Pastor’s Corner

THE FEAST OF EASTER
(The Lord Has Set a Table for Us)

There is a great movie called “Babette’s Feast” which appeared in 1989 and is based on a story published in 1958. The setting is a remote area on the northern coast of Denmark in a province known as Jutland. Two aging sisters try to carry on an extremely strict religious sect that their father had founded years ago and which is dwindling in numbers and experiencing discord. The sisters have given up everything, including marriage, to carry on this work. They are kind but joyless. Into their lives comes a mysterious French woman named Babette who has fled her country during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. She has lost both husband and son to the conflict. The sisters hire her as a cook for no pay – just room and board. For twelve years, Babette loyally prepares the cod fish plus ale and bread soup that is the constant cuisine of the sisters. Then one day she convinces them to allow her to plan a special feast for the occasion of the upcoming hundredth birthday of their deceased papa. The sisters hope that this Feast will reunite the feuding members of their little church. But they are also afraid that it will be too worldly.

Babette goes on a trip to buy provisions for this meal. She spends every last penny she has won in the lottery on these purchases. She returns with an incredible assortment of the finest fresh foods, including live quail and numerous varieties of the best French wines. She throws herself completely into the preparation and serving of this meal which happens on a Sunday and includes twelve guests in all – both obviously symbolic facts. The sisters and the other diners are astounded at the lavishness of the Feast. A key guest is an army General and nephew of one of the sisters’ most puritanical parishioners. He has traveled widely and recognizes the main dish (which is the quail) as a recipe from a famous restaurant in Paris. It turns out that Babette was once the chef at that café.

The Feast has an effect on the diners that no one really expected. The guests begin to forgive one another for the hurt they have
caused over the years. They thoroughly enjoy the celebration, including the wine, and through the meal they glimpse a different way to live. Babette is a Christ figure who sacrifices everything to make the dinner possible. She has been plopped down into a completely unfamiliar place, just as Christ emptied himself of his divinity to become human with us. Babette is the embodiment of the Catholic insight that self-denial must include self-giving and that the world God made is good and it’s ok to enjoy it. Asceticism is not an end in itself. At the conclusion of the movie, it is clear the sisters and their friends will never be the same!

Easter is the celebration of the greatest Feast ever prepared – of the most wonderful and most sacred table ever set. God has done the work for this Feast and his Son is the one who is sacrificed. The meal we enjoy in the Mass is the un-bloody continuation of the Sacrifice of the Cross and of the Resurrection which the suffering of Christ made possible. Jesus generously gave himself for us in a selfless desire to nourish us with his holy Body and Blood. In doing the will of the Father perfectly, he has made it possible for us to feast on his Word and his Flesh for our spiritual food. The beauty of the Mass and all the sacraments we Catholics celebrate can obscure the really tough preparation that went into setting this table which is, after all, also an altar of sacrifice – similar to the altar on which the Passover lambs are slaughtered every year in the Jewish Religion and very much like the altar on which the trusting Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his precious son in the Book of Genesis.

A distinguished scholar of the Liturgy named Aidan Kavanagh, has written: “To know Christ sacramentally only in terms of bread and wine is to know him only partially, in the dining room as host and guest. It is a valid enough knowledge, but its ultimate weakness when isolated is that it is perhaps too civil ... However elegant the knowledge of the dining room may be, it begins in the soil, in the slaughterhouse; amid the quiet violence of the garden, strangled cries, and fat spitting in the pan. Table manners depend on something having been grabbed by the throat.”

Of course, it was Jesus whose throat was grabbed and whose life was sacrificed so that we can enjoy the meal of the Eucharist. But the Eucharist is a sacred sign of something more – it is a preview of the Eternal Banquet of heaven which the Father sets for all eternity for those who follow Christ and for all people of good will. We are these followers, his disciples. We too are called, in our turn, to set a table. As Fr. Kavanagh said above, we dare not be ignorant of the pain and sacrifice that has gone into setting the table of the altar in our churches. Babette knew how much hard work and self-giving goes into getting dinner together. In our time, this preparation is often done almost entirely out of sight. Someone has quipped that today, when Mom says to the kids “It’s time to eat,” they all run for the car! But the Easter Feast, the Easter Liturgy, beckons us to recall the terrible but beautiful sacrifice of Jesus and to be a part of it in our daily lives.

