



St. Brigid
Parish

"Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation."

Connections

Partners with St. Augustine, Jamestown in Pastoral Region Six of the Springfield Deanery

Volume 2, Issue 2

The Season of Lent 2010

Inside this issue:

Adult faith formation	2
St. Augustine news	2
School enrollment	3
Homebound Ministry	3
Parish Business news	4
St. Brigid School news	5
Youth Ministry	5

LENT: SACRIFICE AND ANTICIPATION

Lent is upon us! *Sacrifice and Anticipation*: two rather odd partners, it would seem. And yet, it is through the *sacrifices*, fasting, and actions of this special season that we open ourselves more to the Lord, and it is with *anticipation* of drawing closer to the Lord and His people that we begin this special season of preparation for Easter.

So, what have you decided to *sacrifice* and *do* this Lent? And, what do you *anticipate* and *look for* this Lent in relation to the Lord? Indeed, what is it that you most need to *let go of* that may well have been holding you back from drawing closer to the Lord and others, from answering your call, etc., etc. - whether it be a favorite food or beverage item, a particular attitude/sin, etc. that you tend to hold onto, etc., etc. And what is it that you most need to *put into action* more which may well help to draw you closer to the Lord and His body - whether it be becoming more forgiving, breaking down barriers between you and others, becoming more involved, etc., etc.? *From what* and *to what* is the Spirit calling you this Lent?

The seasons of the Church continue to provide opportunities for continued growth and deeper connection with the Lord and His people. Lent calls us to stretch ourselves, with the grace of the Spirit, into a deeper relationship with the Lord and his people, and to a greater sharing in the mission and life of the Lord. May the Lord continue to lead us to new life! May this season of *Sacrifice and Anticipation* change our hearts and lives!

Fr. John

Thoughts on the Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a time for us to seek the Lord through awareness. It is a time to give of ourselves in appreciation for all that God has given us. Look for quiet times you can plan in your daily life; for example, times while you are waiting, driving, or giving up something you regularly do. Seek times to give up your attachment to the present moment for the chance to encounter the Lord.

We are at different stages in our faith journey, yet we all can grow by consciously giving something up and replacing the time, money or habit with quiet time with the Lord. Be open to what the Lord is calling you to address this Lent. May the joy of Easter have a deep meaning in your faith life from encountering the Lord this Lenten season.

Deacon Roger Duffy

Education Commission defines goals

The education commission is a volunteer board that provides oversight to parish activities for the school, the Parish School of Religion (PSR), Youth Ministry (YM) programs and Adult Faith Formation. The committee gives Fr. John and the Parish Council input on programs that provide Catholic educational experiences to parishioners of all ages. Joy and Mark Hobson chair the committee. The education commission faces the challenge of determining parish needs and responding to them. Determining needs requires study, dialogue with committee members and ministry leaders, and prayer.

This year, the commission has been reading the book [Dreams and Visions, Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation](#), by Bill Huebsch. The book proposes ideas parishes can choose to provide programs and ministries to achieve parish goals. The education commission is working to publish education goals and objectives that directly support overarching parish goals. The education commission will publish the goals once approved by the parish council.

Our parish has a rich spiritual heritage and serves the changing demographics for our parishioners. Pray that the work of our ministries reaches the needs of all who may know Christ in a deeper way through education programs at St. Brigid and St. Augustine

Parishioners generously support Haiti

Over \$9,100 was collected in three weeks for the Haitian Relief effort. Children and parents alike responded generously. Thank you for your support! Did you know that contributions made by February 28, 2010 can be deducted on your 2009 income tax return?

Lent: What is it? Why is it? Dennis Kall

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our Baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

Put simply, Lent is a time to examine ourselves carefully. Here are some questions upon which you might pray and meditate on during Lent.

1. Am I sharing gladly what I have with others, especially the stranger and the poor?
2. Do I have a gracious and patient attitude

with others, especially those who irritate me?

3. Do I feel the power of connection to God and His church?
4. Am I thoughtful and forgiving of family as I am of others, or do I take my frustrations out on them?

