



# ST. PAUL *the* APOSTLE CHURCH

Celebrate our Catholic Faith,  
Share the Good News, Serve the Needs of Others



*Respect Life drawings by PSR and  
NCS High School Theology students.*

## FROM OUR PASTOR:

To be honest, it feels a little strange writing a newsletter article for Lent when I haven't even finished writing my thank you's for Christmas yet. But that's how it is with Lent – it comes along every year, right on time, to get us prepared for new birth at Easter. (Which includes making sure we get our priorities back in line and don't shirk just such duties!)

I was shocked this week when Wilma Lepore, our intrepid Webmeister, preparing to update our webpage on Lent, shared with me our pages from last year. CANCELED, CANCELED, CANCELED! A whole page of programs and events and devotions and services that we had been planning to offer, 19 if I counted correctly, all wiped out by the Virus. It brought back a flood of memories, how almost overnight everything came to a screeching halt, "canceled" – how Fr. Andrew and I had to say Mass by ourselves in an empty church, and we posted your photographs on those gray room dividers just so we could see you, since we were not allowed to gather in public. Who would ever have been able to predict when we were planning all those events, programs, devotions and services that last year we would not even have a normal Holy Week and Easter Vigil, everything "canceled"?!

And on the other hand, remember all those creative "ChurChats" Fr. Andrew came up with (a number of them not even on solid ground but on the roof tops of our buildings and memorably, in the bell tower), the interviews he held and tours he gave of places most of us never see – the sacristies, the walk-in coolers in the school kitchen, in the boiler room under the church, the cemetery – all of them attempts to keep us together even under very difficult situations.

It's a healthy reminder that we never know what the future will hold, even this year's Lent and Holy Week. But it's useful also to remember that it has been as recently as one year ago even worse, and that as a matter of fact, we've pushed on, continuing to serve the Lord by serving each other in new and creative ways. We've been shaken out of the "normal" ways of doing things for Lent to re-assess, re-examine, and do what we need to do even more effectively.

That's the challenge that faces us this Lent too ~ not to buckle or fold or give up but to keep on improving, serving even better this year than in the past. As this implies, I'm going to suggest that this Lent we don't limit our focus on self-improvement merely to our individual personal life, but our "self" as a parish, that we focus seriously on our service precisely as a parish, how we've slipped and slid and taken things for granted, taking the easy way, and now resolve to get serious again about our corporate discipleship and how we can make that even better, more effective.

We always hold on to Romans 8:28 like an anchor keeping us securely in place amid the buffeting storms of life – *"God makes all things work together for good for those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."* Maybe this Lent we could hold on to it with regard to our parish – we are constrained in so many ways, our numbers are way down, nothing is easy to plan or carry out – but God is bringing something good out of all this – we will emerge better for it – there's going to be an Easter at the end if we just rise to the occasion!



## RETURNING TO MASS: WHAT TO EXPECT

We look forward to your return to Mass! As you transition back to in-person Masses, you'll notice:

- ◆ Smiling faces protected by masks! As per the Diocese, masks are to be worn (excluding children younger than 2 years old).
- ◆ Hand sanitizing stations at the entrances to the church. Please use upon entry to the church.
- ◆ Ushers to welcome you and assist you with seating at our Sunday liturgies.
- ◆ Parish bulletins with the hymns for our weekend Masses included.
- ◆ Collection baskets at the church entrances for your Sunday offering.
- ◆ Yellow "pew cards" to mark your seat/pew during weekday and lesser attended Sunday Masses such as the 5:00 pm Mass. This helps us with sanitizing the pews after Masses.
- ◆ White cording and blue tape on the pews to assist with social distancing. Please do not sit in these areas/sections.
- ◆ No processions, Offertory, or Sign of Peace at this time.
- ◆ Two lines for Communion. Please maintain social distance from individuals and/or family groups ahead of you.
- ◆ Two tables with white table cloths on the first landing in front of the altar. These allow distancing from the Eucharistic Ministers during Communion. To receive Communion, please extend your hands flat, then step to the side to remove your mask and consume the body of Christ, and then replace your mask before returning to your pew.

