
The Parish Pulse

VOL 25, NO. 4

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Winter 2018

Christmas All Year Long!

By Father Francis Speier

The holiday season is now upon us. We have celebrated the first event of the holidays with Thanksgiving and now we continue with the Advent season in preparation for Christmas.

Advent is important for our understanding of the Christmas event. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing. The images of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and John the Baptist ring very clear throughout this season. Each of these characters play important roles in our understanding of the Christmas event.

Mary, the young child of 13 or so, is given the commission of being the mother of the Savior. None of us can have a real understanding of what this meant to her and how it changed her life. Yet we know that the visit of the Angel changed her life and the life of the world.

Without question we know that Mary was a woman of deep faith. Without her faith, the task given to her by the angel would not have been fulfilled. Joseph too was a man of deep faith. He too relied on the promise of the angel that this promise would be fulfilled.

From very early in the life of John the Baptist he knew that he was called to prepare the way for the Savior. Each Advent season we hear his story and the importance

of that message for our understanding of the Messiah.

In days gone by Advent was a penitential season. Some of the same practices that we follow during Lent were also followed during this time as well. Probably the only penitential custom that we still follow is that of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In addition to the regular times for the sacrament, we have two Communal Penance Services scheduled in our deanery. The first is on December 9, at Regina Coeli Parish at 3:00 pm and the second will be on December 16 at Corpus Christi Parish, also at 3:00 pm. I would like to invite all of you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at either of those services or at the regular Saturday afternoon times.



The Christmas season has a way of softening the hearts of many as we celebrate the birth of the

Savior. People smile more, past hurts are let go for a while and we tend to be more generous to those in need. These are all very good emotions for us to experience during this time of the year. ***It would be nice if we could experience these “Christmas feelings” all year long.***

We need to keep in mind that the true reason for this time is realizing the presence of the Lord in our lives. It is very easy to get caught up in the trappings of the season and forget the real reason that we celebrate. Let us not lose the purpose and focus of this important season.

On January 1 we begin the year of 2019. The beginning of a new year brings hope and joy to each of us. One question that accompanies this day is: “What resolutions have you made for the New Year”? Our answers can be all across the board. I would hope that one of those resolutions is to grow in our faith by our prayer life, the celebration of the sacraments and the good we will do for others. As we progress in the New Year our growth in faith will be very important to having a strong, faith-filled year.

This is also going to be a special year for our parish. It is the projection of the Parish Finance Committee that our parish debt to the Diocese of Toledo will be paid off by June 30, 2019. Many

individuals had a hand in making this possible. In 2012, our debt to the diocese was \$600,000. When I first met with Monsignor Billian, I asked if there was a plan in place to repay the debt. His answer was a simple “no”. Very shortly after my arrival to St. Catherine of Siena Parish I was called to the Diocesan Finance Office and asked when they could expect the debt to be paid. I started to laugh and said that they were surely kidding. They did not laugh. I started to walk out of the office and they then began to smile.

It took a great deal of time to get out from under, to actually see the light. With the help of many good people we turned the corner and started to dig out of the mess. It is only through the dedication of our Finance Committee, the different bookkeepers we have had, and in particular the parish staff, that we gained ground on the debt. You as parishioners are also to be commended for your support and dedication to the parish. All the hard work and effort has paid off. When we have paid off the debt, we will have to celebrate in style.

In addition to reducing the debt, we closed the school, joined a combined school, ended that school and opened a very successful Early Childhood Education Center. God has blessed us in many different and varied ways! May each of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.



From the Organ Bench
Jim Riedy, Choir Director-Organist

Now that we have been with family giving thanks to God for all that He has given us, we turn our thoughts toward the celebration of Christmas. Of course, we have already been bombarded with Christmas music in some instances from the radio since November 1. By the time we get to the actual Christmas feast and season, we are most likely tired of all the different arrangements of “Frosty the Snowman,” “Jingle Bells,” and the like. But here within the confines of our Church Calendar, our celebration of Christmas actually begins on Christmas Eve, and continues through the Baptism of Jesus on January 13. So all through these days we will be singing sacred carols at most of our liturgies.

