



St. James the Greater Parish Life Newsletter

Fall 2017

- Saint Gregory the Great -



Some Friends To Meet

By Father Nolker

Some friends of mine were lamenting the transfer of a priest from their parish. Daily Mass attendees, they would miss his comments on the saints who were celebrated each day in the liturgy. It seems he not only celebrated the ones required by the Church's calendar but all the optional ones, too. This meant he would talk about obscure saints like Eusebius of Vercelli. For them his remarks amplified the idea that saints are all kinds of people. Some are repentant sinners; others are great thinkers. Farmers, kings, priests and slaves all stand together in the "glorious throng" that Sacred Scripture talks about.

How much attention do we give the saints? How much do we know about them, even the most popular ones? One source of knowledge of the saints was the school project almost every child had to do: research the saint you are named after. A lot of the names called out at baptism ceremonies today are not borrowed from saints. The Church no longer requires a saint's name be given at baptism; any name works as long as it isn't contrary to the faith (whatever that might mean).

I know the feast of All Saints (November 1; and it's a holy day) is a few weeks away. So, I suggest we all look at the saints listed in the Church's calendar; let's just look at the ones for September. Get your Google fingers ready to learn about: St. Gregory the Great {Sept. 3}, St. Teresa of Calcutta {Sept. 5}, St. Peter Claver {Sept. 9}, St. John Chrysostom {Sept 13}, Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian {Sept 16}, St. Januarius {Sept. 19}, St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and his Companions {Sept. 20}, St. Matthew {Sept. 21}, St. Pio {Sept 23}, Sts. Cosmos and Damien {Sept. 26}, St. Vincent de Paul {Sept. 27}, St. Wenceslaus {Sept 28}, St. Lawrence Ruiz {Sept. 28}, the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael {Sept 29}, St. Jerome {Sept 30}.

What a diverse crowd! And we are connected to every one of them because they and we are the Church together. They are our teachers as we work to be holy like them. Every month we have the opportunity of meeting a dozen or more of the saints who have run the race and claimed the prize we all long for.

The Sacrament of The Anointing of the Sick Sunday, October 7 & 8

On this weekend we will again offer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at all the 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 which helps us cope with illness and helps us 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) 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.

Things I've Seen and Heard

By Fr. Bryan T. Reif



The past month and a half have been filled with a lot of firsts for me. Being the new guy in the parish, starting my assignment at St. James on July 1st, everything that has happened in the parish, which is probably very normal and routine for everyone, has been a series of firsts for me here. There are new faces and names (which might take a while to stick) and a new parish family. There have been first weekend Masses, and daily Masses too, and the getting used to the "new for me" flow for Holy Communion, and how things work and flow at St. James (everyplace is a little different). There are the new routines, and, of course, there is the new place to live, and everything that comes with it. The past six weeks have been a lot of "new to me."

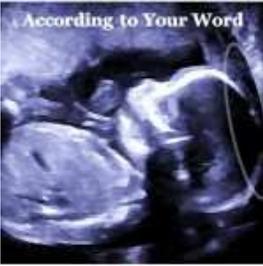
In the midst of all of this, moving from one parish to another, and packing and unpacking what is essentially everything I own, my whole life, I have experienced a profound sense of gratitude. I have a great deal to be thankful for, first and foremost is the gift of my vocation which has been given to me by God to the priesthood. What a great blessing to be able to be a priest today, with everything going on in the Church today, the good and the challenges. To be able to minister in the name of Christ, to serve the People of God, and to celebrate the Sacraments, and offer the Sacrifice of the Mass to God the Father, these are things that do not change from assignment to assignment, and they are the grounding and focus of my life, and the life of any priest. I am also very thankful for all of you, for your prayers, and your presence in the midst of this Faith Community we call St. James the Greater Parish. Your welcome has been warm, and friendly, and I do feel welcome, and a part of this parish family. Thank you for your welcome, and for opening your doors, and your hearts to me, and for receiving me, for as Jesus said to us in the Gospel on the 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time: "The one who receives you receives me, and receives the One who sent me." My first impression of St. James has been this, and it's a very positive impression: "This parish gets it!" This parish knows, believes, and lives, that Jesus Christ is the reason we are here, and that Christ's call to love God and neighbor (the two greatest commandments) is at the center, and the very heart of who we are.

