

JANUARY 14, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR

PARISH FINANCE MEETING

This Sunday afternoon, at 1 pm, we will have a special Parish Finance Meeting. This is to let everyone know the financial state of the parish. We will go over the 2016-2017 budget, as well as the current year's budget. Last week we included an insert in the bulletin with the pertinent information. As you can tell from that insert, we are doing well. The parish has turned a real corner from operating in the red each year to operating in the black.

Thank you for your generous support of Mother of God Church. It is because of you that we are able to do what we do.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

We are in the process of restarting the Parish Pastoral Council. I included information about that in last week's bulletin and have put copies of the Council guidelines at the exits of the Church. If you think that you may be interested, please pick up a copy of the guidelines, look them over, and give me a call.

Council members must be over 16, fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), and a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church. We will have nine members of the Council, plus a representative from the Parish Finance Council and the parish representative to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Anyone in the parish can nominate someone or can nominate themselves.

The Council members will be appointed by the pastor. I would like to have the first Parish Pastoral Council meeting on Monday, January 29.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The annual March for Life in Washington, DC, will take place this Friday. I have been to the March a number of times and find it to be one of the most inspirational events I have ever been part of. There are especially high school and college kids participating by the hundreds of thousands, and their enthusiasm and commitment to the life of the unborn is very moving. All of the Catholic high schools and youth groups from our diocese will be sending thousands of young people to the March. I plan to attend the March this year and will be travelling on a bus provided by the Diocese of Covington.

The bus will leave on Thursday morning, and we will spend the night in Washington. We will gather on Friday morning at Saint Dominic Church in downtown DC for Mass with Bishop Foys and all of those from the Diocese of Covington. Following the Mass, we will walk

to the location for the beginning of the March. We will then walk up the street, turning to pass in front of the Capital Building and the Supreme Court Building.

I will return Saturday evening.

Please keep us in your prayers as we travel. Often we have met very harsh weather.

DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE FOR LIFE

Bishop Foys has declared Friday, January 19, to be a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life, in the Diocese of Covington. He has asked that there be a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in all parishes on January 19, in union with those participating in the March for Life in Washington. We will have Exposition here at Mother of God from the end of the 12:05 Mass until 5:30 pm.

At 7 pm, a Holy Hour for Life will be held at the Cathedral and at other parishes in the Diocese. All are invited and encouraged to participate in this Holy Hour praying for the unborn and for a conversion of heart and mind of all in the US regarding the dignity of human life.

COME TO JESUS THE HEALER

My next series of talks will be entitled, "Come to Jesus the Healer." It will begin on Thursday, January 25, and will continue until March 22, with the exception of February 22, because of a conflict with the DPAA Leadership Dinner. The sessions will all be at both 11 am and at 6:30 pm, except for the February 15 session, which will be a Healing Mass with Father Richard MacAlear, at 6:30 pm.

The word "savior" means "healer" and the root of the word "salvation" is "salve" which is a healing ointment. To say that Jesus is our Savior is to say that he is our Healer. The schedule for the sessions (with flexibility due to possible snow emergencies) will be:

Jan.	25	The Healing Ministry of Jesus
Feb.	1	"Be Not Afraid": The Healing Power of Faith
Feb.	8	"I Do Will It, Be Healed": Healing Through the Anointing of the Sick
Feb.	15	Healing Mass with Father Richard MacAlear, OMI
Feb.	22	DPAA Dinner--No Session
Mar.	1	"Neither Do I Condemn You": Finding Healing in the Forgiveness of Our Sins
Mar.	8	"As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us": Finding Healing Through the Forgiveness of Others

- Mar. 15 "If the Son Sets You Free, You Will Truly Be Free": Finding Healing From Addictions
- Mar. 22 "Get Behind Me Satan!": Freedom and Healing From Unclean Spirits

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Father Richard MacAlear, OMI, who will be here at Mother of God Church on February 15, has asked me to assist him in a pilgrimage to Italy, on May 7-18. We will fly to Venice, and then travel to Florence, Assisi, and Rome.

He just asked me last week, so this is fairly short notice. After January, the rates for the trip go up.

I am placing brochures at the exits of the church, or you can call me at 859-816-3198 for information or to have a brochure mailed to you.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY

This Monday, January 15, our nation celebrates Martin Luther King Day. As we remember Doctor King and the efforts and sacrifices that he made on behalf of the civil rights of people of color, we are made all too aware that there is much progress to be made. Some of us thought that the election of a black president meant that, as a nation, we had arrived at that moment that Martin spoke of in his "I Have a Dream" speech. Tragically, events since then have shown that not to be the case.

It has been said that race has been the Original Sin of America. When our ancestors came to America, it began conflicts and wars with the Native Americans, and even more devastating were the deaths from viruses that they had never encountered and had built up no resistance to. Next was the enslavement of millions of Africans for 300 years, followed by 100 years of Jim Crow laws. More recently, we have seen struggles involving immigrants from Central and South America, and from the Middle East and other Muslim majority countries.