One activity that we have been doing here for about ten years, and is done in most parishes, is a time of about a half hour before Christmas Midnight Mass begins. During this time we gather and sing or listen to an assortment of carols we might not have the opportunity to sing at Mass itself. It is a good time to prepare for the celebration of the Liturgy. It would be nice to see many people attending this service. It begins at 11:30 and is finished in time for the beginning of Midnight Mass. Please plan to attend.

On another note, the following TOP TEN REASONS were given to me and I thought I would share them with you. This is the Top Ten Reasons for Not Joining the Choir. (It could work for the Chime Choir as well.) This top ten also provides a response to each one.

10. But Choral Music is only for Christmas and Easter.

(There are 50 other Sundays, Holy Days, and Sacramental Celebrations.)

9. But I don’t have a degree in Music. (Neither did Bach!)

8. But I hate getting up on Sunday Morning!

(We have Saturday evening Mass, too!)

7. But I’ve never sung in a choir. (Great, we can train you the way we want!)

6. But I can’t read music! (Neither can Stevie Wonder!)

5. But I don’t know the songs. (That’s why we have rehearsals.)

4. But I can’t sing harmony. (So we’ll teach you.)

3. But I’d be afraid to sing a Solo. (No problem, we won’t make you.)

2. But what if I make a mistake? (Keep going. Few will notice.)

1. But my voice isn’t that great. (Two words: Willie Nelson!)

Maybe you might consider joining us after the first of the year. Many singers and many ringers make for a joyous, prayerful, and uplifting celebration of the Liturgy!

God regards the greatness of the love that prompts it, not the greatness of the achievement!

THE BEATITUDES – A CONDITION AND A RESULT

Joe Manner

Have you ever had a moment of realization that was before you all your life as a Christian, but never grasped hold of the knowledge? I now realize that was me, and others, before going to the series on the Beatitudes produced by Fr. Kirby every Wednesday evening.

Sure, I had heard the beatitudes numerous times, but as stated in many resources, they are a proverb without narrative. This series gave us the narrative and deeper meaning on the result.

Like sessions from our mission, Fr. Kirby shared his thoughts, then we watched a video of real-life situations followed by a short question and answer session. For those of you who were there to share, it was a persuasive experience of finding truth. Here are some comments from those who attended:

“I received joy from the discussions on the questions after watching the videos. Each table was a joy of different ideas.”

“The videos of personal stories were very inspiring, telling how they lived the beatitudes.”

“Such a learning experience that was well worth our time spent. Look forward to the next session on the mass. A lot of good feedback.”

“The video of Joe Scheidler was so powerful for being persecuted on pro-life. Also, the video of the home for unwed mothers.”

“The beatitudes are a way of living out the commandments.”

“All of the beatitudes were excellent! I was present for all eight (sessions), and each provided me with a deeper understanding of each one, it was enlightening. Thankful.”

How are we living out the beatitudes in our daily lives? Are you a peacemaker or compassionate like those at <http://www.miravia.com/> in North Carolina? A local example here in Toledo can be found at <http://www.momshousetoledo.org/>. Are you meek and a good steward of the earth, stand up for the persecuted, and show mercy? Thankfully we can watch this series, which will never go out of style, by going to <https://www.saintbenedictpress.com/register>. Create an account using your name along with the information as requested and begin your journey. Our “St. Catherine” is WAAAAY down the list due to no space before Catherine! Also, it’s not a private group. Our parish access code is KOH2876. If you have issues, call me, Joe Manner. I’ll be happy to help. Seriously – check it out. You’ll be really glad you did!

CURING THE WINTER BLUES!

Joe Manner, Holy Name president

We all loved the Polish dinners held in our gym during winters past. However, as pulling that together continues to get more difficult, a replacement event has been organized.