On the day when we celebrate the Resurrection of his Son, God’s grace draws us more intimately within his tight embrace than we can ever imagine. This unspeakable closeness comes through the sacraments,
beginning with Baptism which is one of the main focuses of the Easter Vigil Liturgy on Holy Saturday evening. Baptism visibly symbolizes our union with the Risen Lord who went down into the tomb just as we go down into the font and who was raised up just as we rise to new life in Him when we emerge from that same font. But as important as Baptism is in the life of the church as the door into the other sacraments, it is the Holy Eucharist which is indisputably at the center of Catholic life. The Eucharist unites us with Christ the Head and with the other members of his Body, living and dead, who live the Easter Mystery of his priceless death and resurrection. Thus this nurturing Feast is absolutely the central focus of every Mass.

So, yes, in memory of Christ’s sacrifice, we must set a table for our time and place – for 2018 in our world and country and community. We do this by following the example of Christ by sacrificing our wills to God. We generously give of ourselves so that others may be saved and joyfully come to the knowledge of God in the Risen Lord. The sacrifices we make for our families, for our neighbors, and especially for the poor and the forgotten and the rejected, make a Feast worthy of Christ who gave everything for us. This Easter Feast is possible only if we let our throats be grabbed – if we participate in the cross of Christ. Babette knew from experience how hard it is to set a table. But she and everyone she embraced in her loving heart knew how glorious the dinner was too. May we know the glory of the Easter Feast because we have known the sacrifice that makes it possible!

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Charlie

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 29
No morning Masses.
Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:30 p.m. (with incense)
Following Mass, we will process with the Blessed Sacrament into the Parish Activities Center for Adoration.
Night Prayer and Reposition will be at 11:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30
No morning Masses. Office of Readings & Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. Good Friday Liturgy at 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (neither with incense)

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 31
No morning Masses.
Office of Readings & Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.
Blessing of Bread at 11:30 a.m. No Confessions.
Easter Vigil Mass at 9:00 p.m. (with incense)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1
Masses will be celebrated in the Church at:
7:00 a.m. (no incense),
9:00 a.m. (with incense),
11:00 a.m. (with incense)
Mass will also be celebrated at
Westerville North High School at 11:00 a.m. (no incense)
No 12:15 or 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.
This Easter we are excited to announce that 22 people will be joining our St. Paul’s parish family! The Season of Lent and the Season of Easter are the final two periods in the RCIA process. On the First Sunday of Lent every year all the RCIA candidates attend a Diocesan Rite of Election with the Bishop who formally calls those in the process to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion) at the Easter Vigil. In a few weeks all the preparation over the last seven months will culminate at the Easter Vigil surrounded by family and friends. Another moment of passage comes when those already baptized will discover the beauty of God’s outstanding love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This celebration of God’s mercy replaces the unsteadiness of our sinful ways with pure delight in finding our true nature as God’s beloved children. Those fitted with a grey baptismal robe also experience the celebration of God’s mercy. They are reminded that baptism washes away all their sins. These elect (those to be baptized) are prayed for and with, three Sundays in a row to strengthen their resolve to be followers of Christ and to repent of their sins.

They have become friends. They are memorizing the Nicene Creed. They have prayed the Stations of the Cross. They have been faithful in attending dismissal for the purpose of being formed in mind and heart by God’s Word in Sacred Scripture. On Saturday, March 24 they will attend a retreat day on the symbols of fire and light, water and oil, and bread and wine at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. As the RCIA Director, I can feel their hope and enthusiasm of walking these last few steps toward being Catholic. It is such a blessing and joy to surround them with love and see the markings of God’s grace alive! Many think that Easter is the end of the process, but we can never consider for ourselves or them that we are done. Our Christian faith calls for more: more prayer, more selfless acts, more love, more care and especially more devotion to the community who gathers weekly for Mass. Mass is always first and last. It is where we become the Body of Christ in all seasons.
So, Why Did We Change The Easter Morning Mass Times?
By John Bryan, Music Director

Let’s face it, while beautiful, the Easter morning Mass is a longer celebration. Extending the length of the Easter Mass is the addition of Incense, the Easter Sequence, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows and subsequent Sprinkling, and finally the extended time it takes for the larger assembly to receive Communion. The reality that we are addressing is that the Easter Mass is almost 90 minutes in length! As such, it is simply impractical to celebrate Masses at 90-minute intervals. Therefore, we have established this Mass schedule:

THE EASTER VIGIL MASS:  
(Saturday at 9:00 p.m.)
As noted in the Roman Calendar, the Easter Vigil is “The Mother of All Vigils” marking the end of the Easter Triduum. The Easter Vigil is the culmination of the entire liturgical year! And if you have never experienced this celebration, I strongly encourage you to consider doing so!

