

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

WELCOME TO ST. MAX PARISH!

Welcome to the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish community! If you would like to register in the parish, please pick up a packet in the gathering space and return the registration form. Once registered, you will receive our monthly newsletter and emails. Please know our staff and parish leaders are here to be of service to you. Additional information about our parish can be found on our website, www.saint-max.org.

Sunday, December 31

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

8:00 AM † Vincent Bao Nguyen and † Maria Chi Dang
 10:00 AM People of the parish and † Sergio Moreto
 NOON † Robert Trischler

Monday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 AM † Joseph Bui and † Toma Binh and
 † Mattha Diem
 NOON Peg and Jim Kathman Family

Tuesday, January 2

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:30 AM † Jim Kodros and † Daniel Ferraro
 7:00 PM *Mass at St. John, West Chester*

Wednesday, January 3

8:30 AM † Kristin Renneker

Thursday, January 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:30 AM † Effat and † Faid Saad

Friday, January 5

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

8:30 AM † Kazimierz and † Eleanor Budek

Saturday, January 6

8:30 AM † Ken Trantowski
 4:30 PM † Margaret Barthel

Sunday, January 7

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 AM † Thomas and Edna Reagan
 10:00 AM* † Mr. and † Mrs. William Hohman and
 People of the parish
 NOON* † James Redden and † Faith Marie DeLong and
 for the intentions of all our volunteers
 † Deceased * Incense Used

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
 Psalm 105
 Hebrews 11:8; 11-12, 17-19
 Luke 2:22-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-13
 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
 Matthew 2:1-12

DEVOTIONS (all in chapel)

Perpetual Adoration - Our chapel is open continuously
Exposition - The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on Thursdays after Mass, a Holy Hour begins at 7:00 PM
Rosary - One half hour before all Masses
Divine Mercy Chaplet - After all Masses

Our sympathy to the families of all those who have died, especially:

Tony Schroeder, cousin of Kathy Lupidi
 Patrick John Bambrick, brother of Neil Bambrick

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Your healing prayers are requested for Earl Abeln, Art Arand, Mike Andary, Grace Basta, Lisa Bingaman, Bob Bruns, Brian Bruns, Kristine Bruns, Jennifer Calangi, Maya Collins, Michael Coon, Marian Conrad, Annette Curtin, Dr. Michael Cushing, Angelique Debets, Henry DeNicola, Ashley Douglas, Steve Dragon, Jack Easter, Bill Ebben, Alicia Hollenkamp-Adkins, Gaye Hollenkamp Eubanks, Levi Gasner, Nadine Gennaro, Mary Ferraro, Robert Ferraro, Jack Finke, Timmy Fischer, Mary Fritz, Clyde Garrison, Karen Gross, Richard Gross, Sol Gross, James Gunselman, Gail Hamilton, Gary Hampton, Judy Harrod, Russell Harrod, John Hendy Jr., Al Higgins, Jill Holt, Geraldine Hughes, Maureen Imfeld, Jennifer Klenke, Don Klinkhammer, Hank Kluznick, Joey Lakeberg, Michael Lancaster, Paul Levasseur, Barb Listermann, Tom Lutz, Ron Lynch, Joe Marksteiner, Char McCarthy, Andrew Meister, Jacob Meister, Beryl Michael, Judy Michael, Sheila Miesse, Daniel R. Miller, James Moores, Jon Moran, Trevor Vincent Munafo, Bill Murphy, Gene Neltner, Robert Niznansky, Victor Nguyen, Fr. John Porter, Stephanie Pulling, Annie Prather, Agnes Rahman, Kristof Rattermann, Quintin Richardson, Evelyn Robinson, Joseph Romer, Margot Roth, James Santos, Kerry Santos, Dory Schade, Rose Mary Schaefer, James Schaeper, Cindy Schneeman, Julie Schrock, Kathleen Seda, Barbara Smith, Eric Stearman, Debbie Stoeckel, Kendall Stump, Richard Sunnenberg, Ernestine Tomblin, Tari Torbeck, Kenneth Trimbach, George Vesper, Gloria Vesper, Stanley Wadella, Vito Weeda, Charlie Wiedenmann, Christine Zampese, and Annemarie Cannon Zawada.

