



Stewardship *-in-Action*

The St. Mary & St. Anthony Newsletter

November, 2007
Volume 5 Issue 8

Time-Talent-Treasure

A "steward" is one who responds to the invitation to use all that God has provided in ways that would please God.

"Stewardship *in Action*"



THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, THE ST. VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY was able to assist 42 families in the amount of **\$6,533.00** for the month of October. This assistance was mostly for rent and utility payments. We again thank you for your continued support. You may make a donation to St. Vincent de Paul at any time by simply dropping an envelope in the collection or mailing it to the rectory.

While many stewards would rather remain anonymous, it's important to have real-life examples of stewardship. What if Jesus had remained "anonymous"?

Please, if you know someone living the life of a steward, please send me their name and their story. I hope to spotlight at least one story each month. My contact information is at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter, or drop it off at church with my name on it. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP Opportunities

- **The Stewardship Committee** is looking for new members. Our belief is that we are to live according to the bible which tells us to give of our time, talent, and treasure. Committee members are responsible for educating and encouraging parishioners in their commitment to stewardship. This committee organizes stewardship activities throughout the year such as the Ministry Fair, Parish Mission, Stewardship Renewal and Christmas Celebrations. The Committee works together with other organizations of the parish and school to promote the sharing of God's gifts and talents. If you have any questions or would like more information, call Mona Hauler at 419-668-1599.



The **Stewardship Committee** will be hosting a **POTLUCK LUNCH** on Sunday, Dec. 9, at Reynolds Hall, beginning at 12 noon. Bring your favorite dish.

- **The Prayer Shawl Ministry.** This Ministry is a way for folks to reach out with love and care to others who are hurting. Many, many people have been comforted and felt loved through this ministry. Shawls, lap warmers and prayer squares have been sent to over 400 people since we started. People who help in this ministry have lovingly donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need. The ministry's message of caring is simple, universal and enduring. We have seen time and again that the creation and presentation of a prayer shawl, like all acts of generosity, enriches the giver as well as the recipient.

If you knit or crochet, this may be the ministry for you. There are no meetings, no time limits and no set schedule. You work at your own pace in your own home or, if you choose, with others, for the sole purpose of blessing someone else. *If you don't knit or crochet, we have people who would love to share their talent and teach you.* For more information call Jeri Miller 419-663-1185 or send an e-mail jmiller41@neo.rr.com.

- **Altar Servers Needed!!** Are you interested in serving at God's Altar? Send your name and number to: Linda Salmons, 12812 Bellamy Rd. Berlin Heights, Ohio 44814. What a GREAT way to serve God!



- Offering the Gift of Hospitality. The hospitality we offer people who come to our homes makes them feel welcome and comfortable. This is also true of the hospitality we offer those who enter our parishes. Greeting & welcoming, receiving and being received, serving and being served, are vital in keeping up relationships we have and discovering new ones. Greeters and Ushers are a very important ministry. If you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Becky Stoll @ 419-499-4451 or contact the parish office @ 419-499-4274. Your gift of hospitality is greatly needed.

From the desk of Father Speier



Dear Parishioners:

It is hard to believe but the holiday season is quickly approaching. Halloween and Thanksgiving are now behind us and we turn our attention to Christmas and New Year's.

The new church year begins with the season of Advent. Advent, as we think of it today, is a season of preparation for Christmas. It includes four Sundays and a variable number of additional days, depending on the day of the week on which December 25 falls. In days gone by Advent was more of a penitential season. During this time fasting was used as a way of preparing for the coming of Christmas. In some countries the days of Wednesday and Friday were often observed as fast days; but in many parts of Europe the weeks in Advent are not set apart in any special way.

In our times Advent is not seen as a season of penance and fasting. Unfortunately, we use this time to prepare for the material side of the Christmas season. Due to the climate of the times the spiritual side of the holy season has lost a great deal of its identity. In our society today it is almost a sin to wish someone a Merry Christmas. Somehow this has become an offensive term. The politically correct greeting is: "Happy Holidays". I think this says a great deal of how we have lost the significance of the season. Somehow we have forgotten that this season is all about the birth of our Savior. The traditional customs of this season come from the birth of the Savior.

