

AMEN!



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church February 2005

From the Pastor's Desk - Fr. Marc Sherlock



With Christmas barely behind us it is hard to believe that Ash Wednesday is February 9! Mass and Imposition of Ashes will be at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

On Friday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. JUBILEE, a choral group from area Catholic Churches, will lead us in the Stations of the Cross. JUBILEE was with us in early January for a Christmas Concert and Evensong. I think you will find this presentation of the Stations very prayerful and inspiring.

Father Jim Walker, a priest of the Youngstown Diocese and a personal friend, will preach our Lenten Parish Renewal. The theme is the "Eucharist" in keeping with Pope John Paul's declaration that October 2004-October 2005 is the Year of the Eucharist. Fr. Walker will begin the Renewal by

preaching at our weekend Masses March 5-6. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, March 6, 7 & 8, he will preach during Services in church at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening's Service will be our Lenten Communal Penance Service. Fr. Walker is well known for his homilies and writes homily commentary for the Youngstown Diocesan newspaper. I think you will find him inspiring and thought-provoking and, yes, even at times humorous! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend each night.

As you can see our Phase II Building Project is under roof and well on the way to completion. We hope to dedicate the addition on June 25. Thanks to the hard work and watchful eyes of our Building Steering Committee we are projecting the cost of con-

struction to come in under budget. An essential part of the Lenten Season is almsgiving. Therefore we are forming a Debt Reduction Committee with the hope of retiring the debt in 5 years. We use this time frame since Phase I was paid off in 5 years. Since every parishioner will use and benefit from the addition we want to reach out to those who have yet to make a pledge. We want to thank those who have made pledges and encourage them to keep their pledge up-to-date. We also would like to encourage those who made pledges to prayerfully consider renewing their pledge commitment or make a new pledge to help us retire the debt.

I am looking forward to my first Lent and Easter as your Pastor!

Catholic Trivia Question

What color shoes does the Pope wear?

(See inside for answer.)

Mark Your Calendars NOW!

St. John's Fun Festival will be held Friday, June 24th, Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th

Guaranteed to be "funner" than ever before!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Raising Our Roof | 2 |
| Lenten Schedule | 3 |
| Staff Notes | 4-5 |
| No More Silence | 6 |
| Women of Spirit | 7 |
| Thank You, St. John's! | 7 |
| YOUTHSTUFF! | 8-9 |
| RCIA News | 10 |

The Buck Stops Here by Cindy Griffin, Editor

Lent is not my most favorite season. It's probably that way for many of you. None of us really enjoys the idea of being a penitent; reminds us that we are sinners to start with. We would much prefer to think of ourselves as perfect. Maybe we need to look at Lent with new eyes?

When I was a kid, my mother was into the spring cleaning thing. We'd stir up the dust and clean out the closets and sweep and wipe and swab the decks until our knuckles bled. (Not really, but as kids we were sure that would happen!) The result was a shiny house with more room in the closets.

What would it look like if we were to approach Lent as a time of spring cleaning for our hearts? We could get rid of the dust and dirt that clutter there. Old resentments, rationalizations, bad habits could all be swept out. In their places we would make room for more love, caring and concern for others, humility, forgiveness and joyful living. But how to do this?

First, we look inside ourselves. Am I the person I say I am? Does my prayer life reflect this? Am I willing to be known as a Christian in private and in public life? Do I enthusiastically participate in Sunday Mass? Am I a good and faithful steward of all of the gifts God has given me?

Next, we must look realistically at our relationships. Can I forgive? Can I be forgiven? What fences can I mend? What relationships do I have that are life-giving, life-affirming?

"Well", you may be saying, "I have plenty of time to get all of this done." Hmm....maybe. Being one who can always put off cleaning, one who can always find something better to do, I can relate to this. But St. Paul tells us with a sense of urgency to do it now.

"We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:2

So, brothers and sisters in Christ, get those mops and brooms out and let's get busy with the spring heart cleaning. Easter comes early this year! And yes, Mom, I will be stirring up some dust at home. I can feel my knuckles bleeding already.....

P.S. Conveniently, we also have many opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation between now and Easter! See Page 3 for a complete schedule.



RAISING OUR ROOF

The construction on the phase II building project remains on schedule and on budget. The roof was completed with a 40 year, 80 mph manufacturer's warranty and now the work has shifted to constructing the interior walls including the rough plumbing and heating provisions.

