



# St. James the Greater Parish Life Newsletter

Fall 2015

## The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

**Saturday, September 26 – 4:30 p.m. Mass**  
**Sunday, September 27 – all Masses**



### Who should be anointed?

Anyone who has a serious illness or the debilitation of old age.

### When should they be anointed?

As soon as the illness is diagnosed and anytime it significantly worsens. Anointing is the sacrament of the sick so we can cope with illness and be helped to heal.

### How long do the effects of the sacrament last?

There is no “expiration date” for the sacrament.

### Isn't this sacrament supposed to be given when somebody is dying?

The ritual book for the Sacrament of Anointing says, “The reception of the Eucharist as viaticum, food for the passage through death to eternal life, is the sacrament proper to the dying Christian...**The sacrament of anointing should be celebrated at the beginning of a serious illness.**” {#175, emphasis added} The sacrament for the dying is Holy Communion. This doesn't mean that a dying person can't be anointed, but the anointing should happen long before that moment. It should never be the case that receiving the Anointing of the Sick is put off until the person is dying.

Also, remember that a priest may not be available when someone is dying.

*As we celebrate this sacrament as part of the weekend Masses, those wishing to be anointed will need to sit in the front pews or along the aisles if they cannot stand around the sanctuary for the anointing.*

Our priests are always happy to visit a person at home or in a care facility to celebrate the sacrament for them. Our Catholic hospitals have priests who visit at least several days a week to celebrate this sacrament. Do not hesitate to ask the hospital staff for the sacrament when someone is hospitalized.

# Pastoral Report

## July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

<b>Parish General Statistics</b>	<u>2013/2014<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>2014/2015</u>
Registered households	2003	1672 <sup>2</sup>
Registered individuals	6248	5388
newborn to age 6	474	303
age 7 to 14	709	570
age 15 to 20	728	649
age 21 to 35	1243	899
age 36 to 50	1119	906
age 51 to 65	1244	979
age 66 to 80	661	565
age 80 + older	298	314
New households this year	63	47
Households deleted from the census	113	376
Households contributing financially	1187	1135
School Families contributing	324 <sup>3</sup>	292 <sup>4</sup>
Sunday Mass attendance	1315 <sup>5</sup>	1304 <sup>6</sup>
Children's Liturgy of the Word <sup>7</sup>	24	20
Daily Mass attendance	57	52
Average at 6:30 a.m.	12	12
Average at 8:30 a.m.	45	40



<b>Sacramental Celebrations</b>		
Masses celebrated <sup>8</sup>	658	657
Sunday masses	212	208
Weekday masses	446	449
Funerals	38	53
Baptisms	49	40
Infants <sup>9</sup>	47	39
Adults <sup>10</sup>	2	1
Persons received into the Church		
by profession of faith	6	8
Children <sup>11</sup>	3	0
Adults <sup>12</sup>	3	8
First Communions	69	70
Children (2 <sup>nd</sup> grade)	64	61
Adults	5	9
Confirmations	85	82
7 <sup>th</sup> grade students	80	73
adults	5	9
Weddings		



<sup>1</sup> These cover July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> If a household did not update census information at our last request, the household was taken off the mailing list.

<sup>3</sup> There were 385 parish families with children in the school for the 2013-2014 year

<sup>4</sup> There were 361 parish families with children in the school for the 2014-2015 year.

<sup>5</sup> This was the October 2013 count.

<sup>6</sup> This was the October 2014 count.

<sup>7</sup> This is the weekly average.

<sup>8</sup> This excludes weddings and funerals.

<sup>9</sup> Under the age of 7.

<sup>10</sup> Age 7 and above.

<sup>11</sup> Under the age of 7 with parents making the profession.

<sup>12</sup> Age 7 and above.