On January 19, after the 4 pm Mass, Holy Name will be hosting a dinner **with entertainment** in the Siena Center gym. The menu will be Mexican. The entertain-



ment is yet to be determined – but it’s LOCAL! What can **you** do? Do you have a talent? Want to sing, dance or do standup? Something to make us OOH and AAH or something to cause a chuckle or guffaw . . . it’s all good! If you’d like to be part of the entertainment, contact Joe at jm3938@hotmail.com .



Let’s gather as a community to chat, laugh, sing and, of course, eat. The cost? A free will offering. Planning on food for 100, so come and claim your portion. Of course, you can bring a dessert to share; we won’t complain! Gather a group of friends and plan on creating new memories on Saturday, January 19 after the 4 pm Mass. We hope to see you there!

To be happy, make others happy!
Helping others is the secret to ALL success – in business, in the arts, and in the home.



What a great start to our school year! We have been busy with field trips to orchards, learning rules, letters, numbers and so much more. Currently there are 154 students enrolled and the school is bustling on a daily basis. Walking around the building you can hear students praying the "Our Father", reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" and singing songs about colors, rules and a multitude of other things.

Recently we were awarded an additional five Ohio Early Childhood Education Grants to be used to serve children who would otherwise be unable to attend due to family financial concerns. This has been a wonderful way to help families who want to send their children but are unable to do so! Several times we have experienced enormous gratitude from families served who truly want the best for their children! Another exciting note to mention is that two of our teachers will be attending the NURTURES program this summer at the University of Toledo. This is a program funded by the National Science Institute and provides educators with tools, knowledge and funds to teach Science and Engineering to children from preschool to 3rd grade. Having attended this program myself, I know what a rewarding experience it will be for them! The program provides support for educators to improve science for the youngest learners.

In the last issue I introduced the Lead Teachers; now I would like you to get to know our six Assistant Teachers working with us this year. **Mrs. Melinda Amborski** has been teaching at the Preschool level for eight years and is a member of St. John the Baptist Parish. She teaches in the PK2 room and brings a good deal of experience, humor and love to the team. **Ms. Caitlyn Amborski** recently joined our team in the PK3 room. She is a graduate of Cardinal Stritch High School and is pursuing higher education in Early Childhood. Caitlyn is a welcome addition to our family. **Ms. Mikala Simon-Staub** is a graduate of St. Ursula Academy and joins us again this year in PK room 4. She is currently enrolled at Owens Community College part time. Ms. Mikala has a knack of always reminding us of our mission of spreading God's love. **Mrs. Meg Buck** is new to us this year in PK room 5. She holds a BA from Siena Heights University and adds her artistic flair to our team. **Mrs. Danielle Harder** returned this year and is currently assisting in PS1. She holds a BA from Tiffin University and has worked in the Child Protective field as a case worker. She is currently pursuing her Certified Child Development Certificate and brings compassion to all she does. **Mrs. Amy Caudill** returns to us this year in PS2 as Assistant Teacher. She has over 20 years' experience in Early Childhood and is currently updating her Child Development Associates Certificate. All our Assistant Teachers bring so much to the program. They are the

people who help each classroom run smoothly!

As always, please stop over if you would like to visit, tour or talk about our program. I would be more than happy to show you around and visit.



Logan Louis Seibert, son of **Dennis and Sarah**.

Brandon Aaron Mcintosh, son of **Melissa Kurucz-Krohn**. **Brandon** also received his First Holy Communion. Congrats!



HIGH SCHOOL HONORS

Cardinal Stritch: Second Honors –
Terrance Jagodzinski
St. Francis deSales: Second
Honors – **William Dressel**

REVERSE RAFFLE

Mrs. Denise Shordt

"Save the Date" for the 2019 Reverse Raffle to be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Mark your new calendars NOW and plan to attend this fun-filled event! If you are interested in helping with the Reverse Raffle, please contact **Denise Shordt** at (419) 472 – 0886.

Catholic Dictionary: STABLE – where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO. (The Bible's way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough!)

