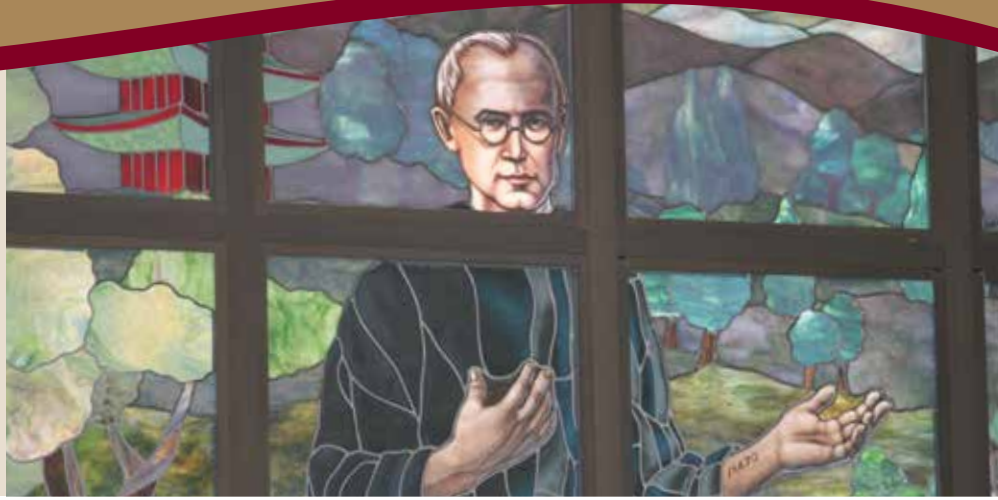


The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE: *Honoring Those Who Have Walked Before Us*

This month is a special time in the Church, as we honor not only all the saints, but also all the faithful who have gone before us. All Souls Day, which falls on Nov. 2, reminds us of the great importance of commemorating the lives and faith of our deceased loved ones. This liturgical occasion brings us together as a faith community to remember those who have walked their earthly journey before us, and inspires us to perform Corporal Works of Mercy by visiting cemeteries and praying for departed souls.

Debra Crane, the Director of Cemeteries for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, acts as a daily on-site manager at Gate of Heaven Cemetery and Mausoleum, while also

helping to run about 100 other parish cemeteries. She came to this work after a career in the corporate world, and she feels incredibly blessed to be able to tend to the resting places of so many.

"We lived near an old cemetery when I was growing up, and as early as the age of 5, I would take my bicycle and ride there and dream about the stories of the people," she says. "I've always felt such peace in cemeteries. Later in my professional life, when I had big business issues to resolve, I would head to the cemeteries and dial it down and I just felt a lot of peace. [When I was contacted about this job], I knew it was God calling me. It's been nothing but a blessing for me, and I hope

continued on page 3



The Betz Bishop monument at Gate of Heaven



Gate of Heaven, one of many cemeteries run by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The MODERN SAINT

A Letter From Our Pastor

VOCATIONS: *Praying, Nurturing, Encouraging*

Becoming a priest or a man or woman religious is not primarily our own decision... Rather it is the response to a call and to a call of love.

(Pope Francis, Address to Seminarians and Novices, 6 July, 2013)

The fraternal life and fervor of the community can awaken in the young a desire to consecrate themselves completely to God and to preaching of the Gospel. This is particularly true if such a living community prays insistently for vocations and courageously proposes to its young people the path of special consecration,"
(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 107)

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Many often ask me when I thought about becoming a priest. Honestly, I first thought about it in grade school, and I actually had two of my eighth-grade classmates accepted at St. Francis Seminary High School located on Mill Road in Springfield Township. It is now a Franciscan retirement community named Mercy Franciscan at Winton Woods. I also contemplated entering the college seminary after graduating from Elder, and again contemplated entering the major (theological) seminary after graduating from Northern Kentucky University, and again at the "midpoint" in my professional career as a pastoral musician/liturgist. It was not until a program entitled *Called by Name* was executed at the parish where I worked did I really discern it was time to study to be a priest. The program allowed parishioners to nominate fellow parishioners whom they thought might have a vocation to ordained ministry or religious life – I received many nominations! Even though I had heard God's call for over 20 years, when the call came *from God through the community*, it became clearer to me. I entered the seminary at age 37 in 1999, was ordained at age 42 in 2004, and 12-plus years later I can truthfully say I am happier now than any time I have ever been in my life!

The Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – are for all the faithful a call to both holiness and to evangelize the world. This call is lived out in many different ways of service and lifestyle in the Church as ordained, consecrated religious, married couples and chaste celibate singles. Of particular note, the Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week from Nov. 6-12, 2016. This observance is a special time for parishes to foster a culture of vocations for the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated religious life.

We must certainly pray for vocations in our personal and



ARCHDIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Almighty Father, You have created us
for some definite purpose.*

*Grant us the grace to know the path
You have planned for us in this life
and to respond with a generous "Yes."*

*Make our archdiocese, parishes,
homes and hearts fruitful ground
for Your gift of vocations.*

*May our young people respond to
Your call with courage and zeal.*

*Stir among our men a desire and the
strength to be good and holy priests.*

*Bless us with consecrated religious and
those called to a chaste single life, permanent
deacons, and faithful husbands and wives,
who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church.*

*We commend our prayer for vocations to You,
Father, through the intercession of Mary our
Mother, in the Holy Spirit, through
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

– Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr,
Archbishop of Cincinnati

VOCATIONS *continued from page 2*

familial prayers. The archdiocesan prayer for vocations is included here for your daily use. Yet, we must not only pray for vocations, but also encourage and nurture vocations in our families and among our friends. If you think someone would make a good priest, deacon or religious, don't be afraid to share that with them. And never forget, there may

be a future priest, deacon or religious sitting across from you at your kitchen table! Promote and proclaim the important witness of the chaste single life among our youth and always advise those who are dating and potentially getting engaged not to plan to just "get married somewhere," but to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Let us pray for, encourage, nurture and celebrate all the vocations to which we are called to live.

God bless one and all!



Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor

A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE *continued from front cover*

I've been the same for the families that come here."

Gate of Heaven, which opened in 1948, is the resting place for the physical bodies and ashes of over 41,000 souls, and has seen so many generations of some families laid to rest there that visitors are now coming to the graves of their great-grandparents.

According to Debra, having a physical location that memorializes a loved one is essential.

"It is so important to have this place," she says. "The day that you bury a loved one, the image is forever in your mind. It's a goodbye, for now, and we as humans have a draw to that place. Being able to see a memorial with a name on it – being able to see Mom's name – validates the life on earth."

Jeffrey Davis, who also works at Gate of Heaven, agrees that there is tremendous value in the act of visiting the burial sites of the deceased.

"The grieving process is a very long one, and it's nice to have a place to go where you can take time throughout the months and years that follow the death of a loved one," he says. "It is harder in some moments and hits in different ways and times, so it's nice when you're able to come to a place that is personal and private, and you can continue that process of mourning for a loved one."

Burying and honoring the dead is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy recognized by the Catholic Church, and Jeffrey feels blessed to be able to participate in this loving and merciful act.

"Certainly, in my work, there's the Corporal Work of Mercy of burying the dead and the Spiritual Work of Mercy of comforting the mourning," he says. "The loss of a loved one is a deeply personal and difficult time, so it is an honor that families allow me to walk with them through this moment."