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to You in this time of illness. We place our sick under Your care and humbly ask that You restore Your servants to health again.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY

Please pray for Scott Archuleta, Daniel Armstrong, Patrick Black, Ben Brink, Nicholas Calangi, Rich Borromeo, Dylan Hays, Philip DeNicola, Donald Gilbert, David Giuliano, Joseph Hamann, Michael Hazlebeck, Katherine Holthaus, Derrick Kamphaus, Stephen Kelczewski, Matthew Koop, Jon Laurin, Derek Morris, Michael Nelson, Ryan Nikzad, Don Mollis, Jr., Daniel Moore, Chad Richman, Christopher Richman, Kevin Stetson and Cedric Whitlock.

Almighty God, we stand before You in supplication, asking Your divine mercy and protection to envelop with Your invincible armor our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength against all enemies, both spiritual and physical, and hasten their safe journey back to their homes and families.

HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED AND NURSING HOMES

To make arrangements to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Penance and/or visits to the hospitalized or seriously ill parishioners, please call Holly Moran, 777-4322, ext. 116. Please note that if you are in the hospital, privacy regulations prohibit hospital personnel from contacting your parish. Therefore, you or your family members should let us know directly by calling the parish office.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We know certainly that our God calls us to a holy life. We know that he gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are so weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty.”

– St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774–January 4, 1821),

mother, widow, religious, foundress of the Sisters of Charity, first native born American saint (feast day – January 4)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

A continued blessed Christmastide to everyone as we celebrate this weekend the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This annual feast presents the Holy Family to us as a model for Christian families. There is an Italian saying, *La famiglia é tutto*, which means *the family is everything*. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has made families one of the focal points of his papacy having supported synods and conferences on the family. Speaking to gathered families in 2015, the pope said, “You cannot have a family without dreams. I am very fond of dreams in families. For nine months, every mother and father dream about their baby. They dream about what kind of child he or she will be... You can’t have a family without dreams. Once a family loses the ability to dream, children do not grow, love does not grow, life shrivels up and dies. So I ask you each evening, when you make your examination of conscience, to also ask yourselves this question: Today did I dream about my children’s future? Today did I dream about the love of my husband, my wife? Did I dream about my parents and grandparents who have gone before me?” Some very poignant questions as we begin a new year.

All of today’s readings have to do with families and family life. The first reading from Sirach emphasizes the Fourth Commandment, “Honor thy father and mother.” We are commanded to respect and love our parents. However, it is a two way street. The Gospel speaks of the development of Jesus which should inspire parents to understand that our prayers are the same as the prayers of Joseph and Mary – that our children will become strong in spirit and filled with wisdom.

As you already know, next weekend, as we celebrate the Epiphany, we are encouraging each of you to live out your baptisms and be evangelizers – to be those who invite people not just to church but into a deeper relationship with Christ. If you don’t have your “Take One Step Closer” tool-kit there are copies by the doors to the parish office in the gathering space. One of the best summaries of the New Evangelization I have ever heard comes from Bishop John Doerfler of Marquette (the upper peninsula of Michigan) who was ordained and installed as bishop there almost four years ago. At the end of his ordination/installation Mass he set a pastoral vision for his diocese. He challenged those gathered with a threefold invitation:

- *Be a friend of Jesus* – first and foremost, we need a relationship with the Lord at center of our lives and we spend our lives nourishing, deepening and strengthening that relationship
- *Make a friend* – all of us have friends who have fallen away from an active and consistent practice of the Faith. Maybe we also “lapsed” at some time or another in our lives. We need to reconnect with past friends and always be open to making new friends.
- *Introduce your friend to Jesus* – this is what our “Take One Step Closer” initiative this Epiphany is basically all about. Through our baptism, we are each called to be evangelizers. Not a people who nag or drag, but a people who share stories and journey with others at their pace. So next weekend is an opportunity for you to re-introduce a past friend or perhaps introduce a new friend to Jesus. And this is just *taking one step closer* – the first of many, many steps we must all take to be closer to the Lord Jesus.