We must continue to work and to pray for a healing of the racial divisions and hostilities in our country. May Martin's Dream become a reality.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On Thursday, January 17, we begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. At the Last Supper, the great prayer of Jesus was that his followers would be "one, as you and I, Father, are one." If there is one way in which we Christians have failed Jesus more than any other, this would be it. Usually we think of the Reformation 500 years ago (1517 AD), separating the Western Church into Catholic and Protestant, when we reflect on the divisions within the Church. But we have to go further back to 1054 AD, to what is known as the Great Schism,

which split the Church between the East and the West, the Catholics and the Orthodox.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council called for a new ecumenical spirit within the Catholic Church to work with our Orthodox and Protestant brothers and sisters, to fulfill Jesus' dream and prayer of a unified Body of Christ. Many efforts have taken place since then, and despite the obstacles, the Catholic Church has been a leader in seeking to heal the rifts between the various groups within the Church.

For almost 40 years, I have been in areas where there were strong and active ecumenical efforts, led by local ministerial associations. These groups have been a great source of fellowship with other ministers, as well as efforts to bring our communities together in prayer at Thanksgiving and on Good Friday. The Limestone Ministerial Association in Maysville was particularly involved in the local community in founding a food pantry and supplying assistance to the needy of the area.

I have been disappointed to find that such a ministerial association does not exist in Covington. My hope is that this will change over the next few years.

But the work at bridging our differences and charitably working with one another is not just the job of the ministers. Perhaps it will be the laity of our churches who will show the ministers the way in this great effort.

During this week we will pray that the great dream of Jesus of his followers loving one another and working with one another will become a living reality.

PARISH NEWS

PRINCE OF PEACE MONTESSORI presents "WINTERFEST 2018: A Celebration of Local Restaurants and Music." Please join us for our largest fundraiser of the year on Saturday, January 27, from 7 – 11 pm. Hosted at Notre Dame Academy, 1699 Hilton Drive, Park Hills, KY. Event features dinner by the bite, cash bar, DJ, dancing and silent auction. \$30 each. Please join us! Tickets can be purchased at <http://popcov.com/parents/parent-association/winterfest/>. Your support is greatly appreciated.

CINCINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY Choir, Orchestra and Steel Drum Band will perform a Sacred Music Concert at Mother of God Church on Sunday, January 21, at 7 pm. All are welcome.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL QUARTERLY COLLECTION: The quarterly collection for SVDP will be taken on Sunday, January 21. Envelopes will be available in the pews. Collectors will be at the doors. Your gift helps Mother of God parishioners to reach folks within our parish boundaries who are in need with food vouchers, clothing, household items, rent, utility

assistance and bus passes. We are thankful to you for your continued generosity.

NOTICE:

Due to printing deadlines during the holidays, the following Sunday Collections were not available for printing.

SUNDAY COLLECTION	December 17, 2017
Envelopes	\$8,171.00
Loose	\$539.50
Online Giving	\$570.17
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$9,280.67

SUNDAY COLLECTION	December 24, 2017
Envelopes	\$7,062.00
Loose	\$662.00
Online Giving	\$1,290.50
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$9,014.50

SUNDAY COLLECTION	December 25, 2017
Envelopes	\$9,714.00
Loose	\$2,203.00
Online Giving	\$1,294.35
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$13,211.35

Retired Religious Collection \$3,348.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION	December 31, 2017
Envelopes	\$10,300.00
Loose	\$532.00
Online Giving	\$269.35
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$11,101.35

SUNDAY COLLECTION	January 7, 2018
Envelopes	\$7,314.00
Loose	\$329.00
Online Giving	\$269.35
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$7,912.35

NOTICE: Hearing Impaired Devices Available. Please see an usher if you need one.

DIOCESAN NEWS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE COLLECTION:

January 21 is the weekend designated for the Annual Collection to support Opportunities for Life. Opportunities for Life is a life-affirming ministry of the Bishops of Kentucky. The *OFL* ministry is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to offer confidential, non-judgmental emotional support and information to those affected by an untimely pregnancy. Please be generous in your support of this ministry. In addition to your generous gift, please pray for the *OFL* volunteers and for those the ministry serves. To learn more about the opportunities for life ministry, please call 888-496-3638.

JANUARY 19 Burlington March for Life is an annual, local opportunity to march in unity with those also marching in DC. The annual March for Life is to remind us of the 1973 ruling by Supreme Court to legalize abortion, making it available on demand in all 50 states. All are welcome to march in peaceful, prayerful protest of this 45-year-old decision and celebrate many lives saved from Respect Life efforts over the years. We open in prayer at 5 pm at IHM, march to the Burlington Courthouse where we will gather in the newly remodeled historic building (once the Circuit Courtroom) for warmth, fellowship, refreshments and opportunity to hear State Representative and Senate updates of life issues in Kentucky. Also, you'll hear inspiration to keep us inspired in our dedication to the unborn and how you can get involved locally to support All Life. This is an ecumenical event and ALL are welcome to join us. Please spread the word so we can come together in unity, showing Northern Kentucky and others that we care for the unborn.

