

MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS
FAIRBORN, OHIO 188



WELCOME! Welcome to all who celebrate the Mass with us today. May God's grace and peace fill all of us so that we can serve one another in unity and love.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- 1) Exodus 3, 1-8. 13-15
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10, 1-6. 10-12
- 3) Luke 13, 1-9

In addressing the news of the day(3), Jesus cautions people not to look for specific judgments of God. "Those people" have not suffered a punishment for their particular sins, but everyone must work for reform of life. Each of us is challenged to produce good fruit, and like a tree will only be given so many seasons to do so. Moses recognized the presence of God in the burning bush(1). God told him that he had heard the cries of the people and would come to their aid. Moses was to go and work for the salvation of the people with the whole of his abilities. The challenge remains for us. Have we used all of our resources not to judge but to rescue? Judgment belongs to God. Action remains for us. "For all these reasons, let anyone who thinks he is standing upright watch out lest he fall!(2)"

Next Sunday, the readings will be: 1) Joshua 5, 9. 10-12; 2) 2 Corinthians 5, 17-21; 3) Luke 15, 1-3. 11-32.

Mass Intentions For The Week



SAT:	5:00 PM	MHC Purgatorian
SUN:	9:00 AM	For the Parish
	11:15 AM	Doris Hynes, off. MHC ISP
MON:	7:00 PM	Angela Oetker, off. Ann Accetturo
TUE:	9:00 AM	Vera Fahrenz, off. Jean Kearney
WED:	9:00 AM	William M. Redman
THU:	9:00 AM	Francis J. Wourms, off. Family
SAT:	5:00 PM	MHC Purgatorian
SUN:	9:00 AM	For the Parish
	11:15 AM	Phil Simons, off. Hilda Kirsch & Family

FISH FRY

Mark your calendars now and plan to join family and friends for fish and fun on **Friday, March 23rd**, at the fourth annual MHC Alumni Fish Fry. All the fish you can eat, cheese pizza, fries, baked beans, slaw, and deep fried pastry with apple butter will be available for \$8.00 presale or \$9.00 at the door. Children under 12 years of age will be \$4.00 presale or \$5.00 at the door. Soft drinks, beer and coffee are included. It will be held in the school APR/Cafe from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. There will be raffles, doorprizes and games of chance. Proceeds will be donated to the school to help defray the winter heating bills. Flyers with order forms went home with the RE students March 11th and MHCS students March 8th. Tickets will be on sale **this weekend, March 17th/18th** after all the Masses in the brides room of the church. For more information please contact Mark Christensen, 873-8064.

PEACE PRAYER POLE

In an effort to unite people through prayer and a desire to establish peace on earth, a Peace Prayer Pole, created by Interfaith Ministers for Reconciliation, has been welcomed in Churches throughout the Miami Valley. The Prayer Pole will be here at Mary, Help of Christians the weeks of March 15th through March 20th. Everyone is invited to write his/her prayer request upon a 3 x 5 card and staple it to a ribbon on the pole. Stapler and cards are provided on a table by the pole.

Liturgical Assistants

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - MARCH 24/25
 5:00 PM R. Beck, J. Beck, J. Bowling, E. Rogalinski, R. Rogalinski, J. Cyphers, W. Gilbert
 9:00 AM Deacon Max, B. Roadruck, R. Dean, M. Windisch, M. Lokai, M. Mhlbachler, L. Marshall, C. Nordmeyer, K. Samuelson, S. Bauer
 11:15 AM Deacon Max, R. Wimsatt, R. Taylor, C. Hewitt, J. McKee, D. Compton, L. Lai

LECTORS/COMMENTATORS - MARCH 24/25
 LECTOR 1/COMMENTATOR LECTOR 2
 5:00 PM S. Bauer A. Metzmaier
 9:00 AM H. Yarwick C. McAuley
 11:15 AM D. Wetzel K. Wetzel