We have received an offer to purchase the K of C house and Religious Ed/Parish Office with occupancy in July 2005, and Pastoral Council has recommended accepting the offer. Father Marc has sent the offer to the Archdiocese with his recommendation for approval. In the meantime, ReMax continues their efforts to sell the Broadway Chapel and Parish Center.

The current forecast projects an approximately \$860,000 loan balance at the end of the project after collection of the remaining pledges and the sale of the K of C house, Religious Ed building, Broadway Chapel, and Parish Center. A campaign to retire this debt has been launched. We hope parishioners will continue their generous support of this project, so we can retire the debt within the next 5 years.

Phase 2 Building Steering Committee
Father Marc Sherlock
Steve McCrillis, Bruce Batty, Karen Beagle,
Mike Droesch, Viv Wyen, and Dottie Zimmerman

Clip and save these important dates!

LENT/HOLY WEEK/TRIDUUM SCHEDULE 2005

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 9, 2005

Mass & Imposition of Ashes: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Collection taken to aid the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS DURING LENT

February 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9, 16
7:00 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Friday, February 18 – 7:00 p.m. – JUBILEE Choir Group leading [free will offering]
Wednesdays: February 23 & March 2, 9, 16 – after 7:00 p.m. Mass

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

Saturday, February 12 – St. Patrick Church, Troy
Mass 4:30 p.m. concelebrated by Fr. Duell & Fr. Sherlock followed by dinner in St. Patrick's Center
Speaker: Dr. Mary Ehret – "Traits of a Healthy Spirituality"

LABYRINTH WALK

Ladies of the parish join **Women of Spirit** on Sunday, February 27th at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton. Car-pool leaves St. John's parking lot at **1:30 PM**. Further information call Lucy Wolfe 667-1677 or Judie McKittrick 339-9355

SOUP AND BREAD

Sunday, February 27 – 6:00 p.m. – Parish Center [*upstairs*]
Speaker: Cori Thibodeau – "From Church on Sunday to Prophet on Monday"

LENTEN PARISH RENEWAL

Theme: "The Eucharist"
March 6, 7, 8, 2005: 7:00 pm
Rev. James P. Walker – Preacher

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION [Confession] DURING LENT

Saturdays: 4:00-4:30 pm [except March 26]

Tuesday, March 22: 12:00 noon-1:00 pm
Wednesday, March 23: 5:00-6:00 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm

Area Communal Penance Services

[*Several Priests available for Confession*]

Monday, March 7 – 7:00 pm – St. Patrick, Troy
Tuesday, March 8 - 7:00 pm – St. John the Baptist, Tipp City
Wednesday, March 9 – 6:00 pm – Immaculate Conception, Bradford
Tuesday, March 15 – 7:00 pm – Transfiguration, West Milton
Wednesday, March 16 – 7:00 PM – St. Teresa, Covington
Thursday, March 17 – 7:00 pm – St. Mary, Piqua

HOLY WEEK

PASSION [PALM] SUNDAY – March 19-20, 2005

Mass & Blessing of Palms:
5:00 p.m. - Saturday
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – March 22, 2005

Reconciliation [Confession]: 12:00 Noon-1:00 p.m.
Chrism Mass – 7:30 p.m. – St. Peter in Chains Cathedral – Cincinnati

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – March 23, 2005

Reconciliation [Confession]: 5:00-6:00 p.m. & 7:00-8:00 p.m.

TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY – March 24, 2005

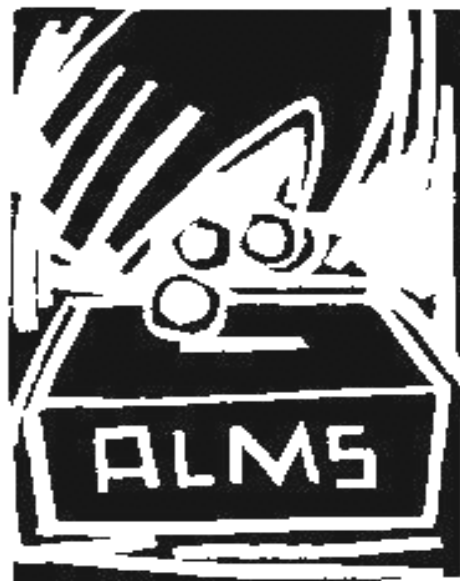
Agape Meal – 6:00-7:15 p.m. [*Parish Center*]
Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 pm
[*Adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel until 10:00 pm*]

