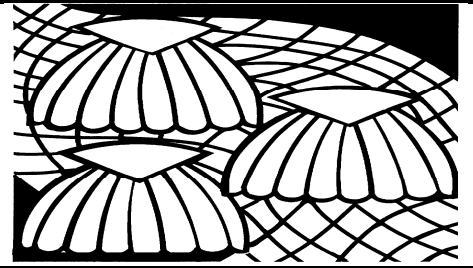


Saint James the Greater

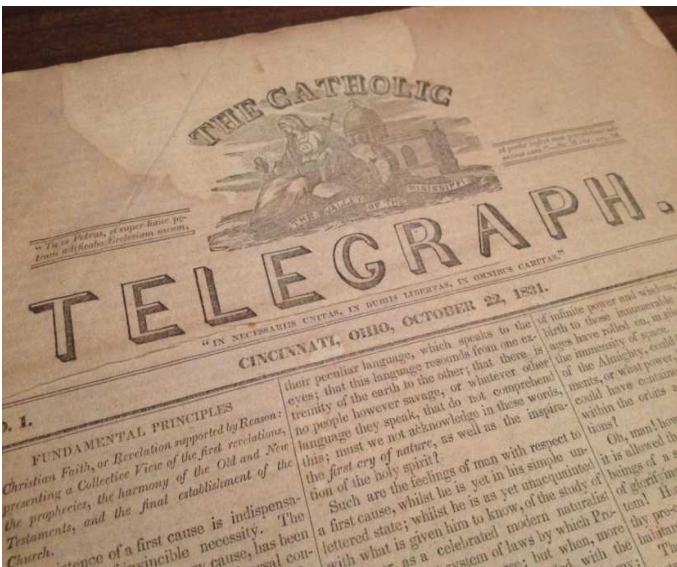
Parish Life Newsletter

Advent & Christmas 2016



Our Media by Father Nolker

How often don't we see somebody with their eyes glued to their computer? If you ask somebody where their information came from on any topic, they will most often tell you it was the internet. Electronic media is a standard part of life today. People can do without the morning newspaper but they freak out if the internet is down.



In the age of the “new evangelization” in the Church, a focus has been to strengthen the presence of the Catholic Church in the electronic media. When I search something on the internet, I find an unbelievable number of websites that say they are the truth bearers on the religious topic. Unfortunately, that isn't true and that can diminish the value of everything in the electronic world of religion.

An article I recently read mourned the loss of so many print sources for Catholic news and teaching. Diocesan newspapers, like our own *Catholic Telegraph*, have either gone to monthly or quarterly editions, if they haven't closed altogether (like the Toledo diocesan paper did a few months ago.) This article said, “Catholic print media is bleeding.” It continued, “The irony is that polling data continues to show that Catholics trust their own media and particularly rely on its print incarnations.”

Let me share with you some data from the polling the article reported. It comes from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which is an independent research group but one that works closely with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is one of the most highly respected groups for Catholic information. It found that 26 percent of self-identified Catholics had read a print diocesan publication in the last 3 months. Only 3 percent reported reading anything religious on line. 18 percent of adult Catholics usually read a print Catholic paper or magazine each month.

It went on to tell us that of those who attend Mass weekly, 55 percent read a print version of their diocesan publication. Of course, older Catholics are more inclined to read a print version, but 22 percent of millennials read print copies and only 4 percent of millennials read Catholic material on line. When dealing with the issue of trust, 69 percent of practicing Catholics trust official Catholic sources more than secular media of any kind.

I don't have any doubt that more and more of us will get our religious information electronically. Some probably don't know what is available and those who have tried it have found such divergent material, each purporting to be the truth, that it makes it confusing. Not everybody has found the Vatican website or that of the U.S. Conference of Bishops or the Catholic News Service. Much of the print material is sent directly into your homes, like this issue of *Parish Life*, and that may make a difference, too, because we see print materials on the table silently calling us to read it.

Now I come to the reason I wrote this article. *Parish Life* can exist for a number of reasons. 1) It could be where parish organizations publicize their past and upcoming activities. 2) It could be where staff members tell you what is coming up in their particular area of ministry. 3) It could be a place to explore important Catholic issues with more educational/informative articles. All of these are good and important reasons to continue this publication. The reason I wrote this article is to ask for direction from you about what you want to see in *Parish Life*. Do the parishioners want the parish staff to explore Church teachings or practices, making it a tool for adult education? Do you want us to focus on reporting parish activities, past and future? What do you want this publication to cover? Since print material is still important for Catholics, what do you expect in *Parish Life*? Send me a note to tell me what you think.



