

YOUTH NEWS

December, 2011



Youth Office: 253-5171 x111

Joe Ollier, Coordinator jollier@ascensionkettering.org

Jottings from Joe

First let me apologize for the lateness of this month's YouthNews. NCYC pretty much dominated my last few weeks, and then all of a sudden it was Thanksgiving, and here we are in December before I even blinked.

One of the things that really hit me during NCYC was during prayer on Friday evening. We were reflecting on the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary from Luke's Gospel. When told she will conceive and bear a son, Mary asks "How can this be?". That phrase really stuck in my head. I looked at a stadium filled with 23,000 young people and asked, in awe, "How can this be?" When I looked at the faces of the 58 incredible young people from Ascension surrounding me I was almost embarrassed by how blessed I am to spend my life with teenagers. "How can this be?". Then my mind flashed to endless wars and children starving while we have enough food to feed everyone in the world many times over and I wondered, "How can this be?". The next day we heard about the deaths of Corey Cooper and Christina Jackson, and we all asked, in grief, "How can this be?".

But my experience isn't unique. What a world we live in! God uses the same natural forces that cause floods, tsunamis, wild fires, earthquakes, hurricanes and hailstorms to create places like the Grand Canyon, the Pacific Ocean, the Badlands and the Appalachian Mountains. "How can this be?".

People are capable of such evil—genocide, rape, abuse and murder. But we all know stories about people of great courage and love risking their lives for others or smiling through pain or accomplishing something no one ever thought possible. "How can this be?"

Marriages crumble and hearts are broken. But then we know old folks whose eyes still twinkle when they look at each other, and we practically float around as a relationship blooms. "How can this be?"

Mary herself had to be asking "How can this be?" as she held Jesus in her arms the night he was born and again 33 years later as she wept over his lifeless body at the foot of the cross.

How it can be that all this beauty, wonder, goodness and love can exist side by side with destruction and evil and sin and hate? I don't really know, but I think there's something in Mary's next words to Gabriel. He answers her question by telling her how God will accomplish his work through her and she replies, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." Maybe the key to understanding is uniting our will with God's and letting his will be done through us. Maybe when we do we will see more clearly, and the world will become more than it is; maybe it will become how it can be.

Joe

Saint of the Month

St. Stephen

Feast Day: Dec 26

Patron Saint of Stonemasons



Stephen's name means "crown," and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown.

Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church; God worked many miracles through him and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many of his hearers became followers of Jesus. The enemies of the Church of Jesus were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. At last, they laid a plot for him. They could not answer his wise argument, so they got men to lie about him, saying that he had spoken sinfully against God. St. Stephen faced that great assembly of enemies without fear.

Stephen spoke about Jesus, showing that He is the Savior God had promised to send. He scolded his enemies for not having believed in Jesus. At that, they rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to Heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. His hearers plugged their ears and refused to listen to another word. They dragged St. Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and begged God not to punish his enemies for killing him.

After such an expression of love, the holy martyr went to his heavenly reward. -adapted from www.catholic.org



Coming Events:

December (Spiritual Literacy Month)

4th HomeLIFE—All groups meet 7-9

6th St Nicholas Day

10th Cookies and Caroling 1:00-5:00

11th The Alternate 7:00– 9:00

16th Barney and Barbie Backlash Day

18th HomeLIFE

25th Christmas

29th H.S. RiverSkate

31st New Year's Eve



January (Bath Safety Month—don't slip on the soap!)

1st New Year's Day—No HomeLIFE

6th Epiphany

8th HomeLIFE Leaders mtg 9:45

Alternate 7-9

13th Rubber Ducky Day

15th HomeLIFE

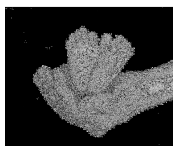
16th MLK Jr. Day

21-22 March for Life/



HS and JrH Family Ski Trip

NO Alternate



27th Holocaust Remembrance Day

29th Alternate 7-9

Retreat!



Mark your calendars now for the Winter retreat! February 24-26, 2012.

You won't want to miss this amazing weekend with good friends and a gracious God! All 9th-

12th graders welcome. Keep an eye out for more info in the coming weeks.



Dec. 11 "The God Difference" Some people say they're spiritual but not religious. Huh? Some people are religious, but they're not very spiritual.

What? Some people say all religions are really the same. How about you? Does it matter what kind of God you believe in?

Caution: This Alternate might cause severe Spiritual growth

December 25 Christmas

No Alternate

All 9th to 12 graders are welcome—no matter what school, no matter what parish or church—Catholic, non-Catholic, doesn't matter. You'll be accepted just as you are.

