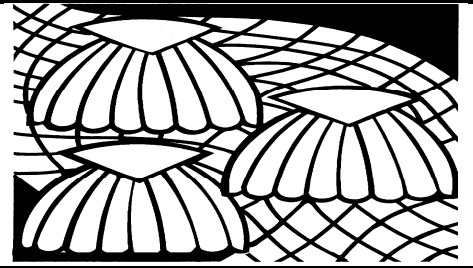


Saint James the Greater Parish Life Newsletter

Advent & Christmas 2017



It's time to Celebrate!

by Father Nolker



The church built in 1849

With the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King on November 26, we begin the observance of the 175th anniversary of our parish. The first Mass was celebrated at Creedville (now White Oak) on August 15, 1840. Visiting priests would come to what would be known as St. James Station from parishes in Cincinnati. 1843 is seen as the year this group of German Catholics was recognized as a parish and formal parish records began being kept. In these early years part-time pastors served the parish on weekends, traveling from parishes in the heart of the city. It wasn't until 1851 that Father Francis J. Pabisch was appointed as a resident pastor.

While planning for our year-long celebration, a question was posed about what do we call this anniversary. We're familiar with a *centennial* for 100 years and a *bi-centennial* for 200. But what do we call a 175th anniversary? I didn't know but I was sure we could find out.

The MISTupid Online Knowledge Magazine says that the 175th anniversary is called Septaquintaquingecentennial. Yahoo! Answers tells me, "Septaquintaquingecentennial is a coined word for an anniversary of 175 years, but the elements of the word literally refer to an anniversary of 35,000 years, as follows: septaquinta- (70) x quinque- (5) x centennial (100 years)." But Wikipedia (and who can challenge Wikipedia?) relates the proper word is: Dodransbicentennial.

For those who are interested, Wikipedia explains that *dodrans* is a Latin contraction of *de-quadrans* which means "a whole unit less a quarter" (*de* means "from"; *quadrans* means "quarter"). 175 years is a quarter century less than the next whole century (bicentennial). Whatever you call it, this month we begin celebrating our 175th anniversary as a parish.

Our anniversary committee has been working for the last two years to prepare for this celebration. During the coming months, we will remember a lot of events that are significant in the life of St. James the Greater Church. Most of all, I want us to think about the people who have been St. James Church all those years. We should never forget that a parish is not a cluster of buildings but a gathering of people in faith. As we reviewed the suggestions from the anniversary committee I thought it was brilliant that they asked families to put together history boards showing their connection with St. James. This is a creative way to focus on the people who are the parish today and were in the past.

I know you will want to be part of all the events that recognize this 175th anniversary. Save the schedule of events that is being published. Come to all of them. I do ask a favor of each of you. Pull out your brand new 2018 calendar right now and write in the Noon Mass on May 20 when Archbishop Schnurr will be here to celebrate with us. This is the centerpiece of the entire year. We should have a standing room-only crowd for that Mass. No other parish activities are scheduled for that day, so you plan ahead right now.

Happy anniversary, St. James! I know this will be a great celebration for all of us.

Advent & Christmas Schedules



Advent Confession Opportunities

December 4 7:00 p.m.

Penance Service including the first reception of the sacrament by our second grade students.

Saturdays 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

On December 16, both Fathers Nolker and Reif will be available during this time.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Friday, December 8

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



December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses 4:30 p.m. on Saturday
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. on Sunday

*There will **not** be a 12:00 noon Mass this Sunday so that preparations can be made for the Christmas Masses that begin in the middle of the afternoon.*



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 & 5:00 p.m.

There is no late evening Mass

Carols will begin 15 minutes before each Mass.

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 a.m. & 12:00 Noon.

Carols will begin 15 minutes before each Mass.



Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God January 1, 2018

Mass 10:00 a.m.

The obligation to participate in Mass on this feast is dispensed this year.



St. James Church
175th Anniversary
1843 ~ 2018
“*Spreading the Word*”

St. James Church is celebrating our 175th Anniversary! Such a significant milestone in our history deserves a lot of attention. We’ve planned a variety of activities and events so everyone can join in the celebration during our anniversary year. Help us to give thanks for our past and ask for God’s blessing as we continue to keep “*Spreading the Word*” into the future! Here’s a peek at the upcoming activities:

Kick-off Liturgies

Join us at ANY Mass the weekend of November 25 and 26th for a specially prepared worship service to celebrate the start of our commemorative year.