GOOD FRIDAY – March 25, 2005

Scriptural Rosary & Stations of the Cross – 12:00 Noon
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion – 7:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY – March 26-27

Masses
Easter Vigil Mass – Saturday, March 26 - 7:30 p.m.
Easter Morning Masses – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
[*No Confessions or 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, March 26*]



Amy's Antecedotes From the Parish Office

by Amy Howe, Business Manager

As Father Marc mentions in his article, we are currently in the process of forming a Debt Reduction Committee to assist in following up on past due, non pledges or additional pledges in order to help us retire our debt for the new facility. This is a very important project and we need the support of everyone! Right now, if we are fortunate enough to sell the Broadway properties, we are looking at a debt of more than \$850,000. This calculates out at payments of more than \$90,000 annually for the term of the 15 year loan.

Projected values as of 01/01/05

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Project Cost | (\$2,422,484) |
| Broadway Property Proceeds | 529,652 |
| Unpledged Donations Received | 75,127 |
| Building Fund Contributions | 949,771 |
| Other Funds | 31,581 |
| Loan Balance | (836,353) |
| Peak Annual Loan Interest @ 7% | (\$58,545) |
| Annual Loan Payments (15 years) | (\$91,827) |

As you can see, reducing this amount will certainly be to our benefit! Your support is vital to the Parish. Please respond favorably to our efforts. Remember, this Parish belongs to each of us and the new facility will benefit us all. We will be able to offer many things that were simply not possible before.

I would like to thank Pat McNulty and Fay Willis who have been handling the Building Fund pledges, the members of the Building Steering Committee, Finance Committee, Maintenance Committee, our newly formed Debt Reduction Committee, members of Pastoral Council and all those who work quietly behind the scenes. These people have literally put in thousands of volunteer hours to ensure fiscal responsibility and ensure that your donations are used for the best intentions of the Parish. These volunteers have saved the Parish thousands of dollars and I am in awe of their dedication. So – thank you, thank you, thank you!

Happy Easter to all of you!
Amy

PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS: LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages.
Amen.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GCI, INC.



Thanks to Larry Davis

07-24-2000

ON THE PLUS SIDE, I'M CAUGHT UP WITH MY BURNT OFFERINGS FOR A WHILE

Catholic Trivia Answer

What color are the Pope's shoes?
Originally, the garment color worn by the Popes was red. Remnants of this can still be seen on formal occasions when the pope wears over his white cassock an elbow-length shoulder cape called a mozetta which is red. Also, the pope wears a red full-length cape on chilly days. Did you think the Pope would wear white shoes with his white robes? Nope...they're red shoes! This is a throwback to the days when he dressed entirely in red. In fact, the reason cardinals wear red is that it was originally part of the privilege of their office to dress...like the pope!

Nelda's Notes by Nelda Schwab, DRE

Operation Rice Bowl

For several years our youth had been using the Rice Bowls as a help in observing Lent. For the past three years, we have made it a practice for the whole parish.

Do you have the Rice Bowl on your table and the Home Calendar close at hand? This is a fitting way to observe Lent through our traditional practices: pray together, fast through making sacrifices, learn about the members of our family in the developing world, and give concrete assistance to those most in need. Contributions can be placed in the envelope provided with the Rice Bowl and dropped in the collection basket.

Soup and Bread

Join us for a simple meal at 6:00pm followed by a lively presentation at 6:30pm.

This is another fitting way to observe Lent.

From Church on Sunday to Prophet on Monday: An evening to explore the intersection between biblical justice and our life in the modern world. If you'd like to engage in deep and inspiring conversation, powerful prayer, and lots of laughter, this is an evening for you.

Cori Thibodeau, the Dayton Area Director of Catholic Social Action, [will be the presenter](#) on Sunday, February 27 at 6:00pm Upstairs in the Center

Why Catholic?

Do you feel the need to learn more about what the Church teaches?

Do you want it presented with a focus of living what you learn, a focus on spiritual renewal?

Do you want to be more closely connected with others in our Church community?

Why Catholic promises to do all three.

The team is excited to begin planning in February to bring *Why Catholic* here this October.

