DIVINE WORD
CATHOLIC CHURCH
8100 Eagle Road • Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Parish Office Phone: 440-256-1412  Fax Number: 440-379-7491
Parish Website: www.divinewordkirtland.org
PSR Office Phone: 440-606-0217

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
February 23rd, 2020

Shari Allwood  
Business Manager

Reverend Jim Caddy  
Retired Priest in Residence

Dee Germano  
Bookkeeper/Membership Coordinator

Deacon John Grazia  
Deacon

Becky Harper  
Music Director

Debbie Lokar  
Pastoral Associate

Amanda Perusek  
Youth Minister

Helen Petruziello  
Parish Secretary

Gina Rensi  
Director of Religious Education

Rachel Scott  
Bulletin Editor/DRE Admin. Assistant

Reverend Mr. Carl Varga  
Deacon/Pastoral Associate

Jonathan Withrow  
Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Reverend Dave Woost  
Pastor

MASS SCHEDULE:
Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM
Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM
Rosary: Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM

RECONCILIATION: Saturday from 4:00–4:45 PM or anytime by appointment.

BAPTISM: Arrangements are to be made in advance. Parent Baptismal Class and Sponsor’s Certificate are required. Please call the Parish Office to register.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements must be made at least 6 months before the wedding. Please contact the Parish Office before you set your date or reserve your hall.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday–Friday 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Closed Saturday & Sunday


7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
“...I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” - Mt 5:44
In Sunday school, the students are studying the Ten Commandments. I know that kids are important in the eyes of God, so I'm just wondering why there isn't a commandment about honoring children.

Commandments provide EEO- Equal Opportunity for Observance! They are meant for everyone, children as well as adults. There are several assumptions that would make such a commandment a bit redundant. One, children are entrusted to the care of their parents. So, respect, love, and care — as well as teaching them — are assumed to be part of the responsibility of parents. They are the first teachers in the ways of faith and, as such, participate in God’s work of loving and creating. Children have the obligation and responsibility towards their parents. Only when they are adults will they make decisions on their own.

In Biblical times, and in many societies today, children are responsible for caring for elderly parents, providing for their needs. In our culture today, too often kids have more rights than responsibilities, and oftentimes long before they are able to handle them. If we follow the Commandment of Jesus to love others and treat them as we would want to be treated, everyone is included, children too.
Jesus’ words at times call us to ponder whether we can live up to them. Here is one of those gospels that brings us to the brink of wondering just how good of a Christian I am. The words are difficult to digest and in Jesus’ day these words would revolutionize the living out of his message. I, for one, know that to pray for my enemy or persecutor cannot be done by me alone. God’s grace can only bring me to a greater sense of what he is asking of us.

At times I would rather have it as “an eye for an eye” or “a tooth for a tooth.” It sounds better and makes me feel vindicated to some degree. Yet, Jesus is working on a whole different level. In his day, it was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Retribution was doled out to the same degree in which you were harmed. Jesus is telling us there is a better way to handle these situations. We certainly have a right to defend ourselves if we are threatened, but Jesus takes an incredible non-violent stance toward those who do not like him or would want to silence him.

His ultimate words of “Father, forgive them they know not what they are doing,” captures the reality of Jesus’ words today. He is moments away from death after having been tortured and publicly humiliated, and the words of forgiveness are on his lips and in his heart. I have always thought that when Jesus speaks these words from the cross, he is also casting them towards me. I am just wondering what it takes for us to have that same stance from within our own hearts. God’s grace is the only answer. We can only do what Jesus does through his presence in our lives.

Could it be that this is where true Christian conversion comes in? This is some of the most difficult work that comes from Jesus’ word. If I can pray for my persecutors and ask God to look kindly on those who have hurt me or want to silence me, is this not a telling point that my heart has changed? My guess is for most of us we are working towards this end, but we often come to realize that I need power from outside myself to make this happen. Our faith is powerful if we allow it to assist us in the ability to look at those who have hurt us, and we see Jesus.

I can think of no better gospel to prepare us for the sacred liturgical season of Lent. The self-reflection needed to give us a starting point is this gospel. Where is my heart at when I am hurt by others? Do I want to retaliate? Do I seek ways of falsely incriminating? Do I simply look for an opportunity to strike back? Take the energy that is used up towards those who hurt us and place it in Jesus’ hands. Here if we allow it over time will bring us the grace to pray for those who have scarred us. Lent is just as much a season of reflecting on the bruises of our life and why they are there and for those who have placed those wounds on our spirit.

Ash Wednesday is this week. Masses on Wednesday will be at 8:30AM and 7PM. I honestly look forward to this day. We often have a full church on Wednesday night and there is a “good vibe” that Lent makes its “mark” in many ways. As you wear the ashes for this day remember that we are so utterly dependent on God for everything in life.