With both parties Catholic	2	7
With one party Catholic	0	1
Confession Opportunities <sup>13</sup>	56	55
Individuals receiving communion		
at home weekly ( <i>average</i> )	17	50 <sup>14</sup>
Anointing of the Sick	218	263
privately <sup>15</sup>	79	73
at Sunday Mass	139	190
<b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</b>		
Catechumens	2	1
Candidates	3	8
<b>Other Prayer Services/Liturgies</b>		
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	48	48
Lenten Devotions <sup>16</sup>	75	60
The Way of the Cross	4	4
Marian devotions <sup>17</sup>	316	299
<b>Liturgical Ministers</b>		
Participants in liturgical ministries	439	444
Communion distributors	155	159
Adult Choir	22	22
Adult Cantors	5	8
Adult Music Ensemble	10	10
Youth Cantors	4	4
Youth Choir	13	15
Adult Handbell Choir	6	0
Readers	53	48
Servers	46	49
Ushers	50	49
Bereavement Ministers	47	50
Children's Liturgy of the Word leadership	28	30
<b>Educational Programs for Youth</b>		
Students in the parish school	619	569
Families with students in the school	416	397
Teachers in the school	35	36
Students in the PSR program <sup>18</sup>	32	39
Families with students in the PSR program	22	27
Teachers in the PSR program	8	7
Participants in the Pre-school religious education program	20	30
Teachers in the Pre-School program	5	8
Catechists certified by the Archdiocese <sup>19</sup>	5	5



<sup>13</sup> This includes 1 penance service for the whole parish and 3 for school and PSR students.

<sup>14</sup> This year we included those at two care facilities along with those living at home.

<sup>15</sup> This number includes those done as emergencies at Mercy Hospital West for non-parishioners.

<sup>16</sup> Weekly average attendance.

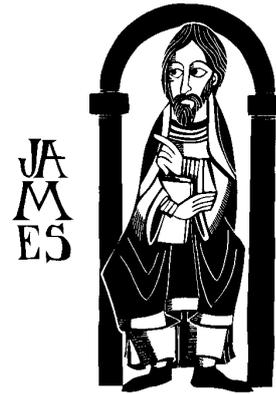
<sup>17</sup> This includes prayer services, rosary before morning mass and May crowning.

<sup>18</sup> This covers grade 1 through 7.

<sup>19</sup> Total from basic through advancement to permanent catechetical leader certified this year.

## Adult Faith Formation

History of the Archdiocese (series of 7)	42	
Living the Eucharist (Lenten series)		150+
Stories in Genesis (series of 6)		30
New Testament (Series of 6)		25
Catholicism 101 (Series of 6)		30
The Virtues (Series of 6)		15
<b>Youth Ministry</b>		
Number of participants		10



## Descriptions of Some Activities

### Adult Faith Formation

The opportunities for our adults to deepen their understanding of the faith continue to expand. We feel this is a very important part of parish ministry. Last fall there were two lecture series on Thursdays, one in the morning and one in the evening. The morning series had a good turnout of about 25 people. It was on the major stories of Genesis (Adam and Eve/Creation, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham/Isaac, Jacob, Joseph). The evening struggled to attract people; it focused on the Virtues. During Lent we took on as a parish the Living the Eucharist program. It was successful for the first year involving about 150 people in small groups and family sessions. While the Living the Eucharist program was going on Mr. Kovatch gave a morning lecture series on the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Letters). And this summer he began a *Catholicism 101* series as a refresher of basic things of the faith.

### RCIA

We had 9 people come through the process this year, 8 Candidates (those already baptized in another denomination) and 1 Catechumen (who sought baptism). We will continue to work with them to be active one way or another in the Church.

### Youth Ministry

It is a small and struggling group, but Mr. Kovatch thinks there is a cohesiveness starting to form among the kids. The Volleyball league they participated in during January really gave it substance. Other events included: Movie Nights (Moneyball, Jurassic Park), praying the steps in Mt. Adams on Holy Thursday night, a Field Day last summer, feeding the homeless one day in Over-the-Rhine, and Gospel reflection meetings. It seems to be gaining traction, and we look for more teens to participate next year.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

By the Finance Council

The 2014/2015 fiscal year for the parish closed on June 30. This year Sunday giving showed a \$32,000 decrease over the prior year and \$120,000 under budget. Sunday collections totaled \$1,115,165. The average contribution of the 1,187 giving families was \$1,016, up about \$20 per household over last year. The parish ended the year with an \$18,840 deficit. The major factor contributing to the deficit was reduction in Sunday giving. Of our registered school families 15% of them gave nothing to our Sunday collection. The average donation of our school families was \$831.