THE 7:00 A.M. MASS TIME
This earlier Mass time reflects the practice of many faith traditions, including our own, to celebrate a Mass at sunrise.

THE 9:00 A.M. MASS TIME
Our Youth Choir will celebrate at this Mass.

THE 11:00 A.M. MASS TIME  
(Celebrated in our church AND at WNHS)
If you still find it difficult to get into the St. Paul parking lot, we encourage you to consider continuing down the road to Westerville North High School where you can celebrate Easter Sunday Mass with St. Paul’s Contemporary Ensemble! You may be surprised to learn that the high school can accommodate as many parishioners as our church with both bleacher and floor seating. Handicapped parking is also available at Westerville North High School.

St. Paul’s 2017-2018 Seminarians’ Apostolic Works
By Jeff Adair, Pastoral Associate

Our St. Paul community has been truly blessed this year to have with us three young men in their second year of seminary from the Pontifical College Josephinum: Darren Balkey, from the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina and Aaron Minx and Brent Smith, from the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

They joined our parish’s Helping Hands for the Homebound ministry in delivering pastoral care to the sick and homebound of our parish. Regularly every Thursday they accompany me to visit those residing in all ten Westerville care facilities as well as homebound parishioners.

Darren, Aaron and Brent have been a source of delight for all those they serve and have progressed well in their pastoral training. All three have become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion during their time with us and have begun conducting Liturgy of the Word and Communion services in various facilities. They have also assisted our priests in celebrating Masses at Parkside Village Senior Living Community.

Please pray for these young men as they work to complete their pastoral training here this May before moving into the third-year Theology curriculum to prepare for the priesthood.

Special thanks to our Helping Hands for the Homebound volunteers who have helped in their formation and training.
In recent years there has been a growing focus on the need to better prepare students for higher education and equip them with the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful innovators in a 21st Century workforce. STEM and STEAM have gained popularity among educators, parents, corporations and institutions. Over the last five years, St. Paul School has empowered our teachers with the knowledge and skills to implement problem and project based learning that crosses all STEM and STEAM disciplines. This approach encourages student engagement, problem-solving, and collaboration. Beginning in kindergarten our students are being immersed in learning activities that challenge them to learn through real-world problem solving enhancing their learning and motivation.

Engaging students in the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, STEAM cultivates an interest and lifelong love of the arts and sciences in children from an early age. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math are similar disciplines in that all involve creative processes, inquiry, and investigation. Integrating the teaching of relevant in-demand skills will better prepare our students to become innovators in our ever-changing world. This is important to the future of our students as well as the future of our world.

In May 10, 2014 Pope Francis addressed thousands of teachers, students, and families gathered in St. Peter’s Square to celebrate Church for School Day in honor of the importance of Catholic Schools. He spoke so honestly and eloquently about how family and school go hand in hand. The Pope further cited the three most important languages learned in school: the language of the mind, the language of the heart, and the language of the hands.
These are the languages the students are learning at St. Paul School. The new learning spaces that have been created through our Reaching for Tomorrow project will further enhance our ability to offer our students opportunities to be technologically literate, innovative, and independent thinkers with a faith-based foundation that exemplifies what 21st learning really should look like.

Kindergarten students in Miss Slomsky’s class celebrated the 100th day of school with STEM challenges in their learning centers. Challenges included building a party hat with 100 pattern blocks, building a multi-leveled playdough birthday cake with 100 candles and building a cup tower with 100 cups!

The Ohio Department of Natural Resource received our third graders’ videos with suggestions for increasing Ohio’s monarch butterfly populations. Ask a third grader how to start a butterfly garden at home to encourage monarch visits to your house this summer! Enjoy both the plausible and fanciful ideas for the butterflies that migrate along Central Ohio’s monarch highway!