May God continue to bless all of you this Easter season.

RCIA Rites

Sending forth: AM Mass	2/21	10:00
1 st Scrutiny: PM Mass	3/6	4:30
2 nd Scrutiny: AM Mass	3/14	10:00
3 rd Scrutiny: AM Mass	3/21	11:30

Pray for our Catechumens and Candidates as they prepare to enter the Catholic Church.

St. Augustine Lenten Traditions Carol Smith

During the season of Lent at St. Augustine, a desert scene is placed in front of the altar. For the past several years Stations of the Cross has been held on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. A meatless supper is held every other Friday beginning at 5:30 p.m. Parish Council, the CCD students and teachers, and CLC each take a Friday and prepare and serve the meal. Those

attending enjoy food and fellowship in the church hall before adjourning to the church for Stations. A freewill offering is taken during the meal and is given to the Jamestown Food Pantry. The meatless suppers this year will be February 26, March 12, and March 26. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Palm Sunday Mass (weather permitting) begins in the church hall. After the blessing of the palms and a Gospel reading, everyone forms a processional to the church singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor."

On Easter Sunday the church is adorned with beautiful spring flowers, thanks to the donations of parishioners. Once the

flowers have finished blooming, the bulbs are planted outside the church and the tulips, daffodils, and lilies are enjoyed again the next year - that is if Jamestown's infamous black squirrels don't dig them up!

St Augustine Factoid:

The parish serves parishioners in 10 Ohio zip codes and one out of state.

Adult Faith Formation - Charles Carroll

The Adult Faith Formation Committee has planned a special Lenten observance of the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Brigid Church. Mark your calendar now for an evening of very powerful music and congregational prayer that will bring home the meaning and emotion of the Way of the Cross - the journey that Jesus took on his way to Calvary. The Jubilee Singers of Dayton will be here at St. Brigid Church to lead us in the traditional Stations of the Cross.

For over ten years, the Jubilee Singers have traveled around the Miami Valley offering programs to enliven the faith of the

people of God through music, ritual, liturgy, and prayer - always with involvement of the assembly. The March 5, 2010, presentation will be Jubilee's first visit to St. Brigid. Our Parish Adult Faith Formation Committee and the Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Knights of Columbus Council No. 1801 are co-sponsoring and co-funding the Jubilee Singers here at the parish.

Although we would prefer to have you join us at St. Brigid Church for this para-liturgical service, the very same "Way of the Cross" by the Jubilee Singers will also be offered at St. Charles Borromeo Church in

Kettering on February 26, at Sacred Heart Church in New Carlisle on March 12, at St. Helen Church in Riverside on March 21, and at St. Luke Church in Beavercreek on March 26. Come, walk with Jesus for just one hour!

Look for the Little Black Books for Lent and the Little White Books for the Easter Season. Multiple copies will be available for distribution in the Church lobbies shortly before the beginning of these liturgical seasons. These small booklets provide six-minute reflections on specific books of Holy Scripture. Please take just one copy per family.

The very last "God, Wine and Cheese" program of the 2009-2010 season will

occur on April 22, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the school lunchroom when Sr. Mary Louise Foley, FMI, will speak on "Mary in Scripture; Mary in Prayer." Sr. Foley belongs to the religious order of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. At present Sr. Mary Louise is the chaplain for the University of Dayton School of Law and resides in a convent near the UD campus. She will offer some unique insights into our Blessed Mother.

Let us be strong in faith, and alive in the Spirit!

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness....Psalm 51

Homebound Parishioners' reflections on Lent Sr. Cory Canon

In visiting our St. Brigid homebound parishioners, I often am inspired by their lives and deep spirituality. Recently, I asked a few of these friends to say in a few words what Lent means to them. Here are some responses which I trust will inspire you.

"Lent causes us to re-view our relationship with God, consider those areas of our lives that require change, and prepare ourselves for the glory that is Easter."

