



**ST. MARYS DEANERY**  
Catholic Parishes of Mercer & Auglaize Counties



St. Aloysius, St. Francis,  
St. Joseph (Egypt), St. Anthony, Immaculate Conception,  
St. Bernard, St. Henry, St. Augustine, St. Wendelin,  
Precious Blood, St. Rose, St. Patrick,  
St. Joseph (St. Joseph), St. Teresa, St. Peter, St. Mary,  
St. John the Baptist, Holy Trinity, St. Paul, St. Sebastian,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Redeemer, Holy Rosary,  
Mary Help of Christians, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

# Northern Lights

Spring 2016—Volume 66

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths. PROVERBS 3:5-6*

[www.stmarysdeanery.com](http://www.stmarysdeanery.com) • [smdeanery@bright.net](mailto:smdeanery@bright.net) • 419-925-5022

## From the Desk of the Dean

Not only are we creatures of habit, we're also creatures of convenience. And yet, how does that affect our relationship with our local parishes?

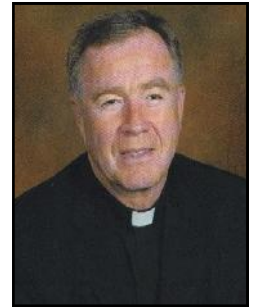
The priests and deacons of the Saint Marys Deanery meet together five times a year to share blessings, opportunities and challenges which concern our life and ministry in this local church with twenty-five parishes. One of the challenges is the limited number of available priests and how they are increasingly stretched in meeting the needs of their parishioners. Another challenge is promoting Sunday Mass as the vital center of each parish's life and reason for being, especially in a culture where mobility can take us in many directions during the weekend and where convenience is a constant support for our busy lives.

Parishes are supposed to be *communities of faith*. Ongoing, week-by-week participation in the parish's life, is one of the important elements of being a practicing Catholic. And, it seems to me, the most important way to participate in the life of one's parish is by making it a priority to attend and celebrate Sunday Mass in one's parish as much as possible.

Just by having a residence within a parish's territory makes you a member of that parish. The reason the church "assigns" each one of us to a parish community is that we need community in order to be Catholic. Our faith cannot survive without community connection and support.

There are always good (and not-so-good) reasons for participating at a Sunday Mass away from one's home parish. I salute those of you who make it a priority to "be there" at your parish for Sunday Mass, even when it is not convenient.

May your tribe, may your kind increase!



Fr. Rick Walling

*Fr. Rick Walling*

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council is a representative body of the local Church whose mission is to advise the Archbishop in both spiritual and temporal matters. The members also bring to the Archbishop any issue(s) relating to the Archdiocese for his consideration and/or response. Your local Representatives are Jay Brown ([jab84@nktelco.net](mailto:jab84@nktelco.net))—Minster, Ohio and Becky Kunkler ([beckykunkler@bright.net](mailto:beckykunkler@bright.net) or [smdeanery@bright.net](mailto:smdeanery@bright.net))—St. Sebastian Ohio. Please feel free to contact them if you have matters that you would like presented to the Archbishop of Cincinnati—Most Reverend Dennis M. Schmurr.

## Out of the Mouths of Babes... "What my First Communion Means to me..."



"I get to join my family every Sunday." Logan Henschen, Holy Rosary CCD

"I am excited because I get to receive Jesus every week." Kasey Gross Holy Rosary CCD

"It will make me feel closer to him and make our bond stronger." Delanni Wilker Holy Rosary CCD

"He will be with me always!" Ashlyn Kill Holy Rosary School

"I get to receive Him sacramentally." Ava Klosterman Holy Rosary School

"Jesus will be in my heart." Lauren Schloemer, Holy Rosary School

"So I can eat bread and drink wine at church." Leila Weidner

## Artistry Under The Dome...

By: Sister Martha Bertke



The fourth annual **Art Fair** at St. Charles was once again a huge success. Thirty-one artists participated and each one displayed their wonderful creations. Plus art work from six local high schools were present.

Nearly 1,200 people came to the Art Fair and were amazed at the various types of art and marveled at the fact that so many artists are from our local area. People delighted to see such talent and frequently shared many fine compliments regarding all aspects of the event.