St. Paul Harpster Science Day
Forty-three of the ninety-three projects received the top rating of Superior at last month’s annual St. Paul Harpster Science Day! Ryan Gustafson won 1st place and will receive a $250 scholarship. John Castellano won 2nd place and will receive a $200 scholarship. Lauren Keating, Jenny Sun, Ashleigh Zehala, Libby Ruff, Anna Granata and Matthew Scheiwer all will receive $150 scholarships. Scholarships of $100 were won by Erin Johnson, Seamus Bonte, Norah Gustafson, Rocco Giannotti, Noah Kistler, Vanna Giang and Brooklynn Hosey. These students will have the opportunity to attend the District Science Fair held at Columbus State Community College on Saturday, March 17. The scholarships are made possible by the very generous donation of Dr. Joseph and Mrs. Marilyn Harpster.

Iris D’Costa, Luca Ricci, Jacqueline Wiggins, Phoebe Kraus, Mia Gehrich, Gabriella D’Amico, Max Lee, Kat Gunther, Jennifer Mitrevski, Chase Jackson, Narit Mongkollugsana, and Maddox Rickens were awarded $15 Gift Cards to Barnes and Noble Bookstore which were generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bozymski.

Simone Gorman, Olivia Hovorka, Nick Hartman, Sophia Hipolite, Ashley Allton, Andrew Shoemaker, Abby Ohan, Alex Shaffer, Anna Schneider, Anna Roller, Bes Seeley, Tommy Donnelly, Colin Cavinder, Natalie Schwartz, Cecilia Coglianese and Stephen Stalnaker were awarded $15 Gift Cards to Barnes and Noble Bookstore which were generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bozymski.

The St. Paul School STEM Advisory Board recently visited the STEAM Innovation Center located at The Point at Otterbein, a cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math facility that combines academics with community business and manufacturing. Erin Bender, executive director of The Point, conducted a tour of the building highlighting the many opportunities for education to connect with business/industry in this creative, collaborative environment. Our STEM Advisory Board met after the tour to discuss the next steps for developing a collaborative partnership with The Point. St. Paul School staff and administration are scheduled to visit The Point this month and will tour the building and engage in hands-on STEM activities. We are excited about the possibility of expanding our STEM program to include a working relationship with The Point.

Please reach out to us if you would like to learn more about our STEM/STEAM initiatives and our Reaching for Tomorrow project. Catholic Schools are dependent on the support of our school and parish stakeholders. We are a family and as the old African proverb goes, “it takes a village to raise a child.” It takes an even larger village to keep our Catholic Schools a vibrant beacon of our faith, learning, and discipleship!
Shipwrecked! Rescued by God!

Vacation Bible School: June 25-29 from 9:00 – noon

Arrr Mates! Have you heard?

Shipwrecked!....

is a totally Catholic-based summer camp that promises to be a dynamic experience for children and families of all ages! Venture onto an uncharted island where we will discover the truth that Jesus carries us through life's storms!

While “shipwrecked on the island”, we will be transported to biblical times in Bible Adventures, use science and engineering to demonstrate God’s awesome abilities in Imagination Station, serve many of our parish’s own ministries in our Message in a Bottle Service Station and end the day in a moving, concert-like atmosphere where we tie it all together with skits and music!

Plan now to join us on June 25-29! Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and will close on June 15 or when the program is full. Preference will be given to children of volunteers! The cost for registration is $40 per student for those currently in Preschool through Grade 4th. The cost of registration for students presently in 5th and 6th Grades is $20. There is a $100 per family cap and tuition assistance is available. Payment must be received at the time of registration. Registration and payment is being handled exclusively online on our parish website through WeShare. To learn more and to register, please refer to the Upcoming Events link at www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org.

Arr! Volunteers! We Need You!