Again this year, in an attempt to more accurately account for the cost of operating our school, we have made the following adjustment to the financial statements presented below. Portions of parish office staff salaries and benefits have been allocated to the school to cover cost of the accounting, payroll processing, tuition collection and other services performed by the parish staff for the school. This was done as a percentage of revenue from parish to school. Also \$15,000 is allocated to the school for their use of the parish gym and church hall. This adjustment was also made in the Budget statement presented below. These are standard adjusts made each year. The parish subsidy to the school this year was \$44,533.

The Festival, Holiday Bonanza & Fish Fry proceeds are not in the parish operating budget and are not allocated for parish operating but for capital improvements. 2014 Festival proceeds were \$51,276; the 2014 Holiday Bonanza made \$16,352 and the 2015 Fish Fry \$51,276. These proceeds were used for the following capital projects:

- o School Boiler - \$19,300;
- o Gym & Parish Ctr lobby AC & Heat replacement- \$51,700

- o School Tuck pointing -\$7,960
- o Light bulb replacement in Church - \$2,830

Without the support of these fundraisers these items would be in the operating budget, therefore impacting tuition rates. We are very grateful for these successful events and appreciate our volunteers.

St. James Parish has funds on deposit at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati totaling \$278,790.01.

The funds are composed of:

- St. James School Restricted Fund [school] - \$100,350;
- Koch Memorial Fund [school] - \$38,982;
- Technology Savings [school] - \$86,389.72;
- Blue Ribbon Permanent Education Endowment Fund [school] - \$46,473.50;
- Mission Certificates - \$6,595.

These funds are held for specific purposes noted and are **not** available for the operation of the parish.

We still have parish debt to report due to the church renovation and school window replacement. The church renovation did exceed the budgeted amount. In the fall 2011 the parish had a pledge drive for these projects and you very generously pledged the \$1,500,000 goal. As of this print we have collected \$1,392,851. We have around \$13,000 left to collect. Thank you to everyone who is faithfully paying those pledges; we need them all. As of now (July 2015) our parish debt is \$56,818. As you can see we do not have enough outstanding pledges to repay this debt so if you can make an additional payment or maybe you could not make a pledge at the time any donation would be helpful in our debt reduction.

Please take the time to review the accompanying financial report. Any questions or request for additional information may be directed to members of the Finance Council or Amy Klosterman at the parish office.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who financially supports our parish. As the Finance Council, we work hard to use your gifts to the Lord responsibly for the good of the Church. Every dollar you give benefits the people of this parish and furthers the work of the Kingdom of God. We hope that you will continue to share your blessings in the Stewardship Commitment for the coming year. **Thank you in the name of the Lord.**

### **Financial Statement - For Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2015 and 2014**

	<b>Actual 2014/2015 Parish</b>	<b>Actual 2014/2015 School</b>	<b>Actual 2014/2015 Total</b>	<b>Actual 2013/2014 Total</b>
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
Sunday & Holydays	\$ 1,115,165	-	\$ 1,115,165	\$ 1,147,148
Other Parish Revenues	72,567	-	72,567	68,032
School Revenue	-	2,162,552	2,162,552	2,132,337
State Reimbursement	-	222,120	222,120	215,882
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,732</b>	<b>\$ 2,384,672</b>	<b>\$ 3,572,404</b>	<b>\$ 3,563,399</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
Archdiocesan Assess	133,912	5,816	139,728	127,489
Salaries/Benefits	293,131	2,272,440	2,565,571	2,472,120
Other Expenses	171,555	119,699	291,254	349,237
Maint Salaries/Benefits	66,911	100,634	167,545	163,412
Other Maint	73,708	153,198	226,906	238,013
Utilities	64,760	68,435	133,195	133,581
Rel Ed Salaries/Benefits	27,064	52,535	79,599	77,369
Other Rel Ed Exp	12,158	9,244	21,402	21,017
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 843,199</b>	<b>\$ 2,782,001</b>	<b>\$ 3,625,200</b>	<b>\$ 3,582,238</b>
<b>Subsidy to School</b>	<b>\$ 344,533</b>	<b>(344,533)</b>		
<b>Excess (Expense) - Parish</b>	<b>\$ (52,796)</b>			
<b>Combined Excess (Expense) Revenue</b>			<b>\$ (52,796)</b>	<b>\$ 18,839</b>

## 2015/2016 Operating Budget

The operating budget for the 2015/2016 fiscal year projects balanced revenues and expenditures of \$3,559,855, a decrease of 0.2% over the current year's budget.