Chris' Corner by Chris Coleman, Seminarian

As I write this I am three months away from ordination to the transitional diaconate. Wow! When I entered the seminary formation program in August 2000, this approaching date looked so far off in the distance. Each year when a new class of men was ordained transitional deacons I would again count the years. Five years of formation and five years of studies have now been completed. Looking towards priesthood ordination in May 2006 leaves one final year to go.

Ordination in the Roman Catholic Church is not taken lightly by either the individual or the church leadership. A person can not simply request to be ordained; the individual must be called forth from the community. To do this, over a hundred plus evaluations are completed by instructors/professors, formation advisors, field education supervisors, parishioners, physiologists and physicians on whether a person should be called to Holy Orders. Many parishioners from St. John's took on this responsibility during my internship and they indicated that I should advance in the formation process towards ordination. Hence, my return to the seminary after

a year with all of you.

During the ordination rite, each individual who will be ordained will be called forth by the deacon. Then the Bishop will inquire if the men are found worthy to be ordained. On behalf of the people of God, the Rector of the seminary will testify in front of the members of the Church of Cincinnati that these men are found to be worthy. He does so by the "election" that has been carried out over the last five years of evaluations.

Also, at the ordination rite, each individual to be ordained to the diaconate must make certain promises. Three promises are made. The first one is obedience and respect to the Archbishop and his successors. The second promise is to pray the Liturgy of the Hours faithfully for the people of God. The third promise is to live out this vocation in the celibate state. This last promise is the one that many people have a problem understanding. Living as a celibate male doesn't mean losing one's sexual identity. It means that you live a chaste life that allows one to have the freedom to love God's people and to fully and freely embrace God's love. All people are called to live a chaste life. Single people are to live a

chaste life. Married people live a chaste lifestyle by being faithful to their marriage vows. An ordained minister takes the Church (the people of God) as his spouse. Once these promises are made, the Church calls upon the help of the Saints by singing the Litany of Saints. Then the Bishop lays hands upon our heads and then prays the Prayer of Consecration. Once this is done, there is no turning back.

These promises require much discernment. They are not taken lightly. That is one of the reasons the Church requires so many years to prepare for ordination. Seminary formation is much more than just the academics and community living. Academics are important, but there is so much more involved.

As April 30th approaches, I give thanks to God for the gift of this call. I give thanks to God for the time that he has set aside for me to discern this call. I also give thanks for all those who have been involved in my formation programs that have helped me discern this call. I ask for your continued prayers not only for me but for all who are discerning a vocation. "*May God who begun the good work in you, bring it to fulfillment.*" (from the Ordina-

"No More Silence" submitted by Tammy Dahlinghaus

Pro-Life activist Penny Lea, after having given a speech, was approached by an elderly gentleman. Weeping, he told her the following story.

"I lived in Germany during the Nazi holocaust. I considered myself a Christian. I attended church since I was a small boy. We had heard the stories of what was happening to the Jews, but like most people today in this country, we tried to distance ourselves from the reality of what was really taking place. What could anyone do to stop it?"

A railroad track ran behind our small church, and each Sunday morning we would hear the whistle from a distance and then the clacking of the wheels moving over the track. We became disturbed when one Sunday we noticed cries coming from the train as it passed by. We grimly realized that the train was carrying Jews. They were like cattle in those cars!

Week after week that train whistle would blow. We would dread to hear the sound of those wheels because we knew that the Jews would begin to cry out to us as they passed our church. It was so terribly disturbing! We could do nothing to help these poor miserable people, yet their screams tormented us. We knew exactly at what time that whistle would blow, and we decided the only way to keep from being so disturbed by the cries was to start singing our hymns. By the time that train came rumbling past the churchyard, we were singing at the top of our voices. If some of the screams reached our ears, we'd just sing a little louder until we could hear them no more. Years have passed and no one talks about it much anymore, but I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. I can still hear them crying out for help. God forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians, yet did nothing to intervene.

Now, so many years later, I see it happening all over again in America. God forgive you as Americans for you have blocked out the screams of millions of your own children. The holocaust is here. The response is the same as it was in my country - SILENCE!"

January 22nd of 2005, marked the 32nd year anniversary of Roe versus Wade. The infamous 1973 Supreme Court case, which changed the law in this country and allowed abortion to be legal up until the day of birth. 44 million unborn babies have died painful deaths since 1973, due to the legalization of abortion in this country.