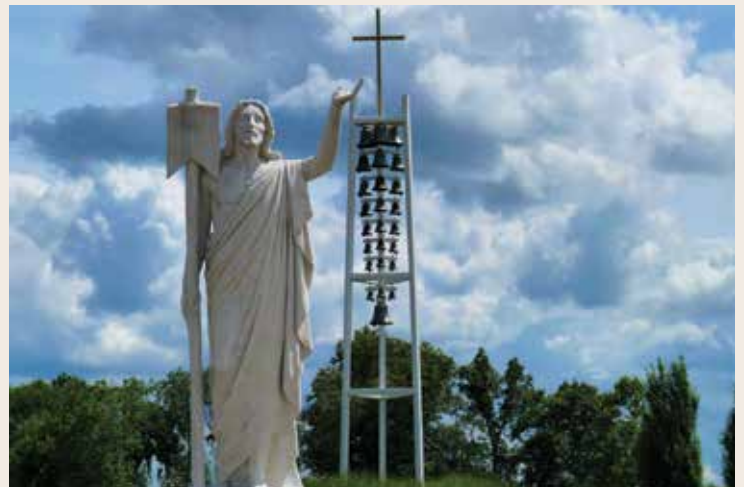
For those who wish to honor the memory of the

deceased in a special way during this month, there are many ways to carry out these works of mercy.

"We have a memorial Mass here at Gate of Heaven the third Thursday of every month," Jeffrey says. "You can also pray for the souls of the departed, and we can pray to our loved ones and thank them for the gifts they have given us."

Perhaps the greatest reward we receive when we take the time to memorialize the departed is the grace that flows from this work of mercy to strengthen and build our faith.

"It's a very important part of the faith," Debra says. "If you look at the Catholic Church and the rituals that we start as an infant that continue all through life – this is the crowning ritual; this marks the momentous moment of being back with the Lord. It's one of the many blessings that we are permitted, and those of faith seek it. It's so important to know that there's something beyond this and that the goodbye is temporary."



The Wells Bell Tower at Gate of Heaven

YEAR OF *Burying the*



@ St. Max

"The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2447). Throughout the Holy Year of Mercy, each month a work of mercy will be highlighted for both reflection and action.

Burying the dead, a Corporal Work of Mercy, is an act of love to show respect for the bodies of our deceased relative and friends. Attending funerals – the wake, service and burial – is only one way we honor our beloved dead. Visiting cemeteries, perhaps cleaning grave markers and placing flowers, is another way to remember our loved ones who have gone before us. Those who work at cemeteries – preparing graves, cutting grass, etc. – by their very work practice this work of mercy.

Cremation and Suicide – Just What Does the Church Teach?

We have many opportunities for ministry to the bereaved in our parish. For more information, please refer to the Ministry Catalog you received in the mail last month as part of our annual stewardship renewal. As we highlight this Corporal Work of Mercy this month, we will use this space to share the Church's teaching on two often misunderstood dynamics – cremation and suicide.

The Catholic Church teaches that body and soul will be re-united for all eternity after their "temporary separation" at death. Looking forward to that "eternal future," the Church has also always taught that the body of a deceased person be treated with reverence and dignity. Following the Scriptural example of Jesus' body being entombed, for centuries the Church taught that corpses only be entombed or buried. That is no longer the case. "The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed, it does not however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching" (1983 Code of Canon Law, 1176). Thus, the Church does allow for cremation, provided those making that decision are not

doing so because they fear the body is lost forever and has no future together in Christ with the immortal soul.

Cremated remains are to be treated the same way as a corpse would be treated – not to be "divided up," but placed in a proper vessel and interred in a cemetery. The Church still prefers and urges that cremation would occur after the funeral rites – visitation and liturgy – but before interment. However, if cremation must take place immediately after death, the Church does provide for Catholic funeral rites in the presence of cremated remains.

"NB Autopsies are permitted for legal inquests or scientific research. And organ donation is not only legitimate but can be meritorious" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2301).

For many centuries, those who died by suicide were refused Catholic funeral rites and burial. That also is no longer the case. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to Him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2283).

MERCY

the Dead

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE – NOVEMBER 2016

Individual Confessions

Thursday mornings after the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.

Saturday mornings after the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Saturday afternoons at 3 p.m.