### Revenues:

Sunday and holyday giving is projected at \$1,235,000, with no increase from this year's budget. There is no increase because when the budget was prepared in February 2015 our Sunday giving was under budget. The parish needs on average \$1050 from every giving family to meet this budgeted amount. This figure is based on 1168 families giving something in 2014-2015.

**School revenues** are projected to be \$2,239,055 with tuition at \$1,887,405. The major difference being the Jon Peterson Scholarship the school is receiving, but the expenses are also reflected since this income is used to provide the additional services. The hardship allowance is projected at \$75,000 and is included in the parish budget. Included in this amount, there is also money generated by the school envelopes included in our Sunday envelope package and the ESAP money. The school projection is based upon enrollment of 530. The budgeted enrollment figure for last year was 560, and the current enrollment actually was 570.

Tuition was increased 2.8% this year the same as last year. The tuition for one child in the school will be \$3,565. For families who pay their entire tuition before August 1<sup>st</sup> a 3% discount will be given. Tuition for one child with this discount is \$3,408 a savings of \$107.

### Expenditures:

**Parish** - The parish budget is decreasing by \$17,765 or 2% from this year's budget. This is due to tighter budgeting on actual expenses and eliminating expenses that do not occur every year such as religion textbooks.

**School** - The school budget is projected to decrease \$42,495 from this past year's budget. With the decrease in enrollment staff positions were eliminated or reduction of hours, reducing the amount needed for teacher salaries. Teachers will receive a slight increase in addition to their step increase. The technology fund is budgeted at \$20,480 with an additional \$11,000 for technology supplies.

**Maintenance** - The total maintenance budget for is \$527,539, a slight decrease of \$1,200. We continue to take advantage of cost saving rates and were working with other parishes of the Archdiocese to buy in groups to get better rates. Capital allocations are included at \$20,000, the same as last year. Most major repairs and improvements are covered by holiday bonanza, fish fry and festival profits. There are no holiday bonanza, fish fry or festival proceeds incorporated in the operating budget.

This budget was approved by Finance & Pastoral Councils.

	<b>2014/2015 Budget</b>	<b>2015/2016 Budget</b>	<b>Incr/decr</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Parish	1,301,947	1,298,500	(3,447)
Misc.	32,800	22,300	(10,500)
School	2,286,587	2,239,055	(47,532)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,621,334</b>	<b>3,559,855</b>	<b>(61,479)</b>
\$	\$	\$	\$

### Expenses

#### Parish

Salaries, office, activities, Tuition			
Assistance, assessments	622,824	613,414	(9,410)
Liturgy	82,500	77,500	(5,000)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>705,324</b>	<b>690,914</b>	<b>(14,410)</b>

Children Faith Formation	105,157	101,802	(3,355)
Adult Education	6,500	6,500	
<b>Subtotal Religious Formation</b>	<b>111,657</b>	<b>108,302</b>	<b>(3,355)</b>
Facilities			
General	95,095	95,011	(84)
Utilities, etc.	121,725	120,025	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>216,820</b>	<b>215,036</b>	<b>(1,784)</b>
<b>Parish subtotal</b>	<b>1,033,801</b>	<b>1,014,252</b>	<b>(19,549)</b>
<b>School</b>			
Salaries, office, etc.	2,265,595	2,223,100	(42,495)
Facilities	301,938	302,503	565
<b>Subtotal School</b>	<b>2,567,533</b>	<b>2,525,603</b>	<b>(41,930)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,621,334</b>	<b>3,559,855</b>	<b>(61,479)</b>

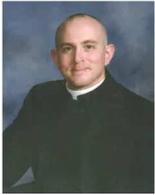
### Tuition

Number of Children	Family Count	2014/2015	Dollar Increase	2015/2016
1	207	\$3,465	\$100	\$3,565
2	92	\$6,720	\$200	\$6,920
3	17	\$9,495	\$300	\$9,795
4	2	\$9,795	\$400	\$10,195
Non Parish	23	\$4,995		\$4,995
Non-Parish 2	6	\$9,900		\$9,900
K – full-time	40	\$3,465	\$100	\$3,565
K – part-time	4	\$2,455	\$100	\$2,555
Total families	362			

