

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 11**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 AM † Long D. Nguyen & † Mr. Vincent
 10:00 AM People of the Parish & † Anna Luu Nguyen
 NOON † Rosemary Murphy & † Violet Shimrock

Monday, December 12**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

8:30 AM † Bernice Gundlach & † Deacon Hans Schade
 6:00 PM *Mass at St. Susanna, Mason*

Tuesday, December 13**Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**

8:30 AM † Frank Samuel Johnson
 7:00 PM *Mass at St. John, West Chester*

Wednesday, December 14**Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church**

8:30 AM † Art Lewis & † Joseph Long Nguyen

Thursday, December 15

8:30 AM † John Baptist Hien Vu & All Souls

Friday, December 16

8:30 AM † Toma Binh Nguyen and
 † Mr & † Mrs Robert Staley

Saturday, December 17

8:30 AM Grief Support & † Charles Lockhart
 4:30 PM † Evelyn Skotnicki & † Tom McNamara

Sunday, December 18**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 AM † Jim Shearer
 10:00 AM People of the Parish & † Linda Paul &
 † Millie Campanaro
 NOON † Renee LaSance

† Deceased

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-6
 Psalm 146:6-10
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14
 Psalm 24:1-6
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-24

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:*

*Frank Brinkmann, father of Dan Brinkmann
 Alanna Bellmyer, wife of Robert Bellmyer*

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Your healing prayers are requested for Earl Abeln, Grace Basta, Lisa Bingaman, Bob Bruns, Brian Bruns, Eleanor Budek, Barb Burkett, Scott Burkett, Jennifer Calangi, Maya Collins, Marian Conrad, Cyril Daddieh, Angelique Debets, Henry DeNicola, Shannon Dowling-Schlachter, Jack Easter, Bill Ebben, Jackie Eckles, Cecilia Feltz, Levi Gasner, Robert Ferraro, Jack Finke, Timmy Fischer, Mary Fritz, Chris Giuliano, Karen Gross, Richard Gross, Sol Gross, James Gunselman, Gail Hamilton, Gary Hampton, Al Higgins, Jill Holt, Maureen Imfeld, Kathy Kitts, Ralph Kitts, Jennifer Klenke, Don Klinkhammer, Hank Kluznick, Joey Lakeberg, Michael Lancaster, Pat Langdon, Pam Lawson, Barb Listermann, Beverly Listermann, Tom Lutz, Char McCarthy, Lyla McGlinchey, Andrew Meister, Jacob Meister, Beryl Michael, Judy Michael, Daniel R. Miller, James Moores, Trevor Vincent Munafo, Gene Neltner, Victor Nguyen, George Palmer, Fr. John Porter, Stephanie Pulling, Annie Prather, Agnes Rahman, Kristof Rattermann, Quintin Richardson, Evelyn Robinson, Joseph Romer, James Santos, Kerry Santos, Rose Mary Schaefer, James Schaeper, Julie Schrock, Rose Seibert, Eric Stearman, Debbie Stoeckel, Richard Sunnenberg, Ernestine Tomblin, Tari Torbeck, Kenneth Trimbach, Joan Valentine, George Vesper, Gloria Vesper, Stanley Wadella, Vito Weeda, Kathy Wojciechowski, 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, Philip DeNicola, Donald Gilbert, David Giuliano, Joseph Hamann, Michael Hazlebeck, Tyler Hollenkamp, Derrick Kamphaus, Stephen Kelczewski, Matthew Koop, Jon Laurin, Derek Morris, Ryan Nikzad, Don Mollis, Jr., Daniel Moore, Alexander J. Pater, 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

“Where there is no love, put love, and you will draw love out.”