Please keep repeating your names, and please keep praying for me as I do for you. I continue to look forward with anticipation to our time together here at St. James. God's blessings be upon each one of you!

Take Good Care!
Fr. Bryan

Prayer for a Child in the Womb

From the Parish Worship Commission



In 2012, the Catholic Bishops of the United States receive approval from the Vatican for a special blessing for a child in the womb. “God, author of all life, bless, we pray, this unborn child,” the prayer begins. “Give constant protection and grant a healthy birth.”

The prayer says that God has brought to the pregnant woman “the wondrous joy of motherhood.” “Grant her comfort in all anxiety and make her determined to lead her child along the ways of salvation,” it adds.

The portion of the prayer for the child’s father says that God has “singled out this man to know the grace and pride of fatherhood.” It asks God to grant him courage and to make him “an example of justice and truth” for the child.

The blessing includes intercessions "for our government and civic leaders that they may perform their duties with justice and compassion while respecting the gift of human life". It also expresses concern "for children who are unwanted, unloved, abandoned or abused, that the Lord will inspire his people to protect and care for them."

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, then the chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship, explained the intentions behind the prayer: “We hope the use of this blessing will provide not only support and God’s blessing for expectant parents and their child in the womb, but also another effective witness to the sanctity of human life from the first moment of conception.”

We at St. James are now scheduling this blessing as part of our regular prayer schedule several times a year. These blessings will be held immediately after the Noon Mass on Sundays. Watch the bulletin for the exact dates.

The Signs of Nature

By Theresa Hayes, Director of Religious Education

One Thursday evening during the month of June, amidst the bustle of everyday life, my husband and I and our son (who lives next door) decided to enjoy dinner together at one of our favorite neighborhood restaurants. As we prepared to leave, we noticed a doe standing quietly and alertly in our front yard. Our next-door neighbor (on the other side) left with her dog to take a walk, and the doe watched her quietly, but surprisingly did not move. Our son opened his garage door to pick us up, and the doe remained rooted to the spot. In fact, she watched as we approached his car and got inside. As we pulled out she turned back toward the street, slowly bounded across, and continued on her way. We thought this unusual, but could assign no meaning to it, so it became one more of life’s mysteries!

The following Saturday, my husband came into our sunroom, which overlooks our very wide backyard. Our home is situated on an incline, so our backyard neighbors’ homes overlook ours and they installed a privacy fence along our backyard. Robert announced to me that we had visitors in the backyard. I looked out, but did not notice anything until he pointed it out to me. There, nestled in our deep English ivy, approximately six feet apart, were two fawns. Their ears twitched and turned, but the fawns lay quietly in their hiding spots. Each time one of us finished a chore in the house, we would return to the sunroom and peek out to see if the ears were still there.

As darkness descended, we both watched expectantly for the mother to appear to nurse her newborns, but she did not come. Shortly before sundown, we observed party guests close to our neighbor’s privacy fence. We began to worry about the fawns, almost as though they were our own offspring. What if they grew concerned with the noise? What if they were so frightened that they left their hiding places? Where was their mother? Would she safely return to care for them? We continued the watch until dark.

The next morning our infant yard guests were nowhere to be found. Apparently, Mother Doe had concurred with our concerns, and had moved her wee ones to a place she considered a safer haven. We experienced disappointment and, believe it or not, a twinge of loss.

Eventually we found peace in the realization that although we are called to be stewards of God's creation, we certainly "have no power here." Power over creation is the task of the Almighty. We are called to do as our Native American brothers and sisters have reminded us for generations, to live in concert with the rest of creation, using what we need, and leaving the rest as we find it.

We had been graced with a glimpse of the miracle of life, perhaps to remind us of those things in daily life that truly are the most important things – not rushing about, but making time to think about God, His gifts to us, and our mission in His world. After all, as the sign outside the Downtown Cincinnati Uptown Church on Ninth near Elm says, "Life is short – eternity forever."

May Almighty God be with you throughout this day and all those to come!

Parishioner Honored



On June 24, 2017, General William King, presented **Bob McGeorge** with a Bronze Star and Citation. This was 64 years after he was recommended for the Medal, but never received it. **The Bronze Star Medal**, unofficially **the Bronze Star**, is a United States decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone. The Citation reads in part:

For persistent actions throughout his tour enabled his Battalion to provide deadly fire Support to friendly forces during combat operations in the face of overwhelming enemy Forces, undoubtedly saving the lives of countless U.S. and Korean soldiers. His incredible Selflessness and dedication to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military Service and great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

Congratulations, Bob and thank you for your service to our country!