Some parishioners have chosen to return to Mass during the week first, to get a comfort level for the new protocols. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office or ask an Usher upon arrival at Sunday Mass.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE OF OHIO FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Each month the Knights of Columbus of Ohio recognizes a family that “stands out as an exemplary model to others in the parish.” For the month of December 2020, that family belongs to our parish ~ the family of Paul and Monica Depinet.

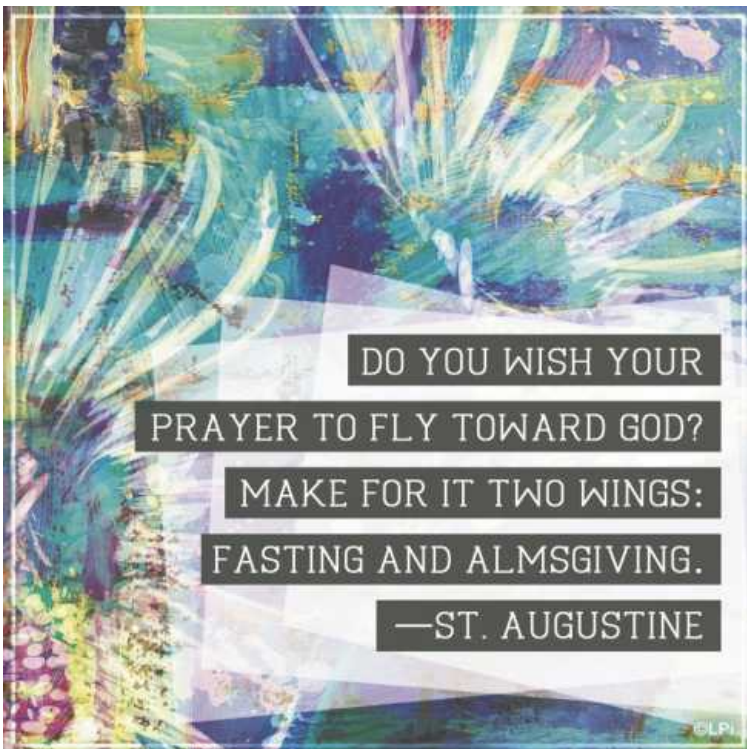
Paul and his sons, Matthew, Mark, and John are active members of K of C Council 626, Norwalk. Son, Luke, is a Squire in the local council. They have participated in the Measure-Up Campaign, Roadside Cleanup, BBQ Ribs fundraisers for Abigail Pregnancy Services and St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the local Right to Life March. They have attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. as a family, in prior years.



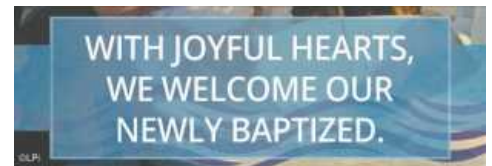
The Depinet family is quite active in our parish. You'll hear daughter Rebecca and brothers Matthew, Mark, John and Luke singing in the Mixed Choir. Son David looks forward to singing once again with the Choristers. Matthew and Mark also are Eucharistic Ministers, while John shares his musical talent for playing the organ and piano for our Masses, as well as for St. Mary's, St. Joe's and St. Anthony's parishes. Matthew, Mark, John, and Luke also are altar servers. Paul and Monica are members of our parish Marriage Preparation team and have been certified Natural Family Planning instructors for 19 years.

There are 300+ K of C Councils in Ohio. Councils submit their nominations for the Family of the Month considering the following: *Is the family tight-knit? Does the family spend quality time together? Does the family attend weekly Mass together? Does the family pray together outside of Mass? Has the family made significant contributions to the parish and church community? Does the family serve as a model of Catholic family values?*

Thank you, Depinet family, for your witness of Christian faith!



