



You Name It!

R.C.I.A.

An Invitation to New Life

By Sister Pat Pieper

To welcome new members into our Catholic faith community has been and is a special blessing, privilege and responsibility for me experienced through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

As we, catechumens (those who are unbaptized), candidates (those baptized in another faith tradition), sponsors and Team members meet each Thursday evening, we are enriched, challenged and inspired as we continue our faith journey. Our deanery pastors, members of the RCIA team of the parishes involved, other invited clergy, members of diocesan organizations and devoted Catholic witnesses to our faith share formal presentations, lead us in prayer, reflection and questions and answers related to our beliefs, tradition and religious practices.

The rituals marking special milestones in the journey to the Easter Vigil are celebrated in our own par-

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Springtime of the Liturgical Year

By Father Jerry Stluka

Lent – the springtime of the Liturgical Year – is a season of preparing for the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. With the catechumens and candidates for full communion in the Church, we enter this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we look forward to renewing our Baptismal promises on Easter. This season culminates with the solemn Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening April 7, at 8:30 PM. I invite you to join me in considering ways we can grow during Lent this year.



Fr. Stluka administers ashes to Jack Balogh in 2006.

Prayer: Take time each day to listen attentively to the Word of God in the Bible and other teachings of the Church. The daily readings listed in the weekly parish bulletin may be helpful.

Fasting: Join the universal Church (if over 14 years old) in abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent and fasting (21 to 59 years old – one full meal and two lesser meals with no snacking between meals) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Almsgiving: Giving up something we don't need to buy and donating the money saved to the Rice Bowl, poor box or some other charity.

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LENT: A Time to Grow in Holiness

By Monsignor Lawrence Corcoran

Lent is a time of anticipation and preparation. We look forward to the great events of our faith: the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. And our reflection on these mysteries calls us to adjust – even reform – our daily lives to make sure that we are properly responding to Christ's call to holiness.

Traditionally, we think of Lenten penance – prayers and practices – that constitute atonement for sin and strengthen our determination to cast aside any future temptations. But along with penance, we initiate good works – actions that especially manifest that love of neighbor to which our Christian faith calls us.

These good works take many forms. We usually think first of all of relating to others around us on an individual basis – special acts of kindness or even material assistance to those in need. However, at this point of time, we need to consider

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ishes. Some of you witnessed the rite of welcome on the Feast of Christ the King. The rite of election for all those catechumens and candidates of the entire diocese will be celebrated with Bishop Campbell at St. Matthew Church in Gahanna on February 25. We will have the rite of sending here on that morning at the 11:00 Mass.

This year Eric Allen, our candidate is preparing to receive the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Eric is from Crete, Illinois, grew up in the Methodist Church and says one of the reasons he feels called to the Catholic Church is the teaching and practice of Social Justice. Eric is a criminal defense lawyer and works primarily with those who have been given the death penalty. He is married to Jamie, who is his sponsor, and they have a 7 month old daughter, Ila.



Jamie & Eric Allen

- Lottery -

(Am I Feeling Lucky?)

Dinner at the Rectory

YOU are welcome to participate in occasional drawings in this priceless parish raffle. Just drop this "chance" in the collection basket or mail box - one chance per household. Periodically we will draw names. Winners will be guests for a luncheon or supper at the parish rectory with Msgr. Corcoran, Fr. Stluka and Sr. Pat.

Name _____

Phone _____

YOU NAME IT!

A quarterly newsletter of Holy Cross Church

As we begin the holy season of Lent, we are mailing this first issue of our parish newsletter! You are invited to offer suggestions for a newsletter name and for topics to consider in future articles. We plan to send these letters to parishioners and friends of Holy Cross at the beginning of the four seasons of the year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.



Name to be submitted for Newsletter -

Possible **topics** -

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Our Lenten Sunday readings offer special food to nurture us on our Lenten journey: how do I experience the strength and joy of God's grace when facing life's challenges?

First Sunday: Jesus is tempted (Luke 4:1-13). How do I deal with temptations and how do I experience the strength and joy of God's grace when facing life's challenges?

Second Sunday: Transfiguration (Luke 9: 28-36). How am I hearing the reassuring Word of God in the midst of my fears and frustrations?

Third Sunday: Jesus challenges the disciples to reform their lives by turning away from sin (Luke 13:1-9). How is the goodness of God bearing fruit in my life?

Fourth Sunday: Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), How are our families celebrating reconciliation?

Fifth Sunday: Jesus meets the woman caught in adultery and assures her: "Neither do I condemn you" (John 8:1-11). How do I receive and give the gift of forgiveness?

Passion Sunday: The Passion of Jesus (Luke 23:1- 49). How are my sufferings united with the redemptive sufferings of Jesus?

