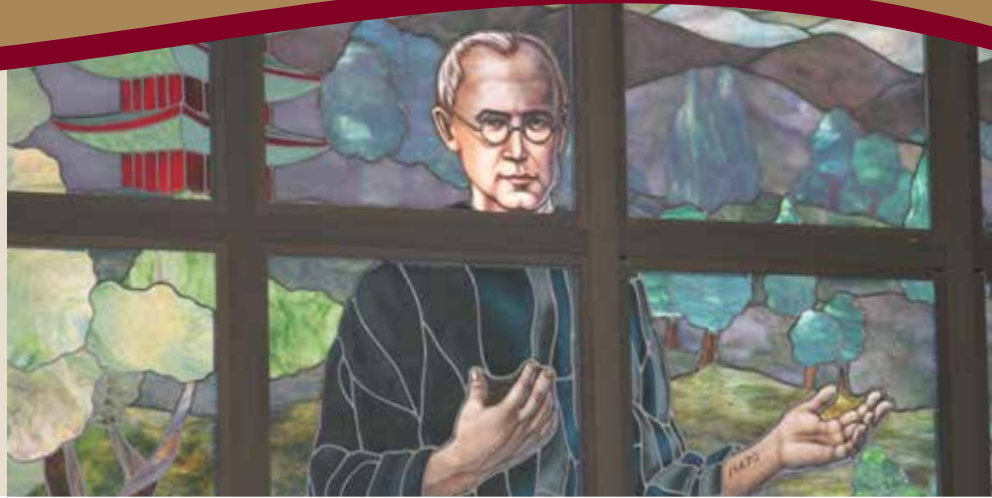


# The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Rediscovering *Peace* in Money Matters

**M**oney is unquestionably an essential part of everyday living. It is how we provide for ourselves and loved ones, a means toward achieving higher education, and even a tool for charitable works. Yet, rather than being viewed as a blessing from above, many of us have come to think of money only as a source of stress and strife, robbing us of peace as we struggle to make ends meet.

Parishioners Donald and Amie Lee can relate to these sentiments, having lived “paycheck to paycheck” during the early years of their marriage.

“We were constantly ‘robbing Peter to pay Paul,’ and we were always worried about our finances,” Amie says. “We just never really had peace.”

As their debt and money problems continued to mount, the couple’s marriage also became strained as

arguments over spending broke out. This all changed, however, in 2009 when the Lees enrolled in Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University (FPU) offered through the parish. At last, says Amie, they finally had that “roadmap” to financial stability, giving them the tools needed to get their family out of debt and on a more secure financial path.

“I think it was the accountability of having the group there that made all the difference, hearing other peoples’ success stories and receiving the necessary tools to put into place,” Amie says. “The program was also entertaining so that you wanted to go.”

Lasting for nine weeks, the course provides a common-sense approach to budgeting, saving and spending. Based on Dave Ramsey’s own personal experiences, the course is designed to empower FPU students so they can become true stewards of their money.

“I think the word ‘peace’ really



*For Amie and Donald Lee, Financial Peace University has restored peace to their lives as they have been able to become true stewards of their finances.*

describes the program,” Amie says. “It meets you wherever you are – it doesn’t matter how well off you are, or how deep in the hole. No matter what, there is a place for you in this program. It helps keep you motivated, and the material is presented in a way that is fun and engaging.”

Having witnessed the transformation in their own life, Donald and Amie began co-leading the program with Ron and Darlene Pfister in 2011.

“We had such a great experience with the program and we wanted to make sure that it continued to go on, so that we could share with others what we were able to achieve through the program,” Amie says.

*continued on back cover*

A Letter From Our Pastor

## What About Those “Other Things” During Mass?

### BENEFITS FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Last month, I reflected on one of the many questions I receive as a pastor, i.e. why we celebrate sacraments (baptisms, confirmations, marriages, anointing the sick) during Sunday Mass. This month, I'd like to reflect on “other things” commemorated and celebrated during Sunday Mass. I suspect when I receive questions about the latter, the implication is the same as questions about the former – why is Mass “so long”?