### Per-pupil Cost

Partial per-pupil cost:	Grade K	\$3,535.00
	Grades 1-8	\$4,866.00

## What's Influencing You?



We like to think we are very independent in our thinking but it's not often the case. We are influenced by our family, friends, job, ads, TV, internet, news, etc... For better or for worse, messages are being received by us all the time and they influence our perceptions. Our views of the value of human life in all its forms, relationships, acceptable societal norms, you name it, are being challenged daily. Society is changing quickly and values that are contrary to our faith and challenge our religious liberty are being held up as good. We are Catholic Christians and we believe that God has taught us about Himself and who He wants us to be. Wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it and right is right, even if no one is doing it. Truth is not determined by a majority vote. Our faith in Christ and living out His Gospel in a community of believers will keep us strong despite a constantly changing morality. I fear especially for our children who are bombarded by the quickly changing moralities and know nothing else. Most of you are in Church for 1 hour a week. As important as that is, it's a small amount of time. Parents and grandparents, you must be leaders in passing on our Catholic heritage and its values to the next generation. May God continue to bless us and our parish community.

**Peace,  
Fr. Tozzi**

***“From this day all generations will call me blessed...”***

*By Theresa Hayes, Director of Religious Education*



On Monday evening, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, the Saint James Saint Mary's group held their special May Crowning devotion. Deacon Tim Crooker presided. Toward the end of the service, this year's Parish School of Religion program 7<sup>th</sup>-grader Maggie Schutte crowned the statue of the Blessed Mother, while 2<sup>nd</sup>-grader Nathan Verkamp served as crown-bearer. Several dozen people joined with the angels of Heaven in prayers and songs of praise of, and thanksgiving to, the Queen of Heaven and Earth. After the conclusion of the prayer service, the Saint Mary's group hosted a reception in the church hall.

Devotion to Mary is an important part of our faith. Luckily for us, Mary assigned top priority to the will of God, and Jesus gave us the gift of our Heavenly Mother as she stood before Him on the Cross. May Crowning has been a popular devotion for many generations. Some years ago, Saint James parishioner, Sonja Wilson, played a special role in her school's May Crowning. She has shared with us the priority this devotion was assigned at that time also: Her mother set aside the time and resources to make her a special dress, her classmates dressed formally for the occasion, and the whole group posed for photographs. It is good that we still offer the Mother of God such special love, honor and respect.



Sonja is the 3<sup>rd</sup> person from the left in the bottom row.

# Youth Group events for the year

All dates are Sunday unless otherwise specified. (Subject to change)

9-13	7-10pm	Movie Night (either in youth room or at a parent's home)
9-27	????	Scalleywagtag? (Mini-golf, lasertag) <i>tentative</i>
10-10 (Saturday)		TBDNET retreat @ St. I's
10-25	????	Rock Climbing? @Rockquest <i>tentative</i>
11-15	4-6pm	Gospel Reflection/Games
12-6	????	Ice skating/broomball?

## January 2016 Volleyball league begins again!

Interested in joining us?

Send Nic Kovatch an email at [nkovatch@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:nkovatch@stjameswhiteoak.com), or follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/StJamesYG>.

## Adult Faith Formation Fall Lecture Series

### **Deutro-Canon:**

The 7 books Protestants don't accept in Scripture

<u>Day</u>	<u>Book</u>
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tobit
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Judith
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	1 & 2 Maccabees
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wisdom
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sirach
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Baruch

Thursday morning 9:30-10:30am

Presented by Nic Kovatch  
in the Church Hall



# L.I.F.E. Ministry

St. James LIFE Ministry would like to thank all the people who participated in saying the Holy Rosary for Life, Marriage, and Religious Freedom in front of our parish school on July 4th.

What a great way to close the Fortnight for Freedom, by being a prayerful witness to others as they traveled on Cheviot Road. Let us continue to Preserve Religious Freedom, starting in our own community of White Oak.