@ Home

- Be faithful about attending funeral visitations and services.
- Spend time with widows, widowers and anyone mourning the death of a loved one – be a compassionate listener.
- Take friends and relatives to visit the cemetery.
- Support ministries that offer free Christian burials to those unable to afford one.
- Offer daily prayers for those for those who have died.
- Send a personal note or Mass card to someone who has recently lost a loved one.
- Plan your own funeral Mass (choosing possible Scripture readings and liturgical music).
- Urge those who have difficulty in coping with the death of a loved one to seek pastoral or professional counseling.

CEMETERY VISITS

During the month of November all are encouraged to visit cemeteries and pay respects at the graves of their deceased relatives and friends. Of special note, on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m. our parish clergy will be at the following cemeteries – at which most of our own parishioners have been buried since the parish founding – to lead a brief prayer service before those present would go to the graves of their departed loved ones.

† Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 11000 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45249

† Rose Hill Cemetery, 2421 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011

† St. Mary's Cemetery, 701 East Ross Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217

† Oak Hill Cemetery, 11200 Princeton Pike, Cincinnati OH 45246

† West Chester (Union Township) Cemetery, 6425 West Chester Road, West Chester, OH 45069



The SAINTS of BURYING THE DEAD – Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

As a crucified criminal, Jesus's corpse would have probably been thrown into a common grave had it not been for two influential Jewish leaders. Joseph of Arimathea had not agreed with the other religious leaders to put Jesus to death. After Jesus' death, Joseph courageously asked for and successfully obtained His body. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, had secretly gone to Jesus to try to understand His teachings and spoke up for Him at the time of His arrest. A new tomb, owned by Joseph, would be Jesus' resting place. As was the burial custom, a perfumed myrrh-aloes resinous mixture would be spread between the encircling layers of cloth that wrapped around and around Jesus' body until it was completely sealed like a fabric cocoon. As the Gospels relate, an additional cloth was wrapped around Jesus' head. Afterwards, a large stone was rolled over the tomb's opening and the Romans, at the prompting of the Jewish leaders, placed guards there to make sure no one would steal Jesus' body and claim that He had risen from the dead as He had foretold. In this act of love for Jesus and fulfilling proper Jewish burial customs, both Joseph and Nicodemus risked their reputations. According to some legends, Joseph was even imprisoned for such a bold act.

COME ONE, COME ALL

CELEBRATING THE TRADITION OF THE

17TH ANNUAL ST. MAX HOLIDAY GIFT BAZAAR

Tradition is a wonderful thing. During this time of year when the temperatures drop and the leaves change colors, there are many traditions to look forward to – college football, pumpkin pies, Thanksgiving turkey, and early Christmas shopping. As Catholics, we are also blessed with the rich traditions of our faith – traditions that reflect our liturgical seasons. This month, as we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will once again celebrate what has become a special tradition in our parish: The Holiday Gift Bazaar.

“This will be the 17th annual St. Max Holiday Gift Bazaar,” says Mark Woodyard, event coordinator. “And as in past years, it promises to be lots of fun. This year, we have about 20 booths selling everything from jewelry and makeup, to quilts and photography. It’s a great place to get a lot of your holiday shopping done.”

This year’s event will be Sunday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. – and since it is scheduled during Fellowship Weekend, you can shop for the holidays *and* socialize with old friends and new! There truly is something for everyone, and Mark – who not only organizes the Holiday Gift Bazaar, but also participates as a vendor with his famous Woody’s Pulled Pork – especially appreciates the event’s inclusiveness of home-based businesses such as Tupperware or Mary Kay Cosmetics.

“One thing that is different about our Holiday Bazaar is that we especially reach out to direct sellers in order to provide them a venue in which to sell their goods,” Mark says. “So many holiday markets, fairs or bazaars are for handmade crafts only, thereby excluding those who have home-based businesses. At least here at St. Max, they can sell their products, hand out business cards, or even book parties.”

So mark your calendars and come celebrate a tradition that brings our parish and community together! The St. Max Holiday Gift Bazaar is just around the corner – come and shop, socialize, and support fellow parishioners in their home-based businesses. We hope to see you there!