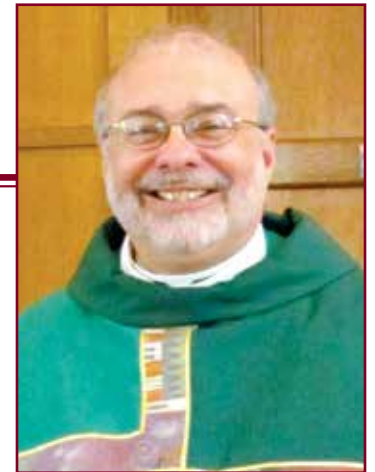
When I first arrived as pastor here in 2009, my homily on that autumn Stewardship Sunday dealt with one percent of our time. Providentially, we now have the *daily* 1% Challenge (i.e. 15 minutes) to read and reflect on Sacred Scripture. But seven years ago, I put forward the idea of a *weekly* “1% challenge” per se – that

we set one percent of our week aside for prayer with the community, i.e. gathering for, celebrating and fellowshiping after Sunday Mass. How much is one percent of our week? One hour and 40 minutes! So why do people get “antsy” if Mass lasts more than hour? And even then, many seem to be regularly late for Mass or regularly leave Mass early shaving even more minutes off of “that hour.” (Yes, I acknowledge sometimes arriving late for Mass or sometimes leaving Mass early is unavoidable – *sometimes*. And, yes, safety concerns prohibit us from having additional entrances and exits from our parish campus, so I also acknowledge it is not fun to sit in our parking lot waiting to exit!)

But let's break it down – if everyone were to attempt to come at least 10

minutes early for Mass, if Mass were to last one hour, and if everyone were to stay 10 minutes after Mass – well, we still have 20 minutes more to spend with the parish community to reach that minimum one percent of our time for weekly Sunday Mass!

In this regard, have we ever considered the length of Sunday Mass in relationship to other events in our lives? People go to baseball games, concerts and doctor's appointments – and if the game goes into extra innings, or if there are a few encores, or if there is a delay at the physician's office, don't people still normally stay until “it is over”? (Aren't people also usually on time for baseball games and concerts and doctor's appointments, too?!) So why do we put a limit on the time we spend with our Lord and



with His people at Sunday Mass? Why do we get concerned when Sunday Mass is longer than one hour? Shouldn't we come to Sunday Mass early (at least on time) and be prepared to stay at least until the Mass is over whenever it is over?

Granted, in a parish like St. Max with so many young families, longer is not better! So we have over the years taken many steps to not unnecessarily lengthen the celebration of Sunday Mass. We have increased the number of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion making the Communion procession considerably quicker without loss of reverence. At the beginning of the

*continued on page 3*

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](mailto:culm@saint-max.org) to give us an update!

# What About Those “Other Things” During Mass?

*continued from page 2*

Liturgy of the Eucharist, the bread, wine and gifts for the poor are brought to the altar without waiting for the collection to be taken up. When there are baptisms or other sacramental celebrations during Mass, we normally do not allow ministry witnesses on those weekends. We limit the verbiage of announcements and ministry witnesses. When there are special blessings, we try to schedule those when there are no other “special elements” during Mass.

But aren't all of these things – special blessings, announcements, ministry witnesses – beneficial to the entire community? Whether a blessing on wedding anniversaries, for expectant families, for mothers, fathers, college students... whether a blessing or commissioning or recognition of a parish ministry, activity or organization... don't all of these deserve the support and prayers of the entire community?

Some might ask why we don't have announcements before Mass or why we sing all the verses of hymns or why there is “so much” silence. Those topics could (and maybe should) be fodder for another entire monthly pastor's letter or two! The condensed answers to these three inquiries are rather simple though. As far as announcements, liturgical rubrics indicate that announcements take place after the post-Communion prayer before the final blessing – the time before Mass is a time set aside for silence as all prepare for the beginning of the liturgy. (NB Ministry witnesses, as “pseudo-announcements” are also most appropriately given, as are fu-

neral eulogies, after the post-Communion prayer.) Hymns are like poetry – written to be used in their entirety so as not to compromise the full and rich meaning of the full text. And times of sacred silence (not just token pauses) are prescribed by the Church as deliberate moments to reflect and receive in our hearts the full resonance of the voice of the Holy Spirit and unite our personal prayer more closely to God's people.