– St. John of the Cross (c.1542-1591), priest, doctor of the Church (feast day, December 14)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

CHRISTMAS MASSES – AN INVITATION AND A GREETING TO YOU AND *FROM YOU!* As I have been sharing with you, and as we look ahead to our Christmas Masses where crowds swell with many guests and visitors present, we need to remember that hospitality to guests and visitors is *everyone’s responsibility* – in the building and in the parking lot! Our first reading from Isaiah reminds us that God has come for all of us and welcomes all people. Following this divine witness, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, we are called to welcome all people as well as each person we encounter, created in the image and likeness of God, and is indeed “Christ in disguise.” Having raised up last week the dynamic of “inviting” (and there are still postcards available for you to extend personal invitations to others to join us at Christmas), this week we zero-in on the dynamic of **welcoming**. First, as in the past, we are encouraging families to consider being greeters for our Christmas Masses. But *each of us* is a greeter, too! At our Christmas Masses, introduce yourself to those around you whom you don’t know – before Mass and after Mass. Your kind word of welcome or wish of a “Merry Christmas” may be part of a person’s positive experience to join us more frequently in the future and become that “greeter” themselves. And remember, we want everyone to have the best possible Christmas experience here – and better balancing out our crowds (i.e. more people coming to Midnight Mass and Masses on Christmas morning since our Christmas Eve Masses are always very, very full) will go a long way to accomplish this goal. Of special note, we will use our normal Christmas and New Year’s Mass schedules even though December 25 and January 1 fall on Sundays. There will be no 8:00 AM Mass on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. Next week we will zero-in on the dynamic of **hosting**.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete* Sunday, we set aside some time to relax and rejoice in the Lord. (From the first Latin word in today’s assigned entrance antiphon, *gaudete* means “rejoice.”) Amidst this season of penitence and preparation, all of our readings today deal with Christian joy. Father Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) was a well-known Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. After nearly two decades of teaching at academic institutions (including the University of Notre Dame, Yale Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School) during his last years he worked with mentally and physically handicapped people. In describing the significance of *Gaudete* Sunday, Nouwen clarified the difference between joy and happiness. He said, “While happiness is dependent upon external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that we are unconditionally loved by God and nothing – not sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take that love away. Joy can even be present in the midst of sadness.” This joy was also emphasized by Pope Francis, who said in his homily for *Gaudete* Sunday in 2014, “Today is a day of joy. Rather than fretting about all we have not done or accomplished to prepare for Christmas during Advent, we need to think of all the good things God, and life, has given us.”

Our second Advent communal penance service is this Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 PM Several priests will be with us to hear individual confessions as part of the communal service. And, in addition to our normally scheduled times for individual confessions each week, we will extend the Saturday morning time to 12:00 PM this Saturday, December 17 and we will have additional times on Monday, December 19 from 4:00-6:00 PM and 7:00-9:00 PM with three confessors available. A list of all individual confession times and a schedule of all communal penance services in the deanery is on our website. Everyone is strongly encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas.

And again, THANKS to everyone for your wonderful response to our annual stewardship renewal. Your willingness to spend time in prayer, to share talents through volunteering and to give treasure in financial support of the parish is amazingly generous and inspiring. Please remember to return your commitment card as soon as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

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

Fr. Geoff

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016
7:00-8:00 pm – *Holy Hour for Families*

WORSHIP

**Advent Communal Penance Service
Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 PM**

For a complete list of Advent Sacrament of Penance opportunities in the area please the parish website

BOWING DURING THE CREED

You may notice people bowing during the recitation of the Creed at Mass. To show reverence for the Incarnation, the Church directs that all should bow at the words "By the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man..." In fact, on the Solemnities of the Nativity (very soon) and the Annunciation, it is proper to genuflect at these words. As we profess our common belief, particularly during this season of preparation for the coming of Christ, let us reflect more deeply on the Incarnation.



WAIT FOR THE LORD...WITH THE LORD - EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Join us on the Mondays of Advent (December 12, 19) after the 8:30 AM Mass until 5:00 PM for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel.

Just as we do each Thursday, this liturgy gathers the Church in community to give thanks for the great gift of Christ present in the Eucharist. Including extended periods of silent prayer and punctuated by scripture and prayer, Exposition is a great way to pray for the coming of Christ this Advent.

Because Exposition is a communal liturgy, we need to ensure that all the hours are covered. If you can commit to an hour on each Monday, or even just one Monday, please sign up using the link on the parish website, or e-mail adoration@saint-max.org with questions or to get signed up.