Our Eucharistic Holy Hour this week is a Holy Hour for Peace – so very appropriate as the World Day of Peace to begin the new year is commemorated annually on January 1. Peace is rather allusive sometimes – in our world and country, in our workplaces and neighborhoods, in our families and in our hearts. Join us this Thursday for our Holy Hour for Peace as we pray that the reign of the new-born Prince of Peace take root more and more and more in our time.

And finally, some words of gratitude. Thanks to everyone – from Fr. Simon Peter, Fr. Ron, our intern Nicholas White and me – for the many cards, gifts, goodies and holiday wishes extended to us at the rectory.

That’s it for now – God bless one and all!

Fr. Geoff

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

NEWS FROM CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD MINISTRY

In the past, our ministry has been geared toward students in grades 1-4. We are happy to announce that beginning January 8th, students currently enrolled in kindergarten will be invited to join us for Children's Liturgy of the Word! Our new age range will be from current kindergarteners (**age 5 years**) to **3rd grade**. We're hoping your child will join us! Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, currently, Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered most weekends at the 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses. Check us out and bring a friend! Questions? Contact coordinator, Debi Hoffer at clow@saint-max.org.

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to all our liturgical ministers – lectors, EMHCs, music ministers, sound technicians, servers, sacristans, ushers, greeters, linen launders – who helped to make our celebrations of Christmas Eve and Day so wonderful!

Thank You

OUTREACH

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Surviving Divorce is a twelve-week program featuring thirty-minute DVD sessions each week. Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing. Developed and hosted by Rose Sweet, Surviving Divorce features experts Dr. Ray Guarendi, Ph.D., Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C., Fr. Steve Porter, S.T.L., Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., and Christopher West. It also includes personal testimonies of Catholic men and women who have experienced the breakdown of their families. They courageously share their stories with heart, humor, and wisdom. As they witness to their pain and the healing power of Christ in their lives, participants will laugh, cry, and identify with their journeys from heartache to healing. This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM. The next session begins January 24, 2018. Please RSVP by January 19 to Chuck Michael, (513) 608-7112, SurvivingDivorce@saint-max.org. Find out more about the program at www.CatholicsDivorce.com.



IT'S OKAY TO BE HUMAN



We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it's a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need. If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. Men are matched with men, and women with women. (It's completely confidential too). To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, call the Parish Office at 513-77-4322 ext.218 or email at StephenMinistry@saint-max.org. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

"Love one another, as I have loved you" John 13:34

PROJECT RACHEL: A POST-ABORTION HEALING MINISTRY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Office for Respect Life Ministries is offering a day of reflection for all those who have been affected by abortion. This includes fathers, siblings, aunts/uncles, friends. The day is January 27, 2018 in the Cincinnati area from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be a healing service, with an opportunity to participate in Reconciliation following witnesses and prayer. We invite you to: "Look into your heart, listen to the voice of God. Help yourself by accepting His love and forgiveness." For more information or registration call the Office for Respect Life Ministries at 937-222-0227, or the Project Rachel Helpline for information at (513)784-0531. You can register at: www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel



EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

GOSPEL FOR ALL AGES

Luke 2:22-40

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

Family Faith Time

Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Can you recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family? Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. Read together today's gospel, Luke 2:22-40. Joseph and Mary expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. Simeon prophesied the grief that Mary would experience at the foot of Jesus' cross. One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times, and supporting one another through difficult times. Write a prayer together, thanking God for your family life and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another.

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

We are OFF for three weeks! Classes begin again on January 7, 2018.

NURSERY NEWS

The nursery will reopen Sunday, January 7 for the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses. Thank you for understanding.

RFY GRADES 1-8 NEWS

We are OFF for three weeks! Classes begin again on January 7 & 8, 2018. Looking ahead...all fifth graders (classroom and home study) will be taking the ACRE Assessment on January 14 & 15 during our regular RFY session times. You should have received an email from Mary Lou with online resources to look over for review. All fifth grade **home study** families will also be receiving a signup genius link. Please sign up for the session that is most convenient for you!