Kick-off Receptions - *Sunday, November 26th - after 8:00 & 10:00am Masses*

Come celebrate with us at a special kick-off event!

- View the *Family History Displays* created by our parishioners (See **FAMILY HISTORY** below)
- Enjoy a coffee and danish at Donut Sunday
- Take home the anniversary year *Calendar of Events*
- Purchase a commemorative ornament, coffee mug, car magnet and more.
(These items will be available after all masses on the weekends of **December 2-3 and 9-10**...just in time for Christmas.)

St. James Church Tour – *Sunday, Jan. 14th, after 12:00 Mass*

- Join Fr. Tom and Fr. Bryan as they take you on a historical and informative tour through St. James Church. Learn the meaning behind some of the special features of our Church as well as some fascinating stories about our history.

175 St. James Facts – *throughout the Anniversary year*

- Check the Bulletin every weekend for a new installment of interesting facts and figures associated with St. James Church – including our history, our community, our families and much more. 175 facts will be revealed by the end of the anniversary year!

FAMILY HISTORY: We invite all parishioners to prepare a *Family History Display* to capture pictures and memorabilia that highlight your personal family history with St. James and the community. The posters will be used throughout the anniversary year at events, including the Kick-off Reception and the 2018 May Celebration.

Here are some things you may want to include: Family Names, pictures of Baptisms, 1st Holy Communions, May Crownings, Weddings, Family Photos, Social Events, Parish Picnics, Festivals, Bingos, Fish Frys and Volunteer Fairs- to name a few. Please consider including written short stories about Family History, Church History or the White Oak Community.

DETAILS: •Posters should be *no larger* than standard poster board (22”x28”) •We ask that you use *copies* of photos or documents rather than originals. •Please include your contact information on the back so the Anniversary Committee can return the poster after the 2018 Parish Picnic. •You can turn your poster in to the Parish Office or bring it to any anniversary event. •It’s never too late to submit a *Family History Display* – because we’d love to see every St. James family represented in this anniversary year!

If you have questions or need help, please contact Karen Orth at karenruheorth@gmail.com , Beth Gideon at bgideon63@gmail.com or Conni Weaver at cornidawg@aol.com.

Things I've Seen and Heard

Musing of Fr. Bryan Reif

It is simply too hard to believe how quickly the time is passing by. It does seem like just a few days ago that I arrived at St. James as your new Parochial Vicar, and here we are in the late-fall, and closing rapidly on winter, the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. I have always been told that time speeds up as you get older, and I have also been told that time flies when you're having fun. For me, both are true. I do feel truly blessed to be here, and as I get to know more and more of you, I am continually impressed and grateful that the Lord has led me here to serve you, and this parish faith community.

One of the things that interests me is the history of space exploration. In spaceflight, one of the things that needs to be done occasionally is an engine firing on-board the spacecraft to make a course correction. Sometimes the course-correction only needs a pulse of the engine just to nudge the trajectory a tiny little bit. For a space probe, say like the New Horizons probe that flew past Pluto a couple of years ago, a tiny nudge early on makes a huge difference several billion miles later. I bring up spacecraft course correction maneuvers because we are asked to do the same thing throughout our lives as Christians. There are a couple of times of the Church year where we are asked to really take a close look at the trajectory our lives are on, and to make a course-correction for our souls. The Season of Advent is one of those seasons.

Advent is our time to prepare our hearts and our souls for the celebration of the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. We have already probably seen the Christmas displays in stores, ever since the end of Halloween, but the kind of preparation we really need to focus on isn't material, or decorative, but spiritual. Advent is our opportunity to look within ourselves, to take a spiritual inventory, to look at our life and commitment to prayer, to look at how we have treated others, to look at our charity, chastity, and our faithfulness to the precepts of God and His Church, and make the determination about course-correction.

If we see that we have slid on our trajectory which leads to the Lord, and that we need a boost, we are able to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (our proverbial course correction engine firing) and lay our failures, weaknesses, and sins at the feet of Jesus, and get back onto the right course which leads to life with Him.

