



Holy Cross

Connections

Come to Die and Rise with Christ!

by Fr. Jerry Stluka

Our Catholic-Christian Faith is full of signs, wonders and mysteries. The Lenten season prepares us for the three days (triduum) celebration of Easter when we wholeheartedly embrace these mysteries, signs and wonders.

HOLY THURSDAY begins our Easter observance with the washing of feet - a powerful expression of Christ serving us and challenging us to serve one another in His name. The Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrates the first Eucharist, the sacramental realization of the death/resurrection of Christ. This prayerful evening concludes with quiet adoration until 11:00. This is an opportune time to pray the priestly prayer of Christ in the Gospel of John, chapters 13 to 17.

GOOD FRIDAY begins in solemn silence with the priest lying prostrate before the altar, humbly expressing his union with Christ, the suffering servant, on the cross. The Passion is proclaimed. Solemn prayers are offered for believers and non believers, for church and civil leaders, for those preparing for Baptism and for all who have special needs. The cross is venerated as we bring our personal suffering and that of all people to be united with the redemptive suffering of Christ on the cross. This simple and solemn liturgy concludes with Holy Communion.

EASTER VIGIL begins in darkness which is overcome with the Light of the Risen Christ, wonderfully symbolized by the Easter Candle. The solemn Easter Proclamation is sung.

Scriptures relating powerful moments of our salvation history are read. The Elect receive the Sacraments of Initiation and we all renew our Baptismal Promises. With Christ, we die and rise to new and everlasting life.

During this season of economic hardship and anxiety, we gather to celebrate the central mystery of our common faith—the death/resurrection of Christ. We are born again as we share the victory of life over death, love over hate, forgiveness over vengeance, peace over war and generosity over greed. I pray that this Easter will bring new life and hope to our families, our parish and our world. I hope that you can join us here at Holy Cross to experience these three days of wonder, prayer and mystery.



Our Holy Oils by Sr. Pat Pieper

Anyone coming into our church through the main entrance is immediately greeted by the rich symbols of our faith used in the administration of the sacraments.

The first and primary symbol is the Baptismal font, where new members are incorporated into the Body of Christ and where, using this holy water, we sign ourselves with the cross as a reminder of our own Baptism.

The Paschal candle, representing Christ, is blessed and brought into the church in solemn procession at the Easter Vigil, and is the constant reminder of Christ and ourselves, who are to be His light in the world. The Paschal candle is lit throughout the year at Baptisms and at Funerals.

Perhaps less familiar is the ambry and the holy oils that are reserved therein. On the vessels are the following identifying initials:

- OI – *Oleum infirmorum* – The oil of the sick, used in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick.
- OS – *Oleum Sanctum* – The holy oil, oil of the catechumens, used for a special blessing of those unbaptized persons preparing for Baptism.
- SC – *Sacrum Chrism* – Sacred Chrism, used for the special anointing in the Sacraments that can be received only once: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

Just as water bears the rich symbolism of cleansing and purifying from sin and candles shine forth to shatter the darkness of sin, oil has, from earliest times represented strengthening and healing in the struggles of life.

These holy oils are blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week. They are then brought to the individual parishes to be used in administering the sacraments throughout the year. Here at Holy Cross, we carry the oils to the ambry in solemn procession on Holy Thursday evening just before the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Parish Newsnotes by Sr. Pat Pieper

Our seminarian, **Dan Dury**, will be ordained a deacon at St. Joseph Cathedral on Saturday, May 2 at the 10:00 Mass. We are delighted that Dan will have his first opportunity to preach as a deacon here at Holy Cross at both Masses on the following Sunday, May 3.

Jack Balogh and Veronica Wolfe, our faithful 9:00 greeter and rosary prayer are journeying to Goodyear, AZ to enjoy the new spring training camp of the Cleveland Indians. While there, besides the ball games, they are hoping to contact parishioners Jen and John Drew and baby Carson, who are temporarily residing in Scottsdale.

Did you know we have **25 parishioners who live in Nazareth Towers**? Most have moved at least once – several twice, others will be moving some time this year and all are looking forward to the end of the year and their final moves when the total renovation is due to be completed. Courage and great patience to you all!

Bridgid Davis, our altar server and **Katie Sheridan**, one of our communion ministers, are hoping to have unique cultural and educational experiences within this year. Bridgid has applied to be an Americorps volunteer, a 10 month service program in various poor areas in the U.S. Katie will be spending 6 weeks in Dublin, Ireland - taking classes in Irish history and literature as part of her studies at OSU.