What about those “other things” during Sunday Mass? Why is Sunday Mass so long? *It really isn't* too long at all if we are willing to give just one percent of our time each week to gather with God's people to give praise and thanks to our God, and to support and pray for one another. And isn't that what we as a community of believers, believers who care for and support one another, ought to be about?

God bless one and all!



Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor

PRAYER  
BAPTISMS  
BLESSINGS  
GATHERING  
ANOINTING  
FELLOWSHIP  
COMMUNITY  
CELEBRATING  
1%

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

# YEAR OF

## *Instruct the*



*“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.*

*Instructing the ignorant, a spiritual work of mercy, is an act of love to help others in one way or another to learn the truths they need to know to save their souls. Biblically speaking, this action comes directly from Jesus Himself when He instructs His apostles at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” It is a very demanding responsibility to help others form good consciences through sharing with them our faith. It is the responsibility of every follower of the Lord Jesus to continually deepen their own knowledge of the faith and help others to do so, as well.*

@ St. Max

### *Learning about our Faith... From Womb to Tomb*

Everyone is called to broaden and deepen our knowledge of the faith throughout our lives. Our faith is a gift, and we are all called to share this gift! If we feel we do not know enough about our faith to truly share it with others, we should look for ways to learn more about it.

Most are aware of our catechetical programs for our children – Mighty Max, Religious Formation of Youth (RFY) for preschool through eighth grade, and our high school youth ministry! If your child is not involved, we encourage you to prayerfully consider their participation.

We also have many catechetical opportunities for our adults of all ages! Whether through one-time presentations or an ongoing series, whether through a one-day or multi-day retreat, it is important that everyone have an age-appropriate understanding of faith, an understanding that changes based on our life experiences as we get older.

Everyone is invited, especially those who maybe have not attended “something” in a long time, to *pick just one opportunity* this year to deepen your knowledge of the faith. And perhaps, once you experience it, like the old

Lay’s potato chip commercial-related “no one can have just one,” you might come back for more! But everyone needs to take that first step! Be on the lookout in the bulletin for all the opportunities for adult faith formation that are offered here at St. Max!

And we know everyone’s lives are busy... so here are two opportunities to deepen your knowledge of the faith on your own time schedule at your own leisure!

#### Lighthouse Catholic Media

A variety of titles are available in CD format on our two Lighthouse Catholic Media kiosks in the gathering space. Be watching for new titles all the time! And when you are finished listening, pass the CD on to a relative, friend or neighbor so as to truly share the Good News!

#### FORMED: The Catholic Faith on Demand

Want the best Catholic content all in one place? Go to FORMED.org and use our parish code 5d9243 to get unlimited access to excellent Catholic eBooks, talks and videos!

# MERCY

## *Ignorant*

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE – AUGUST 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.



### *A SAINT of MERCY – Mother St. Théodore Guérin*

**A** “modern saint in our own backyard,” Anne-Thérèse Guérin was born in France in 1798. From a young age, she expressed great interest in becoming a nun, but due to her ailing mother’s opposition to this, she did not enter religious life with the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé-sur-Loir until she was 25 years old. Taking the name Sister St. Théodore, she was sent to teach and eventually received high recognition for her successes. In 1839, the Bishop of Vincennes, Indiana (which later became the Diocese/Archdiocese of Indianapolis) sought a religious congregation who could provide religious instruction to his people. Along with five other sisters, Sister St. Théodore was sent by her community to minister in Indiana, the small group settling in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, a few miles northwest of Terre Haute. Soon thereafter, splitting from their order in France, she became foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana and became known as Mother Guérin. She founded numerous schools, including St. Mary’s Academy for Young Ladies, which later became Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. By the time of her death in 1856, her community had grown from the original six to over 80 members, and to date, more than 5,200 women have entered this religious order. Mother Guérin was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006. Her feast day is Oct. 3.