Volunteers are vital to a successful and exciting week of VBS. Students currently in Grades 7 – 12 can volunteer as Crew Leaders, Station Guides and in many other fun and exciting ways. Adults are needed to serve as Room Leaders, help with registration, lead the children in worship, and help decorate! Volunteers are needed during the week of VBS and behind the scenes in the months before. (All adult volunteers 18 and over are required to attend the “Protecting God’s Children” class and be fingerprinted. Placement cannot be made until both requirements are met.) Information about VBS volunteer opportunities can also be found on the parish website. Questions? Please contact Leia Bame, Coordinator of Children’s Ministries, at 614-882-5045 or lbame@stpacc.org.
**Youth Ministry**

For the youth of our parish in Grades 6-12
Brad Romantic, Youth Minister
614-882-2537 or bromantic@stpacc.org

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**Bosco Bash: a Huge Success!**

St. Paul’s hosted 400+ Middle School youths for the Annual Diocesan Bosco Bash. We had 42 students from our parish attend. We really enjoyed an awesome time glorifying our Lord God and meeting many new people from all around Columbus. It was an amazing event, and we could not have done it without the help of many volunteers! Thanks!

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**Ice Skating at Dublin Chiller**

In January our High School Youth Group traveled to the Dublin Chiller for a fun evening of ice skating and broomball with many other parishes within the Diocese. We had a blast and can’t wait to go again next year!

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**Youth Ministry Nights**

We meet regularly with both our Middle School and High School Programs. Usually we eat a really good meal, break open the scriptures, and sometimes even delve into service! Come on out and join us! High School meets every Wednesday and Middle School youth meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month! Contact Brad at either 614-882-2537 or bromantic@stpacc.org if you have any questions!

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Volunteers are always welcome! If you are interested in volunteering with either our High School or Middle School Youth Ministry programs, please contact St. Paul’s Youth Minister Brad Romantic at 614-882-25637 or at bromantic@stpacc.org!
Seek and You Pursuit Shall Find

A High School Youth Retreat

Hocking Hills
$75 and Registration
Form due by March 23

April 13th 6:00 pm -
April 15th 11:30 am

Want to Register? Contact Brad
Romantic at 614-882-2537 or at
bromatic@stpacc.org
The Marian Gift Shop
By Sharon Wong, Marian Gift Shop Manager

Located just off the church vestibule, our Marian Gift Shop offers an array of beautiful religious articles, CDs, and books for all occasions (Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, weddings, etc.). But did you know that the Marian Gift Shop has movies available to rent for only $1.00? There are more than a dozen great movies for children, including many from the Br. Francis series, and 50 others that are ideal for an older audience or a family movie night.

A popular movie is The Case for Christ. Working to disprove the growing Christian faith of his wife, an investigative journalist chases down the biggest story of all time...with unexpected life-altering results! The movie stars Mike Vogel, Erika Christensen, Academy Award Winner Faye Dunaway and Academy Award Nominee Robert Forster. The movie is based on the true-life story of Lee Strobel's journey from atheism to faith through his two-year investigation of the Bible.

Another favorite is Hacksaw Ridge which tells the extraordinary true story of Desmond Doss who in Okinawa, during the bloodiest battle of WWII, saved 75 men without even firing or carrying a gun. He was the only American soldier in WWII to fight on the front lines without a weapon, as he believed that while the war was justified, killing was nevertheless wrong. As an army medic, he single-handedly evacuated the wounded from behind enemy lines, braved fire while tending to soldiers, was wounded by a grenade, and hit by snipers – and was the first conscientious objector to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Everyone is sure to enjoy the movie Mother Teresa. The movie examines Mother Teresa's life from her childhood to her first callings as a nun, the decision to leave her order and live with the poorest of the poor, the vicissitudes of founding the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity, and her great work of service in Calcutta and the rest of the world.

Stop in to find other great titles and perhaps plan a family movie night! The Marian Gift Shop is open from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Sundays; from 9:15 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Fridays; 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 2:00-6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Should you have any questions or need suggestions for gifts, please contact Sharon at 614-882-5257 or mariangiftshop@stpacc.org.
Recently we asked all of our PSR families to participate in a survey to gather feedback on their preference of class hours and days of the week. Thank you to all those who participated!

Since our Monday classes often must be rescheduled due to national holidays, it is somewhat challenging to maintain consistency in the curriculum. We therefore are eliminating our Monday evening classes to better provide a regular schedule for our students.