MIGHTY MAX

It's time to register for our Mighty Max Early Childhood weekday program! New child registrations for our "winter session" for all classes are being accepted now. The winter session will run the weeks of January 8 to March 16. Cost is \$50.00. Class options include Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. Come join the fun!

Check out the Mighty Max page on the parish website for forms and program information. Contact Charlotte Flanagan in the office with any questions, 513-777-4322 ext. 129, or cflanagan@saint-max.org.



STEBENVILLE

St. Max High School Youth Group is planning to attend the Steubenville Conference this coming summer July 13-15. Archbishop Schnurr from Cincinnati will be the main celebrant! Please sign up and send in your deposit by January 7. Check the parish website for flyer and forms. Contact awheeler@saint-max.org with any questions.

High School Youth Group

SUNDAY

January 7 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Youth group nights include a prayer, large group game or activity, faith discussion and small group, and time to hang out.

Life Issues

Coming 1/14 Virtuous Saints





The flowers in the church were donated in loving honor/memory of:

the Abrams and DeGenova families

Marlene Adams

Frank Agricola

Fintan and Teresa Albietz

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Alcorn

Paul and Dorothy Alexander

the Allshouse family

Robert Antoccia

Percival and Anna Arand

Dolores Armor

Donnie Armor

Danny Arnold

Dante and Frances Auciello

Bob and Jo Barry

Tom Baur

Ruth Baur

Benjamin Biser

Dick and Mary Blair

Sandi Blair

Eileen Bleyer

Teresa Bleyer

Cletus Bosse

Harry and Mary Bosse

Richard P. Boucher Sr.

Richard P. Boucher Jr.

James Bowling

John and Mary Boyle

Angelo Bua

Kazimierz and Eleanor Budek

Paul and Mary Bulger

Ann Bulger

Harold and Clara Burkett

Joseph Burrows

Wanda Busse

Herman Busse

members of the Castillo family

George Chicwak

Chichi Cordero

Anna Corkhill

the Dailey family

Mary and Virgil Daniel

Sparky Dennis

John and Stella DeRonghe

Grandma and Grandpa Doerger

William and Edna Dombi

Bob and Henrietta Donoghue

Jerry and Barbara Dorsel

Lucille, Robert and James Downie and family

Joseph and Helen Drozdowski

Edward P. Drybala, Sr.

Beatrice English

the Erbs and Zacher families

Patrick Falconio

Daniel Ferraro

Anthony Ferraro, Sr

Lori Finley

Clara and Edwin Flueck

Dennis Flueck

Judy Frazier

Frey family

Henry Fullenkamp

Doris Gardner

Daniel Gaudio

Theresa Gaudio

Patrick Gaudio

Hank Gerbus

Jim and Dorothy Grace

Frank and Mary Grees

David and Stella Grewe

Peggy Groves

Marsha Gruhler

Page Hamler

Lucille and Andy Heary

Al Heuman

Hiernaux family

Austin Hill

Bill and Mary Hinger

Patty Hollowell

Helen and Bob Hood

Ray Horn

Barbara Murphy Hover

Matt Huber

Joan and Bill Hunt

Larry Inkrott

Kay and Irving Jacobs

Joseph T. Jenzio

James M. Jenzio

John D. Jenzio

Kelly-Jones Family

Dr. M. and Kathy Kendrick

Bernard Kessling

Sr. Estelle Kessling

Josephine Klepec

Joseph and Henrietta Knopp

Sandy Knopp

Florence and Stanley Koss

Helen Krebs

Joseph Kreider

Rose and Hermin Krekeler

Jerry Krekeler

Barbara R. Krug

the Krzmarzick, Abehn, and Easter families

Ronald LaMarca

Charles and Mabel Lancaster

Dorothy M. Landers

Thomas E. Landers

Sonia Lang

Pete and Patty Langdon

Vera Laphorn

John and Martha Latzy

Paul Leduc

Evelyn Leduc

Beverly Listermann

Al and Marin Liva

Kleo and Rosemary Long

Grandma and Grandpa Long

Ed and Margaret Longo

Dale and Sharon Luper

Rudolph Macon

Rudy Macon

John and Joana Mankus

Clarence and Rosella Martin

Louise Martinelli

Olga Mastalski

Laurie McCloy

Betty McCreary

John E. McHale

Brian McHale

Tom McNamara

Charles Michael, Sr.

