

OUR LADY OF PEACE

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

BY FATHER JOHNSON

This past April Deacon Jeffrey, Julie Carmona, Ed and Kathy Price, and I participated in the Amazing Parishes Conference in Denver. Upon our return home we have been gradually implementing the conference's recommendations. Communities are not like modeling clay, though: each has unique characteristics, and each becomes amazing in its own way. Much of our work has been learning how Our Lady of Peace does so.

To that end, one of the tasks the parish staff has set itself is the improvement of communication. The staff and the leadership of parish organizations do not always communicate sufficiently with each other,

nor do we communicate sufficiently with the parish as a whole, nor do we facilitate communication within the parish. We've taken some steps in the right direction. The parish web site is more eye-catching and user friendly. The bulletin is much more attractive—it tends to say, "Read me!" We've experimented with using email for disseminating important bits of information. This process will become more sophisticated after we acquire a more complete database of parish emails and after we've begun using a more robust program (Flock Notes). We should certainly move in the direction of using social media, but the pastor

is still trying to learn how to use a non-rotary phone.

Still another medium the staff is exploring is this (monthly?) newsletter. The expectation is that each member of the staff will use it for more relaxed communication with the community. Our hope is to publish the newsletter in more than one format (on the website, for example, and in hard copy) so that it is "maximally accessible" (whoopie! I can use jargon, too!). If you find it useful, please let a staff member know. If there are ways in which we can improve it, please let a staff member know. If it's too small to line your birdcage, please let a staff member know.

PASTORAL ASSISTANT'S UPDATE

BY SR. BARBARA KOLESAR

- The three Scripture Sharing groups have finished for Advent. Now we are looking forward to meeting in Lent.
- The RCIA is continuing with two catechumen and four candidates. They seem to be enjoying the sessions. The Rite of Election is coming up on February 14 at St. Paul's Parish in Westerville.
- I teach the Baptism Class for Parents who will have a child Baptized in our parish. The next class will be in March.
- I'm working on school masses for February and March planning the readings and petitions and will work with the student lectors for these Masses.
- The Liturgy Committee is meeting to work on upcoming events in Church as well as doing an Advent/Christmas Postmortem.



THE BOOKKEEPER'S BROADCAST

BY TOM KASBERG

My ministry is to support the parish by ensuring funds are properly accounted for and resources are used in ways that best support the parish, its mission, and many organizations.

I worked with our bulletin vendor to enhance the interior pages by moving away from the black white and to transition to offering more color.

One of the more recent highlights was the parish being awarded grants to assist in the renovation of the old rectory space into offices and additional conference rooms and a second grant to underwrite some of the Alpha Program

related expenses.

My role also supports the parish in the Bishop's Annual Appeal. It is an honor to report that you, the parishioners of Our Lady of Peace, exceeded the 2015 goal by about \$16,000. While some pledges are still being honored, the parish will be receiving at least a \$9,000 rebate from the BAA campaign. When all of the pledges get paid, the rebate will be about \$16,000. Thank you for your generous support of the BAA and the Parish.

While I did not physically work on the new parish

website, we are very happy with the time and effort Mary Lynn Gilbert put into the new website design. Thank you!

Daily there are many tasks such as making deposits, writing checks, running reports, performing analysis, and effectively communicating with the many parish groups to ensure they are well supported in the various missions and activities.

I very much enjoy working in Christ's Church and supporting the very special community that is Our Lady of Peace Parish.

"We all have a chance to be Christ to each other, every day and especially on Sunday."

YOUTH BOOTH

BY: MAGGIE WEEKS

First, a personal note from Maggie: I am honored to be a part of this parish. There is a unique sense of family and community here. I look forward to being part of this family going forward and finding opportunities for our youth to become even more a part of it! Thank you for being patient with me as I learn names and the culture of the parish!

We had a strong start with our middle school students in 2015. We have had a few traditional youth group nights: carving pumpkins, a saintly haunted house, human hungry hungry hippos and celebrating with a hippo cake! We also had an advent Bible study, went to Bosco Bash, and a lock in where a few girls didn't sleep a wink! (Neither did I... whew, that gets harder as I get older!) I hope to continue that momentum with the youth group, and to find ways to spend more time with these awesome people.

Our high school ministry has been slower off the block, which is expected starting a new program. They are asking for service opportunities so that is the direction we will take going forward. I am hoping to continue taking advantage of the other opportunities in Columbus such as Encounter Columbus, Gospel Road, and even Catholic Youth Summer Camp. We are also hoping to have a day of service and a "Lock Out" for homelessness awareness this summer.