As we pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, let us "wait for the Lord whose day is near!"

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM: BE A GREETER FOR CHRISTMAS

Can you help welcome our parishioners, visitors, and guests for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? We're looking for individuals and families who can arrive a bit early for Mass and be the welcoming face of St. Max to everyone who joins us for worship on this holy day. Perfect for families with young children. Please sign up on the website or contact Jeremy Helmes, jhelmes@saint-max.org, 513-777-4322 ext. 103.

BRING JESUS TO CHURCH

You are invited to bring your statue of the infant Jesus from your home nativity scene when you come to Mass on December 17 & 18. We will pray in a special way for God's blessing upon our homes and families during this holy season.



STRONG BACKS NEEDED - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

We need some strong folks to help move evergreen trees around the campus and set them up. No experience required: just some muscles and a few hours of time to make our campus beautiful. Please contact Christine Guerin, Art & Environment Team Leader, ae@saint-max.org, 513-292-2565 to let her know you can help on Friday, December 16 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Perfect for the families of high school boys who need productive activities for a Friday night!

DECK THE HALLS - DECORATE ST. MAX FOR CHRISTMAS



Now that you've decorated your house for the holiday, can you spare some time to decorate OUR house for Christmas? Join us Thursday, December 22 at 6:30 PM to decorate the church and campus. No experience or artistic ability required: just a willingness to roll a cart full of poinsettias, hang a wreath, move a box, sweep a floor, put lights on a tree, etc. Great for families looking for a way to serve the parish for a few hours and add to their "holiday cheer"! Please contact Christine Guerin, Art & Environment Team Leader, ae@saint-max.org, 513-292-2565 to let her know you can help.

OUTREACH

HOLIDAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY - FAMILY PROMISE

Are you looking for a way to serve with your family this holiday season? Family Promise of Butler County provides shelter, meals and support services to families struggling with homelessness. Volunteers can serve at the Day Center during the holidays to play with the children and interact with the families. If you are interested please contact Sharon Bogan, director at 513-444-2033 or email her at sbogan@familypromisebutlercounty.com.



Saint Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

OUTREACH



STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE CARE-GIVERS, GOD IS THE CURE-GIVER

The role of Stephen Ministers is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders. Please call the parish office at 513-777-4322, ext. 218 or email at StephenMinistry@saint-max.org. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

FAMILY PROMISE INFORMATION AND TRAINING IN DECEMBER

Did you know that in 2015 over 400 children in Butler County experienced homelessness? Family Promise of Butler County is working to address the needs of these children and their families by providing shelter, meals, and support services. St. Max is one of 14 churches in the county affiliate that are hosting these families one week at a time while they work to find affordable, stable housing and appropriate employment. Our next week to host begins January 1. We are in great need of volunteers to come to the St. Max Complex and spend time with our guests from 6:00 - 9:00 PM and to spend the night from 8:45 PM - 7:00 AM.

Please attend our training session on December 14 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in rooms 8 & 10

Please RSVP to Kathy McGill at familypromise@saint-max.org so we can plan for space. To learn more about this new ministry and to volunteer to serve please visit the Family Promise webpage under Outreach at saint-max.org.

WANTED: NEW CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN, TODDLERS THRU TEENS

Sister Kathleen and her Glenmary team have reached out to St Max for help with their ministry in West Liberty, located in rural, eastern Kentucky. For their annual pre-Christmas event they would like new clothes for the children (backpacks, jackets, socks, PJs and gloves are popular and anything "cozy" is always welcome). For the folks they visit in nursing homes, they would like to have new blankets and throws. Please bring unwrapped items to the outreach corner in the gathering space after Mass on the weekend of December 10/11.

THE CATHOLIC'S DIVORCE SURVIVAL GUIDE

This program covers topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the courts, the kids, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, remarriage or staying single, and much more! Whether you got divorced ten days ago or ten years ago, the program offers valuable insight for everyone. This group starts Wednesday, January 11 and will meet weekly until mid-April from 7:00-8:30 PM in rooms 9&11. For more information or to register, please call the parish office 777-4322, ext. 116, or email divorcesurvival@saint-max.org. For a sneak preview go to: www.CatholicsDivorce.com

You and your family are invited to join us for

Taking Time to Remember Memories and Traditions

Celebrating your loved one during the holidays and Christmas Season



Helpful ways to embrace the holiday
Create a special ornament!

