Eckley 254-4459, [edandterieckley@aol.com](mailto:edandterieckley@aol.com).

**Extended Trip** will leave Sunday, January 18 at 8:00 a.m. and return Friday, January 23 around 2:30 a.m. Monday is Martin Luther King Holiday and most schools are off this day, so students will miss three days of classes. We are planning on going to the inaugural parade, but you can get tickets for the Inauguration for Tuesday, January 20. A great family trip. Ideal for 6th graders and older (and a parent or chaperone, of course). Cost: \$287 (based on 4 to a room), includes bus transportation, snacks and drinks, 4 nights at the Hotel Harrington - 4 blocks from White House, Holocaust Museum, inaugural parade, Smithsonian Museums, Pentagon tour, pro-life vigil Mass, youth pro-life rally and Mass, a pizza party or two, and much more. Registration forms are available in the narthex at church, on the youth ministry web site, Ascension's Respect Life web site, or contact, for more information, Jeannette Niezgodski 320-1819 or [jniezgodski@yahoo.com](mailto:jniezgodski@yahoo.com). A \$75 deposit will hold a spot, with balance due by January 3, 2009. Payment plan option is available. This trip which includes the Inaugural events, fills quickly, do not hesitate to register ASAP. Come and be a part of history.

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

The next issue of the *VOICE* will come out in November. The deadline for all articles, announcements, pictures, etc. is **November 1**. Contact Jim, [jmurray@ascensionkettering.org](mailto:jmurray@ascensionkettering.org).

## YOU CAN HELP SAVE LIVES!

This fall, from **September 24 - November 2**, our community will be one of more than 170 cities in 45 states joining together for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history — the *40 Days for Life* campaign.

*40 Days for Life* is a focused pro-life effort that consists of:

- 40 days of **prayer and fasting**
- 40 days of **peaceful vigil**
- 40 days of **community outreach**

We are praying that, with God's help, this groundbreaking effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in our city — and throughout America. Churches throughout Dayton are each taking one of the 40 days to lead in this witness. Please join fellow members from Ascension on Sunday, September 28, as we pray and fast for an end to abortion. Sign ups for the prayer vigil at the Women's Med Center on Stroop Rd. will be available in the narthex. For more information, visit [www.40daysforlife.com/dayton](http://www.40daysforlife.com/dayton) or contact Diane at 298-4804.



## ATHLETIC NEWS

The Athletic Board is in need of an intramural basketball coordinator. For more information, people interested can contact Dave Schlegel at 426-6725. Also, we would like to encourage people to go the athletics section of the website to get important information regarding the parish athletic programs and important sign-up dates.

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

## LAUNCHING YOUTH MINISTRY

It's been a whirlwind start for me as Coordinator of Youth Ministry these past couple months. One thing I've discovered is that it's one thing to be an involved member of the parish, thinking I have general idea of what goes on, but it's another thing entirely to manage databases, become an instant expert on a very well-developed Youth Ministry program, and try to meet a couple hundred teenagers, parents, and volunteers. Suffice it to say that the last few months have been an adventure for me and my family.

A couple of highlights stand out, however. At our kick-off for the '08-'09 High School program year, a Waterballoon Olympics, we closed the evening with a pretty unique prayer. Some of the main events of the night had involved these really cool slingshots which take three people to operate and can launch water balloons a good hundred yards or more. We launched them for distance in one event and for accuracy in another. But for our closing prayer each young person wrote out a short prayer on a balloon and then took turns launching them straight into the air, as high as they could. What was really great was hearing the laughter and chatter that had characterized much of the night turn into respectful silence as we watched each person's prayer launched toward heaven. The only word spoken was the "Amen" we all said together as each balloon burst upon impact. What a great example of what youth ministry is all about – helping young people to understand that every ordinary event of every day can become an opportunity to live out our faith.

Living out our faith was also the theme of a second recent event – our appearance on the radio program "Francesca and Friends" on RadioMaria, a Catholic radio network which broadcasts to 55 countries via satellite and world-wide via the internet. Seniors Jenny Balog and Zach Niezgodski and sophomores Samantha Wilhelm and Katie Ollier spent an hour on live radio talking about their faith and the impact Youth Ministry has had in their lives. Zach spoke about how LIFE has allowed him stay connected to his classmates from Ascension, even though he isn't in school with many of them. He

also said that the discussions they've had in their HomeLIFE group have helped him to "explain Catholic teachings" to his friends at school. Jenny commented that youth ministry has helped her to "understand her faith better and grow stronger in it," and that one thing she really likes about the Catholic Church is the "welcoming feel" of the Church. Sam talked about how she's earned the respect of others, saying that "If I see people doing stuff that I think is wrong because of my faith, I'm going to be the one who says, 'I'm not doing this.'" Katie spoke about the power of community, adding that "having a good group of friends that's also involved in youth ministry really helps us make good decisions and to be leaders in our classes."

What a privilege it was for me to hear first-hand these young people so clearly and boldly articulate their faith. What I took away from the experience was a reaffirmation of the knowledge that Ascension is a special place. Just look around some Sunday at the many incredible families committed to putting their faith into practice – not just on Sunday – but throughout their daily lives – at work, school, and the hundred other places their busyness takes them. I am blessed to work here, but more than that, our family is blessed to worship here, and Mary and I are blessed to raise our family in this wonderful community.

- Joe Ollier



*launching the year with water balloons*

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Ascension's Vacation Bible School closed out its second year exceeding our expectations with over 160 children attending! Our theme was "Service to Family, Friends, Neighbors, Community and Jesus. Father Chris and several other wonderful guest speakers helped the children connect each theme to the world around them. The children and their families then brought our theme to life by collecting over \$700.00 for Elizabeth's New Life Center. In addition to that, they also donated diapers, diaper wipes, and baby clothes! Our week could not have been such a great success without the 40 wonderful teen and 35 awesome adult volunteers that shared their time, talent, and love of God with the children. A BIG thank you also to our parish who supported us through your generous donations of snacks, juice, and paper products. We look forward to serving our children again next year!



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