Beginning next year, we will be holding classes for those in Grades 1-8 on Tuesday evenings from 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. By doing so we can offer the same number of PSR classes each year and be better able to work around our students’ school breaks as well. Furthermore, since our High School Youth Ministry also meets on Wednesday evenings, our Youth Minister and high school students will now periodically be available to work with our students. What a wonderful opportunity for our youth to work together while growing in their Catholic faith.

We do understand that this may mean an adjustment for some, but it is our sincere hope that our Tuesday and Wednesday class schedule will be a much easier option for most.

Registration materials for next year will be available online in mid-April and also will be sent home with students. Volunteer forms will be in the packets as well. The programs would not exist without our dedicated volunteers! We appreciate your help so very much! Thank you!

The Knights of Columbus will again orchestrate an Easter Egg Hunt for all children in our parish community! Please plan now to bring your family and join others at 10:00 a.m. in the Moss Road field directly across from the school on Holy Saturday, March 31.
Reaching for Tomorrow – Memorial Opportunities

With nearly three months left to complete the construction and $500,000 left to raise in the campaign, we ask you to please consider either (1) making a pledge if you have not done so or (2) extending your current pledge for the next 12 months. With your generous support we will complete and furnish the school building expansion as it was envisioned.

Some memorial opportunities have arisen out of our dutiful planning and include the repurposing of the stained glass from the old church (several are featured below.) These are available on a first-come, first-served basis and more than one family can go together to underwrite the cost of a window.

Additionally, a grotto to our Blessed Mother is planned and will be located within the newly expanded Miller Hall breezeway. Also noteworthy are the plans to recognize all donors who have made gifts of $6,000 or more to the campaign on a Donor Recognition Wall that will be in the main entry of the school. An artist’s concept of both the Marian Grotto and Donor Recognition Wall are pictured in this article. Families can join together to underwrite the memorial opportunities as well.

Please earnestly pray and consider the suggested giving chart and a new pledge or extending your existing commitment. Payments can be paid or extended over a 1, 2 or 3-year period. If you have any questions about our Reaching for Tomorrow Campaign, please contact me at dforsythe@stpaulk-8.org or 614-882-2109.

We thank all who have pledged and invite many others to join. With a renewed spirit of faith and academic excellence, we can make our Reaching for Tomorrow Campaign a success.

God bless and thank you!

Dana F. Forsythe
Dana F. Forsythe, CFRE
Development Director, St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Please see the tables for the memorial opportunities:

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<td>Tree of Life (A) and (B)</td>
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OVER THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRY (SIDE)

OVER THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRY

OVER THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRY (SIDE)
This Easter
Give your gifts online.

It's safe. It's simple. It's convenient.

Donate today using your debit, credit card, checking, or savings account.

1. Visit stpaulcatholicchurch.org and click DONATE
2. Select your donation amount and frequency.
3. Enter your account and payment information.

Contact our Customer Support Team at (800) 950-9952, select Option 1
AVAILABLE M-F; 7AM-7PM CT
The other day I saw a bumper sticker that read something like: *We were all immigrants at one time.* How true this is! My heritage can be traced back to Poland and Ireland. The Poles were known to be rowdy, ignorant, and beer drinkers. The Irish were known to be rowdy, ignorant, and whiskey drinkers. It seems that these traits were also attributed to those of German, Italian, Jewish, or other “non-American” heritage at one time. Only the choice of alcohol seems to be the variable in this list of negatives. Sadly, this is how one biased group controls another who may appear to be a threat, real or imagined. This bias continues today as refugees are being identified as a threat and they find it necessary to flee their homeland for safety.

In Matthew 26 we hear about the final judgement. In His description, Christ tells us that those who make a stranger welcome will be welcomed into His kingdom. It is this concept which is the driving purpose behind St. Paul’s Refugee Ministry.

Originally, we titled this ministry the Immigration and Refugee Ministry. After much thought, this title appeared to be masking the true beneficiaries. Our goal is to assist the refugee segment by partnering with the organization known as Community Refugee and Immigration Services, or CRIS for short. CRIS provides support to refugees who are entering the Columbus area. Their support begins with welcoming the refugees at the airport and transporting the individual or family to their new home. There is a 90-day commitment by CRIS to provide additional services which aids in the resettlement. These additional services include providing basic housewares, also known as "Welcome Kits" for their new home, teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), enrolling the children into the school system, and obtaining employment for at least one member of the family. Additionally, there is assistance in learning the transportation systems in the area, contacting local physicians, and many other basic needs which most of us take for granted.