For those unable to march, you're welcome to meet in the Historic Courthouse for fellowship, prayer and learning while you wait for the marchers to join you.

RSVP is not required, but it is helpful in planning for refreshments. RSVP and follow updates at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/149638125804026/>

ST. ANNE'S RETREAT CENTER is hosting a retreat for women February 9-11. The retreat will be lead by Deacon Dave Profitt, and the topic of the weekend will be "Finding Holiness in Simplicity." The talks will focus on:

St. Theresa of Lisieux and the Little Way
 How prayer can be simplified to be more effective
 Finding peace in the craziness of life.
 The cost for the retreat is \$150 and includes meals. Register online at OnlineRetreatRegistration or call 859-441-2003 or email lfagin@covdio.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES is looking for confident, reliable volunteers for front desk receptionists and client billing. There are four-hour shifts for morning, afternoon and evening. Different opportunities are available. To learn more, contact Kristina Jolly, volunteer coordinator, at 859-581-8974 ext 119 or kjolly@covingtoncharities.org

PROJECT RACHEL seeks to help restore your hope. Your life is precious in the sight of God, and you can know joy again. Let this New Year be the beginning of a new you. Call 859-392-1547 or email projectrachel@covdio.org. All calls and emails are confidential.

HUSH St. Agnes Pro-Life Committee will be hosting a showing of *HUSH* on Thursday, January 25, at 6:30 pm, in Murphy Hall. This 100-minute documentary is directed by a ‘pro-choice’ woman who works with a ‘pro-life’ executive producer and a ‘neutral’ producer to present a film that is ‘pro-information’ for all women. Their goal is to provide truth for the sake of women’s health. Visit the website to learn more and to see the film trailer <http://hushfilm.com/>. This information is vital for all women – so spread the word! Admission is free, and there will be snacks and refreshments. RSVP is appreciated, however not required. Contact Mary Beth at jacober@fioptics.com or 859-630-4586.

GREATER CINCINNATI CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE: The Fourth Greater Cincinnati’s Catholic Women’s Conference, “Here I Am, Lord” will take place on March 3, at The Manor House (7440 Mason Montgomery Rd., Mason, OH. 45040). Tickets are available at www.CincinnatiCatholicWomensConference.org. Last year sold out quickly. There is an amazing line up of speakers, confessions, vendors, visiting with friends and Mass with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. Take a little time for yourself this coming Lent and enjoy this day of spiritual renewal. If you have any questions, please visit jackiekeiser@yahoo.com or call 513-260-4756.

HYMNS FOR 9:30 AM MASS

568 Lord of All Hopefulness
 Response “Here am I Lord; I come to do your will.”
 607 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
 703 Salve Regina (Latin)
 560 Now Thank We All Our God

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 14

1 pm Parish Financial Mtg. (Hall) All are welcome.

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Office closed)

Thursday, January 18

12:45 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, January 19

Day of Prayer and Penance

Sunday, January 21

Opportunities for Life Collection

St. Vincent de Paul Collection

7 pm Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy Sacred Music (Church) All are welcome.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 14	9:30 am	The Safe Return of Capt. David Sperry (L)
	11:30 am	Eric Brown
Jan. 15	12:05 pm	The Clark Family
Jan. 16	12:05 pm	Special Intention
Jan. 17	12:05 pm	No Mass
Jan. 18	12:05 pm	Communion Service
Jan. 19	12:05 pm	Ralph Schwartz
Jan. 20	12:05 pm	Dan Cleary
Jan. 21	9:30 am	Sally Glockner & Carolyn Bessler
	11:30 am	Carroll Trenkamp

SCRIPTURE FOR JANUARY 14, 2018:

1 Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 6; 13c-15a, 17-20; John 1: 35-42.

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Dan Ries
Pam Neal	Beth Redwine
Robert Gander	Trudy Koehling
Shirley Hensley	Ralph Kunkemoeller
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Margie Huesman
Mary Jo Schwartz	Greg Scanlon
Pat Ruttle	Makayla Borg
Greg Dahlenberg	Fr. Ray Hartman
Baby Eli	Bob Schroeder
Becky MacIntyre	Rosa Maria Santos
Mary Estelle Roesel	Jill Felix
Clarence Dickman	Kelly Bowman
Christopher & Clifford Browne	Peggy Beckman
Bob Shircliff	Al Haven
Mark Wilmhoff	Tom Donoghue
Ann Jurgens	Lou Brewer
Amber Collins	