

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: There's Lots of Prayer Goin' On Around Here!

If you feel a spike in spiritual energy in the air later this week, it could be due to two special groups of people who are going further in their walk with the Lord. Our RCIA elect and our Confirmation candidates, from both our parishes, are doing special retreats this coming week. Next Sunday afternoon, our RCIA elect will be taking part in a retreat at Our Lady of Lourdes, where they will be engaging in prayer and meditation to get ready for their entry into the Catholic faith a week later at the Easter Vigil. Each parish RCIA group, which has been meeting separately on Sunday evenings for the past several months, will be able to spend time with each other for mutual support, and for their deepening encounter with the Lord. It will be a good chance for them to get to know each other better as disciples as, together, they anticipate their experience of the graces of the initiation Sacraments of the Church.

Also next weekend, a younger group of disciples, our Confirmation teens, will be going to the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus near Mt. Vernon in order to join with dozens of other teens from around the Diocese to have a powerful encounter with the Lord as they prepare to receive His graces at Confirmation (on May 22) - to be strong in the pursuit of holiness, and to be convicted in the desire to evangelize: the two principal graces of this Sacrament. It will be great for them to meet other teens on fire for the Lord, and to come back with a deepened experience of the love of Jesus in their lives as they soon face the difficult challenges of high school and adult life.

Please hold these two groups of our fellow disciples in prayer; in charity, may we do works of penance, fasting, and devotions on their behalf for their spiritual protection at these critical points in their spiritual walk. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for them!

Fr. Ferguson is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have; please contact him at hamilton.college@outlook.com or at 419-634-2626.

DID YOU KNOW? A Note From Your Parish Finance Council

[As indicated earlier, we will periodically be placing "blurbs" in the bulletin to make everyone aware of our practical, parish stewardship needs:]

The last fiscal year at Our Lady of Lourdes, we spent \$9,371 for the "diocesan assessment". This is the 6% "tax" that the Diocese charges each parish on most parish income. This is one of the main sources of income for the Diocese to cover the costs of its central offices, social programs, and catechetical support. The 6% rate of our Diocese is one of the lowest assessment rates of any diocese in the nation, many of which charge their parishes as much as 10% or more. This is an expense that we cannot avoid here locally, and it is covered by the Weekly Offertory. However, we are still running short in covering our parish expenses. We thank those who have already been giving sacrificially. But if you have not been giving as much as you could to share in supporting our parish family, please consider an increase in your Weekly Offertory, which provides the vast majority of our needed parish income. Thanks for your generosity and support of our parish family!

THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by "Jackie", the Pastor's Cat



Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie", and, as you know, I am Father Ferguson's cat! Now that we are in April, and we have had some nice days outside, I am coming down with a bad case of "spring fever"! Have you ever had "spring fever"? That's when, in the springtime, the nice weather and the sunny days make you feel like you have lots and lots of new energy that you can't control! It's pretty tough on us cats: already, several times a day, I suddenly jump up and chase through the house at random, knocking things over, running up and down the stairs, jump in and out of Father's lap several times, and finally pounce and attack the birds outside the window. Spring fever can hurt. Kids, if you ever pounce and attack birds outside your window, make sure the window is actually open! Ouch! (don't tell anyone, but I never thought birds could laugh!....darned window.....) What crazy things does springtime make YOU do? Why not thank God for spring, and ask Him to help you to stay in control of yourself as you enjoy the warmer weather? Have a "purr"-fect week!

PSR News and Notes...

On April 7th at noon, our PSR students in Grades 3 and 4 will be presenting the play they have been working on for the past few weeks. In the play, called "Mary's Heart: Stories of Mary in the Bible," the children will act out scenes from the Bible stories that include Mary – from the Annunciation to when Jesus is on the Cross and says, "Behold, your Mother."

The Confirmation Retreat is April 12 – 14 at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus. Check out their website for more information – they are doing GREAT things with and for our Catholic youth!

PSR Classes: April 7;
May 5, 12, and 19

Rehearsal for First Communion:
Sunday, May 12 at 9:45 am.
First Communion:
Saturday, May 18 at 11:00 am

Rehearsal for Confirmation:
Sunday, May 19 at 12:15 pm
Confirmation:
Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00 pm
at Our Lady of Lourdes*
**We alternate the location of the celebration of Confirmation between OLL and ICC each year: AT OLL in the odd numbered years and AT ICC in the even numbered years.*

Vacation Bible School

Planning meeting for anyone interested in helping out with this summer's VBS! **Sunday, May 5 at 12:00 pm.** We are looking at the last week of July into first of August... We have most areas chaired and need adults to volunteer to help. Closer to the date, we will be recruiting grade school student helpers.

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Palm Sunday Masses:

April 13 Vigil Mass – no incense

April 14 Mass includes incense

Palm Sunday Masses include a small procession and processional gospel at the start of the Mass and a reading of the Passion at the gospel. It is a longer Mass and you may wish to plan accordingly for your young children. We do not currently have any preschool or child care during the weekend Masses.

We alternate the location of the celebration of the Triduum between OLL and ICC each year: AT OLL in the odd numbered years and AT ICC in the even numbered years.

It is to be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes this year:

Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 pm – incense

Good Friday Liturgy at 7:00 pm – no incense

Easter Vigil Liturgy at 8:30 pm – incense

Easter Sunday Masses – with Incense

at ICC at 9:00 am

at OLL at 11:00 am



Includes a book signing by recipe contributors AND some refreshments made from included recipes! Thanks to Lisa Ferguson, Donna Lamb, and Gretchen Horning for all your work getting it put together! We will also be celebrating our Newman Club/ONU students during the reception after Mass on the 28th

Our Parishes (OLL and ICC) have been blessed with funding from our endowment stewarded by The Catholic Foundation (the Monsignor John Wolf Endowment Fund). Each of our parishes has received \$1337.56 to fund our local charities. By God's varied grace we honor the donors whose charitable love for our faith and for others is fulfilling the mission of our ministry through the Catholic Foundation. For more information on ways to help build endowments, visit www.catholic-foundation.org