Mary Hydeman

"Lent is a time of fasting, abstaining, concentrating

on the Lord, not griping about Lent, going to confession, and rejoicing on Easter Sunday with the Lord for the forgiveness of sin." **Irene Page**

"Lent is a time of reflection. We watch one Lenten movie each week like "The Passion." I can't stand what my sins did to Jesus. It tears me up, and I want to do something for Lent...(husband in background, "Yes, be nicer!") **Nancy Watkins**

"Lent is going from the baby Jesus to the man

Jesus. I like to meditate on Jesus' actions and words, on His miracles of healing, and on the wisdom of the parables and beatitudes. I believe that we must love one another as He has loved us." **Phyllis Stropkaj**

"An important part of Lent is attending an evening Mass at least once a week. I also try to be more patient."

Wilma Ernstes

"Lent is different from 50 years ago. I miss singing in the choir, Stations, Benediction, and Gregorian chant. Pres-

ently, I enjoy the "Little Black Books" that St. Brigid provides." **Tom Ernstes.**

"Lent is God calling at our door. We struggle to either respond to or turn away from God's call. We pray to respond to His call. "Thy will be done."

John Opalek

"Lent falls at a time of vast needs. Let us reflect and act." **Mary Opalek**

"Lent reminds me of how much suffering Jesus did for us, how much we mean to Him, and how much He should mean to all of us."

Phyllis LaVigne

School Sets Long Range Goals

The Vision 2020 committee works on school enrollment processes. Their goal is to provide direction to decision makers so St. Brigid School enrollment is growing in years to come. The Vision 2020 committee held three long range planning meetings last fall. The meetings identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the school. Parents recommended several strategies to provide areas to work on for the school to serve students' and parents' needs.

The committee reviewed all the suggestions and organized them into 6 areas:

1. Enrollment and student retention
2. Curriculum
3. Finance
4. Marketing and communication
5. Student support
6. Technology

The results were presented to interested parents and parishioners in January. Teams have been formed to work on strategies in each of the 6 areas. Some of the strategies may occur soon while others may take several years to define and implement.

The teams will work to achieve the goals with programs and outcomes that support the Parish mission to provide faith-based and academic education. Our school has a long tradition serving students. Keep the work of Vision 2020 in your prayers as they develop plans to keep the school vibrant in the future.

Modular Building Update

The modular building is nearing completion! The 1,504 square foot building has passed structural, electrical and plumbing inspections and will be ready for music classes and parish use once a certificate of occupancy is granted. The life safety features required by fire regulations and walkways are the final projects. Parishioners will install the walkways and the life safety equipment after the building permit is issued. Parishioners will help replant grass, and install the skirting.

Several parishioners donated their services, machinery, building materials, and appliances. We appreciate their generosity!

The project will provide needed meeting space for growing school and parish needs. However, the need for space comes at a price of nearly \$55,000. To date about \$2,000 has been pledged or paid.

Here is the breakdown of costs for the modular:

Cost Breakdown:

Design & permits	\$7,300
Move the unit	17,000
Decks & ramps	8,000
Electrical	10,200
Plumbing	8,000
Life safety	3,500
Sundry	<u>1,000</u>
Total cost	\$55,000

If you are able to contribute to the cost to bring this needed expansion on line, please contact Fr. John or Roger Duffy.

St. Brigid School, the Gem of Greene County. Ginny Settembrini

St. Brigid School is one of the real treasures of Greene County. We have a rich tradition of educating students since 1855. Generations of families have benefited from the education and Catholic values taught at our school.

A Catholic education is invaluable for the students who receive it and a bargain for the community that supports it. At the same time we are very aware of the cost of that education. Today more and more families need to request financial aid to help with the cost of tuition. In the 2009-2010 school year 40 families with 79 students received financial aid. The total amount awarded was \$83,400. This money came from a

private grant, the local Knights of Columbus, special scholarships in memory of parishioners, funds from the bi-monthly Tuition Assistance envelopes, donations from the new Angels program, and the balance from parish funds.

