

# Quarterly Newsletter

St. Mary's Parish, Bluffton, Ohio

March-May 2017

Volume 13, No. 2



## Congratulations to our Confirmandi!!

Saturday, February 25, at the 4:00 p.m. Mass, Msgr William Kubacki, delegate of Bishop Daniel Thomas, confirmed eighteen of our young people and received them as full members of the Catholic Church. We extend our fond congratulations to:

Brien Basinger  
Ellie Hoffman  
Levi Hohenbrink  
Trent Howard  
Cody Johnston  
Ken Lovett  
Josh Mehaffie  
Josh Meyer  
Nathan Meyer  
Grace Myers  
Alexi Rieman  
Chloe Rieman  
Nathan Schaad  
Emma Schutz  
Julia Smallcombe  
Lauren Swartzlander  
Jackson Wilson  
Paige Wolford

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

These will be the opportunities you will have to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter:



- Each Saturday and Sunday – before Mass
- Wednesday, March 22 – 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 5, 4:00–7:00 p.m. (This day is part of the diocesan effort “Leave the Lights on” when all churches throughout the diocese who are able will provide the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.)



**Congratulations** to Abby Bryer and Luke Probst who were married here on February 11. We wish them many healthy and happy years together.



Pray for our RCIA catechumens Robert Flores and Mark Willis as they spend Lent in final preparation for the Easter sacraments.

They will participate in the RCIA retreat in Findlay on Sunday, February 26, and will celebrate the Rite of Election with Bishop Thomas the following Sunday, March 5. During Lent they will celebrate the three Scrutinies, anointing with the Oil of Catechumens, and the Presentations of the Creed and the Our Father. At the Easter Vigil, April 15, 8:30 in the evening, they will be baptized and confirmed and will join us for the first time at the Eucharistic table. Please come share their joy!

## Lent begins March 1

The services for Ash Wednesday, March 1 will be:

12:00 noon – Communion service and distribution of ashes



6:30 – Stations of the Cross

7:00 – Mass and distribution of ashes

\*\*\*Remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

Each Wednesday of Lent:

6:30 - the Stations of the Cross

7:00 – Mass

\*\*\*All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence. (No meat)

All adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their sixtieth year. *Canon 1252*

\*\*\*Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence.

The schedule for Holy Week is:

Wednesday, April 12 – 6:30 Stations

7:00 Tenebrae

Holy Thursday, April 13 – 7:00 p.m. Mass followed by Adoration until 11:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 14 – 11:30 cross walk

Noon – ecumenical service

7:00 p.m. – our service

Holy Saturday, April 15 – 8:30 p.m. Vigil service

Easter Sunday, April 16 – Masses at 8:00 and 10:00

**Parish mini-retreat** Sunday, March 12, we will be offering another opportunity to strengthen faith at a parish mini-retreat. We will begin with lunch at 11 o'clock. The retreat, discussion, and prayer will follow. Our presenter is Sister Edna Michel. Her topic is "The Body of Christ." Everyone is invited.



Eucharistic ministers are expected to attend to fulfill their obligation to do some formation every other year. There will be a sign-up sheet so we plan enough food.

## Keep our second graders in prayer too!

Thirteen children are preparing for their First Holy Communion. They will be taking part in a retreat on Saturday, April 22, at St. Mary. They will practice for their big day on Wednesday evening, April 19, during their 6:30 PREP class. First Communion is on Sunday, April 30, at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon. We offer our congratulations to:



Trent Benroth  
Drew Fridgeger  
Conner Gerten  
Tayte Giesige  
KJ Hohenbrink  
Ethan Leiber  
Ben Lovett  
Greta Myers  
Kalin Osting  
Jacob Schieltz  
Will Schulte  
Addison Schweingruber  
Marissa Wannemacher

## Congratulations to



--Kevin and Emily Shappell on the baptism of their daughter Taylor Christine and  
--Matt and Jessica Brackman on the baptism of their daughter Avery Kay.  
Both were baptized on December 18.

## May Crowning

This year our May Crowning will take place on Wednesday evening, May 3, at 7:00 o'clock. Make time in your busy and hectic life to honor Mary who is our model as mother, disciple, and faith-filled woman.



Happy Mother's Day to all our moms!

Thank you for all you do for us personally and as a parish.

May the holy, reflective season of Lent bring you closer to Jesus our Savior, and may the wondrous season of Easter fill you with hope and joy!

## It's that time of year again when we honor our Graduates!

They will have a special place in our Sunday liturgy at the 10:00 o'clock Mass on May 21. A reception will follow the Mass so that all can offer them congratulations and good wishes.



## Collections

During the next few months there are a number of collections that will be happening. The parish will make the contribution for Black and Indian Missions, Home Missions, and Catholic Communications. There are envelopes in your boxes for two collections: Catholic Relief Services (March 25-26) and for keeping up the holy places in the Holy Land (Good Friday). Both of these are significant collections. CRS (Catholic Relief Services) is present around the world and does major work in relieving poverty and disaster. There will be a one-time collection this year for the maintenance of the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (May 13-14). Do what your heart tells you!

**Plan ahead!** Our annual trip to Booneville, Kentucky, will take place June 9-11. As always, we will travel to Booneville on Friday, June 9. We will work all day Saturday and then join the parish for Mass and a potluck supper. We will travel home after breakfast Sunday, June 11. There will also be a giving board to collect the food we need so that we are not a burden to our hosts.



Building communities, strengthening lives.

Our next turn to host the families of Family Promise will be Sunday evening, June 18 to Sunday morning, June 25. If you want to take a turn staying overnight or preparing a meal, talk to our coordinators, Bethany Barnhart and/or Julia Miller. Any and all help will be appreciated!