Penance Service for Advent Monday, November 28 7:00 p.m.

Begin Advent by celebrating the sacrament of Penance. This service is for the whole parish. Our 2nd graders will receive the sacrament for the first time as part of this service. Several extra priests will be available for private confessions during the communal service



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8, Thursday Holy day with Mass obligation

Masses: 6:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

"We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of

the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful." (Pope Pius IX) Mary, under this title is the patroness of the United States.



Christmas Season Masses

December 24, Saturday – Christmas Eve
No morning Mass
3:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

December 25, Sunday – Christmas Day
10:00 a.m.
12:00 noon

Incense is used at all Christmas Eve and Day Masses.

December 31, Saturday – Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
4:30 p.m.

January 1, Sunday, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
12:00 noon

Grief and the Holidays by Fr. Tozzi

Family and friends together.... decorated homes.... good food.... the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's evoke powerful emotions. Usually those emotions are good but if you've had someone special in your life die it can seem like mandatory organized torture. Here are a few ideas for dealing with grief and the holidays:

1. **Accept that things are different.** Things won't be like they were before and you are going to be OK. However, you'll have to figure out a "new normal." Have reasonable expectations. What traditions do you want to keep?
2. **Decorate** your home but feel free to scale it back. While you might not feel like having much decorations up, it's still good to have at least some small decoration in your home. Perhaps you have something that holds fond memories for you. Maybe you need some things that don't.
3. **Go to holiday events** but give yourself permission to leave if you need to. Going out and socializing can actually help with grief, even if it's just for a little bit. People will understand if you leave early and if they don't, then tough.
4. **People don't always know that what they are saying may hurt you.** Some people don't know what to say when faced with loss and grief. They may say something odd or may say something like "It's nice when we can all get together." Your heart reminds you that you're not all together, you're missing someone. They didn't mean it that way. The same concept goes for happy couples and families; it may be difficult for you to be around really happy people but they are enjoying themselves and creating nice memories. It's ok if you're feeling sad and they're happy.
5. **Grief ambushes you.** When you're grieving the littlest things can make you cry. Holidays have a lot of aspects that bring up memories. You may be in a store and the Christmas songs are playing....and you break down crying from seemingly nowhere. There's nothing wrong with you; that's just how grief works.
6. **Remember them in family prayers.** When your family prays before holiday meals you might add in the person who died by simply praying: "We miss _____ and know that there's no safer place to be than in God's hands."
7. **Reach out to family or friends.** If you start to have a really difficult time, let someone know and talk about it. Don't expect others to read your mind.
8. **Don't drink away the pain.** It doesn't heal your grief and can lead to other problems.

There are many other healthy ways to deal with grief during the holidays. Whatever you do, remember that there are still good and beautiful things in this world. Be kind and patient with yourself. God is with you and will help to see you through.

Peace,
Fr. Tozzi



Tuition Assistance Donations for St. James

We are pleased that the **ESAP Program** through the **George Hubert Foundation** is going to **match any donations we receive at St. James up to \$10,000 at a rate of 150%!** Therefore, if we receive \$10,000 in tuition assistance donations by December 1st they will match \$15,000. This will give us \$25,000 in tuition assistance plus the ESAP donation of \$9,000 that is designated to our parish school. Please contact Amy Klosterman if you need further information. Thank you!

An Invitation Worth Accepting

By Theresa Hayes, Director of Religious Education



“You are cordially invited. . .” “Mr. & Mrs. Smith request the pleasure of your company in celebrating. . .” “Save the date. . .”

We all know the warm feeling of affirmation that (usually) accompanies the receipt of some type of invitation or alert that an invitation is to follow. Someone, somewhere has deemed our being, our presence, to be a positive addition to some type of celebration or get-together. What a lovely gift to receive! Hopefully, our response to same is just as much a gift to the sender of the invitation.

How many of us remind ourselves of the ongoing invitation that God issues to us each day of our lives? He invites us to establish, maintain and enjoy a close relationship with Him through all our joys and sorrows. He offers us all that we are and all that we have to help us to be greater than our world expects us to be.