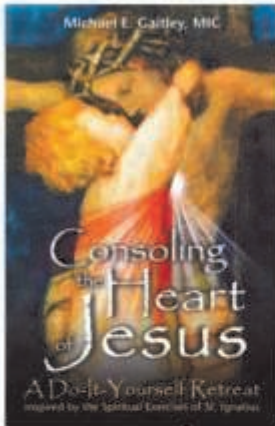
Please bring picture of your loved one for our table.
Pizza and refreshments will be served.

Thursday, December 15, 2016
6:30 – 8:30 PM
large conference room

Companions on a Journey
GRIEF SUPPORT

Please RSVP so we have enough supplies

Contact Sheila Munafa-Kanoza at sheila@companionsonajourney.org, or call the parish office 513-777-4322



Consoling the Heart of Jesus

by Fr. Michael Gaitley

10-week retreat - January 9 - March 13

Mondays, 9:15 – 11:00 AM

If you are looking for a simple way to be spiritually renewed, develop a deeper relationship with Jesus, and discover His Divine Mercy, then join us for the Consoling the Heart of Jesus retreat! Discover the joy and peace that come with trusting in a Savior who loves and longs to be loved.

Wisdom and Works of Mercy: The 'One Thing' is Three

by Fr. Michael Gaitley

10-week study - January 13 - March 17

Fridays, 9:15 - 11:00 AM

Discover how knowledge of the Trinity is the key to wisdom! Written simply and clearly, this book brings the profound truths of the faith from head to heart in a way that makes deep theology easy to understand and even easier to live!



Registration

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check all that apply:

Consoling the Heart of Jesus retreat. Please order for me...

— *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* Book (free of charge or \$4 donation*)

— CHJ Workbook (\$20) Note: Workbook also available to print from formed.org

The 'One Thing' is Three group study. Please order for me...

— *The 'One Thing' is Three* book (free of charge or \$4 donation*)

— The 'One Thing' is Three Workbook PLUS *You Did It to Me: A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action* by Fr. Michael Gaitley (\$30). Note: Workbook ONLY available to print from formed.org.

— I do NOT want to order a workbook but please order me the supplemental book *You Did It to Me: A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action* by Fr. Michael Gaitley (\$5)

*Ask about premium edition books and pricing!

Registration closes Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Make Checks payable to St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

Questions? Call Stephanie (759-2722) or Jane (755-0625) or email heartsafire@saint-max.org



GOSPEL FOR ALL AGES

Matthew 11:2-11

Rejoice! (Gaudete! in Latin) Today is Gaudete Sunday. It's theme of joy is taken in the message of today's reading from Matthew when John learns that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. The rose-colored vestments and adornments we see this week at Mass reflect the theme of "rejoicing". Ask your children if they notice the color changes from purple to pink this week and explain that we are halfway through Advent... the Lord is near!

While the coming of our Lord is cause for rejoicing, some children may grow a little impatient as they anticipate Christmas Day and all the fun associated with it. What can you do to make your family life more *joyful* in the remaining days of Advent? Consider a fun family activity that shows how we follow Jesus by doing loving actions for one another. This is a meaningful way to prepare for Christmas without any material cost. The activity is called **Kris Kindl (Kris Kringle)**... Place the names of all your family members in a bowl and each take a turn drawing one name. Do not tell anyone who you picked and if you pick yourself, start over. Whoever you pick is your *Christ Kindl* (the person you are to treat like the Christ Child Jesus). During the remaining days of Advent, do simple, secret good deeds for this family member (make their bed, leave a small treat, be extra patient, pick up after them in secret, pray for them, etc.) On Christmas morning, each family member reveals who their *Christ Kindl* is.

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Our last class before Christmas break will be TODAY, Sunday, December 11. We will resume regular classes in the New Year on January 8th.