## *@ Home*

*Always pray first and ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance before teaching or sharing with someone.*

- If you have special insights, knowledge or skills, share these with others.
- Help someone learn to play a musical instrument.
- Peer tutor at school in a subject that you are good at.
- Help someone (not just your friends!) with homework in your best subject.
- Teach kids a positive behavior (“stupid is not a word we use”) or a better way of doing something (“how to clean a drawer”).
- Read good and wholesome literature and encourage others to do the same.
- Commit yourself to learning about our Catholic faith – there is always something more to discover! – and be open to talking with others about our beliefs.
- Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish.
- Invite someone to go to Mass with you this weekend.
- Make a list of questions you have about your Catholic faith and then refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for self-instruction and reflection.
- Consider a daily *examination of conscience* so as to better allow your life to reflect Christ by your daily living.
- Openly practice your Catholic faith to draw others to you.
- Be open to questions and speak the truth always, even when challenged.
- Be authentic – live your Catholic identity fully in faith, hope and charity, so that people are attracted to the faith in you and because of you. Like St. Francis of Assisi said, “Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words.”
- The best instruction comes from example.

## Celebrating Our Patron, Celebrating Our Parish

*By Jeremy Helmes, Pastoral Associate for Worship*

In the annual calendar of liturgical celebrations, there are several important days particular to any given parish. These days hold the liturgical rank of solemnity – the highest rank given to days in the liturgical calendar, ranked above feasts and memorials – and can be celebrated either on the day itself, or replace the nearest Sunday in Ordinary Time. The celebration of such local solemnities expresses the significance of the parish community, and its unique place in the local Church – the diocese – and the Church universal.

These days are important annual celebrations for any parish and should be marked with solemnity and joy.

One such day is the anniversary of the dedication of the church building. Since our church was dedicated on Dec. 23, here at St. Max, we take the Church's "alternate option" and celebrate this on the last Sunday before All Saints Day. While the Church is first and foremost about God's holy people, church buildings are an



important expression of the marvelous works of God and are houses of grace where the Holy Trinity is worshiped and adored.

Perhaps more significant, though, is the feast day of our patron saint,

Maximilian Kolbe, Aug. 14. Each parish is entrusted to a patron saint, whose charisms and identity we strive to embody, and whose life of faith we remember and celebrate. We celebrate our patronal feast day each year on the Sunday nearest to Aug. 14, replacing a Sunday in Ordinary Time.

We use prayers and readings assigned to the feast of Maximilian Kolbe, but we also use incense, more orchestral instruments, handbells, choirs, and as much other festivity as we can muster for this important community celebration. We also commission and ask God's blessing upon our new commission and council members, whose term is just beginning.

At all the Masses on Aug. 14, we'll sing the hymn specially commissioned for our parish's 25th anniversary a few years ago. As we prepare for this celebration, I invite you to reflect upon these beautiful words, written especially for our parish, and pray that our parish community will continue to follow Christ, imitating our great patron!

### Faithful God, We Sing Your Praises

*For St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Liberty Township, Ohio on the Occasion of their 25th Anniversary, 2013-2014*

Faithful God, we sing your praises; hear our grateful hymn this day. With your steadfast love you guide us on the everlasting way. You have led us on our journey, blessed your people year by year. Like Saint Maximilian Kolbe, may we serve and persevere.

Christ, you call us as disciples; name us as your chosen friends. By your death and resurrection, you give life that never ends. May we follow your example, as we serve a world in need, laying down our lives for others, loving all in truth and deed.

Holy Spirit, come renew us, burn within our faithful hearts. Help us witness to your power as one body, many parts. Give us strength to spread the Gospel, even in adversity. Firm in faith, we work for justice, moved by hope and charity.

Church of God, with songs of gladness, magnify the Three in One. Offer thanks for countless blessings, mindful of what God has done: Lifting up the poor and lowly, helping all who are in pain. May we go to serve God's people, bearing fruit that will remain.

