



## *The Shell*

*An e-letter for*

*Saint James the Greater Church, Cincinnati, Ohio*

*The Shell*, is a periodic email newsletter for the parishioners and friends of Saint James Church. This does not replace the Sunday bulletin or Parish Life. It's an opportunity for brief updates and news. A symbol for our patron saint is a shell and that gives the name to our e-letter.

April 9, 2014

### **The Great Feasts**

It seems appropriate to send out our e-letter just as we begin Holy Week and the major feasts of the Sacred Triduum.

I can remember a little girl asking me four decades ago why, if Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday were the most important feasts for Catholics, these weren't holy days of obligation. I assured her that when we know what these days commemorate, everybody will come to church, even without a law saying they had to. These celebrations are the pinnacle of the Church's year. We celebrate the core of our faith – that Jesus is Lord and Savior! Come and pray.

Mass of the Lord's Supper	Thursday, April 17	7:00 p.m.
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	Friday, April 18	12:00 noon
The Easter Vigil	Saturday, April 19	9:00 p.m.

And don't forget that Sunday, April 27 is the feast of the Divine Mercy. Our devotions will be at 3:00 p.m. This is also the day Popes John XXIII and John Paul II will be canonized by Pope Francis. What a great day that will be!

### **VIRTUS**

I want to reiterate the absolute necessity that every person involved with children (all the way through high school graduation) has to have taken the VIRTUS training program and have been approved by the Archdiocese through a background check by the end of June. On July 1 the Archdiocese will suspend all parishioners who do not meet these requirements. If anyone who has not been approved acts as a coach, a scout leader, a teacher aid, a cafeteria worker or a volunteer with children in any activity that entire program is jeopardized.

Parents ought to check that every adult involved with their children's activities under the sponsorship of the parish is approved. The archdiocese and our parish are working on simple ways that you can do that. More information will be coming soon.

### **Athletics**

I just received a copy of the Charter on Catholic Youth Athletics from the Archdiocese. It was promulgated on March 1, 2014. This is the result of years of conversations between

archdiocesan leadership, coaches, athletic club personnel, and parents. The Charter gives clarity to the issues involved and how the Catholic faith is expressed in youth athletics. The Charter can be read on line at the archdiocese's website in the Office for Youth and Young Adults.

### **New Art**

You may have noticed that we have some new art in the Hubble Road entrances and in the confessional. The wrought iron pieces in the two vestibules are from the communion rail in the basement church. The bronze piece in the confessional, I am told, is from the front of the altar in the basement church. They were in storage all these years and were finally refinished. We had hoped they would be up last year, but that didn't happen. Now we have reclaimed a few more pieces of our history.

### **Movies Matter**

I want to add an invitation to "Movies Matter" a series being presented by Nic Kovatch in which he explores the intersection of faith and the movies. The second of the series is on Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Marian Room.

Have a very blessed Easter. May your joy in the Resurrection of Jesus fill every day.

Fr. Nolker