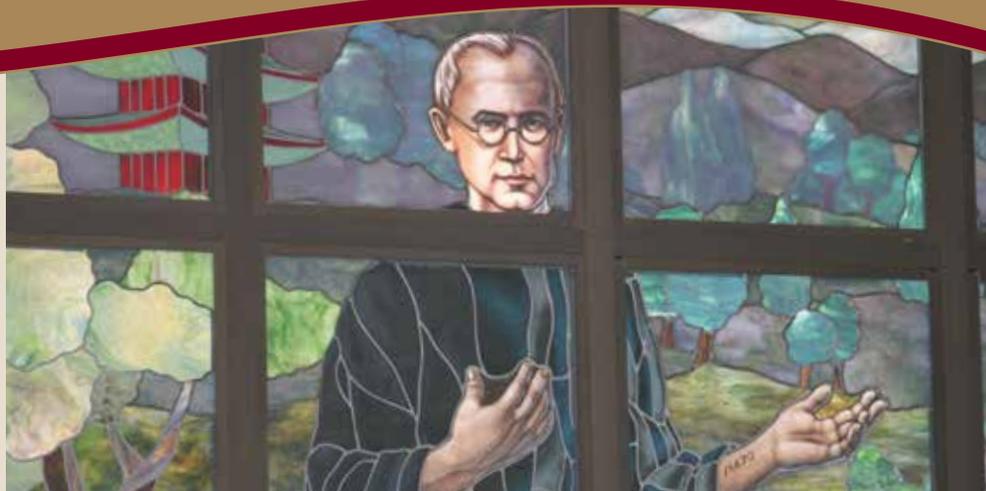


The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH



“We Teach What It Means to Be a Good Citizen as Well as a Good Person”

*St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church
Cub Scout Pack 944*

If you have ever been a Cub Scout or a Boy Scout, you are familiar with the scout oath – “On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and to my country, and to obey the scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.” This could most certainly be regarded as a stewardship statement, as it represents what the Church believes in terms of recognizing and using our gifts and serving others. For many years, our parish

has sponsored both our Boy Scout troop and our Cub Scout pack.

Parishioner Jeff Franklin serves as Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 944. Jeff brings a strong history and experience in scouting to the job and to the unit. A scout himself growing up, Jeff achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. His oldest son is a Cub Scout and his youngest son will be soon.

“There is something special about being a Cub Scout,” Jeff says. “There is so much you can learn about your faith, about life, about our country, and about yourself. We teach what it means to be a good citizen, as well as a good person – Cub Scouts learn self responsibility and self reliance.”

Cub Scout Pack 944 is part of the Dan Beard Council. Pack meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The pack is divided into smaller groups called dens. Each den usually includes from seven to 10 boys normally of the same age and grade. Boys in first

through fourth grades are eligible to be Cub Scouts. Dens meet at varying times and days dependent upon the schedules of the boys, but they meet two times a month in addition to the pack meetings. There are presently 45 boys in Pack 944.

Jeff notes some of the activities in which the boys participated recently, as well as some upcoming events.

“On Memorial Day, we placed flags on the graves of veterans, and then participated in the community Memorial Day Parade,” he says. “In

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THE SACRAMENTS – Celebrations for the Entire Community

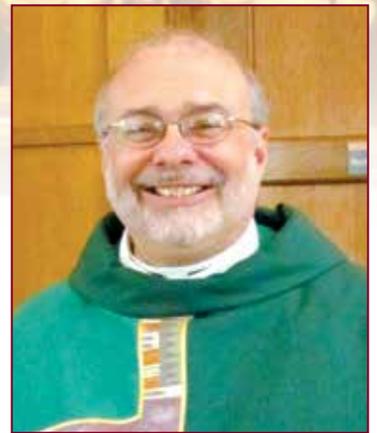
My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

I receive many questions from both parishioners as well as people I don't know via emails! I always do my best to answer them, even though I suspect by the way a question is asked that what I answer may not be what people are most probably hoping to hear! But honesty and fidelity to Church teaching and experience are always of the utmost importance.