We need to support our families who value Catholic education and want to send their children to St. Brigid School. Our school is one of our greatest parish assets and we need your help to keep tuition affordable. There are a couple of ways that you can show your support. Use the special Tuition Assistance envelopes that come in the mail with each set of offertory envelopes. Another option

is to become an "Angel" and sponsor a St. Brigid student with a full or partial tuition grant. For more information contact Ginny Settembrini at the parish office, 372-3193.

School Financial Aid Applications

Families who think they might need additional financial aid for the 2010-2011 school year are encouraged to complete and submit the P.S.A.S. financial aid form. These forms are available in the school office or the parish office. Private School Aid Services is a confidential, objective, professional, third party needs-assessment service that gives the parish an objective report

of each family's need. It is a simple 4 page application. The deadline for submitting applications is April 15.

Parish Festival

The Parish Festival will be held Friday, May 21 thru Sunday May 23. Committee planning began in February for this community building event. Look for new activities and the popular International Food tent. To volunteer call Ginny or Roger at 372-3193.

Make an everlasting gift.

Touch the lives of others by returning a portion of the blessings you've received.

Remember your parish in your will.

St. Luke Credit Union Religious Education office news Jenny Terbay

As a member of St Brigid parish you can be a member in St. Luke's Credit Union full service financial center.

You have access to savings, and checking accounts, CD's, and IRA's as well as low interest loans or a low cost, no fee credit card. You can take advantage of direct deposit and on-line banking.

To become a member, bring this newsletter to one of the offices listed below, and we will make your first deposit of \$5 for you. Visit us at our web site www.stlukefcu.com or at 3562 Dayton-Xenia Road, 429-0604.

We have an incredible 118 students in our PSR program this year. At the heart of this program are our many catechists and high school youth volunteers. As we wrap up our Catholic School Week celebration - please take a moment to offer a prayer and thanks not only for the teachers and staff in our school but also for our gifted volunteers who support the Parish Religious Education program.

On March 14, 84 young people will celebrate the sacrament of Confirma-

tion. They have spent months preparing and growing in their faith. Please pray for them as they continue on this journey toward Confirmation. Prayers are especially welcome the weekend of February 26/27 when our young people will be on retreat.

This April, 34 young people will celebrate their First Eucharist April 24/25. What an exciting time in their lives - preparing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. Our families will come together on April

17th for Jesus Day and celebrate the sacrament on the following weekend April 24 and 25. Please join us that weekend as we welcome our young people to the table and continue to pray for them as they grow in the faith of our church.

If you have any questions about the Religious Education Program or would be interested in becoming a substitute teacher or volunteer please contact Jenny at 371-1756 or e-mail jterbay@stbrigidxenia.com.

Academic & Spiritual experiences at St. Brigid School - Patty Harner

Service is an important part of Christian discipleship. The students continue to experience this through service projects. Each class is responsible for creating placemats that are given to Greene Memorial Hospital to use on the trays for Meals-on-Wheels; each class visits a nursing home to sing for and visit with the residents; many students are participating in the St. Jude Math-a-thon which benefits St. Jude Children's Hospital; and during our recent Communities gatherings, students made Valentine's Day cards for our military troops.

The standardized tests results from Terra Nova and In-View indicate that our students are achieving above their levels of expectations. This indicates that our teachers are doing a great job and that our students are working hard and meeting the challenges of our academic program.

Please plan to visit us during the school's Open House on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 5:30 P.M.-6:30 P.M. The Science Fair projects have interesting displays that the students work hard to design and demonstrate. Science Fair projects will be on display in the PAC.

The fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students and their parents attended four-evening sessions of Family Life. This annual program provides a wonderful opportunity to take time to discuss the very beautiful and life-giving gift from God, our sexuality. Many thanks to the presenters and to the committee!

The second session of Honors Art Enrichment is now taking place after school on Tuesday. With the guidance and instruction of two professional artists, Carolyn Peterson and Maureen Deis, the students are creating wonderful pieces of

art.

The students are eager to move into the modular building, which will be used for music classes and other instruction purposes.

