



Holy Cross Connections



Easter Blessings

Holy Week and the Paschal Candle

By Fr. Jerry Stluka

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Easter draws near, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you and your families and friends to celebrate Holy Week here at Holy Cross.

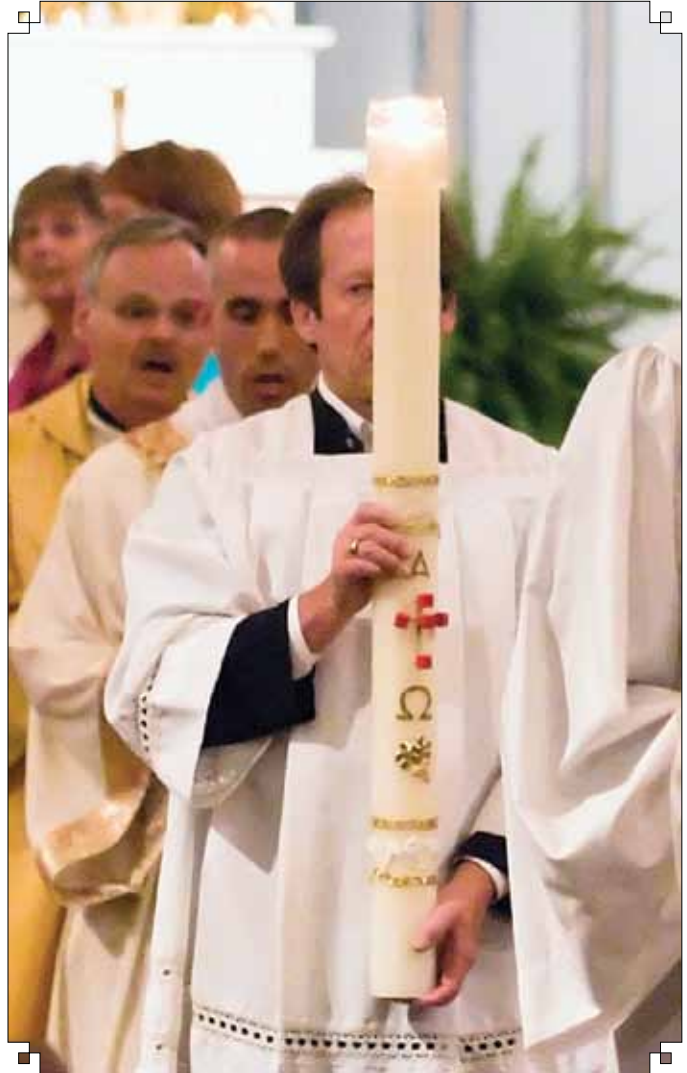
Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, commemorating the triumphant entry of Christ, our Redeemer and King, into Jerusalem to accomplish His paschal mystery. Masses begin at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. with the solemn procession of palms welcoming and acclaiming Christ, the Messiah.

The Sacred Triduum (three days), begins Holy Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. I will wash the feet of several parishioners, recalling Christ washing the feet of the apostles during the Last Supper.

The Stations of the Cross will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Good Friday and will prepare us for the 2:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, Adoration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion.

Holy Week will culminate with the Solemn Easter Vigil beginning on Holy Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m. with the lighting of the Paschal Candle, representing the risen Christ, the Light of the World.

The pure beeswax of this candle represents the sinless Christ, formed in the womb of His mother. The wick signifies His humanity; the flame, His Divinity. The five grains of incense inserted in the candle in the form of a cross recall the aromatic spices with which His sacred body was prepared for the tomb, and the five wounds in his side, hands and feet. The candle is lit from the new fire symbolizing our eternal life. The candle itself represents Christ and is



blessed by the priest who inscribes in it a cross and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – the alpha and omega – the beginning and the end. Then the cross is carried into the dark church soon to be brightly lit as everyone lights their individual candles from the paschal candle representing the light of Christ we receive in our baptism.

The Easter candle is lighted each day during Mass until Pentecost, reminding us that the Light of the risen Christ shines through you and me. The Easter Vigil continues with the Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion of our

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neophytes, our newborn members of the Body of Christ.

Easter Sunday Masses begin at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and will include the renewal of our Baptismal promises.

As we celebrate Easter with our new Holy Father and our Christian brothers and sisters throughout our world, we look forward to a new Pentecost when sin and death give way to forgiveness and new life.

May this Easter and this Year of Faith be a time of new life and renewed faith for each of you, your families and our parish!

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerry Stluka, Pastor



Fr. Jerry blesses the Baptismal Font with the Paschal Candle.

Newsnotes & Dates to Remember By Sr. Anne Keenan and Jack Kustron

Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday Mass at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday, March 28 Mass 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29 Stations 1:00 p.m., Liturgy 2:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil, March 30 Solemn Vigil 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31 Mass 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 5 Organ Recital 3:00 p.m.



BAPTISMS

Congratulations to **David Duvarney** and **Kerrie Alutto Duvarney** whose child **Felix Gabriel Duvarney** was baptized on January 27, 2013.