Some recurring questions I often receive deal with the celebrations of the sacraments, especially during Sunday Mass. Quite simply, the basic answer to such questions is that sacraments are celebrations for the entire community. Even though it is impossible to personally know everyone in a parish as large as St. Max, we are all "related" to each other through Baptism – each of us calling God "Father," each of us becoming sisters and brothers of our Lord Jesus Christ, each of us becoming dwelling places of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we need to move from the mindset that Sunday Mass only fulfills an individual's obligation – Sunday Mass is much more than that! Sunday Mass is the best opportunity we have to grow in our relationship with God *and* in our relationship with God's people.

Sacraments of Initiation. Children are born into families, but baptized (and initiated) into the community of faith. In order to bring out the paschal character of Baptism, this sacrament is normally celebrated on Sundays, even during Mass, so that the entire community can witness the intrinsic relationship between Baptism and Eucharist. We rotate the celebration of Baptism during Sunday Masses so that baptisms are celebrated at the same Sunday Mass time only four or five times per year. Since Baptism initiates an individual into a larger community, "private" baptisms for just one infant with only a few people present have mostly become memories of the past. Confirmation, too, is ordinarily celebrated during Mass so that its rightful place as a sacrament of initiation is clearly manifested. And regarding First Communion Masses, our archdiocesan guidelines recommend that

First Communion Masses should be celebrated during a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass. These dynamics are also true for the celebrations – acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, weekly dismissals of catechumens and three Lenten scrutinies before the Easter Vigil – of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).



Sacraments of Healing. Penance, although never celebrated during Mass, can be celebrated in a "group setting," i.e. communal penance services with individual confessions. Penance by a community of people is common in sacred history. Though sin is an individual's act of saying "no" to God, its effects go beyond the person who sins, thus celebrating Penance communally is a vivid recognition of the social effects of both sin and repentance. Similarly, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated during Mass so that the sick may feel and witness the prayers and support of the larger community. In addition, it is important to remember that a sacramental anointing heals us for a return to the Eucharistic table and prepares us, in the case of extreme illness, for the transition to the heavenly banquet.

Sacraments of Service. The sacrament of Marriage is not just a celebration for a bride, a groom, their families and guests – like all sacraments, it is a celebration of the Church and a cause of great joy for the entire parish community. Although probably rare in most of our lived experiences, in places where there are fewer priests, marriages (and even funerals) celebrated during a regularly scheduled Mass time, even on Sundays, have become somewhat common. Similarly, the blessing of married

The Sacraments *continued from page 2*

couples on “significant” anniversaries at Sunday Masses is a wonderful witness of family life and married love and very valuable for a faith community to experience. Even the sacrament of Holy Orders – which is rightfully considered more of a “diocesan” celebration – has been celebrated in parishes (even during Sunday Mass) when there might only be one candidate from that parish being ordained.

The celebrations of the sacraments, as part of the public liturgical prayer of the Church, are indeed celebrations for the entire community. It is during Sunday Mass that the community celebrates the Eucharist, the source and summit of Christian life, the “sacrament of sacraments.” And the Eucharistic gathering is the most appropriate place to celebrate the intimate encounters with Christ, which we call sacraments.

So let us not only consistently *pray for* those celebrating sacraments among us, but also enthusiastically *pray with* them as they celebrate the sacraments, for they are our sisters and brothers in the Lord.

God bless one and all!



Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor

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!

Cub Scout Pack 944 *continued from front cover*

June, we assisted with set-up for the parish festival. They attended Cub Scout summer camp from June 19-21, and prior to that had a swimming party at which the boys were tested for swimming ability. July plans include a scout night at a Dayton Dragons game, and in August there will be a fishing derby. Plans for the fall are still in process. However, one night you may wish to note is Scouting Night, which provides more information and the opportunity to register. Watch the bulletin and school notices for more details on this event.

Jeff offers his words of wisdom to those considering the Cub Scouts, “I guess, first of all, we need to point out that it is fun,” he says. “While having a good time, the boys gain practical knowledge and skills that are not taught in school or elsewhere. Computers are great, but there is something even greater about being in the outdoors, and we do that a lot. Because of our affiliation with St. Maximilian Kolbe, we promote boys pursuing religious awards, in particular the Life of Christ award for non-Catholics, and the *Parvuli Dei* award for Catholic boys – in Latin, *parvuli Dei* means ‘children of God.’”