God gives more to the relationship than we are capable of giving, and He asks only that we do our best to remain close to Him. He has offered us His only-begotten Son, *the Way, the Truth and the Life*, to ensure our ability to attain eternal life with Him in His Kingdom of Heaven, and all we truly need to do is to focus on the importance of God in our lives. If we keep that focus, everything else will fall into place for us.

He offers us His Church, begun by His Son (Who sacrificed so much just to ascertain that we could live forever in His Father’s Kingdom), His sacraments (to provide the grace needed to surmount the obstacles of this world) and His unending mercy and love.

The sad part is that another entity desires to derail us in our journey toward our Creator, and uses our human condition to distract us from our eternal goal. This entity feeds our egos (which consequently, demand that God be relegated to less than first place in our lives) and our fears and insecurities (which erode our trust in our Creator to provide for us); it lures us with earthly pleasure, comfort, and entertainment, which are not evil in and of themselves, unless they are permitted to get in the way of our relationship with God.

How do we ensure that our pilgrimage will result in the desired destination? Through imitation of holy people who have gone before us, the saints of Heaven, especially through perseverance in prayer, focusing when participating in Mass, and making prudent daily-life choices in keeping with the truths of our faith. Sometimes this proves to be more challenging and less convenient than is comfortable for us, but Saint Theresa of Calcutta reminds us that:

*A sacrifice to be real must cost,
must hurt, must empty ourselves.*

By her own living witness, Saint Theresa reminds us that following God’s will means sacrificing oneself, and that such sacrifice, a type of suffering, helps to purify and sanctify us. How edifying to be invited to be part of such holiness! This is the perfect time of year to reflect on how we are responding to God’s invitation, and to enlist the support of the saints and angels in Heaven in our efforts.

God be with you in all that you do.

Saint James School News



Dear St. James Parishioners,

In June of 2015, I had the privilege of traveling on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with four other St. James staff members. One of the true highlights of that experience for me personally was standing in the shallows of the Sea of Galilee at the spot where Jesus called St. James to follow Him. Not only was it hard to fathom standing at the foot of a small waterfall where some 2,000 years ago St. James would clean out his fishing nets, but I was overwhelmed with the feeling that Jesus was calling me as well to come follow Him. My journey with our school since then has been nothing short of amazing.



This year, the journey took a leap forward as we began our full staff's involvement with the School of Faith program. Each month, our staff gathers to deepen our faith and strengthen our relationship with Jesus. During a three-hour session facilitated by a spiritual leader of the School of Faith staff, we have time to pray, reflect, discuss, and study our faith. In these sessions, we discover ways to build relationships with those around us in order to help share the faith. We are also learning a better understanding of what the Church teaches and why we believe what we do. We spend time in small groups in Bible study. We read a passage, discuss it, and figure out how this applies in our lives. And finally, we pray. We spend time in quiet reflection in a variety of prayer methods to find out what God is calling us to do.

Next summer, I hope to be able to send additional staff members on pilgrimage to the Holy Land to have that same life changing experience I had. This is a key component of the School of Faith program as our teachers can immerse themselves in the life of Christ.

It is my hope and prayer that the time we are devoting to the School of Faith program will not only impact and change the lives of our staff, but ultimately that we become better role models of the faith for our students. By strengthening our relationship with Jesus we will be better equipped with the knowledge of how to get our students to embrace Christ in their lives. I ask that you keep us in your prayers as we do this important work in our journey of faith.

We are quickly approaching the time of year when parents begin to consider what sort of school community they'd like for their child for the 2017-2018 school year. Do you know someone who will be making decisions about their child's education soon? Please remember that word of mouth is the best marketing for our school. Please reach out and nudge them to consider a Catholic education for their child. And where better to get a Catholic education than St. James?

If you are interested in finding out more about St. James School or would like to schedule a tour, please contact us at 741-5333 or by email at infosjs@stjameswo.org. We would love to show you all of the great things that make our school community an excellent choice.



We also invite all of our parish families, alumni, and especially those with young children, to our **annual Open House**. Our Open House will be held on **Sunday, January 22 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.** There will be activities going on throughout the school and tours will be given to anyone interested. Come check out the Art Fair, visit the Science Lab, and meet some of our amazing staff. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us to find out what makes St. James School such a special community.