Follow the gospel readings closely throughout the Sundays of Lent. They take us to the very brink of all that is stated in today’s reading. We will see temptation, evil inflicting its ugliness upon Jesus, infidelity and its effects, faithlessness on the part of the disciples, the Cross and death of Christ. What makes this time of year so powerful is Jesus’ ability to instill hope in a time of desperation. Lent also shows us transfiguration, blindness healed, waters of eternal life, faithfulness overcoming death and resurrection. What Lent bespeaks to us is a powerful sense that in Jesus there is always something more with God. Today that something more is the power we are given to see kindness in our enemy. In Lent, that something more is the power of resurrection that overwhelms sin and death.

Remember the Wednesday night meetings on “Life, Love, and Lent: Perspectives on Non-Violence.” The first session is Wednesday, March 4th at the East Shore Unitarian Church (10848 Chillicothe Road). The session goes from 7PM-8:30PM. All are invited to attend.

So here we go into the heart of our Liturgical Year as we once again step into the power of Lent. This is crazy, busy time around the parish, so I hope you can attend and participate in our Monday night sessions on Jesus at 7PM or our Lenten spiritual Devotion called Momento Mori on Tuesdays at 9:15AM-10:15AM or 7PM-8PM. I am ready to dive in. I will see you on Ash Wednesday. Have a great introductory week to Lent!
**Joseph House**

Joseph House is a ministry serving refugees and others in need in the St. Clair/Superior neighborhood of Cleveland. It is a collaboration between Divine Word Parish in Kirtland and three Cleveland parishes- St. Vitus, St. Paul Croatian and Immaculate Conception. We are seeking volunteers to help at the clothing bank on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10:45AM-1:00PM. This is a fun and rewarding way to directly help some of our most vulnerable neighbors. If you can help, even occasionally, please call Joan Laux at 440-376-7800 or Sharon O'Flaherty at 440-974-3764. Check out [josephhouseofcleveland.org](http://josephhouseofcleveland.org) to learn more about us.

**Growing Through Grief - Bereavement Support Series**

Grief is like having broken ribs. On the outside you look fine but with every breath it HURTS. After the loss of a significant person in our lives, we experience a wide variety of feelings and emotions. We are here to help you work through the stages of grief and find ways to continue on. Please join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 PM thru March 18th. Feel free to join us even if you’ve missed previous sessions. To register or if you have any questions please call Debbie Lokar at the parish office. Note: The 02/26 meeting will be in the Upper Room.

**Divorce Recovery for Catholics**

This 8 Week Support Group, designed to meet the needs of those who are divorced or separated, will begin Thursday, March 12th and run through May 7th, at St. Mary Church, 401 North Street, Chardon, from 7-9PM. Sessions are designed to offer direction, support, and the tools for coping with this life-changing experience. For more information or to register, please call Catholic Charities at 352-6191 or 1-800-242-9755, or email kjubeck@st-gabriel.org. There is no charge for this program, all materials are provided, and it is open to people of all faiths.

**Divine Mercy Cenacle**

Monday, February 24th at 1:30PM the Divine Mercy Cenacle will be meeting in the Gathering Area. We will be reviewing weeks 5 and 6 of the Cenacle Formation Manual. I look forward to your input and presence. Debbie Lokar

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**Humor from the Caddyshack**

Bob Hope on aging: On turning 70, I could still chase women, but only downhill. On turning 80, that time of life when even your birthday suit needs pressing. On turning 90, this is when the candles cost more than the cake. —Father Jim

**Amanda-tory Blurb**

This Sunday, February 23rd, we have Youth Group from 5-7PM in Hanson Hall. This is a very important meeting and parents are invited to attend. Please also keep our 8th grade Confirmation class in your prayers. They will be making their Spirit Day Retreat on February 29th. Thanks and have a great week! —Amanda

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

“Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48)

WHAT?? How can we, sinners, be perfect? This is the command which we have been given today. God knows that we are human but we can strive to be perfect by loving God as he loves us, unconditionally. Loving God will change us in such a way that we can live the love through our example. We can love our neighbors and enemies with the same kind of love. Consider showing this love to others in need of encouragement and hope by creating a prayer shawl or lap throw. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Thursday, February 27th at 6:00PM in the Gathering Area. Please contact us with any questions or requests.

**Thank You**

A sincere note of gratitude to all those who attended Divine Word’s first Tea Party as well as those who helped organize it. The day would not have been as enjoyable without YOU along with benefitting the works of the St. Philip Neri Hot Meals Program. Look forward to seeing everyone again next year. Debbie Lokar
“Forgiven” Study Program
This Lenten season, we recommend the FORMED program, “Forgiven: the Transformative Power of Confession.” It is a 3-week, video-based study that can be done individually. Go to formed.org/signup, select your parish, register with your name and email address, check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED to access thousands of movies, programs, audio files and books.

Adoration
Eucharistic adoration is the act of worshiping God as He is present in the consecrated Eucharist. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration every Monday (except holidays) following the 8:30 AM Mass until 10PM. Our Lord welcomes you and would like to see you. We have a need for substitutes during Adoration. If you are available, please call Debbie Lokar at the parish office. Experience His love and peace and grow deeper in love with Him.