RFY GRADES 1 - 8 NEWS

THIS WEEK (December 11 & 12) will be our last classes before Christmas break. We will resume classes in the New Year the week of January 8 & 9.

NURSERY NEWS

The nursery will be open on December 18 during the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses. The nursery will be closed on December 25 and January 1, 2017 so that our volunteers may enjoy the holidays with their families. We will reopen on January 8, 2017 for the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses. Thank you and have a blessed holiday season!

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY EVENTS

FRESH high school youth group meets tonight, December 11 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the lounge and gym. All are welcome!

HomeLife meets next Sunday, December 18 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Check with your leader for details.

These youth group meetings are the last ones before the Christmas holidays. We will meet again for FRESH on January 8. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MARCH FOR LIFE St Max youth ministry is joining the archdiocese of Cincinnati bus trip on January 26-28. Please contact Ally Wheeler awheeler@saint-max.org for information and registration. We still have a few spots available!

STEBENVILLE TRIP St Max high school youth ministry is going to next summer's Franciscan University Youth Conference July 21-23, 2017. Participants must be entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2017 or be a 2017 high school graduate. Total cost is \$300. Fundraising opportunities are available. Registration and deposit of \$50 due by December 18th, 2016. Please contact Ally Wheeler awheeler@saint-max.org or 513 777 4322 ext 128 for registration information.

COLLEGE SOCIAL AT THE RECTORY

Fr. Geoff would like to try to catch up with everyone over their Christmas break. To make this happen we are inviting you to join us on Saturday, January 7 at 6:00 PM for food and appetizers at the rectory. We look forward to seeing you all.

WEST CHESTER CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

Faith Discussion - December 21: Ask and ye shall receive! We heard your feedback and WCCYA is pleased to announce that we will now be hosting faith discussions on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Meet in the youth room at St. Max from 7:00-9:00 PM for this month's offering, "*Coffee, Conversations, and Christ*". Snacks and drinks will be provided.



For any questions regarding young adult events, contact Zack Hinger, zhinger@saint-max.org or 513-777-4322 ext. 107

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

A Marriage Moment

“Be patient, brothers and sisters...Do not complain about one another.” (James 5: 7-9). Preparation for Christmas can strain even the best relationships. Be gentle and patient with each other as you do the many tasks to prepare for Christmas.

By Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

FAITH LESSONS FOR WOMEN

We're starting a great adventure in January, *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* by Jeff Cavins, Tim Gray, and Sarah Christmyer! This is the foundational study in The Great Adventure Bible Study Series that has helped hundreds of thousands of Catholics learn to read the Bible. *The Bible Timeline* is a fascinating study that takes participants on a journey through the entire Bible. We will go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using a unique color-coded system, we will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith. *The Bible Timeline* has been granted the Imprimatur. Please join us on Wednesday mornings in the large conference room as we journey through the Bible. If you have questions or to let us know you are interested in attending an evening session, please email us at AffWomen@saint-max.org.

SAVE THE DATE - SOULCORE WOMEN'S FITNESS RETREAT



SoulCore is a prayer experience that pairs core strengthening, stretching and functional movement with the prayers of the rosary; a sensory experience that combines candlelight, music, scripture, reflections and movement to nourish body, mind & soul and encourage deeper meditation on the mysteries and virtues of the rosary. Our fitness retreat will be held Saturday, January 21 in the St. Max gym. From 9:00-10:00 AM we will have our first session including a short talk introducing SoulCore followed by a basic class which can be done on the mat or seated on a chair, 10:00-10:30AM Q & A, coffee, tea and snacks, 10:30-11:30 AM we will hold a second session including a short talk and an intermediate class. For more information, please go to www.soulcore.com. Join us for one or both sessions.

Suggested donation: \$10.00 per session. Bring an exercise mat and water bottle and dress in comfortable clothing. There will be a few extra mats and blocks available. For questions or to register please call or email Marlene at 777-4322 mdoughman@saint-max.org, this will help us plan refreshments.