Churches are reluctant to get involved because abortion is perceived as a "political" issue. It is too "controversial." Yet, abortion has always been a moral issue and considered a sin. It has been thrust into the political arena just as killing Jews became "politicized" in Germany. Regardless of any politics involved, it is still a sin - and fighting sin is the Churches' domain!

You might ask what can the Church and we as Christians do?

First - Pray. Pray to end abortion. Pray for our country. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the closing of abortion mills. As a society, repent and pray to God for forgiveness, for allowing, or ignoring the shedding of innocent blood that has taken place on our own soil.

Second - Educate yourself and those around you. Find out about abortion and share what you find with your friends and church members. The people who sat in the pews, singing loudly to drown out the pleas of those being led to death did not change the reality of the horror. They did not want to know the truth. Don't be like them. A good place to start to educate yourself is Priests for Life at www.priestsforlife.org.

Third - Act. As a church, pick one abortion mill closest to you, and have ongoing prayer, that it's doors will be closed. Go to your nearest abortion mill and pray, or counsel the women arriving for an abortion. Volunteer for a Pro-Life organization. Get involved in legislation to change the ungodly laws that allow this holocaust to continue.

If we as Christians don't speak out against the shedding of innocent blood, who will?

*Permission was given by the writer Penny Lea, Box 3226, Boone, NC 28607, (828)265-2663

FUNERAL LUNCHEON MINISTRY WOULD LIKE YOUR FAVORITES

When a parishioner dies, the Ladies of St. John the Baptist may prepare a meal for the family following the funeral mass or service. The family appreciates all the effort that goes into providing a meal for them on a day when they need comfort.

Desserts and salads are needed to add to the meal that is provided. If you are interested in bringing a favorite of yours, please call Mary Haley at 339-9415 or Marge Jordan at 667-3463. You can also leave your name with Erma at the parish office at 667-3419.

For those of you who are already helping, thank you for your faithfulness to this ministry.

Women of Spirit Day of Reflection

Looking for new doorways to God?

Looking for deeper connections to the Holy?

If you are interested in creating a deeper inner space to receive Divine beauty and delight then this retreat day is for you!

Join other parish women on a day of reflection that will explore the role of beauty and delight in our lives. As the great Vatican II theologian von Balthasar said, "You will plunge most deeply into the foundation of existence if you consider delight to be the essence of your being." If we explore the role of delight in our lives, we will find new ways to connect with the Spirit both within and in the world.

Come join us on Saturday April 23rd for a delightful day exploring how to connect even more deeply with God.

Mark your calendar and watch the bulletin for more information!

*Looking for new doorways to God? Consider beauty and delight!
Looking for deeper connections to the Holy? Consider beauty and delight!*

Wondering how? Consider this retreat day!

An Ethiopian/American Family Says Thanks!

Submitted by: Suzy Wilson

I had arrived to take Ayna, my Ethiopian friend, to the grocery store. She welcomed me into her apartment with an enthusiastic "Suzeeee" as she threw her arms around me in a warm embrace.

"Come see, come see," she said in her limited English. Taking my hand, she proceeded to scamper up the stairs. Her face was a glow, her eyes lit up like a child's on Christmas morning after discovering a bounty of wrapped presents under the tree.

Excitedly, she pointed to a collection of items in her bedroom. "Look, look," she proclaimed, proudly holding up some bath towels for me to admire. She continued to show me each item...a dresser, a toaster, silverware, mop and broom, delighted equally by the uniqueness of each gift. She led me to her son's bedroom, pointing out crib sheets and blankets for her two year old twins.

Back downstairs, I commented on the new table, chair and lamps in the living room. Her face beaming with a smile reaching from ear to ear, she nodded and motioned for me to follow her to the kitchen, while with a pose even Vanna White couldn't top, she presented a table and chairs for my inspection. More household items were brought out for my perusal then carefully returned to their respective shelves.

Ayna grinned as she pointed to a fruit basket atop the kitchen table. Judging by the small amount of apples, oranges and bananas remaining, the family had been enjoying this gift.

"Oh, thank you Suzeee," Ayna exclaimed, reaching to clasp my hands in hers.

"Don't thank me, I told her. These gifts are from the people at church – from St. John the Baptist Church.

"Thank you, church people, thank you," she said with a warm smile.

Many more gifts would arrive. Cash gifts, gift cards, clothing, food, furniture, toys and household goods got delivered – many by the donors themselves who stayed for a visit to welcome Ayna and her family to Tipp City.