Christopher Mihalchik

Ronald Miller

Norman Monroe





the deceased members of the Morello,
Perez, and Rodriguez families
Bill and Mary Moss
parents of John and Dena Moulton
Mary Mraz
Nicholas Munafo, Sr.
Rose Murphy
Ivan and Norma Musser
John and Margaret Nee
Francine Nielsen
Ed and Nancy Nordmann
Ginny Novak
Gerald and Eileen Oelrich
Rosemary Murray O'Malley
the living and deceased members of the
O'Malley and Normoyle families
Thomas Oxier
Homer and Rosemary Oxier
grandparents of Susan and George
Palmer
Robert Pearce
James A. Poore
the Potter, Miller, and Engel families
the Preest-Hardy family
Walter and Leona Pucke
Josephine Raid
Dennis Rathnaw
Joseph and Ruth Recker
Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Reisch
Kristin Renneker
the Ress and Roeder families
Charles and Edna Rhoten and family
Stanley F. Richman
Marie Richman
Donnie Ricket
John and Marcello Risola
Edward Roehm Sr
Sharon Roehm
John Rose
John G Rose
Karen Ross
Steve Roush
Rosella and Joseph Ruffner
William Sager
Blache Satterfield

Petra Schroder
Maria Schroder
Justin Settelmayer
Marion and Gloria Shaw
Jim Shearer
Lila and Donnie Shelton
Violet Shimrock
Angelo Siciliano
George and Mary Jane Sickinger
Joe and Anna Sikora
Rodney Simms
Violet and Rodney Simms
Loraine and Wayne Simons
Baby Grace Lee Smith
Ernest and Marie Smith
Judy Smith
Zach Smith
Ed Spann
Connie Speaks
Ralph and Beatrice Speaks
Helen and Clifford Spees
Charles and Ida Spence
Don and Barbara Spillane
Patricia Starr
Herman and Margaret Stenger
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Stitt
Patti Strube
Thomas and Alvina Suddendorf
John and Margaret Sullivan
Michael E. Sullivan
Jill Szul
Connor Szul
Jessica Tassos
Harry and Grace Taylor
Agnes and John Taylor
the Tereba and Hahn families
Gilbert Thiergartner
Marilyn Thiergartner
Peggy Thiergartner
Daniel Thiergartner
Susan Thiergartner
Anna and Bernard Tobergte
Henry Torbeck
Red and Robert Totten
Robert Trischler

Robert Turbeck
Emil and Joyce Ulm
Tara Urbanek
Moris Velaseo
Hazel and Irwin Volk
Bud and Rick Vore
Walter Wantola
Thelma Wantola
Debra Weary
Rosemary Weber
Michael Wehrle
Robert and Mary Wehrle
Richard and Letha Wehrle
Dorothy and Leonard Wehrle
Nancy Welch
Mary and Joseph Weldly
Tom Wiss MD
AJ and Betty Wiss
Gladys and Frank Wiss
Harold Zabel
Mary Walburga Zimmer
Don and Kathleen Zink
Kevin Zins
Lillian Zipperer
All souls in Purgatory
Our relatives in Heaven



Faith. Food. Fitness.

St. Max Women's Wellness Retreat

Looking for a fresh start to the New Year?
Join us to learn some simple techniques to
improve your mind, body and spirit today
and every day throughout 2018!

January 6
9:15 - 11:45 AM
Gym

Experience...

- Prayer with movement that will help you understand how easy it is to increase your conversations with God when you become more physically active.
- The delicious simplicity of seasonal, whole food, plant-based meal preparation while gathering new recipes that you and your entire family will enjoy. You will also learn about pro-inflammatory foods and the differences between food allergies, sensitivities and intolerances.
- A quiet moment with God to reflect upon the ways you can improve your daily health routines.
- Fellowship with women interested in overall wellness.