Welcome to **Martin Joseph Sheridan** who was baptized on February 10, 2013 and congratulations to his parents, **Joseph Sheridan** and **Suzanne Rinehart Sheridan**.

Congratulations to the following who will celebrate the **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY** at Holy Cross. Jessica Syverson & Sean Brugger will be married on April 6, 2013 and Chelsea Bulle & Kurt Hassink will be married on May 18, 2013.

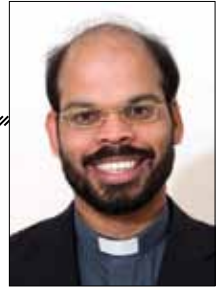
HELP WANTED - If you have the talent for web design and are interested in making our website more dynamic, please contact Sr. Anne or Fr. Jerry.

CONNECTIONS WANTS YOU - We hope to provide a variety of items in our Newsnotes section. We're looking for events that shape the everyday life of our Parish community. If you're taking a cruise or doing something neat we want to know about it. If you're a young member of our parish, let us know if you're on the Honor Roll, or playing a sport, or performing in the band or whatever activity that is enriching your life. Feel free to email this info to jack@photoj.com or text me @ 2644723.

THANKS - Thank you to all those who sent in recipes for the Christmas Connections. We appreciate your sharing and look forward to ideas for stories that we may use in future issues. If you think that someone or something should be written about, shoot an email to jack@photoj.com

Holy Week in India

By Fr. Jose Manickathan



Christianity is India's third-largest religion, with approximately 24 million followers, constituting 2.3 per cent of India's population. Christianity was introduced to India by Thomas the Apostle, who visited Kerala in 52 AD to spread the gospel amongst Kerala's Jewish settlements. He established seven and half churches. Apostle Thomas was martyred in Mylapore near Madras. There are two Eastern Catholic Saint Thomas Christian churches: the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church and the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

Since I belong to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church I would like to share with you how we celebrate Easter in the Syro-Malabar rite. The basis of lenten season is the forty days fast of Jesus.

Still, we call this period 'Anpathu Nombu' (50 days' fasting). Probably, because St. Thomas Christians fasted and abstained from 'pethurtha' Sunday to Easter Sunday. The Syriac term 'pethurtha' means 'looking back', 'reconciliation' etc.

The Passion Week begins with the Palm Sunday, the celebration of the triumphant entrance of our

Lord, Iso' M'siha into the royal city of Jerusalem. The Syro-Malabar Church celebrates Holy Thursday as the feast of the institution of the Eucharist with foot washing ceremony.

On Passion Friday, we celebrate the Passion, Death and Burial of our Lord. The Mar Thoma Christians used to set all kinds of work aside and spend the whole day in prayer and fasting. In the afternoon we have the procession reciting the Stations of the Cross with a replica of the Body of the crucified Jesus. Passion Friday is a public holiday for the Indian Republic. The Great Saturday rituals are all formed as a vigil celebration of the great feast of Resurrection. This day we have the blessing of Water and fire fol-

lowed by renewal of the Baptismal promises. Resurrection of our Lord is known to be the Feast of feasts. The Resurrection celebration starts at 3.00 am in all churches and chapels. It is celebrated by raising the Statue of the Risen Lord buried beneath the altar on Passion Friday evening. The celebration begins in the minimum necessary light. When the resurrection hymn is sung, the sanctuary veil is opened and the main celebrant raises the Statue of the Risen Lord up. Simultaneously all the lights in the church are switched on, the bells of the church are rung and the crackers are exploded. The lamps in the sanctuary are lit from the sanctuary lamp and from there the candles in the hands of the faithful are all lit. The Statue of Risen Lord is first enthroned on the altar, incensed and then carried

in procession around the church or through the streets of the town or village according to the custom. The most solemn form of Eucharistic celebration is the crowning ceremony of the day. At the end

of the Qurbana (Holy Mass) they used to approach the altar, kiss the Statue of Risen Lord and pay respect to the celebrant, bidding farewell.



Holy Week Procession

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Renewal of Religious Vows



Blessing of the Throats



Parish Life

- Renewal of Marriage Vows -





RCIA RCIA RCIA

In this publication of “Connections” you are being introduced to the people who participated in the 2012-2013 RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process. During the Easter Vigil these catechumens and candidates will experience all the rites of initiation. I would encourage you to seek these new members out, to get to know them better, and to hear their full stories. In doing so I think you will find, as I have, what a precious gift it is to hear God’s story in another’s life.

It is a privilege for me to journey with the RCIA participants and it challenges me to ask myself how can I better proclaim the Good News to all creation? How can I continue to grow in faith, hope and love? How can I share my story so that others understand God’s presence in all our joys and sorrows, our health or sickness, our successes or failures, in a word, in every situation of our lives. God’s story and the story of Jesus continues in all of us. Our stories must be told.