St. Mary's Ladies Society is Celebrating 170 Years

The Ladies Society was established in the year 1847 making this the oldest organization in our parish. At the time there were almost 200 hundred members. They would meet monthly for business and socially to plan and serve the dinners at all of the Parish Social Affairs.

Present Day –

Currently there are over 100 members. These ladies help with the church linens, dusting the church, provide Baptism robes, cards for the Confirmation and First Communion students, cards for the sick parishioners, have masses said for parishioners that have passed, the May crowning of the Blessed Mother and provide homemade doll clothes and an American Girl doll for the festival.

They also provide two \$500 scholarships for current St James students. This is made possible by raffling off an American Girl doll.

Current Officers:

President - Pam Meiners

Vice President – Peggy Rebsch

Treasurer – Joan Meiners

Secretary – Peggy Schindler

Save the date: Oct 8th at 10:00 mass and reception to follow in church hall.



St. James L.I.F.E. Group Fall Dance for Adults with Special Needs

WHO'S IT FOR? SPECIAL NEEDS ADULTS WANTING TO DANCE, PLAY GAMES OR JUST ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OUT!

Date and Location: Sunday, October 22 from 2:00-4:30 PM. at the St James Church Hall.

The Dance has a Fall/Halloween theme which means costumes are welcome but not necessary. It is free but we ask you to bring a canned good for a local food pantry. Drinks and snacks will be provided. There will be dancing, board games and the chance to make a craft. This is sponsored by the St. James Life Group. To RSVP or for more information call 706-0698.

Festival News



The 2017 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 but we are anticipating the profit to be close to \$40,000. 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 added a new event to the festival planning by participating in an evening of "Dine to Donate" at Dewey's Pizza on Harrison Avenue in Dent. The event was held on Monday, July 31 and turned out to be a great success raising \$650.00 profit for the festival which goes toward capital improvements needed by the parish. We want to thank all those who participated either by dining in or getting carry out. The food was terrific and it was great seeing so many familiar faces! The next time that you visit Dewey's be sure to thank them for the opportunity!

It's not too early to start to plan for next year so mark your calendars for **July 27, 28 & 29!** This works out to be the last weekend in July. Plan your vacations for the week before or after the festival next year so you don't miss out on the fun! Did you notice that there were booths that sat empty on at random times during the festival? That was because we did not get enough volunteers to run these booths each day. Some opened late and some closed early. Booth chairs were needed to make all the booths run smoothly. This could be accomplished by an investment of 3-6 hours. General and Gambling Committee positions also remained vacant. As we have stated prior, having a couple of couples in each of the committee positions or as booth chairs 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.

We would also like to hear your feedback, so let us know what you liked, disliked or would like to see changed or added by sending an email, calling or send us a letter at the info below. 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 or check out the website at www.stjamesfestival.com or Facebook at **Saint James Festival**.



St. James School Information

Dear St. James Parishioners,

This is a great time of year when our students return to walk the halls of our school! We look forward to the year ahead full of learning, laughter, prayer, growth, and development. Our entire staff is proud to serve the students of our parish in this ministry.



MAINTENANCE

Over the summer our maintenance and cleaning crews have been very busy preparing for the upcoming school year. Several classrooms, a hallway, and a stairwell received a fresh coat of paint. Several classrooms received new interactive projectors and furniture. Our computer lab got new carpeting and some new signage was installed. Many of our summer projects happened because of the generosity from the Panther Prowl.



This year our school will have a one-to-one technology program. Each student in the school will have a device to use for their learning. In kindergarten through third grade, each classroom has a full set of iPads. In the older grades, laptops and Chromebooks are available. We are excited to be able to use these tools to help our students develop technological skills, learn in collaborative ways, and continue to change how we teach.



This year we welcome two new staff members. Mrs. Christina Riggins has joined our team as Assistant Principal. Mrs. Sarah Markey (formerly Rothan) is our newest second grade teacher and an alumnus of St. James. Our new staff members join a team of teachers who are amazing and are dedicated to our students.