Our Lady’s Guild
A friendly reminder that new and renewal membership dues are due. Due are $5. Please place in an envelope marked “Our Lady’s Guild Dues,” include name, address and phone number. Make checks payable to Our Lady’s Guild and drop in the collection basket. Questions? Call Joan Phillips at 440-256-1885. Thank you!

40 Days for Life
From February 26 - April 5, you’re invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You’re also invited to stand and peacefully pray anytime between 7AM to 7PM during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Preterm - 12000 Shaker Blvd, Cleveland, 44120 or Planned Parenthood - 25350 Rockside Rd, Bedford Heights, 44146, or Family Planning - 54 South State St, Painesville, 44077. Join us at the Kickoff Rally at St. Justin Martyr Church in Eastlake on February 25th at 7PM with Keynote Speaker, Fr. Daniel Bowen, O. de M. For more information contact John Noall at clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com or 216-245-9744.

Food, Fun & Festivities
St. Patrick’s Day Dinner and Fundraiser
Saturday, March 14th following 5PM Mass in Hanson Hall
This festive evening will include Irish music, a multitude of baskets to be raffled, and a live auction - guaranteed fun! The delicious homemade dinner includes corned beef and cabbage, colcannon, potatoes, carrots and dessert. Soda, iced tea, beer, and wine will be provided.

Food has been generously donated by local companies. All proceeds from the evening will benefit Joseph House, St. Philip Neri Hot Meals Program and Adam Hess. Volunteers from Holy Name Society (assisted by members of the Joseph House Board) will be cooking and serving the meal. Only $20.00 per person! Tickets can be purchased at the parish office. Cash or check (made payable to Holy Name Society) accepted.

Wedding Banns
I Kyle Majewski & Dominique Alioto

Christ Child Society
Please join the Christ Child Society of the Western Reserve chapter for the 27th Annual Red Wagon Luncheon being held at LaMalfa in Mentor on Wednesday, April 29th at 10AM. The theme this year is "Bloom Where You Are Planted." Along with 100 red-bowed baskets there will be a Silent Auction of many wonderful items. A Premier Raffle with cash prizes of $3,000, $1,000 and $500 is an annual favorite (winners need not be present). Tickets are $5 ea or 6/$25. Jesi Stracham, Inspirational Speaker, will be the highlight of the event. Luncheon tickets are $50 and can be purchased online at christchildwesternreserve.org. Please contact Elaine Rozic at 440-352-1172. Limited seating available. RSVP by April 6th.

Hot Meals Program Needs Our Help
Help is needed to serve the Hot Meals Program at St. Philip Neri Community Center on Sundays, May 10th (Mother’s Day), May 24th and May 31st. For further information or to let us know you are available please contact Debbie Lokar.
God Bless You for Your Generosity

Stewardship Report-February 15/16, 2020
Weekly Collection (205 envelopes): $8,656.50
Weekly Collection Goal: $12,662.00
Weekly Collection surplus/deficit: (-) $4,005.50

YTD Collection: $487,941.90
YTD Goal: $487,701.00
YTD Collection surplus/deficit: $240.90

St. Vincent de Paul Needs YOU!
Please consider joining this group of dedicated parishioners who are advocates of the poor and marginalized of both the parish and the wider community, helping where they can to alleviate the needs of others in times of crises. Presently, there is a need for parishioners who are interested in this important ministry to join the Society to assist in this very important work. For more information about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please contact Dan Laux at 216-509-0449.

We Are Called
Join our faith community – and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States – in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family’s CRS Rice Bowl from the Gathering Area beginning Ash Wednesday. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the challenge of global hunger and how it affects our human family.

Easter Food Collection News
Our month-long food collection for the Easter Food Baskets begins next weekend! We will be collecting non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies and paper products. Please bring your donations to the church and place them in the bins in the Gathering Area. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted!

Simplify Your Life with Automated Giving!
Are you looking for an easy way to simplify your life? With our Automated Giving Program, the parish receives your donation automatically! Money is transferred from the account of your choice directly into Divine Word’s account. No more mad rush to find your weekly envelopes or a pen to write a check. Automated Giving makes your financial stewardship simple! Call Dee Germano in the parish finance office at 440-256-1412 to set up your Automated Giving Program.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
February 26th—March 6th, 2020

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<tr>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday 7:00PM</td>
<td>J. Grazia Volunteer Now</td>
<td>M. Jochum</td>
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<td>Saturday 5:00 PM</td>
<td>D. Dailey</td>
<td>M. Dailey</td>
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<td>Sunday 8:30 AM</td>
<td>HNS Members</td>
<td>J. Lesnick</td>
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<td>Sunday 11:00 AM</td>
<td>C. A. Brooks J. Grazia S. Grazia C. Iammarino F. Iammarino G. Ianetta B. Stuart</td>
<td>B. Nye</td>
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<td>Confirmation Friday 7:00PM</td>
<td>M. DiPenti J. Grazia C. Withrow Volunteer Now</td>
<td>B. Nye</td>
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Konic Korner
I JUST LOVE Eucharist, EVEN THOUGH I SHOUT WHEN WE ARE USING THE CENOTAPH.