St. Paul’s Refugee Ministry has partnered with C.R.I.S in providing Welcome Kits for a few months. To date, through the generosity of our parish, we have given CRIS two complete kits. *We wish to thank those who generously contributed in this effort!* The demand continues, but due to the uncertainty of the refugee allowance situation, the need is one of feast or famine. It is the goal of our ministry to have at least two complete kits on hand so that we can provide them when necessary. This means that our collections will be driven by the current conditions.

Additionally, we have learned through CRIS of a program known as the Global Academy. The Academy is in the former Brookhaven High School building across from St Francis de Sales. This is a school that assists the children with the culture while helping them maintain their studies. Many of the classes are taught in the native language of the students with English as a Second Language include in the curriculum. Once the student has proven to be proficient in language, the school transfers the child into the respective public school. The goal is to keep the student from losing a level of study due to a language barrier.

Our involvement with the Academy involves a program called “The Success Store.” Many of the students arrive in the U.S. only with the clothes they packed for the journey. They have no personal items except for those provided in the Welcome Kits. This last winter, many of the students needed winter coats, boots, and heavy clothing. There is always the need for personal hygiene items, school supplies, and backpacks. Clothing donations have been arriving on a regular basis, but the
school supplies and personal hygiene items are in high demand. In response, the St. Paul Refugee Ministry will be collecting needed school supplies and personal items again on an as need basis.

By now you are wondering how we will be controlling these collections and insuring that we are not being inundated with too much of one item and not enough of another. This concerned us as well and was foremost in our consideration. We turned to our friends who are handling the Holy Rosary/St. John Christmas collection. The Jesse Tree concept provided us the answer.

We will be generating tags with the needed Items marked on each tag. These tags will be made available soon on the bulletin board outside the parlors on the Church’s main floor. Just like the Jesse Tree tags, you can select your level of giving, purchase the item(s) you selected and return the tag with the item purchased to the Parish Office. The items will then be distributed either to the Success Store at the Global Academy, or placed in a Welcome Kit and taken to CRIS.

The St. Paul Refugee Ministry has the advantage of not having any meetings. The level of one’s participation is self-directed. It’s a great introduction into a ministry without making extended commitments of time. You can be a part of this ministry when and how the Spirit directs you. The ministry in turn will grow as the participation demands drive it. There is always more that we can do, but as the fable of the tortoise and the hare goes, slow and steady wins the race.

The people of St Paul the Apostle have the generous hearts that make this ministry a joy to be a part of. For your generosity, we THANK YOU, and hope that God continues to bless you. We ask you to join us in providing a little bit of justice to the refugees who we are serving.

Journey to the Cross

Hundreds of Catholics will participate in the Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross downtown Columbus on March 30. Stations will begin with prayer led by the Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, at 8:00 a.m. at the St. Joseph Cathedral, (212 East Broad Street), and conclude at the Cathedral shortly after 11:00 a.m. Following a three-mile route, participants will walk throughout downtown Columbus to 14 specific locations at which they will pray and reflect on Jesus’ suffering as he carried his cross to his crucifixion, linking the stations with various issues of social concern.

Everyone is invited to join us!
As part of its 100th Anniversary Celebration, the Columbus Ohio Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents:

Raúl Prieto Ramirez in concert, Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Roman Catholic Church
313 N. State Street, Westerville, OH 43082

Internationally known on the pipe organ concert scene, his abilities have been described with words such as “sizzling,” “iconoclastic,” “impeccable,” and “transcendent.” In addition to his concert appearances, Mr. Ramirez is now the San Diego Civic Organist and Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society.

The program will be played on the church’s 54 rank Muller pipe organ dedicated in 2014. The concert is free and open to the public.
Come, Celebrate Easter at St. Paul’s

SATURDAY, MARCH 31
Easter Vigil Mass
9:00 p.m.
(with incense)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1
Masses will be celebrated in the Church at:
7:00 a.m. (no incense)
9:00 a.m. (with incense)
11:00 a.m. (with incense)

We will also celebrate Mass at Westerville North High School at
11:00 a.m. (no incense)

No 12:15 or 5:00 p.m. Mass.