Marian Society – Old and New! *Mary Weiher, president*

Marian Society is introducing some changes to help adapt our programs to what our membership prefers. During the months of November to March our monthly events are scheduled for day-time hours, when it's usually not as cold and certainly easier to see to drive. Some new times, but some old and well-loved events! Our "St. Catherine's Got No Talent" show was very funny, but played to a very small audience for a number of reasons. We are hoping you'll have a chance to see these wonderful performances on Saturday, January 19 when the Holy Name presents its Mexican Dinner with "entertainment"!

We're currently ramping up to present our much anticipated annual Christmas Dinner. This year's theme is Home for the Holidays and it will be beautiful, as usual. **Susan Hollyday** and her committee are going all out to provide the ladies of the parish with a wonderful event to usher in the holiday season. Chef **Andy Hollyday** of Detroit's **Selden Standard** will again be feeding us with gourmet goodies to be long remembered.

The new year will see our Movie Matinee on January 21, now at 1 p.m., but you still get to help choose the movie when you attend; and our tour of the Cathedral on February 18 - bring your own lunch and plan to chat about our favorite sites within the church after the tour. March 10 will be our Mother-Son breakfast, which is always fun. Marian Society is taking point on the annual ReSale Boutique on May 3-4-5, and is still looking for

under-chairs to be in charge of small aspects of this large undertaking. Call the Parish Office to get more information or to sign up for various work groups that help to make this all happen.

If you have ideas on new events you'd like to see us produce, we're always eager to hear them. Call any of the officers or the parish office or drop your idea into the collection basket with your name and phone number so we can chat about the particulars. Please pick up our annual schedule at several church entrances so you don't miss any of our upcoming events.



PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY

Teri Andrews, RN

Here it is – Fall, on the brink of Winter. Where does the time go? Our 2018-2019 season started with a Lunch 'n Learn on Sept 25. Our speaker from Harbor Support Services discussed the importance of knowing the appropriate way to take, store and dispose of medications. She also pointed out how seniors can become victims of the opioid crisis. She was a wonderful speaker and very well received. Our second Lunch 'n Learn was Oct 30 with Angie, my Red Cross angel, explaining the many services provided by the American Red Cross beyond collecting and distributing blood. By the time you get this newsletter we will have had our

Christmas Lunch 'n Learn devoted to Christmas songs and fun! We would like to let all our attendees, regular and new, from St. Catherine and St. Clement, know how much we appreciate their support. We try hard to provide speakers who are interesting, informative and fun. Our lunches are on the last Tuesday of the month from September to May and the cost is still ONLY \$3! Watch the bulletin for announcements if you would like to attend and check us out.

Oct 8 we hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Catherine. Since the retirement of the St. Clement parish nurse, who had held blood drives 2x a year for a long while, we didn't want to lose the opportunity to help fill the needs of our community. Our current hope is to have a blood drive at St. Catherine every fall and hopefully St. Clement will find the resources to have one in the spring. I must admit that the preparation for our Donor Day was quite stressful, since I had never organized one before. Thanks to the guidance of **Angie**, (my Red Cross angel) **Paula, Kathy, Tom, Pat, Bryan, Nadine** and those from St. Catherine and St. Clement who signed up to donate, the day went smoothly. Our goal was to collect 20 pints of blood and we collected 22. We look forward to having even more donors in the spring.

On Nov 11 St. Catherine hosted "Surviving the Holidays" a grief share program presented by Connie Serror, parish nurse from Mayfair Plymouth Church, along with her volunteer facilitators. Attendees were 16 family members of seven parishioners

from St. Catherine and St. Clement who had died in the past nine months. The program consisted of a video and small break out discussion groups. Prayer shawls were donated by Mayfair Plymouth and St. Catherine and one was given to each family group. Fr. Speier blessed the prayer shawls, gave the opening remarks, and the prayer. There were tears and laughter as they shared their stories. Those in attendance seemed to find the program helpful. Connie Serror is hoping to organize a 13-week Grief Share program in early January. I will forward any information I get.