Holy Week: Please join in the observance of the Sacred Triduum -

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 5:30 PM.

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, 1:00 PM.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 2:00 PM.

Holy Saturday: Solemn Easter Vigil, 8:30 PM.

Easter Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 AM Masses

The Young Adult Group of Holy Cross welcomes all young adults for a "Social Sunday Brunch" the last Sunday of the month. We will be meeting after the 11 o'clock Mass, at the front entrance of the Church to decide on the restaurant. We hope you and your family can attend!

Starting in March the Young Adult Group, in conjunction with J.O.I.N. will start collecting donations to fill the Easter baskets that will be donated to families throughout Columbus. Donations such as candy, stickers, books, toys and stuffed animals to fill the baskets (in back of the church) are greatly appreciated.



Memories *by Mike Dury*

My first memory of attending Mass at Holy Cross can be dated back to when I was a ripe young age of six years old. I remember my dad telling me on a Saturday that I was going to be serving the 9:00 AM Mass the following day. I did not want to do it at first. After all, I had never been an altar boy, never considered doing it, and was not sure exactly what was expected of me. But, dad insisted, so I went along with it. (As if a six-year-old had a choice.)

sacristy and immediately put me at ease. He joked, he laughed, and was smiling the whole time. I remember distinctly one of his jokes he told that gave me a chuckle. The altar boy garment I wore had a hood in the back. Apparently, it was all over the place before Mass because Father straightened it out for me, convincing me in my naivete that members of the congregation would put dollar bills in it to reward me for my good work. To my disappointment, this never happened, but no longer was I worried about fouling up during the Mass.

A session. When it was my turn to speak, Father quizzed me on what I wanted to be when I grew up – my ambition. My response was the pope, and the congregation got a good laugh out of that. (Which I did not understand at the time.) After receiving our Lord and concluding the Mass, we all gathered in front of the altar for a picture with Father.

We arrived the next morning around 8:30. It was always 8:30 because dad led the rosary before Holy Mass. I went back into the sacristy still not real sure what I was doing. Fr. Berendt was hearing confessions that morning, and he usually finished around a quarter til nine. That day was no exception. Father walked back into the

Soon after that, I and a few others in my class received our first confession and Holy Communion from Fr. Berendt – a very special day to say the least. During these Masses, Father would always come down during the homily to speak with the kids who would be receiving our Lord for the first time. It was somewhat like Q and

These memories I will never forget and what makes Holy Cross so special. This holy place of our Lord has been in Columbus for almost 175 years. If one were to pause and ponder that fact, one could only conclude that this church has been blessed and protected by our Lord. There is a fundamental reason for this that I believe cannot be overlooked. Holy Cross and the people within this church can have an impact on people’s lives. I know it has on mine. I have the memories to prove it. *(Mike Dury is a journalism/political science major at OSU.)*

• Holy Cross Church – Important Dates During Lent •

February 18, 2007	Sunday after each Mass	Burning of Palms & Pancake Breakfast/Cake Sale
February 21	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday – Masses at 8:00 & 11:30 AM
March 18	Sunday 4-5:30 PM	Holy Cross Lenten afternoon of Reflection presented by Sr. Rosemary Loomis, O.P.
March 26	Monday 7:00 PM	Deanery Reconciliation Service at St. Thomas Church, 2692 E. Fifth Ave., Columbus
April 1	Sunday 9 & 11:00 AM	Palm Sunday
April 5	Thursday 5:30 PM	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
April 6	Good Friday	Outdoor Stations of the Cross (1:00 PM) followed by Lord's Passion Liturgy (2:00PM)
April 7	Saturday 8:30 PM	Easter Vigil Mass
April 8	Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 AM	Easter Day Mass



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our broader needs. Such things as war, oppression of the poor and lack of employment press upon us. This area of social concerns commands our attention also. Lent is a good time to recognize this and determine how we can overcome these social maladies.

So, Lent is a time for reflection and prayer not only on individual concerns, but also on our common problems. Considering the more troubled times of this Lent, we should develop a greater understanding of social justice and social charity, virtues that help us deal with our broader social needs.

During these coming days, we should determine what this Lent means to each of us and how we can live these days to our greatest spiritual advantage. This indeed is a time of anticipation and preparation, but also a time of awareness.

Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church • 204 S. Fifth St. • Columbus, OH 43215

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Parish Staff

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor
Reverend Monsignor Lawrence J. Corcoran, P.A., In Residence
Sister Patricia A. Pieper, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Daily: 11:30 a.m. Monday - Saturday

Confessions

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sorrowful Mother Novena - First Friday: After the 11:30 a.m. Mass

“Choices” Domestic Violence.....224-4663

For help during pregnancy.....444-4411



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