Any boy interested in Cub Scouts or any adult interested in being involved with the parish pack may contact Cubmaster Jeff Franklin at 513-479-2658 or cubscouts944@saint-max.org.

YEAR OF *Visit the Sick and*



“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.

Visiting the sick and the imprisoned, both corporal works of mercy, are acts of being lovingly present to those who are ill or “held captive.” Helping an ailing relative or friend in any way is a personification of this act of mercy. Even though difficult, or impossible, to actually visit someone incarcerated, many others suffer hindrances or dangers to freedom. Helping or protecting them in any way is also an embodiment of this act of mercy. As related in Matthew 25, both the sick and the imprisoned have a dignity that must be recognized because it is Christ Himself whom we visit when we perform this act of mercy.

@ St. Max

Jesus Christ is our model for the pastoral care of the sick. He healed people in every walk of life. Christ’s intent was to bring spiritual and physical healing. Thus, pastoral care is a holistic approach that promotes care to the whole person. The pastoral care of the sick covers a wide spectrum of opportunities for individuals who represent the community and witness to the community’s mindfulness of those that are ill. Even though only priests can celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with the ill and elderly, the pastoral care of the sick is the responsibility of all followers of Christ. All Christians are encouraged to visit the sick. Pastoral visits by clergy and trained Extraordinary Ministers often include the

reception of Holy Communion as a means of sacramentally uniting the sick to the Lord, as well as to the parish community from which their illness has separated them.

Here at St. Max, we also have parishioners who have been actively engaged in prison ministry. Just last summer, our seminarian intern, Craig Best, spent his 10-week non-parochial internship (i.e. an internship outside of a parish) ministering to inmates at the Lebanon and Warren Correctional Institutes. He found this to be one of the most rewarding experiences since he entered the seminary. As Craig relates, “Once I got past all the arm and face tattoos, the thing that most struck me about the men was how grateful they were to have someone from the

outside come to visit. In addition to teaching classes on the Catholic faith and leading communion services, I offered individual pastoral counseling to the men, several of whom were dealing with very weighty issues from which they were struggling to heal. Although I certainly didn’t have all the answers, I believe God was able to use me as an instrument to touch many lives and assure the men of His mercy.”

There are several opportunities for St. Max parishioners to be involved in the pastoral care of the sick. If interested in learning more, please contact Holly Moran, Pastoral Associate for Outreach, in the parish office. Similarly, if you have interest in prison ministry, please contact Holly Moran or Craig Best in the parish office.

MERCY

the Imprisoned

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE – JULY 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

- Never treat a sick person as a burden or an inconvenience
- Be part of a group that visits the sick
- Call nursing homes and find out who doesn't have any company and offer to visit them
- Volunteer at a hospital
- Take the Eucharist to the homebound in your community
- Sit with a homebound person so their caregiver can go out
- Send cards to friends or relatives who are sick or in the hospital
- Visit a seriously or terminally ill member of your parish
- Pray for the imprisoned and their families
- Volunteer at a local prison
- Help with a communion service or Mass at a prison
- Donate bibles and/or spiritual reading materials to a prison
- Learn what the Church teaches about capital punishment
- Support programs that provide holiday gifts for prisoners and their families
- Find a local halfway house and donate bus tokens to residents looking for work
- Send phone cards to those detained in immigration centers
- Help someone who is "imprisoned" by a disability by being a friend or helper to them
- Support job training and educational programs designed to rehabilitate inmates
- Support programs that advocate on behalf of those who are unjustly imprisoned

We can also extend the meaning of this work of mercy by considering those who are imprisoned metaphorically in other places: the elderly isolated in nursing homes or their own homes; people imprisoned by their addictions or their fears or their ignorance; people imprisoned by others' views of them – for example, immigrants, non-English speakers, people with disabilities, etc. To "visit the prisoner" can be as simple as a smile or a welcome that breaks down the wall of mistrust – something we can do every day.