Please wear comfortable exercise clothes and bring an exercise/yoga mat (a few extra mats will be available).

Registration is appreciated: www.saint-max.org/wellnessretreat
Free childcare is available with online preregistration
Questions? Email Nancy Cushing, wellness@saint-max.org



WEST CHESTER CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

January 4th - Adoration & Applebee's: Join us for an hour of adoration and prayer (holy hour) at St. Max in the chapel from 7:00-8:00 PM. Afterwards we'll meet outside the chapel (door to the right, as you face the altar) to drive to Applebee's at Union Center for some food & socializing – *1st Thursday of each month*



January 27th - Cincinnati Cyclones Game: Join us as the Cincinnati Cyclones take on the Fort Wayne Komets. The Cyclones will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the classic hockey movie, Mighty Ducks, during the game. Tickets are \$15 each. Money is due to Lisa Krass by January 17 to reserve your spot. We will meet at 6:00 PM in the St. John pavilion parking lot to carpool down.

January 17th - Faith Discussion – The Epiphany: The story of the three wise men who traveled from the east to pay homage to Jesus is part of our Christmas tradition. Join us as we reflect on bible verses about bringing our unique gifts to the Lord in this same way. We will meet in the hospitality room at St. John from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. After the meeting, we will go to Buffalo Wild Wings (9243 Schulze Dr. West Chester Township, OH 45069). See you there!

WE ARE CREATING A VISION!

We are creating a vision for adult catechesis here at St. Max and we are inviting you to discern becoming a member of this ministry. We will meet monthly and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in creating this vision. Our next meeting will be January 13, 2018 at 7:00 AM at St. Max. We will meet monthly, usually on the second Saturday of the month. Please email us your input or questions mdoughman@saint-max.org

RETROUVAILLE-A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

The next program is the weekend of January 12-14, 2018.

Retrouvaille is a Catholic sponsored, confidential program open to all faiths. It offers a chance to rediscover yourself, and your spouse. It is for couples that have experienced a breakdown in communication, become unloving and uncaring, thinking of separation or divorce or who are separated.

For further information please visit the website at: helpourmarriage.org

One Step Closer...

Epiphany - January 6 & 7, 2018

...to abundant life
...to complete joy
...to free donuts

Like the wise men of old, each of us is seeking something more. Just like them, our answer is Jesus Christ. Whether this is your first time at St. Max or your "first time in a long time," take one step closer. Join us on January 6 & 7 for Mass and an Epiphany-themed donut trail. Start the new year off right, come learn some easy, practical ways to take one step closer to Christ. Jesus offers us more.



PRESENT

CINCINNATI MEN'S CONFERENCE

is BACK!

SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH 2018
TAFT THEATRE • 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Archbishop
Dennis Schnurr



Father
Larry Richards



Father
Mitch Pacwa, S.J.



Coach
Gerry Faust



Surprise 5th Speaker
to be Announced

2018 Theme
**BE A
MAN!**

"What it Means
to be a True
Christian Man in
Today's Society"

Cost \$30

Purchase tickets in the parish office. First come first serve. For questions regarding tickets
email cgroh@saint-max.org

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE ON THE FAITH JOURNEY



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1. Sunday & Holy Day Offerings	Sundays	Holy Days
December 3	27,150.14	86.00
December 10	24,909.45	2,598.02
December 12 - Faith Direct EFT	62,387.84	5,487.00
December 17	32,010.71	2,470.00
December 24		
December 31		
Total December to Date	146,458.14	10,641.02
December budget	187,500.00	60,000.00
2. Sunday & Holy Day Year-to-Date		
Actual	949,096.57	17,716.27
Budget	967,500.00	7,000.00
Difference	(18,403.43)	10,716.27
Special November Offerings		
Campaign for Human Development	51.00	
Catholic Relief Services	50.00	
Catholic Tuition Assistance	466.00	
Charitable Impact	1,498.65	
Debt Elimination	8,659.00	
Religious Retirement	8,618.00	
St. Vincent de Paul	2,995.00	
Special Collection for basilica	652.00	

The financial summary will be updated again on January 14.