MERCHANTS FOR THE 2016 ST. MAX HOLIDAY GIFT BAZAAR

ADVOCARE

CHESAPEAKE POPCORN

CROCHETED RUFFLE SCARVES

DOVE CHOCOLATE DISCOVERIES

JAFRA COSMETICS

JUST JEWELRY

MARY KAY COSMETICS

NERIUM

OUT OF THE DRAWER QUILTS

ORIGAMI OWL

POINT OF VIEW BY SUSAN – PHOTOGRAPHY

SCENTSY

SILPADA DESIGNS

STAMPIN’ UP

TASTEFULLY SIMPLE

TUPPERWARE

USBORNE BOOKS & MORE

WILDTREE

WOODY’S PULLED PORK



Parishioner Mark Woodyard coordinates the St. Max Holiday Gift Bazaar. He also participates as a vendor, selling his famous Woody’s Pulled Pork.

“Therefore Go and Make Disciples of All Nations”

Evangelization, the Church, and Our St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

According to the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus’ parting words to us before He ascended to Heaven after His Resurrection included these instructions: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

That is, quite frankly, a call to evangelization. Clearly, evangelization is not new to the Church – it is traced to that call from Jesus Christ, a call to His apostles and followers of that time, and that call continues today in relation to us and our lives as Catholics. “Evangelization” has become a bit of a “catchphrase” in today’s Church. Of course, it is not a new idea, nor is it a new call.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis’s absolute first publication – officially an apostolic exhortation – was titled *Evangelii Gaudium*, which means “The Joy of the Gospel.” In that document, the pope had much to say about evangelization, including this: “Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.”

Nevertheless, the idea of evangelization is nothing new. Pope St. John Paul II issued an encyclical in December 1990 titled *Redemptoris Missio* – “The Mission of the Redeemer” – in which he called for the Church to renew its efforts in evangelization. This has become known as the “new evangelization,” but within what Pope St. John Paul II says is that the Church “must renew her missionary commitment.” He adds, “Faith is strengthened when it is shared and given to others.”

Yet, it would seem that some Catholics resist this call to evangelization, perhaps recalling images of street preachers, television evangelists or door-to-door groups saying “repent” or talking about the “wages of sin.” Or, we may feel that evangelization is the role of saints or missionaries or Catholic priests. The truth is that evangelization is born from a love of people and a desire that everyone come know the love of Christ and the blessings of living as part of His Kingdom.

Over a decade before Pope St. John Paul II addressed this issue, Pope Paul VI issued an apostolic exhortation in 1975 titled *Evangelii Nuntiandi* – “Evangelization in the Modern World” – in which the pope said, “We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing of all

people constitutes the essential mission of the Church.”

So, what does this mean to us at St. Maximilian Kolbe? Obviously, each of us is called to be an evangelist. That does not mean we go door-to-door or stand on street corners proclaiming our faith. Our own mission statement has a strong flavor of evangelization, especially because of our effort to embrace stewardship as a way of life. In recent years, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued two pastoral letters – one called *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy of Catholic Evangelization*, and the other titled *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*. The connection between stewardship and evangelization and discipleship is obvious, it would seem.

Pope Francis also said in his first official statement *Evangelii Gaudium* the following: “An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the Good News not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient, or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ.” That is who we are, or who we should be.

For more parish news and current events visit our website
at www.saint-max.org or follow us on Facebook
(St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church) and on Twitter @saintmaxcinci!

Saint MAXIMILIAN KOLBE Catholic Church

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Don't Forget to Return Your Commitment Card!

Please be sure to return your completed Commitment Card at any Mass on the weekend of Nov. 5-6. If you've misplaced your Commitment Card or did not receive one, please contact the parish office at 513-777-4322.

HAVE YOU MOVED,
OR DO YOU HAVE
A NEW PHONE
NUMBER OR NEW
EMAIL ADDRESS?

.....
*Please contact the office
at 777-4322 ext. 101 or
culm@saint-max.org
to give us an update!*

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sun.:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. | **Mon. - Sat.:** 8:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.,
Thursdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.