## PARISH FAMILY BLESSINGS



### **Eliana**

Daughter of Michael & Trisha Chepote

### **Logan**

Son of Jonathan & Tonya McDonald

### **Hank**

Son of Samuel & Stephanie Forgacs

### **Elijah**

Son of Maria Reyes

### **Luke**

Son of Bradley & Samantha Rospert

### **Valeria**

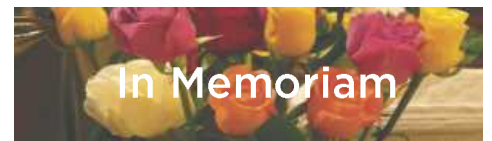
Daughter of Carla Mina Vazquez

### **Noah**

Son of Daniel & Annie Schafer

### **Benjamin, Magdalene, Cooper & Grant**

Children of Joseph & Stephanie  
Zimmerman



Delores Betschman  
Marilyn Bick  
Lynn Borgia  
Burnice Brummit  
Mary Frances Egle  
Edwin Englert  
Ronald Grosswiler  
Kathy Hammersmith  
José Lis Garcia Hernandez  
Raymond Kettel  
James Kocher  
James LaConte  
Kenneth Oblender  
Sidney Brian Meagrow  
Viola Missler  
Joan Ringholz  
Gene Rospert  
Mary Roth  
David Russell  
Dr. Arthur Sheehan  
Ann Sprowl  
Olga Straka  
Betty Swabley  
Donald Trotter  
Bernard Wegner  
Linda Whited

# PARISH HAPPENINGS



**Thanksgiving Day Mass**  
Fr. Michael, Celebrant  
**Norwalk Area Food Bank Donations**



## Advent

Our outdoor Advent wreath was a reminder for all who passed by— Christ, the light of the world, our light in the darkness.



## Advent Outreach

Thank you for your generous donations to families in need, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Project Noelle and our Diocesan Seminarians!



## St. Nick Celebration

Sorrowful Mother Shrine on West Main Street



Advent

## Art Gallery

Artists shared their religious-themed artwork in our new gallery in the Parish Center entrance, bringing joy!



Saints



## Christmas Eve Mass

Msgr. Ken, Celebrant



## North Coast Right to Life March 2021

Due to Covid19, this year's March for Life was a car caravan.





## Parish Feast Day Mass



## Sunday of the Word of God, Bible Blessing

## Sacrament Formation

Students preparing for their First Holy Communion recently made Holy Water fonts for their homes.



## Driving Scavenger Hunt

Clues were given to local sites, including St. Mary Catholic Church, Sorrowful Mother Shrine, Norwalk, St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Paul & Norwalk cemeteries, FTMC Hospital and the courthouse. Participants prayed at each site.



## Respect Life Eucharistic Adoration and Outreach

Rob & Karen Duncan led us in prayer and song during Praise & Worship Adoration. Donations were collected for Abigail Pregnancy Services.



## Family Catechesis

PSR (Parish School of Religion) families meet on the first Wednesday of the month for family catechesis.

# EVANGELIZATION

As I'm working on this, I'm staring down at the date on the calendar, February 2, Groundhog Day. Only in America, it seems, do we place all our hopes on a rodent being pulled from its slumber to decide what the spring holds. In fact, my reflection on that date is less on the rodent and more on the popular film of the same name – where the film's protagonist lives the same day over and over and over. Sound familiar? If it's because life feels like this lately for many of us, you'd be right! As we enter the season of Lent, for many of us it will be a stark reminder that this time last year, we entered a mandatory statewide shutdown, with canceled public Masses and closed schools. A year ago as I plugged away from home, working and schooling children, I created a folder on my desktop: "Quarantine Lent – Not for Future Use." I did it in jest – surely, we would not still be in pandemic mode next Lent, right?!?

I suppose you could argue that this Lent is more of the same. I've found the resources I saved proved once again useful, but they've been tweaked, this time to allow for distanced in-person use. If you're familiar with the Groundhog Day film, as the main character Phil repeats the day over and over, he struggles, he's depressed as he realizes his reality of life on constant repeat. Then it happens—he begins to triumph. He focuses on each person he meets and what he can do to improve not their entire life, just their day. Phil's perfect day includes fixing someone's flat tire, catching a kid who falls out of a tree and preventing a man from choking at dinner.

As we enter the period of "one year since COVID-19," what are we doing to improve people's days? We've been given the opportunity to be more intentional, more connected, and to give more of ourselves in a unique way. Have we done that? Or have we sunk into ourselves out of the sheer monotony of the day-to-day? I know I've found myself stuck—found it easier to remain safely tucked in my bubble. But at the end of the day that isn't what we were created for. God created us for greatness – created us to realize that making an impact on someone's day, does in fact change the course of their life. We are called to be Saints; let us use this Lenten season to remember that call.