We continue to offer blood pressure screenings on the last full weekend of each month, except for December. **Beulah Horn** continues to oversee the prayer shawl ministry and setting up of visitations of the Traveling Madonna to parishioner's homes. If interested in either you can contact her at 734-850-8060.

Here's wishing you all a Very Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year from your Health Ministry Committee.

ANNUAL RE-SALE BOUTIQUE
Barb Jerzykowski

The St. Catherine annual Spring Re-Sale Boutique will be accepting clean items, in good condition, starting Monday, February 11, 2019. What can we take? Small kitchen appliances, dishes, cookware, craft supplies, candles, vases, artificial flowers, books, vintage items, jewelry, linens, lamps, pictures and picture frames, sports items, purses, baskets, toy and games. We CANNOT accept upholstered

furniture, computers and TVs, clothing, or baby car seats and strollers. Donations can be dropped off by the elevator at the end of the Siena Center hallway. Please watch the bulletin for more details. Your enthusiastic participation makes the success of this annual event possible. Thank You!



Christmas Flower Fund

You will find Flower Fund forms at all church entrances and in the office. Why not honor a loved one or their memory with a gift the entire parish will enjoy this Christmas season and into the New Year? You may drop your donation, in a marked envelope, (your name, amount enclosed, who honored/remembered) into the collection basket or at the parish office. Our beautifully decorated church will attest to our many cherished friends and family!

Four-Parish Mission

The four-parish mission will be held at Regina Coeli this year, with dates tentatively set for Sunday, March 24 thru Tuesday, March 27. Mark your new calendars in *pencil* for now, then watch the bulletin for details on the confirmed dates and the name of our presenter. It's always a very worthwhile four days in Lent!

Quarterly Maintenance Report
July – September, 2018

Fr. Francis Speier

The following is an accounting of our Maintenance Fund for the third quarter 2018. I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity to this fund. We will keep you informed each quarter of its progress. Thank you!

7/1 beginning balance	\$11,148.70
<u>Income</u>	
July	4,653.25
August	1,841.00
September	<u>1,524.00</u>
TOTAL contributions	\$ 8,018.25

<u>Expenditures</u>	
July	
Wholesale Lighting	1,641.00
Gary Hooten: dwnpmt	858.00
refurbish church doors	
August	
Wichman Company	2,774.90
repair walk-in freezer	
Asset Protec. Corp	6,845.00
security system upgrade	
Asset Protec. Corp	935.00
final upgrade payment	
Gary Hooten	<u>2,482.00</u>
final pymnt – church doors	
TOTAL expenditures	\$15,535.90
9/30 ending balance	\$3,631.05



COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS!

MaryAnn Dudderar

The St. Vincent DePaul Committee would like to thank **everyone** who helped plant, weed, and water our Community Garden this past growing season. With your able help we harvested 210 pounds of vegetables for Feed Your Neighbor. Well Done!

LIVING THE BEATITUDES

from article by Teri Andrews

We are a nation, and church communities, of GIVERS. We generously give of our time, energy and resources to help the less fortunate. We commemorate Veteran's Day to honor and show gratitude to those who served our country. We celebrate All Saints and All Soul Day in memory of those we have lost and now reside in the glory of Heaven. November was National Caregiver Appreciation month to thank those who care for us, our families, and our communities. We celebrate Thanksgiving, a time to give thanks for all the blessings we have received from God.

As the holidays approach there are a multitude of ways for our parish families to help others – through our angel tree, the clothing drive and food baskets, helping to decorate the church -- the list goes on. Be creative and be involved! Reach out to seniors who may be alone – social isolation can be a killer, triggering health problems, loneliness, and sadly, suicide. Giving and participating in activities is a two-way street. It lifts the spirits of others by helping to meet their needs and by knowing someone cares. Helping others enables us to acknowledge the problems of others and opens our eyes to the many blessings we enjoy. In serving others, we are serving God. It's an old but true adage that you cannot help others without also helping yourself!