Finally, I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and a restful and blessed Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fulmer
Principal

2016 Festival Results and 2017 Festival Needs

By Marv Lackman



WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE A PROFIT OF \$43,434!!!! If you haven't been thanked yet, here is a big THANK YOU to all who helped in any way to make this a successful event. The committee can plan for this event, but without all the volunteers and donations we would have nothing! We try to make sure that we don't miss anyone. Thanks to all those who sponsored or donated money or goods in any way, thanks to those who worked the booths, helped with set up or clean up, runs to and from storage, baskets, baking, mailings, or just attended. We had a great weekend with the exception of a little heat. There were heat advisories all three days but those that came out still seemed to have a wonderful time! Thanks for making this the best summer party in White Oak and a huge success! Start praying now for perfect weather in 2017! It's time for a weekend with no rain and wonderful temperatures! It's not too early to start to plan for next year so mark your calendars for **July 21, 22 & 23!**

A BIG THANK YOU to Leslie Huesman for sponsoring our Volunteer Beer Mugs since we have been using them. We are looking for an individual or company who would consider sponsoring the mugs in 2017. Please call or email Mary and Kevin Lackman direct at 385-7409 or klackman@cinci.rr.com. We would also like feedback on any aspect of the festival. If you have any comments or suggestions please share them with us by sending them to the church office, an email, call or contact us through Facebook (Saint James Festival) or our website (www.stjamesfestival.com).

Please consider becoming a committee member. Committee members typically attend a meeting a month from February to July, help with storage runs, volunteer sign-ups and finding a few people to fill booth positions as well as ordering what is necessary. The week of the festival requires more time but mainly Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday during festival hours (not much more than chairing a booth for the weekend). Availability on Monday for cleanup is helpful but again not absolutely necessary. It is true that having a couple or a pair of couples in each division means less time for all. Please take time to think and pray about the possibility of joining the committee.

Don't forget to remember us as you are out shopping for Christmas. There are many great deals, buy one get one's, and freebies with the purchase of offers on which we both could benefit. If you think it would fit one of our basket themes or make a great basket idea, please act on it and let us know if you want us to store it until the festival. The same is true for items that you are clearing from your house. We can use almost anything for either baskets or bid-n-buy. Don't forget about the empty baskets and jewelry items too.





SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Where: St. James White Oak, Church Hall
When: Saturday, December 10
Time: 9 am – 12 Noon
Admission: FREE

**Breakfast, Entertainment, Santa, Door Prizes, Games, Gifts,
 Music, and Fun!!**

Volunteers willing to help serve, please call Marlene at 385-1992



Newly Baptized

Cameron Michael Boehl, son of Michael & Lindsay
 Colton Frederick Boehl, son of Michael & Lindsay
 Chloe Christine Hettesheimer, daughter of Chrisanne & Shawn
 Weston Robert Hettesheimer, son of Chrisanne & Shawn
 Leela Belle Hoelzer, daughter of Bryan & Kathryn
 Madison Elizabeth Hoelzer, daughter of Bryan & Kathryn

Gabriel Arthur Kovatch, son of Nicholas & Jamie
 Audriauna Ayane Louderback, daughter of Anthony & Carrie
 Emma Grace Lucas, daughter of Andrew & Marie
 Elena Marie Sunderhaus, daughter of Jeffrey & Stephanie
 Owen David Vehr, son of Jonathan & Maria

Welcome New Members!

Eric and Lesley Barsan & Family
 Benjamin and Danielle Bishop & Family
 Michael and Lindsay Boehl & Family
 Mary Bolin
 Corey and Emily Davis & Family
 Christopher and Molly Sammons
 Scott and Melanie Trenkamp & Family



Fred Unger, 9/2/16
 Robert Stenger, 9/11/16
 Jack Nurre, 9/12/16
 Marilyn Tyrrell, 9/14/16
 David Graf, 9/19/16
 Robert Schroer, 10/3/16
 Edith Maurer, 10/4/16
 William Schrott, 10/15/16
 Corinne Comarata, 10/15/16
 Catherine Taske, 10/18/16

The St. James Memorial Fund Masses will be celebrated on the following dates:

2016 - 2017

Nov. 27 – 12 Noon
 Dec. 17 – 4:30 pm

Jan. 22 – 8:00 am
 Feb. 26 – 10:00 am
 Mar. 26 – 12 Noon

April 22 – 4:30 pm
 May 28 – 8:00 am
 June 25 – 10:00 am

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for those enrolled in the Fund.