We need to get back to the realization that this is a holy season. With this concept in mind the season of Advent will be more meaningful for us.

Advent is a time for us to prepare for the birth of the Savior. The first step in this preparation is for us to consider the importance of the birth of the Savior. Christ was born into the world for salvation. By His birth we are saved. Sin and death have no power over us. Christ by becoming man gave us the promise of new and everlasting life.

Secondly, we need to ask ourselves if we have done our best this past year to grow in our spirituality. Has our prayer life grown? Have we come to a greater appreciation of the Sacraments in our life? Have we done our best to reach out to others? These are just some of the questions we need to consider.

One of the most important ways to prepare for the coming of the Christmas season is to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Savior has gifted us with many good gifts the sacrament through which our sins are forgiven is important as we journey to the Lord.

During the Advent season you will have plenty of opportunities to celebrate this sacrament. I would encourage you to make use of this sacrament. Don't let the season of Advent go by without making every effort to experience the Lord's healing through this sacrament.

God bless.

Father Speier

General Announcements & Activities Calendar

St. Anthony's 200 Club Fundraiser

Buy a ticket for \$50 and have a chance to win \$50 or two chances to win \$25 each week – contact Peg at St. Anthony's, 419.499.4274

November

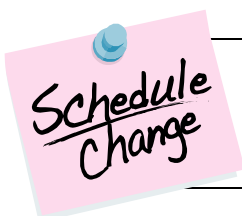
Thursday	Nov. 22	9:00 a.m. - Thanksgiving Day Mass – St. Anthony and St. Mary
Sunday	Nov. 25	After 10:30 Mass – Liturgy Committee will be serving coffee, juice, and donuts
Wednesday	Nov. 28	55 Club - Holiday Prayer Service – St. Mary's 1:00 p.m.

December

Sunday	Dec. 2	Journey of Faith discussion 9:30 to 10:15 am in the ECC @ St. Mary **Watch Bulletin for Topic - Everyone Welcome!**
Monday	Dec. 3	6:30 p.m. - Church Cleaning at St. Mary's in preparation for Advent/Christmas
Tuesday	Dec. 4	Mass during Advent - 6:30 p.m. St. Anthony 55 Club - Christmas Gathering - St. Anthony's Hall Meat/beverages provided - Meeting at 11:30/Lunch at 12:00 1:00: Entertainment: Milan Elementary School Choir
Wednesday	Dec. 5	
Friday	Dec. 7	7 p.m. - Mass to celebrate the Immaculate Conception at St. Anthony
Saturday	Dec. 8	9 a.m. - Mass to celebrate the Immaculate Conception at St. Mary
Sunday	Dec. 9	12 noon - Potluck in Reynolds Hall – Bring your favorite dish!
Tuesday	Dec. 11	Mass during Advent - 6:30 p.m. St. Mary
Sunday	Dec. 16	Making Children Mind - Lesson 2 - Why Kids Misbehave 9:30 to 10:15 am in the ECC at St. Mary
Sunday	Dec. 16	55 Club - 3:00 p.m. - Miami University Men's Glee Club performance at the Norwalk High/Ernsthausen Performing Arts Center
Tuesday	Dec. 18	Mass during Advent - 6:30 p.m. St. Anthony
Wednesday	Dec. 19	55 Club - Sawmill Creek - Lights Before Christmas Dinner at Berardi's in Huron (Details at the Dec. mtg.)
Monday	Dec. 24	Mass - 4:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. - St. Mary Mass - 6:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. - St. Anthony
Tuesday	Dec. 25	Mass - 10:00 a.m. - St. Mary's
Monday	Dec. 31	Mass - 4:30 p.m. - St. Anthony

