



Holy Cross

Connections

508 These Forty Days of Lent

ST. FLAVIAN CM



1. These for - ty days of Lent, O Lord, With
 2. As thirst and hun - ger you have known, So
 3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And
 4. A - bide with us, that so, this life Of

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we observe the season of Lent (Spring). I invite you to join me in prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we prepare together for Easter.

PRAYER :

- Begin each day by asking God to bless all we will do and all whom we will meet that day.
- End each day by thanking God for the gifts received that day and asking God for a safe and restful night.
- Spend a few minutes praying with the little black book and the Scripture readings for the day. (These readings are referenced in the Sunday bulletin each week.)
- Before and after each meal – thank God for the food we eat and entrust God with the spiritual & physical hungers of ourselves & those around us.
- Pray with others by participating wholeheartedly in the prayers and hymns of Mass.
- Welcome life's challenges and hardships as opportunities to grow closer to Christ on the cross.
- Make a Holy Hour and/or a retreat—rest and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Come to weekday Mass at least once or twice a week.

FASTING :

Eat healthy. Avoid junk food and unnecessary snacks between meals. Eat smaller portions, and pray for all who hunger & thirst for justice.

ALMSGIVING :

Put money saved by fasting into the Catholic Relief Services “rice bowl” used to feed the hungry throughout the world.

PENANCE :

Strive to give up and let go of bad habits and attitudes. Replace criticism, fault finding and gossip with affirmation, appreciation and gratitude.

Enjoy the rest of Lent by doing at least some of the above h– or other – life giving lenten practices. Discover who God looks like by looking in the mirror and thanking God for creating you in His own image and likeness!

HAPPY LENT!

By Father Jerry Stluka

Newsnotes

Congratulations! The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH) has honored our own **Ann Seren** with the 2010 Art Lynn Consumer & Family Advocate Award. Be sure to join Ann for the annual NAMI Walk on Saturday, June 4. Contact Ann @ 237-1379 for details.

Baby Boom: Prayers and best wishes go out to **Jason** and **Megan Rush** who are looking forward to the birth of their first child on or about February 28. **Jason** and **Natalie Despetorich** who are expecting their first child on May 10. And **Ryan** and **Kristina Robinson** are

expecting their first child in July.

The Bread of Life: We will be celebrating with **Matthew Federer**, **Aidan O'Reilly** and **Justin Tripp** who will be receiving their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 15.

Welcome! New Holy Cross parishioners **Thomas & Kim Duncan** and **Kelli Losier**.

Parish Pastoral Council by Sr. Anne Keenan

The first official meeting of Holy Cross Parish Pastoral Council met on Wednesday, November 17, 2010. The work of the council would be best described as a group who pray, share ideas, and engage in constructive dialogue with the pastor, each other, and members of the parish, thus providing a truly Christian community that places its gifts at the service of the local and universal Church.

At the first meeting all the parish council members were present and were joined by Ron Barrett, former organist and music director at Holy Cross, and Kelly Doman, current music director and organist at Holy Cross.

After the opening prayer Ron and Kelly gave a report regarding the need of a new organ. They presented a proposal received from the Muller Pipe Organ Company of possible options for purchasing and installing such an instrument. This presentation was followed by discussion among council members that was continued at the second council meeting on February 16, 2011.

With regard to purchasing and installing an organ, Fr. Jerry noted in his report that he is very grateful for the generosity of parishioners during past fund drives, but at this time he does not plan to have another capital campaign. It is hoped that other financial sources, such as grants, loans, and individual donations will become available in the future.

The council also had discussion around other topics such as: What is happening in our parish that we want to continue, discontinue or begin?

Suggestions from this conversation will be taken under advisement by Fr. Jerry. They include: Activities to **continue** - 1) Providing faith formation for our youth, i.e., Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 2) Continuing out reach activities, i.e., sandwich making,



Parish Council members clockwise from left: Jeanne Brown, Debi Matthews, Ervin Ruiz, Ray Kiersh, John Medert, Kathy Sako, Sr. Anne Keenan, Fr. Jerry and Mike Agiesti. Not pictured are Don Manley and Tom Walsh.

Thanksgiving baskets, etc. 3) Collaborating with other parishes in our Deanery, i.e., faith formation for adults as in the RCIA process, and 4) Publishing "The Word" in the bulletin Activities to **discontinue** - None

Activities to **begin** - 1) Enhancing Bereavement opportunities 2) Providing activities for teens, both spiritual and social 3) Increasing awareness of evangelization opportunities 4) Researching Ecumenical efforts 5) Encouraging the involvement of Young Adults and 6) Studying possible new ways to welcome members.

The next parish pastoral council meeting will be Wednesday, May 18, 2011. The members of the council are excited about the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead for them and indeed, for all members of Holy Cross parish. It is the sincere belief that the call each of us received at our Baptism, to proclaim the Word, to gather for Worship, and to be of service to others will be enhanced by affirming the gifts of one another in collaboration with our newly formed Parish Pastoral Council.

Behind the Scenes

By Jack Kustron

The Webster Dictionary defines serendipity as: luck that takes the form of finding valuable or pleasant things that are not looked for. So you might say that Helen Meers' connection to the Sisters of Notre Dame and Holy Cross Church has been just that.

Helen's mother was orphaned and raised by the Sisters of Notre Dame in Cincinnati and it was our own Sr. Pat Pieper, of the Notre Dame Sisters, who invited Helen to join in various ministries here at Holy Cross.

Born and raised in Columbus, Helen was Baptized at St. John's Church and then educated at Holy Rosary Elementary and Rosary High School. After graduation she worked for Ohio National Bank for over 18 years and then attended and graduated from the Ohio State University, where she became employed in the Music and English departments.

As a member of Immaculate Con-



Helen and the newly ordained Fr. Dan Dury share a lighthearted moment.

ception parish, Helen taught C.C.D. and made the 3rd Women's Cursillo and worked on the team of the 6th, 9th and 12th. Years later she worked on the 51st Women's Cum Cristo, as it is now called.

After a long stint as an active member of Our Lady of Peace, where she was active in among others things: the education committee and a bible study group, she moved to Nazareth Towers and joined Holy Cross Parish in 1995.

After retiring from the OSU in 1997, Helen was able to start attending Daily Mass and Sr. Pat then invited her to be a lector, which she did for a number of years. She also helped Claire Miller in cleaning the church and served as a Eucharistic Minister at Nazareth Towers.

Helen's involvement with the parish increased as she then used her secretarial skills in assisting in the office. She did copy work, postings in the Sacrament Book, helped with the census and also most recently with our newsletter.

When Helen talks about her love of Holy Cross she mentions our wonderful church building, with it's beautiful windows that tell the story of Jesus. The statues, and our small parish are appreciated, as well as her feelings for Fr. Jerry. "I just love him to pieces," she said recently.

Helen's vocation has been to the Single Life. Having never married, she said that she chose "the third way." We're pleased that Helen also chose the Holy Cross way.

Dates to Remember



Fridays During Lent	Stations of the Cross after 11:30 Mass
Sunday, April 3	Reconciliation for our Deanery at Holy Rosary/St. John at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 17	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 21	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:00 p.m.
Friday, April 22	Good Friday Stations at 1:00 p.m.; Good Friday Liturgy and Holy Communion at 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 23	Easter Vigil at 8:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 24	Regular Mass schedule 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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Parish Staff

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor
Sister Anne Keenan, OP, Pastoral Associate
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

Liturgy Schedule

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

Confessions

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

Holy Cross Connections

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