Skating Away on Christmas Break



On Dec 29, Celebrate Christmas break and the New Year with us! We'll start with skating downtown at Riverscape, and then go to Panera on Brown Street for good warm conversation and food. Skate rental is only \$3 and Skating admission is free! Bring a few bucks for lunch. See the attached flyer for details.



Join us Saturday, December 10th from 1:00 to 5:00 for **Cookies and Caroling!** We'll bake our cookies and then deliver them piping hot and fresh to our parish shut-ins. **Bring your own dough or a package of cookies to bake.** All 6th-12th graders are welcome! An excellent Confirmation service opportunity! Pre-register so we can be sure about drivers! **Release forms available in Church and on the webpage**

Last year the weather didn't cooperate,
but this Christmas break let's give it another try...

Riverskate

(or Ice-skating and some Christmas cheer)



Date: Thursday, Dec 29

Time: Skating: 11:00-1:00

Lunch at Panera: 1:30 -???

(Inclement weather site: Kettering Rec Center)

Costs: \$3 skate rental
+\$\$ for lunch



Release form required - see the back page

Parent Drivers Needed!!!

Please contact Joe to help

OFF-SITE & ONE-TIME ACTIVITY RELEASE & MEDICAL INFO

Church of the Ascension 2025 Woodman Dr, Kettering OH 45420 www.ascensionkettering.org

ACTIVITY: IceSkating at Riverscape **COST:** \$3 Skate rental + money for lunch
LOCATION: Riverscape, Panera on Brown Street **EMERGENCY PHONE:** (937)251-4599
START DATE/TIME: 11:00 AM Thursday, December 29 **MEETING PLACE:** Ascension Church
END DATE/TIME: About 3:00 PM Thursday, December 29 **LEADER:** Joe Ollier **TEL:** Cell:251-4599
TRANSPORTATION: Parent Drivers needed **EMAIL:** jollier@ascensionkettering.org
TYPE OF ACTIVITIES: Ice-skating at Riverscape and lunch at Panera
OTHER INFORMATION: We'll meet at Ascension and carpool. Because of Child Protection requirements, parent drivers are needed
Please contact Joe if you can help drive. We will provide lunch for drivers.

----- **PARENTS: KEEP TOP for your records, RETURN BOTTOM of form** -----

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI
PERMISSION, RELEASE AND MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Event: Riverskate
Date: December 29, 2011

1. I, the lawful parent or guardian of _____ (the "child"), give permission for my child to participate in the activity described on the reverse and release from all liability and indemnify the Archbishop of Cincinnati ("the Archbishop"), both individually and as trustee for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and all parishes within the Archdiocese, and their officers, agents, representatives, volunteers, and employees from any and all liability, claims, judgements, cost or expenses, including attorney fees, arising out of any injury or illness incurred by my child while participating in or traveling to or from the activity.

2. I agree to instruct my child to cooperate with the Archbishop or his agents in charge of the activity.

3a. I appoint the Archbishop or his agents who are acting as leaders of the activity as my attorney in fact to act for me in my name and my behalf, in any way that I would act if I were personally present, with respect to the following matters if any injury, illness or medical emergency occurs during the activity or related travel:

(i) To give any and all consents and authorizations to any physicians, dentist, hospital or other persons or institutions pertaining to any emergency medications, medical or dental treatments, diagnostic or surgical procedures or any other emergency actions as our attorney shall deem necessary or appropriate for the best interest of the child.

(ii) I understand that the agents of the Archbishop will make a reasonable attempt to contact me as soon as possible in the event of a medical emergency involving my child.

3b. This power of attorney shall lapse automatically upon completion of the activity and related travel.

4. I agree that the Archbishop or his agents may use my child's portrait or photograph for promotional purposes, website and office functions.

I have carefully read this statement, and my signature acknowledges that I fully understand the content and meaning.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date ____/____/____
Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Parent E-mail _____ Youth E-mail _____
Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____
Youth Cell _____ Youth School _____ HS year of graduation _____
Emergency Contact _____ Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION -- Completed By Parent/Guardian -- Please Print

Child's Name _____ Birthdate ____/____/____
Allergies & Recommended Treatment _____
Medications, Times, Dosages _____
Medication may be administered by (circle all that apply): My child chaperones
Chronic Conditions (e.g. epilepsy, diabetes) _____
Medical Insurance Co. _____ Policy Number _____
Member's Name _____ Hm Phone _____ Wk Phone _____
Member's Birthdate ____/____/____
Family Doctor _____ Phone _____