Most of all what I want to focus on spreading the word that everyone is a little bit of a youth minister. We all have a chance to be Christ to each other, every day and especially on Sunday. People often ask me why I think our youth leave the Church, I am going to try and explore that in our next newsletter. In the meantime, please keep our youth in your prayers!

SCHOOL SCOOP

BY PRINCIPAL RYAN SCHWIETERMAN

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a great start and we just recently finished the 2nd quarter. Our building is really looking good and I invite you stop in and visit if you have not been in to see your Parish school. This past summer we updated classrooms with carpet and new paint. The front landscape has also gone through a transformation thanks to the help of Parish and School families. While we are hard at work keeping our facility up to date, we are also focused on our most important task of educating and caring for our 235 students.

The first week of February is the National Catholic Schools Week

with a host of activities that we have enjoyed as we celebrate and recognize our commitment to Catholic Education. The theme this year is: Catholic Schools—Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service. I believe that our school is a great example of this motto. Thanks to strong parish support we have multiple opportunities to educate students in the faith. Our dedicated teachers work each day to develop knowledge and one of our teachers (Christina Hickey) was recently thanked by the NCEA! Our students perform service both locally and in our city whether it be serving the needy at the Holy Family Soup kitchen,

making sandwiches, or assisting the Clintonville Resource Center.

Now is also the time for new families to register to become part of this great school! Please share this news with friends, neighbors and colleagues as a strong enrollment helps all of us and our mission.



Registration for the 2016-17 school year is underway now. If you have school aged children we invite you in for a tour. If you don't, please help us spread the word about our school to your friends and neighbors.

MAHLER'S MESSAGES

BY: DEBBIE MAHLER

The New Year for me started with preparing and mailing out the End of the Year Contribution Statements to parishioners. Now, we are updating all of the families contact information in preparation for a new parish directory that we hope to have published by this spring. One of the things that I especially enjoy about my work is serving on the Liturgy Committee. This is an opportunity to deal directly with planning liturgical events and masses. Presently we are busy with Lenten preparations. Ash Wednesday is February 10th and Fr. Kavanagh will be preaching a parish mission later this month (YEAH!!!). Watch the bulletin for more information about Lent and new programs in the parish.



SAVE THE DATE:

February 21 @ 4pm

*Giovanni Pergolesi's
Stabat Mater*

*A 40 minute duet for
meditation and prayer*

MUSICAL NOTES

BY NATHAN MEDLEY

In 2016, OLP's music program enters a monumental state of growth, which began with the launch of our contemporary music ensemble in December, providing music for the 11:30am Mass every Sunday. If this is your favorite type of music, come join us!

In the beginning of January we kicked-off our chorister training program for kids K-8. We have 40 students registered and are building musical skills every Tuesday. You will come to know them well, as they perform once or twice a month at Mass and beyond. It is not too late if you know someone who would like to participate.

On Ash Wednesday you will hear OLP's polyphony ensemble, which provides renaissance revelry on holy days of obligation.

Soon, the sounds of brass will resound through our sanctuary! Bishop Watterson High School continues as ensemble-in-residence with a regular brass quartet for spring 2016. They meet every Wednesday for rehearsal. If you play a brass instrument and would like to take part, please contact Nathan Medley.

In Lent, **SAVE THE DATE: February 21st at 4:00.** Coral Owdom and Nathan Medley join forces to perform

Giovanni Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, a 40 minute long duet cantata that allows us to meditate on the sacrifice of our Lord. They will be joined by a string quartet, and will feature our Children Choristers and BWHS Brass ensemble.

As we continue to build and grow, I'd like to make an appeal for the formation of a funeral choir. This is a no pressure engagement and does not involve regular rehearsals. I am seeking OLP parishioners who are available at 10:30am on weekdays and feel comfortable with the hymns we sing and the liturgy we practice. If you are interested, please contact the music director.

PSR PUBLICATION

BY TRACEY FORTKAMP

Parish School of Religion (Religious Education) enters the second half of the school year with over 50 students from preschool age through 8th grade. Every Sunday, the preschool meets during the 10:00 a.m. Mass and the elementary level meets at Our Lady of Peace School from 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. We moved to the school two years ago and it has been an amazing enhancement to our educational environment.

The second grade is gearing up for First Reconciliation on Saturday, February 13 and we are all excited for them to make that big step in their Faith Formation. They will talk about why we have confession and learn the Act of Contrition. They will also practice with their teachers. It is a delight to experience the joy they feel following their confession – the look on their faces is priceless. Please keep them in your prayers.

This year we started a two year confirmation preparation program. Preparation for confirmation begins in the 7th grade and continues into 8th grade. This ensures students are getting an adequate amount of instruction prior to making this exciting step within the church. We are using a new curriculum that is relevant to this generation of Middle School students and working hard with Our Lady of Peace School to coordinate everything.