SACRISTANS - MARCH 24/25
 5:00 PM
 9:00 AM
 11:15 AM Ruth Scheblo

ATTENTION: 11:15 AM MASS
 We need one or two more people to set up for this Mass and close up afterwards. No experience necessary; training is provided. Serve one Mass per month. Scheduling is flexible. Please call the rectory office at 878-8353, Monday - Friday from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Thanks!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LECTOR/COMMENTATOR?
 Anyone interested in becoming a Lector/Commentator should be in the church at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 7th for training. If you are interested but are unable to attend this session, call Al Metzmaier at 864-5700 anytime.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"...but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst."
John 4:14
 The Sunday morning Religious Education classes are now in session. The classes meet from 10:00 AM until 11:15 AM in the school building. For additional information, please call the RE office, 878-7325.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION.....
 Today, March 18th, members of St. Vincent DePaul, Women's Network, Angel Connection/Grandparents Support Group and Interfaith Hospitality will give us a picture of how our parish family helps the community. Next Sunday, Gloria Leigh will speak on Sophia, the Wisdom of God.

FIRST SCRUTINY
 The Catechumens (unbaptized) will celebrate the First Scrutiny this morning at the 9:00 AM Mass. Remember them in prayer as they journey to full initiation into the Roman Catholic Church.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT
 Altar Rosary and the Daughters of Isabella invite all women of the parish to attend a day of retreat, *"Mary: Example, Friend and Mother"* on Tuesday, March 27th. The day will begin in the church with 9 AM Mass and conclude at 2:00 PM. Our retreat presenter is Mary Wlodarski, DRE at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. We will look at the events of Mary's life and see where they can speak to our own heart and experiences. Bring a brown bag lunch (beverages will be provided) and your bible if you wish. Reservations are requested by calling the parish office, 878-8353, Monday - Friday, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, by March 20th. For more information, or if you need transportation, please call Pat at 879-8803.

ANSWER THE CALL 2001: CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
 Will be held on Saturday, March 24th at the Cintas Center, on the Xavier Campus. A full day is planned beginning with coffee and registration at 8:00 AM. Activities begin at 8:45 AM and end with local bishops celebrating Mass at 2:55 PM. A dynamic team of speakers is scheduled: Fr. Dan Coughlin, Chaplain of the U.S. Congress; Tim Philpot, International President of the Christian Businessman's Committee; Fr. Bruce Nieli, C.S.P., Paulist Priest for over 25 years, dynamic evangelist for the Christian faith; and U.S. Senator Connie Mack, ranking Republican in the U.S. Senate. For more information and/or to make reservations, please call Percy Gros, 878-5455; Tom Boland, 864-1665; George Hansen, 864-1934.

STEWARDSHIP

Adult Envelopes	\$11,217.41
Checks	106.00
Loose Currency	461.05
Youth	9.38
Heating/Fuel Contribution	1.00
TOTAL COLLECTION for SUN, MAR 11th	\$11,794.84

PLEASE REMEMBER MHC IN YOUR WILL.

Also, the parish gratefully accepts donations of stock. The tax deduction for a gift of appreciated securities to a charity is equal to the full fair market value of the gift.

pastor's corner

"A mature faith is one that has overcome the superficial enthusiasm of youth as well as the naive credulity of the child. Through harsh experience it has learned that evil persists and will persist, that humanity's ideals and labors, even when well intended, are shortsighted and ambiguous. Focused on the God of mystery rather than on tangible values, such a faith is equipped to face tragedy, diminishment, suffering and death." (Excerpt from an article by Rev. Avery Dulles, S.J., entitled *Faith Come of Age*; Pope John Paul II recently made Fr. Dulles a Cardinal.).....

From Ash Wednesday until the Easter Vigil Celebration, our baptismal pool and door fonts will be drained of holy water. Historically, baptisms only occurred once a year - during the Easter Vigil. Anyone seeking membership into the church underwent a period of scrutiny for several years. The catechumens lived and worked among the Christian Community, where their conversion process could be easily observed. Before Easter, an intense period of purification and enlightenment (eventually 40 days) took place. The entire church joined them in self-examination, fasting, and prayer for this final leg of their catechumenal journey.