January

Tuesday	Jan. 1	Mass - 9:00 a.m. - St. Mary's
Sunday	Jan. 6	Journey of Faith Discussion 9:30 to 10:15 am @ St. Anthony Hall. **Watch Bulletin for Topic - Everyone Welcome!**



Reminder: The Mass schedule changes the weekend of Jan. 5/6:

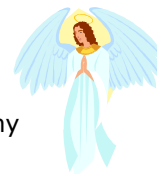
St. Mary - 4:30 p.m. on Saturday & 8:30 a.m. on Sunday

St. Anthony - 10:30 a.m. on Sunday

****PSR will also be at St. Anthony beginning January 6.****

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My load is light ~ Matthew 11:28

Please, include the following in your daily prayers: Neill Charville, Aggie Dailey, Barbara Dennis, Dawn Good, Veronica Hemchack, Pat Herb, Glen Hopkins, Ed Latrany, Lanny McLaughlin, Jon Ott, Chase Sammut, Phyllis Sanders, Mary Schultz, Dorothy Silcox, Florence Young, Charlotte Zacharysz, Alvin Vartorella, Rich Weitzel. Ken Bauer, Berni Cardwell, Joanne Cerilli, Florence Doughty, Vonnie Fannin, Matt Fisher, Rose Fisher, Adrian Go, Paul Hinckley, Pauline Jones, Marge Kromer, Kristin Lieber, Mary Lou Linkous, Matthew Lucal, Nathan Lucal, Alexander Maxis, Steve Moffing, Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Donnell, Gerald Riedy, Anthony Ringholz, Patty Ringholz, Alicia Rospert-Hoffman, Norb Schafer, Claranne Schick, Dorothy Schick, Bonnie Smith, Jan Stoneham, Chris Toney, Virginia Toney, Wil Vickery, & Molly Vogus.



May His peace and gentleness touch your heart.



Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates. This is the beginning of their formal journey toward a fuller life in the Holy Spirit. We pray for the strengthening of the relationship between candidates and the Holy Spirit throughout their journey. Kyle Burns; Hannah Burras; Brian Bursley; Kevin Cannon; Nicole Codeluppi; Jordan Cole; Nicholas Doughty; Michaela Douglass; Shelby Felitz; Sam Fox; Joseph Hemenway; Molly Hohler; Michelle Johnston; Patrick Kaple; Courtney Kuhl; Cory Lieber; Dustin Lieber; Cody McCoy; Kyle Scott; Cody Silcox; Tate Stoll; Shauna Supeck; Lauren Teed; & Adam Vartorella. **You are encouraged to drop any of them a line of encouragement – there's a box in the back of each church to drop it in.**



We pray for all those serving in our military - Lord please keep them safe from harm.



Book Corner

"The Editor's Picks"

Living Bountifully! The Blessings of Responsible Stewardship By: Linda H. Hollies

This book is about responsible stewardship in every area of our lives. This book is about how we can extract principles from the folks who have "been there, done that" and made it to the record book. It's about the freedom that we can experience, the lives we can live and the joyous enthusiasm that we can spread as we apply God's economic principles in our life. \$11.99

Another Fine Mess, Lord! Finding Simplicity, Order and Insight in a Complicated World

Looking for signs of the "abundant life" every day---not just on Sunday? You certainly don't want more to do! What you need is more of God. Favorite author Goodman offers insightful reflections on how to turn the frustrations and complications of *your* world into the simplicity and order of your heavenly Father's. \$3.99

"Live it"

STEWARDSHIP IS NO SIMPLE FORMULA; IT'S A WAY OF LIFE. IT'S AN UNDERSTANDING THAT EVERYTHING I HAVE IS GOD'S AND MY LIFE SHOULD SHOW THIS FACT.



Information for the newsletter may be sent to:

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widmanb@neo.rr.com

213 Whittlesey, Norwalk, 44857

Worth checking out:
www.catholic.org
www.americancatholic.org

Parish Websites:
www.stanthonymilan.org
www.stmarynorwalk.org