A featured artist was Sarah Hess, originally from Maria Stein and works under the name of **Studio Cera Marie**. She painted a large, spring-inspired piece during the fair so viewers could see the process from start to finish. She graduated from Marion Local High School in 2006 and from the University of Cincinnati in 2010 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

**LAAG**, Lake Area Arts Group, was represented this year. This collaborative group was created the summer of 2014 to promote visual arts in the Grand Lake area. They strive to inspire all people to create, nurture and appreciate the arts.

A very special Thank You to all the artists, the planning committee, the numerous volunteers, and the residents, staff members and employees of St. Charles, who worked together to make it a great event.

## Spiritual Center of Maria Stein...

By: Robin Goettemoeller

*New Format!!*

**The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein**  
2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein  
Presents...

# Kids For Christ



	<b>Tuesday, June 14</b>	<b>10:00-2:00</b>
	<b>Wednesday, June 15</b>	<b>10:00-2:00</b>
	<b>Thursday, June 16</b>	<b>10:00-2:00</b>

**\$40**  
Per camper

For youth in grades 1-5

**CATHLETICS!**  
TRAINING TO BE CHAMPIONS FOR CHRIST



Each day will include:

- Saint of the Day
- Virtue of the Day
- Crafts
- Snacks
- Lunch
- Prayer
- Guest Speakers
- Activity/Games
- Faith and FUN!!!!!!

Just as it takes hard work to train for the Olympics, it's also important to get the right training to live out our faith! In this sports-themed Kids for Christ, youth will become engaged into the LIFE OF CHRIST with teachings from God's Word on the Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**What's provided?**  
Lunch daily  
Snacks  
T-Shirt  
Drawstring Bag  
Program Supplies



Call 419-925-7625 if you would like to register or if you have questions or email [robin@spiritualcenter.net](mailto:robin@spiritualcenter.net)

## Miracles are Everywhere...

By: Lee Ann Dorsten & Becky Kunkler

Paul Dwenger, parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is retired but has always been involved in the church. He helps with the Mission Commission and organized drilling a well in Guatemala. He has taught CCD for many years, is a weekday server, sets up for Mass, etc. A man who braces the faith so willingly and shows everyone around him how to truly live in the likeness of Jesus. "A VERY SPIRITUAL AND HUMBLE MAN"!! Well Paul was given a sign that his work is truly pleasing to the Father!

While carving an old tree stump in the back of OLOG parish rectory into a cross, he noticed his own special cross that appeared on his fingernail. Paul, will surely continue to do the work of the Lord and walk as HE has walked through this special sign from our Heavenly Father!

"Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." - Matthew 17:20



*JIGSAW PUZZLES...CAN BE A TERRIFIC WAY TO SPEND TIME. On the one hand, putting together the little pieces can be relaxing and intriguing. On the other hand, putting together jigsaw puzzles can be challenging and addictive. They can be so much fun that it's hard to stop working on them, even when you have other things to do. Watching as the design or photo on the jigsaw puzzle starts to take shape can be fascinating. Sometimes it's surprising to see how certain pieces fit together in places and ways you didn't expect.*

*Your journey on earth is like a jigsaw puzzle that God is continually working on. Here and there, he might put in interesting pieces together in your life-pieces you don't expect or don't see how they could possibly fit in. But He works it all together. The great fact that Philippians 1:6 points out is that you don't have to work on your life alone-God takes responsibility for completing and perfecting you, too. For instance, if you're having problems with a certain temptation, you are not alone-God is helping you resist it. If you wonder if you'll ever get to a particular stage in your spiritual life, this verse reassures you that you will-because God is still working on you. One woman was afraid that she would mess up and not get to heaven. This verse reassured her that God intended to get her to her eternal destination unscathed.*

**"You may not know what your life will turn out to look like, but God does. He is fitting all the pieces together until the beautiful masterpiece of you is completed. Keep in mind that as you work on your life, you don't work alone."** 100 Favorite Bible Verses for Woman - Hallmark



## Wright State University—Lake Campus

By: Becky Kunkler

Great things are happening at The Wright State University—Lake Campus! They have recently created a group called "Catholic Campus Ministries" also know as CCM. The group meets weekly on campus to concentrate on Bible study, Catholic teachings, fellowship, events for outreach, Gospel teachings and much more to strengthen their Catholic faith and to do good in our communities. Along with that, they recently finished participating in Hunger Cup which is a competition between Wright State University and the University of Dayton to collect food for food pantries. The food collected by the Lake Campus went to the C.A.L.L. food pantry. They collected 529 pounds, or 637 items. They are planning on doing this again in the fall.