We are so thankful for our amazing volunteers that allow us to have at least one teacher and one teaching aide in each classroom, giving the students ample one-on-one time and attention. If you are interested in volunteering or donating school craft supplies to PSR, please contact Tracey Fortkamp at tmfortkamp@gmail.com.

SR. MARTHA'S MUSINGS

BY SR. MARTHA LANGSTAFF

Leisure Club

As you may or may not know, the Leisure Club Potluck was revived in September on a monthly basis. We have some new members as well as former members. Our November Potluck was enhanced by Marilyn Wehner who offered to cook turkey for the occasion. The rest of the members brought various types of traditional Thanksgiving dishes. Everyone enjoyed it and we felt lucky to be able to say we had two Thanksgiving dinners this year. Our Christmas celebration was nice and we were glad that Bob Benkowski was able to join us with the help of a friend. We sang some Christmas carols but it wasn't as special as it is when Bob plays his accordion. As in previous years, we will not meet in January or February but will resume our gatherings on March 17. That should be an easy date to remember.

Homebound

Presently there are 17 people on my homebound list. Thanks to Teresa George and family, Christmas bags were made for all of these people and some others in nursing homes. There were Christmas coffee mugs included with individual packs of tea, coffee, and candy included. They were also happy to receive the book, Re-discover Jesus. Mrs. Magee's Fourth Grade Class offered to write a note inside of the Christmas cards provided and to decorate the envelopes with their creative Christmas artwork. The homebound enjoyed reading their personal notes and loved the colorful artwork. A big thank you to all who made this possible. Another special thank you to Judy Leahey and her helpers from the Hospitality Committee who sent Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to the homebound and nursing homes. Judy has been doing this by herself in the years past when she offered to do it. God Bless All!

Wesley Glen

Fr. Johnson and I go to Wesley Glen for the Eucharist on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. This year we have changed the Mass time to 2:30 in the hope that with morning funerals, which might occur during our previous 11:00 time, we would not be forced to cancel our Mass at Wesley Glen. Mary Rose O'Reilly, Terri Brennen, and Mark & Laura Bach come and talk to residents, find out if there is anyone new to the facility, and pass out the music sheets when I come. They are also Eucharistic Ministers at Wesley Glen each taking one time a month on Sunday. We are glad to have them join us.

MAINTENANCE MESSAGE

BY STEVE HENRY

The maintenance department has an update on the progress of the old Rectory that was in need of rehab following the condition of the building after the friars. Four of the former bedrooms have been upgraded to office spaces and have been repaired, lighted, and painted. They are ready for carpeting. The contractor has begun the next stage, which is to remove some walls to expand two small rooms into one larger space. We are hoping

for a completion date of mid to late February. I will keep you updated.

I am also in the process of ordering 2 new commercial vacuums for the school to upkeep the new carpet. The one remaining, working vacuum is over 10 years old. Over the Christmas break, the school classroom carpets were cleaned as well.

The cafeteria walls were given a fresh coat of white paint and several hallway areas have been fully painted or touched up this past month.

Finally, the sink in the main office of the school is being replaced after 20+ years due to corroding pipes and a leak.

Upcoming Calendar Items

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| 2/1 | Natural Family Planning Class | 2/25 | RCIA class |
| 2/2 | Finance Committee Meeting | 2/28 | Natural Family Planning class |
| 2/3 | Parish Staff Meeting | 2/29 | Parish Mission begins |
| 2/4 | RCIA class | | |
| 2/6 | That Man is You | | |
| 2/9 | Prayer Shawl gathering | | |
| 2/10 | Ash Wednesday
8:30am, Noon, 5:30pm
Wesley Glen Mass | | |
| 2/11 | RCIA class | | |
| 2/13 | That Man is You
2nd grade First Reconciliation | | |
| 2/16 | Knights of Columbus Meeting | | |
| 2/18 | RCIA class | | |
| 2/20 | That Man is You | | |

Confessions are offered each Saturday at 3pm

The Parish Mission is scheduled for February 29th and March 1st and 2nd at 7pm.

DIALOGUE WITH THE DEACON

BY: DEACON JEFFREY FORTKAMP



RCIA – We currently have 6 individuals in the RCIA program; three are un-baptized and will receive all three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil; three have been Baptized in another Christian denomination and will be Confirmed and make their First Communion at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for them as they continue their faith journey.

Alpha – OLP will host its pilot session of Alpha following Easter. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Typically run over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation. It's just an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together. Alpha is one part of a larger initiative within the parish to transform OLP parish from being in maintenance mode to building disciples equipped and empowered to spread the Good News.

the *amazing* parish