May be you blessed to do both this wonderful Christmas season!



Parish Pulse Staff

Publisher: Fr. Francis Speier
Editor: Mary Weiher
Proofreader: Kathy Huffman
Contributors: Teri Andrews
MaryAnn Dudderar, Barb Jerzykowski, Chris Kummer
Joe Manner, Jim Riedy
Fr. Francis Speier, Mary Weiher
Circulation: 725
Contact: 419-478-9558
parishpulse@stcatherinetoledo.com

December

- 9 Home for the Holidays
Mar. Soc. Dinner 1 pm – Gym
- 9 Deanery Penance Service
Regina Coeli 3 pm
- 10 Holy Name–7 pm St DomRm
- 11 Lunch ‘n Learn 11 am
St. Dominic Room
- 15/16 Feed Your Neighbor
- 16 Deanery Penance Service
Corpus Christi 3 pm
- 20 PreSchool Christmas Program
Gym 1:30 pm Church 6 pm
- 23 Decorate the church 10 am
- 24 4:00 pm Flute, Organ, Cantor
11:30 pm Carol Service
Midnight – Full Choir
- 25 **Merry Christmas!**
9:00 am Chime Choir
- 26 Offices closed
- 31 Holy Day Mass 5:30 pm
Offices closed

January, 2019

- 1 Happy New Year!
Mass 9 am - Offices closed
- 4 First Friday Eucharistic
Adoration 8:30 am - 5 pm
Coffee & Donuts after Mass
- 14 Holy Name 7 pm St Dom Rm
- 19 **Holy Name Mexican Dinner
w/Entertainment! 5 pm Gym**
- 19/20 Feed Your Neighbor
- 21 Marian Soc.Movie Matinee
1 pm - St. Dom. Rm
- 26/27 Marian Society Bake Sale

February

- 1 First Friday Eucharistic
Adoration 8:30 am - 5 pm
Coffee & Donuts after Mass
- 2/3 St. Blase blessing after Mass
- 18 Marian Society – Tour of the
Cathedral
- 16/17 Feed Your Neighbor
- 23/24 Marian Society Bakeless
Bake Sale

March

- 1 First Friday Eucharistic
Adoration 8:30 am - 5 pm
Coffee & Donuts after Mass
- 6 Ash Wednesday
Masses 9 am, 5:30 pm
- 8 First Fish Fry! 5-7 pm Gym
- 10 Mother-Son Breakfast 10 am
St. Dominic Room
- 12 Pastoral Council 6:30 pm
- 13 Soup & Bread Supper 6pm
St. Dominic Room
- 13 Stations -- 7 pm Church
- 15 Fish Fry 5-7 pm Gym
- 16 Confirmation - Cathedral
- 16/17 Feed Your Neighbor
- 18 **Parish Pulse deadline!**
Submit items on-line, in
basket, or at office
- 20 Welcome Spring!
- 20 Stations - 7 pm Church
- 22 Fish Fry 5-7 pm Gym
- 23 Pre Cana Day
- 23/24 Marian Society Bakeless
Bake Sale
- 27 Stations - 7 pm Church
- 29 Fish Fry 4:30-7 pm Gym

April

- 3 Stations – 7 pm Church
- 5 First Friday Eucharistic
Adoration 8:30 am - 5 pm
Coffee & Donuts after Mass
- 5 Fish Fry 5-7 pm Gym
- 8 Holy Name 7 pm St Dom Rm
- 10 Soup & Bread 6 pm St Dom R
Stations 7 pm Church
- 12 Fish Fry 5 – 7 pm Gym

St. Catherine Parish
4555 North Haven Avenue
Toledo, OH 43612

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOLEDO, OH
Permit No. 922



Please join our

St. Catherine of Siena

community as we joyfully celebrate

the birth of Jesus Christ!

Christmas 2018 Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Midnight Mass, 12 a.m., Full Choir

Tuesday, December 25, 9:00 a.m., Chime Choir

Merry
Christ-
mas!