

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

As we say goodbye to another year, it is hard not to look back and reminisce about the events of the past year. For some they will be glad to see this year end. Maybe this year was filled with sickness or the loss of a loved one. Maybe sadness seemed to have plagued the year and saying goodbye will be easier since the New Year has the promise of being more hopeful and joyful.

Maybe last year was filled with big events like Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Graduations or Weddings. These events took preparation, planning, worrying and celebrating. These events took a lot of work to get ready for, but they were milestones in your or your child's life. These events were joyful and life changing. They made memories that will last a lifetime.

Maybe this year went by without any major events, but was just a nice, quiet year spent with family and friends. This year might have been spent making new friends and catching up with old ones. Maybe this year was a year of new beginnings, new jobs, new homes or new schools.

Whatever happened in this past year, we look forward to the blessings, the possibilities, and the joy that this New Year holds for us. May your New Year be blessed with great joy, good health and an abundance of peace.

Peace and Goodness,

Fr. Bill

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We recently registered the following people at St. Thomas More during the month of **November**– Vincent & Marie Battista, Fred Cuevas, Kenneth Deighton, Jr. and Family, Anna Kinkopf, Darren & Shellie Oreskovic and Family, Jennifer Parrott, Anna Rottinger, Allan & Karen Rzeszutek, and Corie Thompson. The following people were registered during the month of **December**– Margaret Hahn, Frank & Dorothy Karas, Ryan Kelber, Christopher & Shylah Kopal and Family, Carmen Lorenzi, Dave & Lynn Mihacevich, Burrell & Margaret Milligan, Antonio & Caterina Musto, Teresa Payne, Melissa Ruiz, Andrew & Brenda Williams and Family, and Kathleen Wright. Welcome to all of you!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Evelyn Grace Riegling baptized at St. Thomas More on December 26th. May God bless you!

RECTORY CLOSED

Please note that the Rectory will be closed on Monday, January 4th.

HOLY HOUR

There is a Holy Hour at St. Thomas More every Wednesday evening in the Marian Chapel from 6-7pm. Don't forget to bring your Bible and rosary!

PARISH PRAYER FOR PEACE

Please pray for our troops, our country, and world peace. "For where two or more come together in my name, I am there with them." (Matthew 18:20). All are welcome to gather in the Marian Chapel to pray the rosary for peace on Tuesday, January 5th at 7pm.

MARDI GRAS PRIZES

What do Gannon's Religious Gifts, Lakefront Lines, Lolly the Trolley, Lake Farm Park and the Memphis Kiddie Park have in common? They've all made prize donations for our annual parish Mardi Gras! Yes, it's that time of year again. If you, your company or business would be interested in donating a prize or monetary support to this year's event please contact the Rectory. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER & PRAISE

The January postcards with prayer intentions are in the main vestibule by St. Paul's statue to be picked up.

STM SENIORS

Our meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Our next meeting will be January 14th in Utopia Hall from 11am-3pm. All who are 55 and older are welcome to attend. Coffee and donuts will be served. We will play cards, Bingo, and Bunco.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to all who donated towards the Christmas flowers this year. This year's beautiful flowers were in loving memory of Roxie DeLuca and John Kozak.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

For January, the Men's Fellowship Group will meet in the Church library on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm. We come together to pray, to share our faith and for fellowship. Men 18 and older are welcome. The scheduled topics for discussion are The Flesh is Weak (Moral Decision Making) and Lead Us Not into Temptation (Temptation). Please consider joining us.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers- Jessica Gerrity, Fr. Clem Metzger, Virginia Kubas, Richard Kalynchuk, Julia Torres, Alice Must, and Nancy Rae. God grant them eternal rest.

MEMORIAL CANDLES

The Memorial Candles that were purchased and displayed during the month of November resulted in a very successful fundraiser for the parish. Not only were many loved one's memory supported in prayer for the month, the many lit candles were a constant reminder of all of our loved ones who have been called home by Our Lord.

The success of this program has given additional support to the desire to create in Church, a permanent memorial chapel in one of the unused confessional spaces. This should become a reality this year with the funding provided mostly by the income from this year's Memorial Candle sale.

Please remember to pick up the candle you purchased at the Rectory. There are still a few unclaimed. Finally, if you purchased a candle and would like to purchase additional inserts, they are available from the Rectory for \$2 each. Please stop in during our normal business hours to make your purchases. Again, thank you for your overwhelming support of this project.

RETRouvaille WEEKEND

Someone once said "marriage may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth." Have you become so distracted by outside pressures that you have neglected your spouse? Retrouvaille (Help our Marriage) can help you put your marriage back on track. The next Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend will be held on January 22-24th at the Cleveland Hilton Inn Beachwood. A registration fee of \$50 is requested to confirm a reservation. For information concerning the program, or to register, contact Al or Diane Miskinis at 330-665-3506 or 1-800-470-2230. You may also learn about Retrouvaille on the web at www.helpourmarriage.com.

A NIGHT WITH THE FIREBIRDS

St. Peter Chanel High School is hosting a Night with the Firebirds on Wednesday, January 6th for girls and Friday, January 8th for boys. Please call Scott Gongs at 440-232-5900 X144 for more information.

Cluster Corner

CORPUS CHRISTI

Reunion- The Corpus Christi Classes of 1968 and 1969 are planning to have a reunion before the parish closes. Please contact Janice (Gulan) Havasi '68 at 216.267.3812 or Bonnie Kalista '69 at bkluvsport@sbcglobal.net with your contact info.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Parish Bingo- Bingo is located in the Parish Center every Friday at 7pm. Doors open at 5:30pm (Early Bird). Food and snacks available. Police security inside and outside. Come give Bingo a try!

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

Divorce Recovery Workshop- A Divorce Recovery Workshop will begin on Sunday, January 10th and run for ten weeks. The first session will begin at 7pm in the Borromeo Room of the Parish Activity Center. Come and find support through friends and fellowship. For more info, please call Dave (440-845-3367).

ST. LEO THE GREAT

Drama Club- Do you have an old artificial tree just sitting in your attic. Were you planning to dispose of your tree at the end of this season? If so, the drama club is looking for any possible donation to be used in a play this year. Please contact Judi at 216-661-2120 to make arrangements for your donation.

ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Adult Enrichment Classes will be offered at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 24th. The (mostly) eight-week courses include grammar, Microsoft Word, wine tasting, astronomy, creative writing, yoga, college planning, swing/ballroom dance and public speaking and will be taught by WJHS faculty and staff. Classes are open to parents, friends, alumni, faculty, staff and neighboring parishes of Walsh Jesuit. Online registration is available on the school's website, www.walshjesuit.org and click on the Home Page tile. The \$100 cost is a tax-deductible donation to the school's need-based tuition assistance program.

SISTERS OF THE INCARNATE WORD

Tickets are now available for the Sisters' Annual Raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. This year's grand prize is \$10,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. The drawing will be held on February 5th. Winner need not be present. Tickets are available by calling 440-886-6440 X111.