# “HAVE SUPPORT IN LIVING OUT THE FAITH” *St. Max’s HomeLife Groups*



*The HomeLife group, led by Jenny Vanden Eynden and Pam Bange, gathered for their Christmas party – these senior students have been in a HomeLife Group together all through high school (2015-16).*



for an open gym and social hour,” Ally says. “At 7:30 p.m., they break into groups for prayer and reflection on Scripture. They have videos and discussion on a variety of applicable topics.”

As a HomeLife leader, parishioners have found that the curriculum used for our young people is also very applicable to their own lives. By coordinating the small groups, the leaders actually grow on their own discipleship journeys.

“The leaders are enriched by these small group discussions,” Ally says. “Their relationship with the teens refreshes their own faith, and as they share the faith, it becomes even more dear to them.”

High school students juggle multiple responsibilities in our fast-paced society. Though many teenagers have been catechized, they frequently wonder how that faith formation they received applies to their everyday lives.

St. Max’s HomeLife groups exist to help our young people make that connection.

“HomeLife bridges the gap between the initial proclamation of the Gospel and living that Gospel out in their daily lives,” says Ally Wheeler, Assistant Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

HomeLife groups bring high school students together into small groups designed for each year of the high school experience. Two to three adult leaders coordinate each group. The leaders attend at least two training meetings a year, and new leaders are frequently paired with experienced HomeLife leaders.

“Anyone who has an interest in sharing their faith and is a practicing Catholic is welcome to become a HomeLife leader,” Ally says. “They are given a curriculum provided by the parish, but it can be tailored for their group.”

HomeLife groups use the FORMED curriculum, but each group moves at their own pace according to the students’ needs.

From September to May, HomeLife groups meet at St. Max on the first and third Sunday of each month from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. The groups also might meet outside of that time for additional social and service activities together.

“They are welcome to arrive at 7 p.m.

Anyone interested in becoming part of a support system in living out the faith is welcome to join a HomeLife group or to become a group leader. Though our high school students might all attend different schools, HomeLife groups offer an opportunity for them to have a welcoming faith-filled friend group to discuss their questions about the faith and to enjoy fellowship with like-minded peers.

“It is the next step in really deepening their faith and their relationship with Christ,” Ally says. “This is their chance to actually make a choice themselves and seek to know and love their faith more and to put it into action on a daily basis.”

*If you would like more information about St. Max’s HomeLife Groups, please reach out to Ally Wheeler at [awheeler@saint-max.org](mailto:awheeler@saint-max.org) or at 513-777-4322, ext. 128.*



*The HomeLife group of freshmen students, led by Jenny Vanden Eynden and Pam Bange, serving at Matthew 25 Ministries (2012-2013).*

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## Rediscovering Peace in Money Matters

*continued from front cover*

"Today, thanks to FPU, we're about to buy a car for cash and we are working towards paying off our mortgage early. We never argue about money anymore and we just have a tremendous sense of peace."

A truly unique aspect of FPU is that it is based upon Scripture, using God's Word to create a practical approach for modern-day living. The course literally covers it all, from defeating debt, building wealth, investing in the future, to tithing. In the process, the program enriches your understanding of stewardship.

"I never really thought of our finances as God's money before," Amie says. "For me, it was always *my* money or *our* money. Now, I truly see our finances as God's money that we are using for Him."

Excited to help a new group of people achieve financial peace, the Lees will be hosting a new Financial Peace University session beginning Thursday, Sept. 22. The cost for class materials is \$99. But, says Amie, "we never turn anyone away" – there are many alumni eager to sponsor someone in need. Whether single or married, young or old, if you are seeking peace and hope when it comes to money matters, please consider enrolling in this incredible program.

*If you would like to learn more about the Financial Peace University, or to enroll in the upcoming session, please contact Donald or Amie Lee at 513-316-3402 or [financialpeace@saint-max.org](mailto:financialpeace@saint-max.org).*

## 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.