We are accepting new student enrollment registrations for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Come and visit the school to tour and meet the staff.

Please take time to look over the school's bulletin board in the church lobby; visit the school's section of the parish website to read about all the wonderful things our students and teachers are doing!

NYCY Kansas City, 2009 Christ Reigns! Jenny Terbay CRE

The National Catholic Youth Conference, the largest single gathering of Catholic young people in the United States, left Kansas City reverberating with joy, hope, and enthusiasm! Our youth joined nearly 21,000 youth from across the country in Kansas City to celebrate their faith. This was an incredible opportunity for our young people who participated in various workshops and general sessions and had incredible prayer opportunities like Eucharistic Adoration followed by a procession of nearly 21,000 young people into the streets of Kansas City. It was a powerful witness of faith.

The youth were challenged to "set aside 5" - they were asked to set aside \$5 for the collection for the closing Mass. The funds raised at this mass support youth across the country including providing scholarships to NCYC conferences. This

year our youth received an additional challenge - before mass began an announcement was made that a very generous couple had been watching the conference through the live streams available that weekend - inspired by the faith of our young church they pledged to match a donation of \$100,000 for the money received during the collection. Their offer received not only a standing ovation from those in attendance, but a collection of over \$126,000, about 94% higher than any previous NCYC collection!! Here are a few 2009 NCYC Fun Facts:

Registration

- 163 delegations/groups with 20,886 registered attendees.
- There were 28 bishops at NCYC.
- More than 250 priests registered with groups.

Program

- There were 175 speakers who presented over 100 workshops

- More than 75 performers and bands were featured
- Over 150 youth were featured in programmatic components (animators, ambassadors, and keynote and session speakers).

Other Highlights . . .

- NCYC received a letter from the Vatican Secretary of State sending greetings from Pope Benedict XVI.
- NCYC attendees received a taped video message from the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, Miguel Diaz.
- The Discernment Track—and most sessions were filled to capacity, including separate sessions on vocations for men and women.

Gospel Road 2010

We are returning to Harlan, Kentucky this summer for our annual mission trip. Last summer our young people joined youth from St. Luke and St. Rita parishes to help those in one of the poorest areas of our nation. Our youth built a wheelchair ramp for

a local church, worked on the foundation of a new home and put a new roof on the home of a man who was living out of his car with his son. This is a life changing program not just for those in Harlan, but for us as well. High school youth you are invited to join us this summer from June 13-18. Registration materials will be available the beginning of March - space is limited so be sure to register early!!! We also need the support of our adults - as volunteers that week - and as shareholders. We are asking everyone to consider buying "stock" in this program. Your donations will help pay for the supplies we use at our worksites and our travel expenses. Every little bit helps. Please prayerfully consider helping us make a difference this summer. Watch for additional details on this event starting in March!

St. Brigid Catholic Church
258 Purcell Drive
Xenia, OH. 45385

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Springfield, OH
Permit No. 151

Return Service Requested

Visit us on the web! "www.stbrigidxenia.com"

Youth Group attends NCYC in Kansas City



Lenten reminders - Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday.

Lent and Easter Liturgical Schedule

2010 Lent and Easter Liturgical Schedule

Stations: St. Brigid Thursday 7:00pm
Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 11, 18, 25.
St. Augustine Friday 7pm Feb. 19, 26 Mar. 12, 19, 26
Mar. 5 Jubilee Singers sing at St. B's Stations, 7:00pm
Mar. 14 **Confirmation at 11:30 Mass with**
Archbishop Schnurr
Mar. 22 7:00 pm Communal Reconciliation Service St. Brigid's
Apr. 1 **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**
5:00pm St Augustine 7:00pm St. Brigid
Apr. 2 Stations: 12:00pm St. Brigid
Good Friday of the Lord's Passion:
St. B's 2:00 pm St. A's 7:00 pm
Apr. 3 **Easter Vigil, St. Brigid 8:45pm**
Apr. 4 **Easter Sunday:**
St. Augustine 8:15 am
St. Brigid 10:00 and 11:30 am