## BAPTISM

Jace Ray Amann, son of Victor & Jennifer  
Ty Robert Amann, son of Victor & Jennifer  
Reese Genevieve Beckman, daughter of Joseph & Kathleen  
Landen Edward Lautzenheiser, son of Daniel & Sahara  
Collin Leo Novak, son Ronald & Robyn  
Jace Jonathan Paulinelli, son of Scott & Kelly  
Katelyn Rose Roth, daughter of Brian & Jennifer  
Elena Isabel Schweer, daughter of Brian & Vanessa  
Grace Elizabeth Sunderhaus, daughter of Jeffrey & Stephanie  
Brenna Rose Walsh, daughter of Joseph & Elizabeth



Daniel and Lisa Brunzman  
Timothy Burkhardt & Family  
Carl and Lane Claxton & Family  
Julie Dabbelt  
Anthony Fasbender & Family  
Daniel and Olga Heister & Family  
Kevin and Andrea Higgins & Family

Scott and Sarah Kist & Family  
Josh & Molly Lutts  
Emily Meyer  
Veronica Mollmann  
Mary Rauh & Family  
Patricia Rohrer  
Joseph Thompson & Jody Clyde-Thompson  
& Family



Mary Steinbeck, 4/16/15  
Marjorie Feldkamp, 5/3/15  
Salvatore Seta, 5/3/15  
Ruth Klosterman, 5/19/15  
Paul Schwetschenau, 5/22/15  
Bob Thomas, 5/23/15  
Jean Ries, 5/30/15  
Kenneth Bushman, 6/1/15  
Clara (Re Re) Fazzino, 6/1/15  
Margaret Brehm, 6/5/15  
Betty Menke, 6/5/15  
Audrey Middendorf, 6/10/15

Dot Betzweiser, 6/14/15  
Martha Seibel, 6/21/15  
Mary Schoenling, 7/1/15  
John Olding, 7/10/15  
Catherine Schmuelling, 7/12/15  
Anna Mae Moore, 7/16/15  
Helen Wang, 7/19/15  
Paul Frederick, 7/21/15  
Andrew Perrino, Jr., 7/23/15  
Annaliesa Wright, 7/23/15  
Rose Distler, 8/3/15

## Festival News

The 2015 St. James Festival has come and gone but not without a good time being had by all! We do not yet have final numbers as bills and credits are still coming in. The committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to making our festival the success it has become. The contributions are endless and no matter how small, we want you to know how much they are appreciated. We would also like to hear your feedback, so let us know what you liked, disliked or would like to see changed by sending an email, calling or send us a letter at the info below.

It's not too early to start to plan for next year so mark your calendars for **July 23, 24 & 25!** There are five weekends in July next year so we want to make sure that you know that the festival will be on the 4th full weekend and not the last. Plan your vacations for the week after the festival next year so you don't miss out on the fun!

You probably didn't notice but this year's festival was especially difficult for the committee. We are being spread way too thin and therefore we are showing signs of burnout! Looking towards the future, to be able to continue to present the best summer party in White Oak, we are going to have to have additional committee members step forward. This year the Food, General and Gambling Committee positions were vacant. As a result things were missed. We were able to recover but not without a great deal of anxiety. Tears were shed, patience were tested and angers flared. People did fill in to cover partial requirements but the result seemed disjointed. As we have stated prior, having a couple of couples in each of the committee positions would not over burden anyone. Please think about uniting with a few friends and taking this on. Without additional help, sadly our festival might go to route of other parishes and cease to exist. The Festival is a celebration of our community! Aside from providing financial support to our parish, it allows people to come together as a community, celebrate with each other and work together for a common goal! If you feel the calling to join us to continue with this endeavor call Mary or Kevin Lackman at 385-7409 or 706-0698, email at [klackman@cinci.rr.com](mailto:klackman@cinci.rr.com) or check out the website at [www.stjamesfestival.com](http://www.stjamesfestival.com) or Facebook at **Saint James Festival**.



# Doors, Doors and More Doors

By Father Nolker



About six or seven months ago somebody asked me where the confessional was in church. They had plans to receive the Sacrament of Penance but couldn't find the confessional. I thought it was obvious, but it isn't.

Because of the person's question, I realized that almost all the doors in church look alike. (And there are a lot of doors.) The doors to the sacristies, to the storage rooms, to the janitor's closets, to the bathrooms, to the confessional are all alike. The only thing that sets them apart is that the doors to the bathrooms have signs near them saying "Restroom."

In all the discussions during the renovation of the church, we did not consider enhancing the door to the confessional or making it more prominent. That was an oversight. Now we are fixing that.

Soon a plaque will be placed on the door to the confessional that clearly, I hope, marks it as place to celebrate God's mercy. (See the picture to the right.)