All CCM members have the opportunity to participate in a fall retreat in October and then again in the spring. The Dayton Chapter of CCM has been participating in this for many years and now have asked the Lake to join them on these retreats.

Fr. Barry Stechschulte of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in St. Marys has generously offered some time to be on campus for any student who may need or want to talk or even say confession.

If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in joining this fine group, please contact Marg Hess at Margorie.Hess@wright.edu or Mark Hibner at mark.hibner@wright.edu. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Please see their website at [www.raidercatholics.com](http://www.raidercatholics.com) and click on the Lake Campus tab.



## Maria Stein Shrine...

By: Tess Mescher



The Maria Stein Shrine sets on 30 acres of peace filled rural grounds with several locations for reflection. The interior of the Shrine offers the Relic & Adoration Chapels, the Heritage Museum and the Pilgrim Gift Shop.

Weekday tours are available at 10:00am and customized pilgrimage and tour scheduling is available for groups of all sizes and ages. Having the Shrine filled with visitors is a pure joy.

This summer at the Shrine "Pilgrimages of Mercy" will continue and the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show & Sale will take place from June 25 - June 30<sup>th</sup>. The ever popular Country Fest is scheduled June 24-26<sup>th</sup> with the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual Pilgrimage slated for 1:00pm on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A "St. Peregrine Prayer Service" will be held Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm and the Shrine will be celebrating the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sisters of the Precious Blood presence at Maria Stein during Heritage Day on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please follow the Maria Stein Shrine on Facebook and visit the new website at [www.MariaSteinShrine.org](http://www.MariaSteinShrine.org) for the latest Shrine calendar of events.

*DO YOU KNOW...That the priests and deacons in the St. Marys Deanery meet 5 times a year to discuss parochial matters. Representatives from area groups join the latter portion of the meeting to provide information and updates on events. Among these groups include Catholic Social Services, Hispanic Ministry, the Catholic Social Action/Rural Life Office,, Shrine of the Holy Relics, Family & Respect Life, Spiritual Center, Northern Area Youth Ministry and the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis.*

### Heavenly Humor...

*Little Susie concluded her prayer by saying, "Dear God, before I finish, please take care of Daddy, Mommy, my baby brother, Grandma, and Grandpa...and please, God, take care of Yourself or e'lse w'e're all sunk!"*

## Parish Mission with Father Leo Patalinghug...

By: Cindy Muhlenkamp



The Coldwater Cluster of Parishes had the pleasure of welcoming Father Leo Patalinghug for a cluster mission March 6-9, 2016. He is from Baltimore and the host and founder of Grace Before Meals. He is also an internationally renowned conference speaker, author, TV host of "Savoring Our Faith" on EWTN, and radio co-host of "Entertaining Truth" on Sirius XM. His unique background as martial artist and break dancer helps him to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds. With food, faith and fun, Fr. Leo brings people closer together- one meal at a time! Father Leo did just that with his dynamic talks. Holy Trinity church was overflowing each night, with dozens of people watching via live streaming in the basement. Father helped us see how we can find God through the saints, through Mary, Our Mother, and through the Holy Eucharist. Father Leo provided lively demonstrations with volunteers from the audience. He was able to convey the importance of our faith with a combination of humor and seriousness. Many families indicated that their children were begging to come back each night. This mission culminated on Wednesday night with a cluster dinner at which Father Leo gave a cooking demonstration and shared how important food, faith, and fun are to our families' lives.