“The Lord will open the windows of heaven according to our need, and not according to our greed.”

YOUNG AT HEART

Friday, January 5 - 5:00 PM - pizza at Uno's

Monday, January 8 - 7:00 PM - meeting - entertainment by Unamused Kraken

Saturday, January 20- 6:00 PM- dinner at Dingle House

Friday, February 2 - 5:00 PM Pizza at Fratelli's on Tylersville near Cin Day Road

Young at Heart is a social group for parishioners ages 50 and over. Anyone is welcome, single or couples, widow or widower. Contact Leo Gray, 513-779-3251 or youngatheart@saint-max.org if you are interested in attending a meeting or joining.



REPORTING FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT

In the spirit of good stewardship, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has instituted a financial misconduct hotline to enable employees, volunteers, vendors and other interested parties to report what they believe to be financial misconduct at any level – parish, deanery or Archdiocese. As an additional safeguard, the hotline is administered by an independent third-party company, EthicsPoint. You may report a concern on this hotline either by calling one of EthicsPoint’s trained specialists at 1.888.389.0381 or by visiting the website www.ethicspoint.com. There is also a link on the Archdiocesan website, www.CatholicCincinnati.org, under Ministries and Offices>Finance Office>“To Report Financial Misconduct” (on menu on left-hand side of page) > “File a Report” (at top of page).

FISH FRY SUPPORTERS

Our 13th annual St. Max Lenten Fish Fry is just around the corner on Fridays, February 16 through March 23, and we would love your support! Here are two ways you can help:

1. Purchase an ad for our placemats. Drop your business card and a check for \$25 per ad space into the collection basket or deliver to the parish office via email to lkodros@saint-max.org by February 5. Please note: we have 2 different placemats. If you would like your ad on both, it’s \$50. Double and triple ads also available or any combination to your liking.
2. Purchase a sponsorship for only \$125. Your logo and the name of your business/school/organization will be placed on a larger than life display board in the gym throughout Lent.

Questions, please contact Lakmé at lkodros@saint-max.org or 777-4322 ext. 105. Thank you!

ST. MAX FESTIVAL

As you and your families are gathering for various Christmas activities, the St. Max festival committee is starting to lay the foundation for next year’s festival, June 8th, 9th and 10th.

That foundation starts with you as a possible committee member. This year, due to increased turnover, we are in need of many people to give of their time. Don't fear, you will not go it alone. We will have you paired with a current member through the process.

We ask you to give this major fundraiser prayerful consideration. We will be having a general information meeting on January 10th at 7:00 PM to answer any questions you may have. Questions? Contact Bill Harkins, 513-777-8508 or email festival@saint-max.org. This is the parish’s largest fund raiser. Last year we raised \$120,000, so come and have some fun and get involved with a good cause.

EVENTS OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

12:00 PM Lg Conf Rm Include Me Mass
 11:00 PM Chapel Holy Hour

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

10:00 AM Church, Gym Mass-Nativity of the Lord
 12:00 PM Church, Gym Mass-Nativity of the Lord

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018

1:00 PM Rm 4 Young at Heart Board
 5:00 PM Gym St. Max Boosters
 5:15 PM Church Children's Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 PM Hosp Rm Vocations Committee
 6:00 PM Rms 12&14 AHG Office Help
 6:30 PM Rms 8&10 KOC Monthly Social & Officer's Meeting
 6:30 PM Rms 2&3 Cub Scouts Pack 944 - Den 9
 6:30 PM Off Conf Rm Facilities Committee
 7:00 PM Lg Conf Rm Ladies Fellowship Network
 7:00 PM Lounge Ancora
 7:00 PM Rms 9&11 Hope & Healing after Suicide Loss
 7:00 PM Youth Rm Cub Scouts-Den 2