We wish them success and a valuable and enriching experience.

Fr. Jerry and our faithful deanery rep, **Jeanne Brown**, attended the March Deanery meeting and were able to be among those welcoming **Fr. Ted Thomas** and St. Mary's parish and **Fr. John Stattmiller** and St. Ladislaus and Corpus Christi parishes to our Center City deanery.



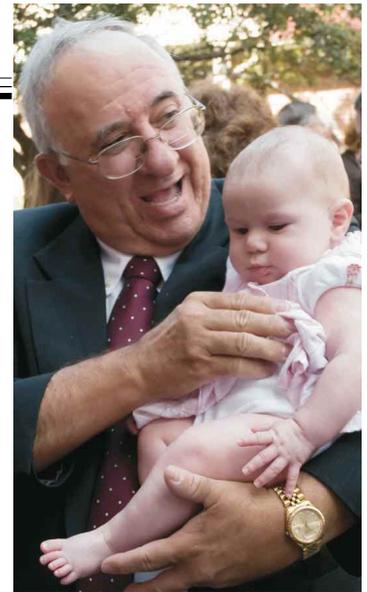
Behind the Scenes *By Jack Kustron*

When you read the list of our parish staff the names and faces are familiar. Fr. Jerry (check) Msgr. Corcoran (check) Sr. Pat (check) Mike Agriesti (who?) Who is this Mike Agriesti?

Well for those of you that don't know Mike here's some info about a vital cog in our parish leadership.

Mike is a Columbus native and cradle Catholic who began his journey on the north side, at St. James the Less, where he was baptized and attended elementary school. From there it was on to the old Aquinas High School. After Aquinas he attended OSU, then worked full time for Ohio Bell while attending Franklin University where he received his degree in Business Administration.

After graduating from Franklin, Mike married his wife Cathy, whom he met at OSU. Then after a hitch in the Army, after which he earned his Masters degree from Xavier University, Mike and Cathy settled down and raised two daughters, Mary and Megan, and one son, Michael. They have three grandchildren. Michael, Morgan and little Lydia.



Mike Agriesti is seen with his granddaughter Lydia.

Mike's path to Holy Cross was enabled by two events. First after working for over 35 years with the various Bell units and spin offs, the company pulled out of town, which left him unemployed. Then he attended a Cum Christo weekend, where he met Fr. Jerry.

The timing couldn't have been any better in that Robert Carter, who was at that time Fr. Jerry's administrative assistant, was leaving for the seminary and that opened up a job that was just right for Mike. "I was looking for something closer to the church so I could get my spiritual life in order and it was a perfect marriage," Mike said. The Holy Cross job was only two days a week so Fr. Jerry introduced him to Fr. Craig Eilerman, pastor at St. Cecilia's, where he was able to fill out the rest of his work week. So now Mike was gainfully employed and able to use his talent to benefit the Church.

Mike calls his job here at Holy Cross "a one man army." Mike said that "I have responsibilities between Father and Sr. Pat, in that I handle all financial administrative duties, interfacing with vendors, suppliers – coordinating those activities." Mike has been involved with the construction projects that have occurred over the past 5 years, as he works directly with the contractors and the diocesan office and makes sure that things are done properly. Mike takes care of all banking matters, helps Fr. Jerry with his written correspondence and makes sure that the office runs smoothly. He also coordinates our weekly bulletin, interacts with parishioners' Mass requests and other tasks too numerous to mention in this space.

Mike says that he really enjoys being at Holy Cross. "It's like family, I like the life style of it. I love the old church and I'm proud of it, and proud of all the things that we've been able to do. If I had all the money in the world I would still want to work here," he said.

So there you have it. A short story about Mike Agriesti, that goes with the name and the face – check!

Dates to Remember:



Tuesday, April 7 - **Chrim Mass** (Blessing of Oils) at 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph Cathedral.

Thursday, April 9 - **Holy Thursday**: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 10 - **Good Friday**: (Fast and abstinence) 1:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 2:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy & Holy Communion.

Saturday, April 11 - **Holy Saturday**: 8:30 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 12 - **Easter Sunday**: Masses at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 2 - **Ordination of Daniel Dury** to the Diaconate at St. Joseph Cathedral at 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Sunday, May 3 - **First Communion of Tyler Huston & Special reception for Daniel Dury** in celebration of his Diaconate following both Masses.

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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.
11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday

Confessions

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

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