In lieu of exchanging gifts with their adult siblings, one St. Johns family, along with their own extended family, adopted Ayna, her husband, Tadesse, and their three sons for Christmas. A few days before the holiday, members of this family of all ages arrived at Ayna's door bearing many gifts of clothing, toys and household items.

The ninth grade CCD classes donated three large bins of goods for the family, including trash bags, tissues, paper towels, detergent, sponges and cleaning products. They also gave toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoos, bath soap and other toiletries.

One generous couple from our church gave a gift card to keep the two toddlers in diapers for a good two months or more!

The list goes on and on of people who continue to give from their hearts to a family in need.

While Tadesse Woldemariam and his wife, Ayna, may not know the words to express their gratitude for the generosity and love shown to their family by the people of St. John the Baptist, they know they have been richly blessed.

In an attempt to convey their feelings, they place their hands over their hearts and bowing ever so humbly they say, "Thank you, Thank you." I look up and see tears in Ayna's eyes...



Youth in Service

Eucharistic Ministers

Congratulations to Kara McClurg, Carolyn Trick, Leah Trent and Bobbie Robinson who were recently trained and commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers at St. John's! We thank you in advance for your service to your parish family.

Young Neighbors

Young Neighbors In Action will take place this summer at St. Louis. Dates are June 26-July 2. Space is limited to 10. \$75 deposit needs to be turned into the religious education office to reserve your spot! Call the religious education office at 667-3419 or Jennifer Weir at 667-0282 if you have any questions.

Junior & Senior Faith Sharing Group

Have Fun While Lending a Helping Hand

Who's afraid of the big bad mountain? Not these brave souls who ventured out in single digit weather to ride the slopes! Friday, January 14th, after the Tipp City-Indian Lake game, they suited up for an evening of fun as part of their Junior – Senior Class Retreat. During this retreat, led by Jeanne Fairbanks, not only did the kids discuss service, but had the opportunity to put it in action! They took time out of the day to help neighbors of the Son Center who were hit hard by the ice storms the previous week. The trip to the Center opened our eyes to the damage that was felt by our neighbors to the north of us. Streets were lined with broken trees, and we saw many fields still filled with water. Although it will take many hours and months to recover from the damage, every little bit helps!



Singing For The Lord

Attention all singers and other assorted musicians! If you would like to sing in one of the choirs or play an instrument for Sunday Masses, please call Jim Wolfe at 667-4032 or Bill Griffin at 698-5590 for details and more information. We would be happy to have you join us.

B-I-N-G-O at SpringMeade

In keeping with a long-standing tradition, youth from St. John the Baptist parish continue to visit with residents at SpringMeade Nursing Facility in Tipp City to play Bingo once a month. On the third Thursday of each month, a group meets at SpringMeade and spends an hour helping residents cover their Bingo cards with markers in hopes of winning a game--and some cash. The residents seem to enjoy having our young people join them at the tables where they share a little bit about themselves and can tell some of the funniest stories and jokes. It's evident after an evening together that everyone who's in the Bingo Hall has had a really good time! Watch the bulletin for a reminder--and mark your calendar--to help with Bingo Night at SpringMeade--Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19. Call Jan Haley or the parish office if you, your family, a group of friends or a CCD class is interested in going.

Retreats, Retreats!

Junior High—The Junior High Retreat was a success! Thanks for the hard work of our retreat team: Leighann Bayliff, Angie Drexler, Christina Haley, George Lesher, Kara McClurg, Michael Moore, Bo Nimer, Bobbie Robinson, Jordan Sharpe, Leah Trent, and Carolyn Trick. The topics covered accepting our differences, the power of our lips, friendships, making good choices, and dating. ALL of the witnesses were OUTSTANDING, and definitely encouraged the Jr. High kids to keep CHRIST in all of their decisions. A special thanks to all of the Junior High teachers for their support during this project. A HUGE thank you to Erma Hagan, for once again providing us with nutritious and TASTY food and special thanks to Carmella Lammers and Treva Monnier, for all of their work behind the scenes.