MONSIGNOR WHALEN LIBRARY NEWS

Join our team! This ministry serves so many! We sometimes fill a whole sign out sheet in a weekend. Join us on Wednesday, January 4 from 7:00-8:30 PM for our quarterly library committee meeting. No experience needed. We will begin our meeting in the library. Question? Ask us at library@saint-max.org.

- Coming soon...a new book shelf! Now, we can expand our collection and include the many wonderful donations! Thank you!
- We have Matthew Kelly's new book Resisting Happiness

FR. DON WEST WROTE A BOOK!

Fr. Don West, pastor of St. John the Evangelist in West Chester and former parochial vicar at St. Max, has written a book filled with gospel reflections from the book of Matthew entitled, *Gathered in My Name*. These gospel “conversations” will help people begin to understand what Jesus offers us and to accept the challenge to hear His calling to be the people He calls us to be; people who will share God's love with others. Books are \$10. These reflective books on the Gospel of Matthew will make great Christmas gifts, so be sure to pick up a few!

RETRouvaille-A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES



The next program will begin the weekend of January 13-15, 2017. 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.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1. Sunday & Holy Day Offerings	Sundays	Holy Days
December 4	26,140.68	290.00
December 12-Faith Direct EFT		
December 11		
December 28		
December 25		
Total December to Date	26,140.68	290.00
December budget	152,000.00	60,000.00
2. Sunday & Holy Day Year-to-Date		
Actual	820,589.30	5,433.00
Budget	854,000.00	7,500.00
Difference	(33,410.70)	(2,067.00)
Special November Offerings		
Campaign for Human Development	200.00	
Catholic Tuition Assistance	1,071.00	
Charitable Impact	460.00	
Drive Down the Debt	2,550.00	
Fund for Religious Retirement	200.00	
St. Vincent de Paul	366.00	

The balance of our debt as of November 30, 2016 is \$586,235.62

STEWARDSHIP POINT

"The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident."

- Charles Lamb

YOUNG AT HEART

Friday, January 6 - Pizza night at Milano's on Tylersville and Cox at 5:00 PM.

Monday, January 9 - Regular Meeting - the speaker will be dermatologist, Dr. Patil .

Sunday, January 22 - Lunch at Stone Creek Restaurant - Mulhauser Road at 1:30 PM.

Young at Heart is a social group for parishioners ages 50 and over. Anyone is welcome, single or couples, widow or widower. Contact Tari Torbeck, 513-678-1247 or youngatheart@saint-max.org if you are interested in attending a meeting or joining.



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES AT LIBERTY CENTER

If you're looking for gifts that give back, Ten Thousand Villages is a perfect place to do your holiday shopping! With handcrafted items from over 35 countries around the world, Ten Thousand Village's mission is to create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term fair trading relationships. They recently opened a holiday pop up shop at the Liberty Center on the second floor of the indoor Foundry Mall, and will be open until early January.

Attitude of Gratitude!!

The Ladies Fellowship Network would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all of the parishioners who donated such delicious baked goods and volunteered to help the bake sale. THANKS to those who bought the baked goods and generously donated to the sale to help support St. Joseph's Orphanage.



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27TH

7:30 PM - MIDNIGHT

FAMILY LIFE COMPLEX

FUN NIGHT OF GAMES AND FABULOUS FOOD!

COST: \$25

*MUST BE 21



EVENTS OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

8:00 AM	Complex	Early Childhood Classes during the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses
11:00 AM	Youth Room	RCIA
12:00 PM	Lg Conf Rm	Include Me! Mass
5:00 PM	Lounge	High School Peer Minister Meeting
6:00 PM	Complex	Religious Formation of Youth Grades 4-8
6:00 PM	Hospitality Rm	Stephen Ministry - Supervision Team #1
7:00 PM	Gym	FRESH - High School Youth Ministry
8:00 PM	Youth Room	Men's Spiritual Workout
9:00 PM	Gym	Men's Basketball

