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

5th Sunday of Easter
May 10th, 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
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

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” - Jn 14:6

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can’t miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

Masses are livestreamed at www.divinewordkirtland.org
The disciples are always looking for the easy answer. A good example, Philip said to Jesus, “Master show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Of course, Philip does not realize what he is asking. I wonder why the gospels include the inability of the disciples to grasp who Jesus truly is. I often hear somewhat of the same in my own ministry and there are times I ask the same kind of questions. We can fall into the trap of seeking signs or asking for absolute proof from Jesus as to who he is. The gospels are written in a way that we must seek God’s grace to grasp the totality of Jesus.

This is one of the reasons I enjoy our gospel texts. The answer of who Jesus is seems clear but there is always something more of Jesus to be revealed. The power of the gospel is that each encounter with the words of the gospel can bring us to a greater and more meaningful understanding of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we call the scriptures God’s living word. The gospel bring us to the heart of our faith as God is revealed through the life, public ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We must sit with the Word, reflect on it, digest it more, and allow the Word to speak to us.

The Word of God reveals much of who Jesus is and his relationship with his Father in heaven. Our task is to have a living relationship with the scriptures. This is the one source we have that we can count on, the Word has stood the test of time, and gives us every reason to seek the Lord in our life. Once we know what Jesus has done for us and the world, our faith becomes more dynamic. We can begin to let the Word of God direct us in our own words, deeds, and faith. We, in a very real way, strive to become more life Jesus.

We do this striving knowing that we can never match the Jesus of the scriptures and the same Jesus of human history. However, we can discover in Christ what he can give that no one can give us. His forgiveness, relentless pursuit of us, and his example gives us reason to seek him out. Look at the saints throughout history. Many did extraordinary things in life because of their total commitment to Christ. They wanted to imitate him and were willing to give whatever was asked of them for the sake of often bringing others to greater faith.

So, Jesus responds to Philip’s question by saying, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?” This is a masterful response. Jesus implies to Philip and to us, you must do some of this work of faith for yourself. Strive to find the reasons to follow me. Jesus continues his response to Philip, again in a powerful way, “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.”

Jesus is pointing out that his works are a clear reflection of his relationship to his Father. These works are of charity and totally without self-regard. Here Jesus is calling his closest friends to the same kind of life. The hardships that will come along with following Jesus will be worth it all. If Jesus is who he says he is (and he is one with the Father) does it not make sense to follow him in his words and deeds? He has the incredible capacity to change hearts. He can change ours if we let him!

The word has come down from the bishops of Ohio that churches will remain closed until Friday, May 29th. Here is an educated guess on my part. (This is always scary when I do this!) If the number of COVID-19 virus cases continue to increase throughout the month of May we may see an even longer extension of not gathering publicly for Sunday Mass. However, if we see a continued decrease COVID-19 cases as many experts are predicting for our area, we will proceed to prepare for gathering the weekend of Pentecost Sunday (May 30th and 31st).

When we do gather guidelines will be in place to make sure social distancing is still in place. Our parish staff is working on the possibilities as to what this will look like. Over the next several weeks through the bulletin, pulpit announcements on our Livestream, e-mail blast to parishioners, we will let you know what you can expect when we finally return to Sunday and weekday Mass.

I am continually gratified by the many people who have said we need to be back in church. The notes, e-mails, text messages where people have expressed their desire to be back before the altar and receive the Eucharist has been uplifting and refreshing. I pray that we will make our return together soon and that whatever guidelines come our way that people will cooperate with these important changes.

Please stay healthy, make wise choices about where you go and who you are with during these days. Make sure you wash your hands throughout the day. Take good care of your physical, mental, and spiritual health. You must know that I pray for everyone in this parish every day. I hope we see one another soon. Until then keep the faith – my support and prayers.

Fr. Dave
FORMED.org
What is this journey in between the event we call “birth” and the one we call “death”? Is the journey taking you somewhere, or are you leading yourself to some kind of destination – a destination that could extend beyond your last breath? What do you want from your life during the in-between? The questions are there. And, the answers are too. To learn more 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.

Divine Mercy Cenacle
The group will be meeting again on Monday, May 11th at 1:00 PM via Zoom using this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89641623995. We will be reviewing Chapters 9 & 10. All are welcome.

Coffee with Fr. Dave and Fr. Caddy
Join us on Wednesday, May 13th 10:30 AM for Coffee with Fr. Dave and Fr. Caddy! To participate, use this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89123282107. Or, open Zoom and insert 89123282107 as the meeting ID. See you there!

Sing-along with Becky!
On Thursday, May 14th we will feature Spring Tunes. To participate on Thursday at 11 AM, use this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89613525895 or insert 89613525895 as the meeting ID. See you there!

Our Lady’s Guild Meeting
Members will meet on Thursday, May 14th at 6:00 PM via Zoom at the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86500415901 or insert 86500415901 as the meeting ID.