The following deceased members have been enrolled in the Memorial Fund:

Bob Sunderman and Robert Stenger

Sports Ministry at St. James:

It's About Having Our Faith On Top

By Rick Porotsky and Nick Kovatch

Can faith and sports be a winning combination for our kids at St. James? The Pope says "Yes." Pope John Paul II created the Pontifical Council for the Laity's Church and Sports Section in 2004 for a number of reasons, including supporting initiatives that encourage Christian witness in sports. Pope Francis has continued the initiative, sending Dr. Santiago Perez de Camino, head of his Church and Sports Section, to the U.S. to speak in 2016.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati also says "Yes." After promulgating its "Charter on Catholic Youth Sports in March 2014," the Archdiocese supported a first-of-its kind conference – the Director of Sports Ministry Conference – locally at the Athenaeum on March 30 – April 1. Dr. Perez de Camino traveled from Europe to speak for the Holy Father at the conference. He was joined by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, other bishops, athletic directors, and coaches who seek to inspire renewed emphasis on how faith and sports can become a winning combination for young athletes.



--A Papal representative joined Bishops, coaches and others at the Athenaeum Mar 30–Apr 1.

The Conference was organized by the Louisville based SportsLeader organization, which has been working to instill values in athletes since 2004. A goal of the conference was to promote a new position in each Catholic institution with sports teams – a Director of Sports Ministry. The Archdiocese similarly requests parishes to have a spiritual liaison for its sports programs.

St. James also says "Yes." Even beyond the required seasonal coaches' meetings under the Youth Sports Charter, our parish and athletic club sponsored the authors of this article to attend the 3-day sports ministry conference last Spring. Each of our baseball teams then enjoyed an opening day ceremony at St. James field, with both teams and



- Young athletes at St. James attend the Sports Mass, May 15, 2016

all the fans participating in public prayer followed by our national anthem before the first pitch. (Yes, we were leaders in making pre-game ceremonies relevant -- in a positive, faith-based way -- before pre-game activity became national news.)



--St. James 13U National baseball team enjoys prayer & national anthem with St. Catherine's before Opening Day 2016

Then on May 15, our young athletes not only attended a Sports Mass together, but also participated in the parish food drive, where Scouts assisted the parish with distribution to needy families through local St. Vincent de Paul food pantries. The youngest athletes enjoyed the Children's Liturgy, which our dedicated volunteers provide every Sunday at our 10am Mass.

The reason for sports ministry initiative is simple, said Mike Orlando, Director of Sports Ministry at McNicholas High School and speaker at the conference: "(It's about) having our religion, our faith, on top. Everything else just falls into place."

To become involved in Sports Ministry at St. James, please contact the parish office or the authors of this article, through the parish office (741-5300 or info@stjameswhiteoak.com).



Children's Liturgy, and the Food Drive at the Spring Sports Mass

St. James Giving Tree 2016



Our parish has a long history of helping those in need. The yearly Giving Tree is just one of our outreach programs

On the weekend of November 26 & 27, the tree with over 1,000 tags will be placed in the Church west vestibule. The **FINAL RETURN WEEKEND IS December 10 & 11.**

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RETURN THE GIFTS BY THAT WEEKEND as they will be picked up by many of the organizations at that time. **PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE, AS WE WOULDN'T WANT A CHILD OR ANYONE TO BE WITHOUT A GIFT, THIS COULD BE THE ONLY GIFT THEY WILL RECEIVE.** If you need to bring your gift before the return weekend, you can drop them at the Parish Office.

The tags represent the needs of the poor in our community, struggling families in our parish and groups within our parish who work to meet the needs of the underprivileged. Our Giving Tree provides gifts for children, gifts for the elderly, food for the hungry, and brings joy to so many in need. There is no better way to share in the Joy of Christ's Birth. *If you have questions or would like to make a donation to the Giving Tree, please call Connie Lanter at 741-9430.*



Dates to Remember:

November 27	First Sunday in Advent
November 28	Parish Advent Penance Service and First Reconciliation
December 8	Solemnity of Immaculate Conception
December 25	Solemnity of Christmas
January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 8	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
January 15	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
January 24	Confirmation
March 1	Ash Wednesday

Don't forget to check out our website at www.stjameswhiteoak.com.
Bulletin articles are due in the office by Monday at noon. Articles can be submitted via e-mail info@stjameswhiteoak.com or send it to the Parish Office.