– Sr. Anne

Hi, my name is **Tony Garcia**. I was born in Delaware, OH and am 34 years old. I moved to Columbus at a very young age, and attended Marion Franklin High. I have one brother who lives in Columbus and other brothers and sisters who live in Gainesville, GA. I have a 16 year old son named Antonio. My occupation is in all kinds of construction work, but I am currently a cement finisher. Things I enjoy doing for fun are hunting, fishing, riding my motorcycle - just about anything outdoors. What brought me to RCIA class was meeting this very special girl, Linda Bonner, we talked about going through this process together and here we are and I am really grateful to have her in my life. Well, that’s a little bit about myself and I would like to thank all who are helping me through this wonderful process and a special thanks to my sponsor, David Kearns, and Sister Anne - she’s great.



Tony Garcia

My name is **Linda Bonner**, I’m 26 years old. I live in Columbus, and graduated from Hamilton Township High school in 2005. I’ve been employed with Kroger for 12 years. I have 3 siblings and 6 nieces and nephews who I love very much. I started going to church when I was young, with my grandma every Sunday - we attended St. Lads and St. Mary’s in Groveport. I joined the RCIA group to learn more about Catholicism and to become a Catholic. My experience so far has become life changing - there are so many new things that I have learned. I would like to thank my sponsor, Karie Urban, for her support.



Linda Bonner

My name is **Heather Jahn**, I am 38 years old and live in Grove City with my amazing husband, John. I have one eighteen year old daughter and three step sons (23, 20 and 15 years). I am a home care provider for senior citizens. I was put up for adoption when I was very young and adopted into a great family when I was five. However, we did not attend church, and as a child I’m sure I was happy to get to sleep in on Sundays and not have to go to church, but as I have grown older I have realized that there was something missing in my life. I wasn’t sure what that something was until I started to come to church and RCIA, and started to learn about the teachings of Christ and what I had been missing out on all these years. I am so thankful for my husband who has brought me to the church where I am learning so much, not only about the church and it’s teachings, but also about myself. I have really enjoyed getting to know Sister Anne and everyone in our RCIA class and I look forward to the continuing education and what God has in store for me.



Heather Jahn

My name is **Wendi Bonner**, I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. I have been coming to the Catholic Church with my grandmother, who is now deceased, since I was a young girl but was never Baptized or received any formal religious education.



Wendi Bonner

This past year I had decided to participate in the RCIA classes and become Catholic. I am very happy with my decision and I have enjoyed attending the classes. Since Holy Cross collaborates with other parishes in Deanery One, I like having the opportunity to meet people from other parishes, and I have learned a lot about the Catholic faith.

After my Baptism I plan on becoming more involved in the Church and I want to continue studying more about the Catholic faith. I would like to give a special Thank You to Sister Anne for being so helpful throughout this time and for choosing Kathy Faherty as my sponsor. I really appreciate Kathy's decision to stand beside me through this journey. Thank you both!

My name is **Amanda Alheit** and I grew up in Elyria, Ohio. I graduated from Elyria High School in 2007. Moved to Toledo where I attended the University of Toledo for Nursing. Graduated in 2011 with my Bachelors in Science of Nursing. Moved to Columbus and began my nursing career at



Amanda Alheit

The Ohio State Medical Center in April 2012 as a float pool RN. I got engaged to my fiance and mentor, Aaron Mills, in July 2012. We are getting married at Holy Cross on September 28th, 2013. I joined RCIA because Aaron is Catholic and it means alot to us to have a Catholic wedding. I can't wait to join him as a Catholic and raise our future family that way. RCIA has been very educational so far. I've felt very welcomed in every way. Its been great learning experience and I cant wait to be confirmed as a Catholic.

My name is **Jason Davis**, and I was born in the blizzard of 1978 in Bexley, OH. I grew up in Gahanna, OH. I joined the Franklin County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff in 2011. I'm becoming Catholic because of the spiritual values and beliefs. I want to share these beliefs and values with my wife and future family!



Jason Davis

My name is **Yavonne J. McGarry**. I was born in Alaska and lived in Huslia, Alaska until I was six years old. Then we moved to Alexandria, Ohio, northeast of Columbus. For elementary and high school, I attended Northridge Schools. Growing up in both the wilderness



Yavonne McGarry

of Alaska and rural Ohio left me with great memories. For college, I attended Purdue and Ohio State University, graduating with a degree in accounting. Andrew McGarry, also a graduate of OSU, is my husband and we have two wonderful children, Breanna and Leo. Breanna is in first grade at Trinity Catholic School and Leo will start Kindergarten there this fall. I work part-time for Limited Customs Service as a compliance auditor. Working part-time has been a true blessing to balance work and home.

I first considered RCIA six years ago when Breanna was a baby. It was something I felt I should do because my husband is Catholic and we agreed to raise our children Catholic. The first attempt at the RCIA process proved to be difficult with a baby and many other obstacles. I put the idea on hold and over the years I re-visited it, each time with more interest and knowledge. Last year, I ultimately wanted and yearned to be Catholic rather than feeling I should be, which helped me know the time was right. What I love best about RCIA is learning about everything Catholic. It is a treasure to know the meaning and richness of the beliefs and practices. I have a strong interest in spiritual inspiration and love to hear stories of others and their spiritual journey. My hope is to connect with others through this shared inspiration and also to grow closer to God, bringing healing to me and to others.



**Pancake
Breakfast
and
Burning of
Palms**
Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013

