

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY! ALLELUIA!



EASTER SACRAMENTS CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Alex Castillo
Dale Dicke
Carol Diven
Melanie Gerber
Rhonda Leininger
Sara Leininger
Diane Lloyd
Brooklyn Miller
Nancy Owens

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Easter Flowers Memorial

The following people are remembered by their loved ones through the gift of flowers to surround our altar during the Easter season:

Lydia Kunesh
Jeffrey Diemer
Glen Relyea
Jerry Lightle
Skip Yarrington
Gregory Iler
Gene Hale
Louis Janicek
Adam & Ella Jurcevich
Dr. H.C. Brown
Jim & Joann Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Temple
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Druhot
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Druhot
Dave Druhot

A JOYOUS WELCOME TO ALL! We are here to celebrate the glorious victory of Christ over sin and death. Let us rejoice exuberantly and give God the glory. Alleluia! The Lord lives and reigns, forever and ever.

A Family Perspective: Today's gospel instructs us Jesus "**had** to rise from the dead." The dying we experience with unmet expectations in marriage and parenting is normal to family life. Families **must** rise above disappointments and be Easter people all year long.

Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice. It is then that we are truly Easter people! **As you give a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them Easter hope and joy.**

Rejoice! Our Lord is risen, offering us new joy and hope. By generously giving through Operation Rice Bowl, you too are offering hope to millions who benefit from the work of Catholic Relief Services. For six weeks you have prayed for the people of Cameroon, fasted in solidarity with the people of Haiti, learned about challenges people face in Mali, and given sacrificially to create possibilities in India. Their struggles—and the efforts of CRS—are far from over. Visit www.crs.org to learn more about global solidarity, and to discover how CRS is putting your donation to use. Please remember CRS' efforts during times of famine or natural disaster. Together, we continue to plant seeds of real hope throughout our world and to foster their growth.

Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10

GOSPEL GLIMPSES That hollow feeling

If you've spent more than a few years on this earth, you've likely lost someone you love, whether parent, spouse, child or friend. You've faced the sorrow of that last goodbye, felt the hollow feeling where your heart used to be, sure that joy had left your life for good. You look at the future and all you see is a grave.



Look again. Each of those graves, so bleak and painful, is an Easter miracle. One day those graves will be as empty as Jesus' was. Our God, who endured first the separation, then the death of His beloved Son, has provided a way past the sorrow of death for all of us. Jesus' resurrection was the first, not the last. Through His sacrifice on the Cross, we each have the chance to be together eternally, with our God and our loved ones. The choice is up to us. Will we endure the grief or accept the gift of solace and salvation that Easter provides?

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 2:42-47/1 Peter 1:3-9/John 20:19-31

Thanks to you, the Food Pantry had enough Easter baskets donated from last year that we were able to make up Easter baskets for this year. Guess what? We are now asking you to donate baskets from this year, so we can do the same next year. Confusing isn't it, but the past is always trying to catch up with the future! Your help is always appreciated!



Thanks to all who shared their time and talents with us at our March Generations of Faith. You are truly taking the message of stewardship and paying it forward. To our **catechist:** Pam Barnett, Jennifer Boyd, Paula & Doug DeCola, Becky Erford, Melissa Jones, Pam Lightle, Jami Mains, Cecilia & Kristi Parsons, Barb & Beth Rath, Amy Thieroff, and Jane, Jennifer & Megan Sewell. **Hospitality** was provided by Nicole Bryant, Christa & Raul Sanchez, and the Jim Bauer Family, Sharon Bradford, Mary Walz and Arlene Yarrington. **Technical support** by Cisco Lloveras.

Join us as we close out Living the Moral Life Season with the topic **Mercy & Forgiveness...** Mark your calendar for **April 13th & 16th** at St. John Parish.

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Knowing, Loving, Serving
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PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Timothy Kummerer-Pastor
Deacon George Newton-Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Joanne Santo-Pastoral Associate of Administration
Ms. Sandy Herman-Principal Minister
Francisco J. Lloveras-Director Of Music & Worship
Deacon Jeff Mayer-Healing & Youth Ministries
Deacon John Weber-Social Justice and Outreach
Mrs. Pam Barnett-H.S. Youth Ministry
Mrs. Alyce Reinhart-Pastoral Associate of Evangelization

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Mary Steyer & Marianne Kiefer- Co-Directors

PARISH SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs. Jean Carr-Secretary/Bookkeeper
Mrs. Shelly Shafer- Secretary
Mrs. Barbara Naymik-School Secretary
Mr. Mark Kunesh- Maintenance/Custodian

EASTER SUNDAY: RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Sacramental Preparation will begin this spring for children currently in the first grade. A new sacramental preparation process will begin this April for the children seeking First Eucharist next year-2009. Letters have been mailed to the families thought to have a child in first grade this year. If you have a child attending first grade in one of our area schools and did not receive a letter and registration form, please call the Parish Ministry Center to register your child. The children will begin preparation for First Reconciliation this spring and celebrate the sacrament in the fall. It is our hope that this extended period of preparation will benefit the families and the young children. The first "Gather In My Name" family session will be held in the Parish Ministry Center Social Hall on Sunday, April 6 at 2:00pm. This is a family event. There will be breakout sessions for younger and older brothers and sisters, as well as, the parents. Members of our parish family will also be invited to attend to support the families and the children preparing for the sacraments. If you have any questions please call Alyce Reinhart at the Parish Ministry Center, 782-2776.