Over the course of the three weeks of Advent (Christmas falling the Monday after the 4th Sunday of Advent this year, and therefore giving us the shortest possible Advent Season), there are ample opportunities for prayer, as well as for Confession. I encourage all of us to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for it truly is a tremendous gift of God to His People. He seeks to forgive us, and to give us the grace that we need to stay the course, so that at the end of this Journey of faith we all share, billions of miles later as it were, we arrive safely at our destination, the Kingdom of God.

Have a Blessed Advent, and Christmas!

We Pray that Our Gifts Continue to Give. . .



Bishop Edward Fenwick, O.P.

The content of my *Sacramental Theology* studies at the Athenaeum of Ohio keeps calling me back to the fact that God, our Father and the Creator of the universe, has such abundant love for us that He sent His Son and His Spirit to us to be certain that we would have not only the opportunity, but the guidance, to attain eternal life in His Kingdom at the end of our earthly lives. Through the Church, especially in our wonderful parish, we continue to be blessed with such guidance.

Several decades before the establishment of the Parish of Saint James the Greater, in 1805, Jacob Dittoe wrote to Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, asking him for a parish priest to tend to the spiritual needs of the Catholic communities around Cincinnati at that time. Three years later, Dominican Father Edward Fenwick arrived. Not only did Father Fenwick tend to the needs of our Ohioan Catholic predecessors, but also those in other parts of the Northwest Territory. At this time, Bardstown, Kentucky was the diocese for the area west of the Allegheny Mountains. In 1821, the Diocese of Cincinnati, the 8th diocese in the continental United States, was formed, with Bishop Fenwick assigned as the shepherd until his death in 1832. Bishop Fenwick had the assistance of three priests from Kentucky in his diocese.

As we are celebrating this year, seven years before Cincinnati became an Archdiocese under her second bishop (in 1850), Bishop John Purcell authorized the Parish of Saint James the Greater to begin.

The members of the clergy and laity faced anti-Catholic prejudice along the way, but as the territories were being settled, organized group displays of this were probably not as commonplace until decades later. These negative sentiments continued for more than a century, providing fertile ground for the establishment of the parochial school system throughout the United States.

Today, the negative sentiments which must be conquered are often related to a cultural relativism and lack of dedication to the demands of organized religion, which undermine the role intended for us by our Creator. The faithfulness, dedication and perseverance of the noble individuals providing opportunities for the growth of our Catholic Faith were truly gifts to our predecessors, and are truly gifts to us. Without the sacrifice-of-self to accomplish tasks according to the will of our Creator, these monumental accomplishments would not be possible.

The same is true for us today. As we have benefitted from the work of those who came before us, we continue to spread the Faith in our faith formation programs, especially in our parish school and parish school of religion. We have been blessed with so much and we shoulder the burden of ensuring that generations to come have the same opportunity and guidance with which we have been blessed. We have only to make the choice of where and how to invest ourselves and our abundant blessings for the glory of God.

Together, during the weeks leading up to the celebration of the birth of our Savior, let's pray for the grace to give freely of ourselves, and to choose wisely and nobly in the service of the Prince of Peace.

God be with you and your loved ones throughout the Season of Advent, all of Christmas Time and beyond!

Theresa Hayes, Director of Religious Education

Hamilton, Albert . *The Catholic Journey Through Ohio*. Saint Meinrad, IN: Catholic Conference of Ohio , 1976.

Fish Fry 2018

God & Cod



**St. James
White Oak**

Dear parishioners:

Our Fish Fry Committee is in the planning stages for our Fish Fry 2018. If you would like to get more involved with the Fish Fry Committee, please contact Dianne Hergenrother at dianneberg@yahoo.com or 385-6477. We are currently in need of a “Clean-Up Coordinator” who would direct a clean-up crew from 8:00-9:30 each Friday after the Fish Fry closes. Weekly volunteers will be able to sign up via our website beginning February 1, 2018. The dates for our 2018 Fish Fry will be February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16 and 23. So mark your calendars! (*We do not have a Fish Fry on Good Friday.*)

Stewardship

Stewardship encourages everyone to participate in the task of building the Kingdom of God. God has gifted each of us with everything. We are responsible for caring for these gifts, and accountable for what we do with these gifts. It takes time, talent and treasure to make St. James a vibrant parish.

