

## **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Spread the Word! ... and Share Your Gifts!**

Today we begin our adjusted Mass schedule for Our Lady of Lourdes! As you know by now, we have permanently adjusted the Saturday 6:30 pm Mass to 5:30 pm; and we have added (for Sept-May) an additional Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. [Please check our website for a detailed explanation & reasons for these adjustments, if you missed it in the bulletin earlier this summer.] One of the reasons we have made these adjustments is to ease the effects of the changes that our 2013 clustering brought about, and to make it easier for Ada-area Catholics to come to Mass. **We want especially to invite back those who had gone to other parishes** (at further distances) because of the lack of an early Sunday option (or such a late Saturday Mass). So, **please spread the word** to those parishioners who have not been here for a while and let them know of the adjusted options that we have adopted to respond to their pastoral needs.

Restoring an earlier Mass option for Ada will require additional commitment from all of us: the clergy will have more Masses to cover in response to the pastoral requests of the people. **But this also means we need more folks to share their gifts at Mass by becoming involved in the various liturgical volunteer roles:** as lectors, altar servers (youth and adult), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, musicians, ushers, etc. These roles help all of us to go deeper in our spiritual, prayerful, interior participation in the Holy Sacrifice and Banquet. **These Mass time adjustments are a chance for you to consider the Lord prompting you to share your talents and gifts for the benefit of Jesus and your fellow disciples in one or more of these various roles. Don't be afraid to get involved!** Training is available for any of these liturgical roles. The Mass is not a "theatrical performance" in which we worry about making some mistake in front of others; rather, it is a communal encounter with Jesus who is grateful for our willingness to offer our efforts in a spirit of love. Just give Deb Driscoll a call or e-mail her at the parish office. **ONU students: you are welcome to get involved, too!**

### **DON'T FORGET: The RCIA: Let's Invite Folks to Come!**

In a few weeks, our Hardin County parishes will once again offer the "RCIA" program. "RCIA" stands for "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults." It is a process for non-Catholics who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith to do so in a friendly, prayerful, environment. The "RCIA" seeks to invite inquirers into a deeper relationship with Jesus as disciples in the context of the community of believers that goes back to the Apostles, known as the Catholic Church. The RCIA incorporates several important elements of being disciples: coming to know Jesus more personally through prayer and the sacraments, learning more about His teachings on God and a life of virtue and holiness, and learning how to give worship to God in the Holy Mass. The RCIA strives to meet people "where they are", and we recognize that different inquirers come with different faith backgrounds and life experiences. Logistically, the RCIA will meet at each parish on Sunday evenings beginning in September and will continue until Easter. Typically, at the Easter Vigil Mass, an inquirer then receives Baptism (if not already baptized in another Christian community), Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. But a longer process of discernment and preparation can be arranged if needed. Again, the RCIA strives to help people enter the flock of the Catholic Church in a way that best suits their needs, as they come closer to the Good Shepherd.

I am making our parish aware of the RCIA because we need your help with an important task: **please encourage those you know who have expressed curiosity about the Catholic faith to take part in the RCIA.** Let them know that it is a wonderful opportunity to come, to learn, to ask questions, to pray, and to meet others who are undergoing a similar journey of faith. If they wish to talk to me or to our parish RCIA directors privately ahead of time regarding any questions or concerns, they are welcome to do so. But as parishes called to evangelize and to spread the faith here in Hardin County, we are counting on all parishioners to encourage someone you know who is seeking a deeper faith experience with Jesus, to check out the RCIA. For more information or questions, any person is welcome to contact me or our RCIA directors (Desiree Tosatto at Ada, and Stacey Stacklin at Kenton) by calling the respective parish office. **ALSO TAKE AND PASS OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS THE RCIA 'INVITE CARDS' AT THE ENDS OF THE PEWS!**  
**Thanks for your support of the New Evangelization!**

## THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by “Jackie”, the Pastor’s Cat



**Note from Fr. Ferguson:** Hi boys and girls! As you know, my cat, “Jackie”, would normally say something to you here in the bulletin. However, I’m afraid she is not able to today. She seems to have overdone it at the County Fair this past week, and she is conked out and fast asleep, sprawled out on the floor. Her kitty friends brought her home late last night and said that Jackie had 5 tuna milkshakes and 4 deep-fried rabbit burgers before taking 3 trips on the twirling space-ship ride. And then she chased the kiddy-train at full speed all around the fairgrounds for an hour before she went to the chicken judging barn to chase the chickens around during the show. I guess the judges didn’t like that. After they booted her out, I heard she ate 6 fried fish sandwiches before taking a few spins on the rotating fire engine ride. That’s when her friends said she started not feeling so well, and suddenly (as cats often do) laid down and fell right asleep. She hasn’t woken up since.

When she does (hopefully by next weekend), I will have to explain to Jackie that she has to learn not to overdo it when she wants to have fun. Otherwise, we can be a pest to others, get ill, and miss out on other fun stuff in life. I guess this will be tough lesson for Jackie to learn as she grows up. Cats can be stubborn! Did you have fun at the fair? Did you overdo it? What was your favorite part? What cool things did you learn? As Jackie would say, “Have a “purr”-fect week!”

### Parish School of Religion (PSR)

#### ❖ Classes begin Sunday, September 15

- ❖ Classes are 9:45 am until 10:45 am. Children and teachers in attendance for the new 8:30 Mass will be dismissed from Mass to go to class. Those not in attendance for that early Mass need to have children here by 9:35 or 9:40 so classes can begin promptly at 9:45.
- ❖ Grades are divided as follows: Kindergarten and Grade 1 students; Grade 2 (First Reconciliation and First Communion) students; Grades 3 and 4 students; Grades 5 & 6 students; Grade 7 (Confirmation preparation) students. *These grades all meet in the classrooms upstairs above the parish hall.* Grades 8-12 students are combined and gather in the parish hall.
- ❖ Registration forms may be returned in the basket on the table in the vestibule, by mail to the parish office at 222 E. Highland Ave, or in the offertory collection. **WE MUST HAVE CURRENT REGISTRATION FORMS FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, NEW OR RETURNING!**
- ❖ We are continuing with our current practice of having the last Sunday of each month (and a few extra Sundays around Christmas and Easter) “off” and encourage you to enjoy these Sundays as “Family Sundays”
- ❖ Our catechists are all volunteers and we very much appreciate their dedication to helping you, the parents, in the religious education of your children. It is of eternal consequence! Thank you to Shelleigh Alexander and Rachel Klear, leaders of OLLY – Our Lady of Lourdes Youth, Grades 8-12; to Adam and Kristen Ferguson who prepare our Seventh Graders for Confirmation; Mike Milks of Grades 5 & 6, Deb Driscoll Grades 3 & 4, Cara Tobe and Felicite Yuhasz with Kindergarten and First Grade, and to Bob Yuhasz who prepares our Second Graders for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. And thank you to Fr. Ferguson for your guidance and for your care of our precious children and young people!
- ❖ Pray for Us!
- ❖ We do not charge any fees for PSR; we have taken on that responsibility as a parish: Remember the PSR in your quarterly Parish Religious Education Fund (PREF) envelopes!