## Four Onion Soup

Marge Mitro

### Ingredients:

4 T butter	2 cups finely chopped onions
4 large leeks, thinly sliced	½ cup chopped shallots
4-6 garlic cloves, minced	4 cups chicken or vegetable stock
1 tsp dried thyme	1 bay leaf
Salt and freshly ground pepper	3 scallions, sliced into 1/4 inch pieces

### Directions:

Melt the butter in a stockpot. Add the onions, leeks, shallots, and garlic and cook (covered) over low heat until the vegetable are tender. Add the stock, thyme, and bay leaf, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cook (partially covered) for about 20 minutes. Remove at least 2/3 of the solids and 1 cup of the liquid to the bowl of a food processor; process until smooth. Return the puree to the stockpot. Add the scallions and simmer for another 5 minutes until tender.



## SIMPLE RECIPES for LENT

### Classic Black Beans with Rice

Marian Bermudez

You may recall this recipe from Lenten Luncheons several years ago. This recipe has a Latin American flair. Different countries, such as Cuba and Puerto Rico, each have their own method of preparation. This one reflects a Peruvian influence.

About 4-6 servings as a meatless dish or can be used as a side dish.

### Ingredients:

2-3 Tbsp. olive oil  
¾ cup red onion, chopped  
¾ cup red and/or green bell pepper, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 medium fresh tomato, chopped  
2 teaspoons dried oregano  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
½ teaspoon salt (adjust salt to taste when finished)  
2 15.5 oz. cans black beans, undrained  
Water – about ¾ cup  
Hot, cooked white or brown rice

### Directions:

Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium/medium high heat. Add onion, bell pepper, and garlic; cook about 5 minutes until tender. Add chopped tomato, oregano, cumin and salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until the "water" cooks off and the oil "separates" a little. Stir in the beans with their liquid and add a little more water (½ -¾ cup). Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and partially cover the pot with the lid. Simmer on low heat for about 30-40 minutes, until desired consistency. Stir occasionally. Add salt, if needed.

Serve over hot rice and enjoy!



## **Ash Wednesday Liturgies**

Wednesday, February 17  
6:15 am, 9:00 am, 5:30 pm  
7:00 pm (Mass in Spanish)

## **Stations of the Cross**

Fridays, February 19 – March 26 @ 7:00 pm

## **Lenten Mini-Retreat\***

Sunday, February 21  
2-4 pm

## **Lenten Evening Prayer**

Wednesdays, February 24 – March 31 @ 7:00 pm

## **“Christ Our Great High Priest”**

Scripture study on Hebrews with Msgr. Ken  
Tuesday, February 23 @ 7:00 pm\*

## **“Real Suffering ~ Finding Hope & Healing in the Trials of Life”**

Book study with Fr. Michael  
Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 6:30 pm\*

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Wednesdays  
6:30 pm — 7:00 pm

Fridays  
Following the 6:15 am Mass

Saturdays  
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

First Saturday, March 6  
7:30 am

Hispanic  
Sunday, March 21  
2:00 pm

Day of Grace  
Wednesday, March 24  
10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Monday, March 29  
12:00 pm—1:00 pm  
6:30 pm — 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 30  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, March 31  
12:00 pm—1:00 pm  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm



## **Holy Week & Easter Liturgies**

### **Palm Sunday, March 28**

Saturday, 4:30 pm  
Sunday, 7:00 am, 9:00 am, & 11:00 am  
1:00 pm (Mass in Spanish) & 5:00 pm

### **Tuesday, March 30**

Chrim Mass, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo  
11:00 am

### **Holy Thursday, April 1**

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 pm

### **Good Friday, April 2**

Liturgy of the Hours, 9:00 am  
Good Friday Liturgy, 1:30 pm  
Bilingual Passion Reenactment, 3:00 pm  
Tenebrae Service, 7:30 pm

### **Holy Saturday, April 3**

Morning Prayer, 9:00 am  
Midday Prayer, 1:00 pm  
Blessing of Food Baskets, 4:00 pm  
Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 pm

### **Easter Sunday, April 4**

7:00 am, 9:00 am & 11:00 am  
1:00 pm (Mass in Spanish)

\* RSVP necessary. Please call the parish office by February 17.

**St. Paul Catholic Church**

91 E. Main St

Norwalk, OH 44857

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**NORWALK, OH**

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**We're BACK!**

**Save the Date**

**Alpha begins:**

**Alpha**

**Monday, April 12th!**