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

9:15 AM Church Homeschool Mass Practice
 9:30 AM Gym Lessons for Moms
 9:30 AM Youth Rm Faith Lessons for Women
 5:00 PM Gym St. Max Boosters
 5:15 PM Church Cherub Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 PM Gym Men's Pickleball
 7:00 PM Lg Conf Rm Women's Evening Bible Study
 7:00 PM Rms 12&14 RCIA Mystagogia
 7:00 PM Youth Rm Pastoral Council
 7:00 PM Church Adult Music Min Reh
 7:00 PM Rm 6 Light Weigh

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018

9:00 AM Chapel Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 9:15 AM Nursery Mother's Rosary
 9:15 AM Church Sacrament of Penance
 5:00 PM Gym St. Max Boosters
 6:00 PM Church Sacrament of Penance
 6:45 PM Church Handbell choir rehearsal
 6:45 PM Gym Boy Scout Troop 944
 7:00 PM Rm 11, Rm 9 St. Vincent de Paul
 7:00 PM Lounge Cub Scouts 944-Den 1
 7:00 PM Rm 7 Welcome Ministry
 7:00 PM Offi Conf Rm CMA Ad Hoc Team Meeting
 7:00 PM Youth Rm RCIA Candidates Meeting
 7:00 PM Chapel, Holy Hour/Vespers
 7:00 PM Rms 2&3 One Thing is Three Group Study
 8:00 PM Gym MTCES Gym Practice

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018

9:30 AM Gym Homeschool Rosary Activity
 9:30 AM Church Way of the Cross
 1:00 PM Lg Conf Rm Hoxworth Blood Drive
 6:00 PM Church Stolzenberger/England Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

7:00 AM Youth Rm Answer the Call
 9:15 AM Church Sacrament of Penance
 9:15 AM Gym Women's Fitness Retreat
 9:30 AM Rm 4 St. Benedict Bible Study
 3:00 PM Church Sacrament of Penance
 6:30 PM Church Stolzenberger/England Wedding

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

8:00 AM Complex Early Childhood Formation of Youth
 10:00 AM Rm 17 RCIA Dismissal
 11:15 AM Rm 17 RCIA Sponsors Meeting
 12:00 PM Church Mass
 12:00 PM Lg Conf Rm Include Me Mass
 1:30 PM Rm 5 Cub Scouts Pack 944 Committee
 1:30 PM Gym Basketball Games-St. Max Boosters
 5:00 PM Lounge Faith Leader Training
 6:00 PM Complex Religious Formation of Youth Grades 4-8
 7:00 PM Church Praise & Worship
 7:00 PM Gym High School Youth Group
 8:00 PM Rms 8&10 Boy Scouts Committee Meeting

Pastor

Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Ext.102

gdrew@saint-max.org

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Simon Peter Wankya, Ext.114

spwankya@saint-max.org

Permanent Deacons

John Paul Back, 226-3428

jback@saint-max.org

Mike Hinger, 779-1586

mhinger@saint-max.org

Mike Lippman, 252-4898

mlippman@saint-max.org

Seminarian Intern

Nicholas White, Ext. 127

nwhite@saint-max.org

Pastoral Associates

Lakmé Kodros, Parish Life & Stewardship

Ext.105, lkodros@saint-max.org

Jeremy Helmes, Worship & Sacraments

Ext. 103, jhelmes@saint-max.org

Larry Witsken, Facilities & Maintenance

Ext.110, lwitsken@saint-max.org

Holly Moran, Outreach

Ext. 116, hmoran@saint-max.org

Zack Hinger, Evangelization & Catechesis

Ext. 107, zhinger@saint-max.org

Sarah Merkel, Communications

Ext. 121, smerkel@saint-max.org

Councils & Commissions

Andrew Burke, Pastoral Council

513-759-4295, pastoralcouncil@saint-max.org

John Monroe, Finance Council

513-896-4530 financecouncil@saint-max.org

Lamis Hajjar, Outreach

740-463-1081 outreach@saint-max.org

Nancie Ehlert, Parish Life & Stewardship

480-266-4706 stewardship@saint-max.org

Mike Gardner, Worship & Sacraments

513-805-3995, worship@saint-max.org

Justin Bennett, Evangelization & Catechesis

614-746-7912, e&ccommission@saint-max.org