## More...Out of the Mouths of Babes...What My First Communion Means To Me...

"I get to walk down the walkway". "I get the Body of Christ and the Blood". "I get to have a part". "I get blessed from God." Hunter Wellman—Holy Redeemer

"It reminds me of the Last Supper". Riley Suchland—Holy Redeemer

"It means I will be receiving Jesus". "I will also get to join Holy Communion". Lucy Homan—Holy Redeemer

"First Communion means to me that God is with me". Mary—Holy Redeemer

"First Communion means to me...getting closer to God". Josh—Holy Redeemer

"It means to me believing in God and Jesus and that God is with me in my heart and body". Alondra Benitez—Holy Redeemer

"First Communion means to me Faith, Love, Hope, Jesus, God and Communion". "Believing in God and when you eat the bread you are saying yes you believe because he died for us for our sins to forgive us and it reminds me of the Last Supper". Austin Mumaw—Holy Redeemer

"I will get to eat the body and blood of Jesus." Ryan Stucke—St. Sebastian

"Receiving Jesus for the very first time". Isaac Bruns—St. Sebastian

"I will get to receive Jesus every time". Kayla McClurg—St. Sebastian

"I will be filled with joy and happiness". Katelyn McClurg—St. Sebastian

"I will have lots of love for Jesus". Sophia Fleck—St. Sebastian



### WHAT'S COOKING?...

A recipe card is one of my most valued possessions, but I didn't realize it until recently. I read an article about people who had been forced to evacuate their homes with little warning—because of flood, fire, tornado, and so on. They all told what treasured possessions they chose to grab and save.

A smart lady grabbed her purse that held the cards she needed for identification—driver's license, insurance, and so forth. Others saved family photos, a favorite heirloom, jewelry, or clothing. But one lady said she saved her recipe file. I would never have thought of that, but it made me realize how much I treasure my well-thumbed, smudged, and scribbled-on recipe cards.

Lord, I know this must sound trivial, but some of those cards have my mother's handwriting on them and they call to mind all the delicious goodies she turned out for the ladies luncheons and family get-togethers plus the "standards" she made for everyday meals.

And then there are my own treasured recipes for special occasions or family favorites. I have some memorized but when I'm cooking for company, I still check the recipe card to be sure I'm not leaving out a half-teaspoon of something.

Funny, isn't it, Lord, how a little three-by-five card can bring back so many memories? And isn't it funny how certain foods recall happy times? I guess you can understand that Lord, since I noticed in the Bible that you too were often sharing a meal with your apostles or being invited to go to someone's home for dinner. Maybe this should tell me that I better start spending more time with the Bible than with my recipe cards. But, Lord, the Bible is so much longer and harder to read than those little three-by-fives.

Thank you, Lord for all the happy times with food and fun. And thank you for the Bible and all the lessons to be learned and all the memories of your sacrifice and love for your worldwide family. And, Lord, I promise to get out of the kitchen and into the Bible more frequently.

And GOD BLESS OUR MOTHERS!



**Saint Charles Senior Living Community** By: Teresa DiSalvo, Senior Living Manager

2860 U.S. Route 127  
Celina, Ohio 45822-9591  
419.925.4516 ext. 112  
teresad@bright.net  
www.saintcharlesseniorliving.com  
Near the intersection of US Rt. 127 & St. Rt 274



**Senior Living Community**



*Saint Charles Senior Living Community offers a peaceful, apartments for people age 55 and above in a welcoming environment for you to call home.*

**Apartments**

- 54 one and two bedroom apartments
- Kitchen with refrigerator, stove, microwave, garbage disposal
- Individually controlled thermostats, smoke detectors, sprinkling system
- Handicap accessible and several elevators
- Pet free facility

**Amenities**

- Beautiful large chapel for Daily Mass and prayer times
- Lovely Dining Room
- Laundry Room
- Barber Shop/ Beauty Salon
- Computer / Internet Access
- Covered Parking
- Great Exercise Room
- Hot Tub/ Sauna
- Library/ Reading Room

**Peaceful Setting**

- Attractive, spacious grounds
- Ample room to walk and bike
- Two gorgeous lakes
- Fishing on the property
- Places to rest and ponder
- Front porch & back porches
- Outdoor way of the cross
- Statues and grottos