A SAINT of MERCY – Servant of God Friedrich Joseph Haass

Friedrich Joseph Haass was born on Aug. 10, 1780, in the city of Bad Münstereifel near where the current borders of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands intersect. Invited to practice his medical profession in Russia, he became the head physician of the Moscow prison hospital system and was hailed as the "holy doctor of Moscow." He carried out his mission with true and total mercy for the prisoners, humanizing the Russian penal system. A particular quality of Haass was that he gathered around him numerous collaborators who dedicated themselves to cultivating within the prisons the "beauty of mercy" – an ideal highly esteemed by the Russian people. During the last decade of his life, he spent all of his assets running a hospital for the homeless. So highly regarded during his life, the Russian Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow, St. Philaret Drozdov, himself came to Haass' side on his deathbed to offer words and prayers of comfort and praise. He died on Aug. 16, 1853 in Moscow. It is estimated over 20,000 people attended his funeral.

“I AM IN AWE OF GOD’S WORD”

St. Max’s Lectors

A lector prepares both technically and spiritually. Beyond studying how to pronounce the names of cities and people in the Bible, a lector anticipates serving as a vehicle of God’s Word. These spiritual facets of being a lector have heightened Michelle Meyer’s relationship to the Mass and to Scripture.

“I love the Mass, and I see God at work through the Mass more than I have before,” says Michelle, who serves as Lector Coordinator. “Being a lector has exposed me to Scripture in new ways. It has awakened in me a love of Scripture, and I am in awe of God’s Word.”

As the liturgical readings for the year unfold, St. Max’s lectors bring the community deeper into the story of our salvation history from the creation narrative to the vision of a New Jerusalem. At the same time, they engage us in the Mass in a new and active way.

“It is a special privilege to be able to proclaim His Word,” Michelle says. “When I train lectors, I stress that God is present in two unique ways during the Mass. He is fully present in the Eucharist, but He is also present in His Word, which is why the ambo and the altar are both elevated.”

Michelle, her husband, David, and their children are founding members of St. Maximilian. When Michelle discerned how she could give back to the community, she felt comfortable offering her time as a lector, since she had done so at previous parishes.

Even after 30 years of lectoring, Michelle admits to still feeling nervous as she approaches the ambo.

“I am nervous every time,” Michelle says. “I think the nervousness is a good thing, though. It is being in awe.”

Any parishioner who is 13 or older is welcome to become a lector. The training process with Michelle takes about an hour, and all lectors receive a workbook that includes pronunciation tips and insight into the Scripture passages.

“The first thing I say when I train lectors is that, if you are here, it is because you are being called or led by the Holy Spirit,” Michelle says. “Some of our best lectors are high school students. It is a great witness to the other youth in our parish.”

The week before proclaiming the Word at Mass is when lectors read and reread their passages, perhaps also studying the other readings for that Mass and how the different passages relate to each other.

“As you read the readings before and pray about them, it is a time for the Holy Spirit to speak to you,” Michelle says. “This is God speaking to His people, and you are just a vehicle.”

The lector schedule for weekends is created on a quarterly basis. Lectors can choose at which Mass they would like to serve, and each lector usually reads about once a quarter.

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Lector and high school student Matthew Connor



Lector Lisa Brown

“Through being a lector, I have become familiar with certain passages and have grown in my love of Scripture. I have grown in amazement that anyone can ever doubt that this is God’s Word.” – Michelle Meyer, Lector Coordinator

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Saint Maximilian Kolbe
Catholic Church

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St. Max's Lectors

St. Max's Lectors *continued from page 7*

For weekdays, lectors can access the schedule online and sign up for specific days.

"At the time of being trained, you indicate your willingness to lector on weekday mornings or not," Michelle says. "Then, for example, if I want to go to Wednesday morning Mass next week, I can go online, see if the day is open and sign up to lector."

For Michelle, it is on the days that she has the privilege to serve as a lector that the Scriptures become the most alive to her.

"Through being a lector, I have become familiar with certain passages and have grown in my love of Scripture," Michelle says. "I have grown in amazement that anyone can ever doubt that this is God's Word."

For more information about St. Max's lectors, please reach out to Michelle Meyer at lectors@saint-max.org or 513-703-5143.

For more Catholic news and current events check out the websites of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.USCCB.org and of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at www.catholiccincinnati.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.