Bible Trivia with Shari and Fr. Dave
Join us on Friday, May 15th at 1 PM for Bible Trivia with Shari and Fr. Dave! Join in the fun. To participate, use this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88048662400. Or, open Zoom and insert 88048662400 as the meeting ID. See you there!

Humor from the Caddyshack
Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, “Why is the bride dressed in white?” “Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life,” her mother said. The child thought for a moment, then said, “So why is the groom dressed in black?”

Volunteer Gardeners Needed!
In addition to planting and “lighter gardening” needs, we have some “heavy duty” gardening and shrub/tree removal to be accomplished. (We will be maintaining 6’ distancing, and would appreciate if you bring a mask to have available if/as needed.) If you love gardening and the great outdoors and are willing to assist with gardening projects, please contact the parish office, 440-256-1412 or email sallwood@divinewordkirtland.org. Thank You!

Volunteers Are Needed!
Once the parish office reopens, we will be in need of two adult volunteers to join one of our Money Counting teams. If you are able to spare an hour or two on Monday mornings, every other month, please contact Dee Germano by email at dgermano@divinewordkirtland.org for more information about this ministry.

Four Seasons Book Club
The Spring season is upon us so let’s check out another good read. On Heaven and Earth presents a series of conversations from the man who became Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio and Rabbi Abraham Skorka. They share their thoughts on faith, family, prayer, guilt, death and many other topics. Both men sought to build bridges among Catholicism, Judaism, and the world at large. Hope you can join us Tuesday, May 12th at 7 PM on Zoom at the following address: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84628131502 to share your opinions, questions, likes and dislikes regarding the book. Please acquire it on your own and let Debbie Lokar know if you plan to attend at dlokar@divinewordkirtland.org.
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! No more mad rush to find your weekly envelopes or a pen to write a check. Automated Giving makes your financial stewardship simple! Fill out the form below or visit this link to provide information to open your automated giving option: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DWAutoGive. You can also call the parish office at 440-256-1412 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM to set up your Automated Giving Program.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today! Join us in Hanson Hall on Sunday, June 7th from 9:00 AM - 01:30 PM. This drive is by appointment only (no walk-ins) to adhere to social distancing.

Click here to make an appointment

The pandemic is ongoing, and we can't let patients down. The Red Cross has implemented special new safety procedures, including social distancing, in order to make our blood drives operate at an even higher standard. It only takes an hour of your time and patients will be so grateful. Please pick a convenient time and sign up online. The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Please contact Debbie Lokar if you have questions.

Kirtland C.A.R.E.S.
Kirtland cares and is here to help! Due to an outpouring of support and concern from residents and community organizations, The City of Kirtland has formed Kirtland C.A.R.E.S. Response Team in an effort to help those most directly affected by the coronavirus, should an emergent need arise.

Kirtland C.A.R.E.S. Community : Action:

Resources : Education : Support
Reach out to City personnel at KirtlandCares@KirtlandOhio.com or if you can help with any of the following:

◊ Identifying people in need, especially the elderly.

◊ Donations of non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, basic first aid items.

◊ Provide hands-on assistance delivering necessary items and connecting with shut-ins.

Featured Sponsor This Week
This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge. The advertisements that appear, completely defray the costs. Please patronize these sponsors located in the back of the bulletin. We thank them for the support of our parish!

Our Featured Sponsor this week is:

Gattozzi and Son Funeral Home
12524 Chillicothe Rd., Chesterland
440-729-1906
Nick Gattozzi
Rose Marie Gattozzi
Jerry Pitolta
Jay Jones
God Bless You for Your Generosity
Stewardship Report
Weekend of May 2/3, 2020
Weekly Collection (98 envelopes): $6,964
Easter Collection: $2,135
Total Collection: $11,599
Weekly Collection Goal: $9,450
Easter Collection Goal: $0
Total Collection Goal: $9,450
Weekly Collection net surplus/deficit: $2,179

YTD Collection: $628,414
YTD Goal: $633,809
YTD Collection surplus/deficit: (-) $5,395

I’m fond of the Bible verse found in 1 Peter 4:10: As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace. Many of you continue to share your monetary gifts, and we remain so very grateful. Others who are presently unable to share monetary offerings have shared your gift of prayers for the church and for one another. Others are calling one another to check in. (While perhaps not what St. Peter had in mind in the scripture, Fr. Caddy would no doubt want to thank those who have shared the gift of baking!) Our combined gifts are getting us through this difficult time. Thanks for sharing yours.

St. Vincent de Paul
In the Gospel today, Jesus says “...whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”

Through your almsgiving, you are performing a good work, far greater than you think. The donation placed in your St. Vincent de Paul envelope brings Christ and compassion to the poor.

Remember Our Sick & Suffering!

Please take a moment to lift these individuals up in prayer this week. Please notify the parish office when a name can be removed from the list. Thank You.

Wedding Banns
I Dale Ferrell & Emily Lenk

Joseph House
Joseph House thanks all the parishioners who have generously helped with their donations. At this time Joseph House is overloaded and is unable to take more clothing. Sheets and towels are always in need. Again, thank you for your help.

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