One Spirit Gospel Quartet, Mary Arps, and The Toney Brothers on the same stage for one performance only. National Touring Quartet The Toney Brothers teams up with local favorite One Spirit Gospel Quartet and the talented Mary Arps to bring you a night of Christian entertainment your entire family will love.

Saturday, March 29
Defiance Christian Center

955 Standley Road
\$8 pre-sale, \$10 day of show

Doors open at 6:00 pm, show at 7:00 pm

Tickets available at Defiance Christian Church 419-782-5786, from any One Spirit Quartet member, or online at onespiritquartet.com.

We would like to say thank you to Stykemain for advertising in our church bulletin which is at no cost to us. We ask that you patronize them and give them your support!

Help the School: Please remember to save your Box Tops, Chief receipts, and ink cartridges. Bring them to either school campus or either church office. Thank you for your help!



SCHOOL NEWS

As you know we are on Spring Break this week, but I thought you might enjoy reading these poems. They were written by the present fifth grade students and were published in a student anthology collection.

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Flowers

by Tony Mayer

There once was a field that was fine
There was a little rose that was mine
I took it to my father
He thought it was a bother
I knew it was a mistake
But instead he wanted a cake
There was a pond that had a tuna
I traded it for a petunia
That little rose is the size of my nose
It looks like it is in a pose
I planted some seeds the size of beads
They grew so pretty and tall they could decorate a ball
From that day on the flowers gave us powers

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Spring

by Michael Gineman

Everything is beautiful in season's bloom
Except where there's war when things go... Boom!

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Flowers

by Laura Veronica Castillo

Flowers are beautiful and bright
They don't give you a fright
Because they are filled with delight
You can love just like a dove
They are grateful and joyful
So now you know I love like a dove

* * * *

The Apple Tree

by Hannah Homier

I used to go down to the apple tree
And skip around so happy with glee
I loved the time I used to spend
Prancing around with my best friend
But the one summer, I went down there
And slowly, slowly, slowly stared
With just one chop, my friend was gone
And then I realized, it's time to move on
The apple tree was my best friend
And it will still be again and again

Remember: Classes resume Monday, March 31.

Miss Sandy

Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$11,898.00
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Above Budget.....	\$1,013.00
Contributions to Date	\$429,121.73
\$10,885 x 38 Weeks	\$413,630.00
Year to Date <i>Above Budget</i>	\$15,491.73

55 Plus Club will meet for their annual Lenten Retreat on Tuesday, March 25, at St. Michael's Church. The retreat will begin at 10:00 am with guest speaker Sister Yvonne Fischer, Mass at 11:00, a catered dinner at 12:00 noon, and another session at 1:00 pm. Please call for dinner reservations: Dolores Ryan at 782-9441 or Georgiana Wagner at 497-3762. Committee members are: Maryanne Streicher, Lucy Marckel, Ruth Fritz and Barb Bishop.

Upcoming Events:

- Divine Mercy Devotions will be held Sunday, March 30th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at Domus Angelorum Retreat Center located at 21706 S.R. 114 Cloverdale. All are welcome.
- Tridentine Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Herman Scherger at 7:00 pm, Friday, April 4th at Domus Angelorum Retreat Center located at 21706 S.R. 114 Cloverdale. All are welcome.
- A retreat "The Tridentine Mass" due to inclement weather has been rescheduled on Saturday, April 12th at Domus Angelorum Retreat Center located at 21706 S.R.114 Cloverdale. Gathering at 8:00 am, Mass at 8:30, bring your own lunch, closing at 3:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per person. Welcome at the door or register by calling 419-488-3563.
- **6th Annual DASH-A-THON:** Saturday, April 19, 8:30 am to 12:00 noon at the Independence State Park. Participants may use wheelchairs, walk, run, roller blade, and ride bikes, etc... All proceeds will benefit the Defiance Area Society for the Handicapped. Dash into it and join the fun!

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 24

8:00 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, March 25

8:00 AM Communion Service

2:15 PM Laurel's Communion Service

Wednesday, March 26

9:15 AM Lucille Westrick Anniversary

Thursday, March 27

8:00 AM Herbert Carroll Anniversary

Friday, March 28

8:00 AM Monica Fillman

Saturday, March 29

4:30 PM Raymond McDonald, Jr.

Sunday, March 30

8:00 AM Richard Trame

9:30 AM Richard Schweitzer

11:30 AM Portia Seither

Events For This Week

Monday, March 24

No School- Spring Break Week

Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm PMC

SVDP 7:00 pm PMC

Tuesday, March 25

Respect Life Committee 7:00 pm St. John's

Wednesday, March 26

Combined Liturgy Mtg 5:15 pm School

Shep of Christ Prayer Group 6:00 pm Church

Folk Group 7:30 pm Church

Thursday, March 27

Cantor Rehearsal 5:00 pm Church

Friday, March 28

Catholic Charities Mtg 11:00 am PMC

Spanish Bible Study 7:00 pm PMC

Saturday, March 29

Youth Ministry Planning 9:00 am PMC

Lector Training 10:00 am Church

Retreat Reunion 5:30 pm PMC

Sunday, March 30

Celebrate the Word 9:30 am School

RCIA 10:30 am PMC

Confirmation Session 10:30 am School

Boy Scout Anniversary Mass 11:30 am Church

Cub Scout Religious Awards 11:30 am Church

Boy Scout Reception 12:30 pm PMC

Daily Readings for This Week

Readings for the Week of March 23, 2008

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15