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

9:00 AM	Chapel	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30 AM	Rms 8 & 10	33 Days to Morning Glory
9:30 AM	Rm 6	Stephen Ministry - Supervision Team #2
9:45 AM	Youth Room	Mighty Max
9:45 AM	Nursery	Mother's Rosary
10:45 AM	Youth Room	Mighty Max
10:45 AM	Rms 9 & 11	Mighty Max: Parent's Morning In
5:15 PM	Complex	Religious Formation for Youth Grades 1-8
6:45 PM	Complex	Religious Formation for Youth Grades 1-8
7:00 PM	Lounge	Ancora Planning Meeting
7:00 PM	Lg Conf Rm	Young at Heart Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

9:30 AM	Lg Conf Rm	Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:45 AM	Youth Room	Mighty Max
10:30 AM	Youth Room	Mighty Max
5:15 PM	Church	Children's Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Church	Communal Penance Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016

9:30 AM	Complex	Faith Lessons for Moms
9:30 AM	Lg Conf Rm	Faith Lessons for Women
5:00 PM	Gym	St. Max Boosters
5:15 PM	Church	Cherub Choir Rehearsal
6:45 PM	Church	Music Ministry Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Youth Room	Evangelization & Catechesis Commission Meeting
7:00 PM	Rms 8 & 10	Family Promise Training
7:00 PM	Rm 6	Light Weigh
7:00 PM	Hospitality Rm	New Beginnings Widow Group
7:00 PM	Rms 2 & 3	Outreach Commission
7:00 PM	Rm 4	RCIA Catechesis Team

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

9:15 AM	Nursery	Mother's Rosary
9:15 AM	Church	Sacrament of Penance
9:30 AM	Chapel	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 AM	Gym	Mighty Max: Moves and Grooves
6:00 PM	Church	Sacrament of Penance
6:00 PM	Lg Conf Rm	Taking Time to Remember
7:00 PM	Gym	Boy Scouts
7:00 PM	Rms 12 & 14	Cub Scout Pack 944 - Den 5
7:00 PM	Church	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Chapel	Holy Hour/Vespers
7:00 PM	Rms 2 & 3	Outreach
7:00 PM	Rm 6	Prayer Shawl
7:00 PM	Rms 9 & 11	St. Vincent de Paul
8:00 PM	Hospitality Rm	Evangelical Catholic Small Group Facilitator Meeting
8:00 PM	Gym	St. Max Boosters

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

9:30 AM	Gym	Homeschool - Rosary Activity
9:30 AM	Youth Room	Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting
5:30 PM	Church	Bakken-Tenkman Wedding Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Church	Art and Environment

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016

9:15 AM	Gath Sp	Remembrance Mass Reception following Mass
9:15 AM	Church	Sacrament of Penance
9:30 AM	Rm 4	St. Benedict Bible Study
1:00 PM	Church	Bakken-Tenkman Wedding
3:00 PM	Church	Sacrament of Penance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

11:00 AM	Youth Room	RCIA
12:00 PM	Lg Conf Rm	Include Me! Mass
1:30 PM	Church	Rite of Baptism
3:30 PM	Lg Conf Rm	Stephen Ministry Continuing Education
5:30 PM	Lounge	Cub Scouts Packk 944 - Den 6
6:00 PM	Gym	Men's Basketball
7:00 PM	Complex	High School HomeLife Open Lounge
7:00 PM	Church	Praise & Worship
7:30 PM	Rms 2 & 3	Booster Monthly Meeting
7:30 PM	Complex	High School HomeLife
7:30 PM	Rm 15	Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

Pastor

Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Ext.102
gdrew@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

Pastoral Associates

Lakmé Kodros, Parish Life & Stewardship
Ext.105, lkodros@saint-max.org

Jeremy Helmes, Worship

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

Chris Brown, Pastoral Council

513-515-8232, pastoralcouncil@saint-max.org

Rich Tereba, Finance Council

887-8482, financecouncil@saint-max.org

Annie derBoghossian, Outreach

773-368-0683, outreach@saint-max.org

Jane Rowland, Parish Life & Stewardship

513-755-0625, stewardship@saint-max.org

Lois Latzy, Worship

513-777-0256, worship@saint-max.org

Justin Bennett, Evangelization & Catechesis

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