St. James is now offering our parishioners the ability to make donations online using a credit card or an electronic fund transfer from a checking or savings account at any time, whether it's a onetime gift or a recurring gift. It's available on our website www.stjameswhiteoak.com by clicking the Online Giving button on the home page, you will be presented a secured payment page. When completed you will be emailed a receipt of your donation and the parish will receive a receipt for our records. Your donation is recorded and will be part of your year-end donation letter.

If you have any questions please call or email Amy Klosterman. Thank you for your generous support of St. James Church.

Important Updated Information for 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 \$12,000 at a rate of 150%!** Therefore, if we receive \$12,000 in tuition assistance donations by **December 1st** they will match **\$18,000**. This will give us \$30,000 in tuition assistance plus the ESAP donation of \$6,000 that is designated to our parish school for a total of **\$36,000!** Please contact Amy Klosterman if you need further information. Thank you!

St. James Giving Tree 2017



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 25 & 26, the tree with over 1,000 tags will be placed in the Church west vestibule. The **FINAL RETURN WEEKEND IS December 9 & 10.**

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.*



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

2017

Nov. 26 – 12 Noon
Dec. 16 – 4:30 pm

2018

Jan. 21 – 8:00 am
Feb. 25 – 10:00 am
Mar. 25 – 12 Noon
April 21 – 4:30 pm
May 27 – 8:00 am
June 24 – 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:

Arlene Rohr



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Where: St. James White Oak, Church Hall
When: Saturday, December 9th
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

Saint James School News



Dear St. James Parishioners,

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 2018-2019 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?

So what makes St. James the best choice? We are a community of learners rooted in the Catholic faith. Our students and teachers pray together, have daily religion classes, attend Mass weekly, and experience the sacraments. Our Catholic faith is infused in all that we do. This is evident in the service to others our students are performing, how all of our subject areas are tied to what we believe, and the culture of how we act and treat one another.

St. James also has an outstanding academic program. We offer Spanish in kindergarten through 8th grade, leveled classes for math and reading, an intervention program for students who struggle in their learning, and a wide array of electives in junior high. Our school has a tech device for each student to use and students utilize Google Classroom, iPads, and collaborative learning apps and programs. The fine arts are an option in choir, several theater productions including the 8th grade play, band, photography, and more. We have a faculty that deeply cares for our students and are dedicated to their success.

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 21 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, we wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and a restful and blessed Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fulmer
Principal

Christina Riggins
Assistant Principal



Charles Thomas Daley, son of Daniel & Kelly
Sophie Marie Susshine, daughter of Eddie & Chrissy
Logan David Weitzel, son of Jared & Katlin
Connor James McMahan, son of Braden & Jennifer
Riley Morgan McMahan, daughter of Braden & Jennifer
Penelope Jane Grace, daughter of Joseph & Jena
Scarlett Josephine Grace, daughter of Joseph & Jena
Emma Elizabeth Sammons, daughter of Christopher & Molly
Ava Marie Tierney, daughter of Kyle & Danielle

Welcome New Members!

Tyler & Katherine Ahlert & Family
Jessica Butler & Family
Andrew Ellis
Edmund Franchi & Ruth Hurley-Franchi & Family
Joseph & Jena Grace & Family
David & Danielle Jackson & Family
Matthew King & Andrea O'Connor-King & Family
Braden & Jennifer McMahan & Family
James Mentzel & Linda Martin
Kenneth & Patricia Schneider
Paul & Lindsay Walker & Family
Kathy Zeinner



Raymond Berling, 8/23/17
Rita Langenbrunner, 9/7/17
Jerry Boyle, 9/24/17
Joe Schaffer, 9/25/17
Marie Ryan, 10/1/17
Arlene Rohr, 10/13/17
Daniel Schlachter, 10/16/17

Dates to Remember:

December 3	First Sunday in Advent
December 4	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 7	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
January 16	Confirmation
February 10	RCIA Rite of Reception of Candidates
February 11	Wedding Anniversary Mass & Reception
February 14	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.