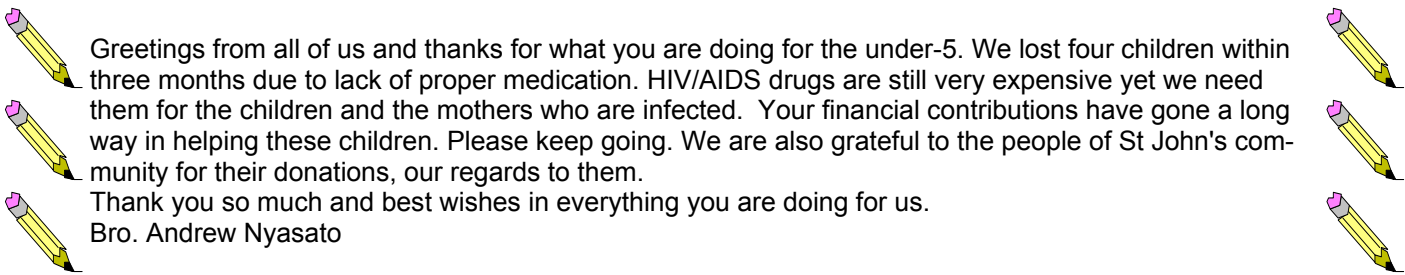
Freshmen—Another successful retreat given by the Juniors and Seniors. 23 Freshmen enjoyed a day discussing role models, making choices, making a difference and their relationships with Jesus. This retreat was part of their Entrance Rite for Confirmation and was held at St. Patrick's parish center. Thank you to the team leaders Angie, Kara, Carolyn, Leah, Christina, Katelyn, Jordan, Ben, and Andy. Thanks to the Freshmen teachers...Bill Wilson, Kathy McCrillis, and Ann Robinson. A huge THANK YOU to Erma Hagan for once again providing delicious and nutritious meals. Also, thank you to Fr. Marc for celebrating Mass with us in the evening.

Sophomores—10th Graders will participate in a retreat in March at the Son Center given by the 11th and 12th Graders in preparation for their upcoming Confirmation on Sunday, April 17th. Please keep these folks in your prayers as they approach the celebration of this Sacrament.



Message from Nairobi

Received by Steve Barno



Greetings from all of us and thanks for what you are doing for the under-5. We lost four children within three months due to lack of proper medication. HIV/AIDS drugs are still very expensive yet we need them for the children and the mothers who are infected. Your financial contributions have gone a long way in helping these children. Please keep going. We are also grateful to the people of St John's community for their donations, our regards to them.

Thank you so much and best wishes in everything you are doing for us.
Bro. Andrew Nyasato



Something New In Home Communion

Starting in February!

We are starting new procedures for in Home Communion. Please call the parish office at 667-3419 to make arrangements. We ask that you call no later than Thursday by 3:30 p.m. to receive Communion on the weekend. We will ask you the day and time you would like someone to come (earlier than 9:00 a.m., after lunch on Sunday or possibly another day of the week). We will try to accommodate your needs. Sunday morning is still considered the normal time for home Communion. If you have any further questions, call Bill McGrath at 667-4932 or the parish office at 667-3419.

Interested in becoming a Home Communion Minister? Call Bill or the parish office.



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
218 S. Third Street
Tipp City, Ohio 45371

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
TIPP CITY, OH 45371
PERMIT NUMBER 174



RCIA News

On Saturday, February 12, our Candidates and Catechumens along with their sponsors and the RCIA team participated in a Retreat Day at the Transfiguration Center for Spiritual Renewal in Ludlow Falls. The goal of the day was for our RCIA participants to reflect on reconciliation and community and the role that they play in our spiritual lives. We spent our day in both large and small group discussions, prayer, song, and time for private reflection. The participants ended the day by creating their annual banner which reflects their new found spirituality and will be displayed in the gathering space through the Lenten season.



On Sunday, February 13 we celebrated the Rite of Sending Forth at our 10:30am mass where our candidates and catechumens are sent forth to participate in the Rite of Election with the bishop. Because we believe in family celebrations, this was followed by a big family brunch. Later that afternoon, we traveled to Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton to participate with other parishes in the Cincinnati Archdiocese in the Rite of Election. During the rite of election the church formally announces the names of those who will soon celebrate the sacraments of initiation. The key moments of the rite are the affirmation by the godparents and the act of admission or election. In the affirmation, the godparents testify that the catechumens are worthy to be initiated. Their testimony reveals the church's positive judgment about the catechumens' desire and behavior. The entire assembly joins the affirmation. We look forward to the Easter Vigil where our candidates and catechumens will join us fully at the Table of the Lord!