The plaque will be a trompe l'oeil painting, to make it look like a wood carving. White tulips surround the main features because they symbolize forgiveness. The central figures come from the Gospel of John 20:19-23. The gold cross in the center symbolizes the Resurrected Jesus who tells his disciples "Receive the Holy Spirit (the white dove in the plaque). Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained." The crossed keys have been the traditional symbol of the Sacrament of Penance and indicate the Church's power to forgive sins.

It's important that we clearly identify the place where we celebrate God's mercy. Pope Francis has called upon the Church to celebrate a special Holy Year beginning December 8 to highlight God's mercy. We will probably have special pilgrimages and prayer services to celebrate the Holy Year. Every week, though, we celebrate the Lord's mercy in this great sacrament. It's an ordinary part of our Catholic lives to go to confession and feel God's mercy in our hearts. And the place where we do that should be easily recognized as we come into the church.

Our door plaque which celebrates "God's mercy endures forever" should be installed in the next few weeks. Maybe it will draw all of us to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance more often, now that we can find the confessional more easily.



# St. James School Information



**Dear St. James Parishioners,**

The summer has been quite a busy one at St. James. Through the Panther Prowl walk funds, we were able to complete many classroom improvements. The remaining chalk boards were turned into whiteboards. In addition, these funds also purchased desks, chairs, carpets, bulletin boards, shelves, and other classroom supplies as well as signage for our cafeteria space. Our recent Class of 2015 donated new signage for the school office. In addition, the school office received a facelift with new paint, carpet, and furniture. We are grateful for the generosity that allowed for these projects to happen.

Our maintenance and cleaning crews have been very busy this summer as well. Classrooms have been cleaned, floors have been waxed, and many other projects have been completed. Several places throughout the school got a fresh coat of paint.

Our teachers and staff have been busy throughout the summer as well. Besides enjoying some much deserved time off, many of our teachers participated in trainings, seminars, and graduate work at the university level. Five of our staff even traveled on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land! Our teachers have been especially busy during the month of August. Each has been setting up their classrooms, working on lesson plans, and making sure everything is just right for the start of school.

All of this work is being done to prepare for our most important asset – our students. We do all of this preparation and maintenance work to make sure that we are ready for the students. We want to be able to provide for them the best possible education. We hope that as they return to begin a new year, the school is a place where they can thrive both academically and spiritually. We especially want to welcome with open arms all of our many new students and their families.

Besides welcoming our new students, we are excited to welcome several new talented teachers and staff members who will be joining our team this year. Miss Stephanie Junker, a St. James graduate, will be teaching first grade. Mrs. Molly Lutts, another St. James graduate, will be teaching English and reading in our junior high. Mrs. Lori Kinne will be our new librarian. Mrs. Laurie Evans, Mrs. Jamie Cain Nimitz join our special education team. We know that each of these teachers and staff members will add to the rich tradition of St. James School and we're excited to have them join our school community.

While a new school year is just beginning, it may be time for some parents to begin thinking about school for 2016-2017. We are always happy to provide information to our parishioners who are considering a Catholic education for their child. Please feel free to contact the school office at 741-5333 to find out more about our school or to schedule a tour.

Finally, we want to thank you for all of your prayers and support for our school. We feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful, faith-filled community. If you ever have any questions about St. James School, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're excited to begin a new school year!

Sincerely,



Michelle Hinton  
Principal



Jeffrey Fulmer  
Assistant Principal

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

**2015**

Aug. 29 – 4:30 pm      Nov. 29 - Noon  
Sept. 27 – 8:00 am      Dec. 26 – 4:30 pm  
Oct. 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:**

Marjorie Feldkamp, Salvatore Seta, Frank Weiss,  
Bob Thomas, Clara Fazzio, Dorothy Betzweiser,  
Anna Mae Moore, Andy Perrino.

**Dates to Remember –**

Sept. 7	Labor Day – Mass at 8:30 am
Sept. 26-27	Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at Masses
Oct. 4	Respect Life Sunday
Oct. 18	Mission Sunday
Nov. 1	Solemnity of All Saints
Nov. 2	Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)
Nov. 8	Evening Prayer for the Dead
Nov. 22	Solemnity of Christ the King
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day Mass at 8:30 am
Nov. 30	First Sunday of Advent