When the time finally arrived to celebrate their baptisms at the Easter Vigil, they were stripped naked (just as they were at birth), and rubbed down with oil (just as athletes were prepared before a great event). The Elect were now ready for the most important event of their lives. No sooner did they step down into the baptismal pool, than the bishop plunged their head beneath the treacherous water, saying "In the name of the Father." Only when they gasped and struggled to a point near death, were they allowed a quick breath of air, as the bishop proclaimed "and of the Holy Spirit". Now, the Neophyte (newly baptized) could freely breathe. After being led up and out on the other side of the pool, he/she was clothed in a white garment symbolizing purity and joy, for their sins had been wiped away. The baptized had nearly died as he/she symbolically died to an old way of life. This dying to the old self and rising in new life with Christ is what Paschal Mystery is all about. This is the heart of our faith. Every time we enter the doors of our church building, and bless ourselves with holy water, we remind ourselves of our baptism-of our pledge to die and rise with Christ and one another through the Holy Spirit. This is what we celebrate when we renew our baptismal vows on Easter. This is why the Easter Vigil is THE MOST IMPORTANT CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR.

The period of preparation has remained an integral part of our liturgical calendar. Today, we call it Lent. We are still called upon to pray with, and for, our Elect. We are still called upon to look inward, and convert, in an attempt to draw closer to God. Then, like the early church, we will truly be ready to celebrate baptism at the Easter Vigil. And as we journey through this Lenten season, we will fast from the feel and sound of the living, running water, which brought us to new life in baptism.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL FUND DRIVE
 Two weeks ago, we mailed your pledge card for the Archbishop's Annual Fund Drive. Your donation will benefit retired religious, our seminary, St. Rita's School for the Deaf, and other needs within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. If you have not already done so, please fill out your pledge card and put it in the return envelope with either cash or check. You can mail your pledge or put it in the collection basket next weekend. Last week, in our first week, we had donations and pledges from **128** people for a total of **\$14,116.00**. We invite your support and ask that everyone within our parish participate. Our parish goal is \$45,000. Please be as generous as your circumstances permit.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHOIR?
 All of you singers, sitting in the congregation, who have thought about joining the choir or rejoining the choir, the time has arrived! Both choirs will soon be starting practice on the Easter music. If you can attend the 5:00 PM Mass or the 9:00 AM Mass on a regular basis and can attend the Tuesday night practices on a timely basis, we would be so glad to have you join one of the choirs. If you can sing (duplicate a pitch) and want to give one of the choirs a try, please do so now. You don't have to be professional or even need to read music. The director takes the time to make sure that everyone learns everything we are singing. It won't cost you anything but time. "He who sings, prays twice." For information or encouragement please call Peggy Cook at 878-7190, or just show up in the choir area on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM for the 9:00 AM choir or 7:30 PM for the 5:00 PM choir. If you are afraid to come alone - bring a friend. You will be very welcome. "Nothing ventured - nothing gained."

MULCH SALE
 Sponsored by the ISP: The proceeds of this sale will help raise money for continued playground maintenance and future playground equipment. Not only will your purchase of the mulch help the young people of the parish but it will also contribute to the health and vitality of your garden. There are two varieties: **Hardwood Mulch:** Made from 100% oak bark and hardwood materials with **no** yard waste. It has a medium texture with a rich dark brown color; **Cypress Mulch:** Made from 100% shredded cypress wood and bark. It has a medium texture and reddish tint. Both types come in **3 cu ft** bags. **Prices are: Hardwood** - 1 - 9 bags, \$3.50 per bag; 10 or more, \$3.25 per bag. **Cypress** - \$3.50 per bag (no minimum). Payable at time of delivery/pickup. **Pickup date: Saturday, April 7th from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, parking lot.** Home delivery available for an additional charge of \$10.00. Order forms due by **March 30th** through the school or to place an order call: Tom Brehm, 879-3317 or e-mail: tbrehm1@aol.com. Please fill out order form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Bags Hardwood _____ * _____ Price per bag (see above)

Number of Bags Cypress _____ * 3.50 Price per bag

Total Mulch \$ _____

Delivery \$ _____ Delivery - \$10

Pick up at Church - Free

Total Price \$ _____

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CLIENT NEEDS
 In addition to food and help with utilities, the MHC St. Vincent DePaul conference also helps people find furniture and appliances. If you have serviceable furniture or appliances that you no longer need, please consider donating them to SVDP, and we will see that they get to someone who needs them. The kind of furniture that we can recycle include sofas, beds, armchairs and regular chairs, dinette sets, televisions, microwave and regular ovens, washers, dryers and refrigerators. Currently we have about five clients who need a sofa and 3 who need an armchair. If you would like to donate an item, please call the St. Vincent help line and leave a message, 640-2365, or call J.C. Kelly at 878-8442.