Recently, several were honored for their excellence in the classroom. Miss Emily Bates, 8th grade language arts teacher, and Mrs. Vicki Linahan, Technology Coordinator, were named “The Best of the Best” as 2017 Outstanding Educators by Cincy Magazine. Additionally, Mrs. Jen Waidmann, 7th & 8th grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Katrina Reid, 1st grade teacher, and Miss Emily Icard, kindergarten teacher, were recognized as a Mix 94.9 Top Teacher in the Tri-State. We are proud of these teachers who go above and beyond and are committed to excellence for our students.



Over the summer, seven of our teachers had the opportunity to travel on a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land as a part of our involvement with the School of Faith program. Miss Christopherson were immersed in the life of Jesus as they literally walked in His footsteps in Jerusalem and the area around the Sea of Galilee. The group celebrated Mass each day at various holy sites and had time for prayer and reflection. Twelve staff members from our school have been able to go on pilgrimage and we hope others will have this opportunity in the future thanks to the generosity of donors in our community. School of Faith is a program that develops the faith lives of educators so that we can better live out the Catholic faith, be in greater relationship with Jesus, and bring this renewal to our classrooms to benefit our students.



While a new school year is just beginning, it may be time for some parents to begin thinking about school for 2018-2019. 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 an incredible 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,

Jeffrey Fulmer
Principal

Christina Riggins
Assistant Principal

 **BAPTISM**

Douglas Anthony Bell, son of Douglas & Amanda
Melanie Paige Bell, daughter of Douglas & Amanda
Kamdyn James Farrell, son of Sarah
Abbey Scott Johnson, daughter of Jarrod & Jeanna
Liam Grant Johnson, son of Jarrod & Jeanna
Dana Mae Keller, daughter of John & Patricia
Jackson Edward Lutts, son of Josh & Molly
Flora Walsh Moor, daughter of Johnathan & Aimee
Emmitt Patrick Reid, son of Martin & Katrina
Bodhi James Rohr, son of Gregory & Nicole

Lukas Shaun Rostron, son of Shaun & Jessica
Lydia Marie Rostron, daughter of Shaun & Jessica
Ellianna Marie Schmidt, daughter of Brian & Maielle
Annabelle Elizabeth Schmutte, daughter of Ryan & Sheri
Ashton David Sillies, son of Austin & Ashley
Peyton Marie Weber, daughter Mark & Stephanie
Carter Louis Basinger, son of Dane & Stephanie
Jaxson Victor Basinger, son of Dane & Stephanie
Nora Renee Marie Douglas, daughter of David & Cassie
Dorothy Margaret Knapp, daughter of Benjamin & Elizabeth



Nancy Bridges
Donald and Faith Dekors & Family
Sarah Farrell & Family
John and Patricia Keller & Family

Joseph and Bethany Swygart & Family
Stuart and Donna Wullenweber & Family
Eric and Christine Fricke & Family
Michael and Veronica Kurzhals & Family



Grace Beischel, 6/2/17
Chet Sonderman, 6/4/17
Ida Westrich, 6/8/17
Marjorie Farrell, 6/9/17
Don Doxsey, 6/10/17
John Vorderbrueggen, 6/18/17
Debbie Thiemann, 7/12/17

Betty Ostendorf, 7/15/17
Charles Hoffman, 7/16/17
Shirley Ludmann, 7/25/17
Viola Abbott, 7/27/17
Joyce Bartish, 8/1/17

The St. James Memorial Fund Masses will be celebrated on the following dates:
2017-18

Sept. 24 – 8:00am
Oct. 22 – 10:00 am
Nov. 26 – 12 Noon
Dec. 16 – 4:30 pm

2018
Jan. 21 – 8:00 am
Feb. 25 – 10:00 am
Mar. 25 – 12 Noon

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:

Anthony Fazzio, Betty Ostendorf, Debbie Thiemann, MaKenzie Flowers

Dates to Remember –

Oct. 1	Respect Life Sunday
Oct. 7 & 8	Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at Masses
Oct. 22	Mission Sunday
Nov. 1	Solemnity of All Saints – Holy Day
Nov. 2	Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)
Nov. 12	Evening Prayer for the Dead
Nov. 26	Solemnity of Christ the King
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Mass at 8:30 am
Dec. 1	First Sunday of Advent