



The Knights of Columbus of Holy Family Catholic Church of Stow, OH are holding their Lenten Fish Frys each Friday during Lent thru March 18. Held in the Lower Church Hall of Holy Family Church (3179 Kent Rd., Stow). Menu items include entrees of Baked Tilapia, Fried Beer Battered Cod, Jumbo Butterfly Shrimp, Mac & Cheese and Cheese Pizza. A choice of any two side dishes are included: French Fries, Hush Puppies, Seasoned Rice, Mac & Cheese, Pierogies, Salad, Cole Slaw, or Veggie Pie. Coffee & Punch are provided along with a Roll and Butter. Also available are bottled water, soft drinks and assorted dessert items at a nominal charge. **Dinners served from 4:30pm till 7pm. Come enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship!**

#### **Visitation of Mary Invites You to Join 200 Club!**

You are invited to join the Visitation of Mary Parish (formerly Annunciation) 200 Club for 2016 for only \$52 per person for the year! Every month for 8 months (February through September), two lucky people will win \$100 each. PLUS in March and again in September, there will be an additional drawing for \$500! **Drawings are on the 3rd Friday of every month at the Visitation of Mary rectory. The first drawing will be February 19.** Location for the special \$500 drawings TBA. **Hurry! Numbers are starting to sell! For more info or to sign up, contact Jerry at 330-592-4155 or 330-535-4141 x12.**

#### **Breakfast**

Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth Chapter of Magnificat, a women's ministry modeled after the Visitation, invites you to a **Breakfast Saturday, February 27 at Walsh University, Barrette Center (2020 E. Maple St., North Canton, OH).** Join us in a special time of fellowship and sharing. **Cheryl Langford** will be the guest speaker. Cost is \$18. Make checks payable to "Magnificat of Stark County" and send to Shirley DeOrio, 409 7<sup>th</sup> St. NW, North Canton, OH 44720. **Seating is limited. Plan on getting your reservations early! Reservations cannot be accepted after February 20. Open seating. Doors open at 8:30am with breakfast at 9am. There will be an optional Mass at 8am in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University. For more info, call Shirley DeOrio at 330-305-1146.**

#### **A Work of Mercy**

Ursuline Sisters residing at Regina Health Care very much need the company of others who are willing to spend a little time with them each week. Read the newspaper, take walks within the building, talk...the task is simple but the benefit and reward great. Questions? Please contact **Maggie Gibson at 440-449-1200 x409 or at [volunteer@ursulinesisters.org](mailto:volunteer@ursulinesisters.org).**

#### ***In Your Charity***

*Please remember in your prayers Robert M. Patrick, father of parishioner Jeffrey Patrick and grandfather of parishioners, Alexander and Eliza Patrick. May Robert and all our beloved dead live forever in the joy of the Resurrection and may their families and friends be granted consolation. Amen.*

#### ***Tutors Needed!***

*Seeds of Literacy, provides free basic education and GED prep to adults in the Cleveland area. Volunteer tutors help students one-on-one at a variety of skill levels and subjects. Please join us for an upcoming tutor training session: Friday, February 19 from 9am-3pm (Seeds East), Saturday, March 19 from 9am-3pm (Seeds West), Friday, April 22 from 9am-3pm (Seeds East), Saturday, May 21 from 9am-3pm (Seeds West) and Wednesday, June 15 from 5-8pm (Seeds West). To register or for more info, contact Alexandria Marshall, Volunteer Coordinator at [alexandriamarshall@seedsofliteracy.org](mailto:alexandriamarshall@seedsofliteracy.org) or at 216-661-7950 x15, visit [www.seedsofliteracy.org](http://www.seedsofliteracy.org) or [www.facebook.com/seedsofliteracy](http://www.facebook.com/seedsofliteracy). Seeds West: 3104 West 25th St., 3rd Floor, Cleveland, OH 44109. Seeds East: 13815 Kinsman Rd. Cleveland, OH 44120*

#### **Christ Child Society of Cleveland**

Ladies, are you familiar with the Christ Child Society? Would you like to know about us and share our mission? This year we are celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the Diocese of Cleveland. **We are a non-profit organization dedicated to serving at-risk children, in the love and spirit of the Christ Child.** Our purpose is to "foster a personal love of Christ expressing itself in service for needy children regardless of race, color or creed". If your answer is "perhaps" or "yes", please come to learn more about The Christ Child Society. You are cordially invited to attend the **Christ Child Society's Informational Coffee, March 9 at 10:30am, at Parmadale, Cottage #14, 6753 State Rd., Parma, OH 44134.** For reservations or for more info, call, **Annette Gorris at 440-526-6138 or Carol Janas at 440-526-5972.**

#### ***Volunteers Needed!***

*Womankind Maternal and Prenatal Care Center in Garfield Heights is looking for caring, compassionate volunteers to provide client support during our Monday clinics and weekday mornings/afternoons at our reception desk. No experience necessary; training provided. Call Dianna or JoAnn at 216-662-5700 (M-F, 9-4) for more information or to obtain an application. For more info about Womankind, visit [www.womankindcleveland.com](http://www.womankindcleveland.com).*

*Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.*

## First Sunday of Lent Bulletin Announcements for February 14, 2016

### 2016 First Step Programs

*During this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Mercy, we are called to renew our relationship with God and the Church. Taking the "first step" is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure. This program is offered to help anyone learn more about Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage. 2016 general meetings schedule is: Tuesday, March 8 at St. Peter Parish, Lorain, at 7pm; Thursday, May 19 at St. Noel Parish, Willoughby Hills, at 7pm; Tuesday, September 13 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Cuyahoga Falls, at 7pm; Tuesday, October 18 at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will be present to explain the resources they offer to the divorced. Note that the Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process. For more info about the program, visit [www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal) or call the Tribunal at 216-696-6525/800-869-6525 x4000.*

### Couples Evening Out

All married and engaged couples are warmly invited to a **Couples Evening Out, Saturday, April 9 from 5-9:30pm** at **St. Sebastian Parish, 476 Mull Ave., Akron, OH, 44303**. Guest speaker, **Fr. Tim O'Connor**, is a priest in the Matamoros Diocese in Mexico. The past 20 years he has been serving as a member of Servants of the Cross, a missionary group of lay people with a mission focused on the renewal of Catholic family life and on helping young people know and live their personal vocation. Padre Tim also is the assistant pastor of San Pedro and San Pablo in Reynosa, Mexico. Discover reasons to invite Christ into your relationship and how to get beyond the bills, homework, traffic and any other trying moments in your marriage. **Attend Mass, renew your vows, enjoy dinner and more. Registration deadline is April 1.** Send your name, address, phone, email, and payment addressed to Couples Evening Out, 2078 Wyndham Rd., Akron, OH 44313. \$50 per couple; checks payable to St. Sebastian Parish. (Financial assistance is available). For more info, contact **John or Eileen Patton at 330-307-2298 or [jhowardp@hotmail.com](mailto:jhowardp@hotmail.com)**. This event is sponsored by West Side Catholic Couples, a ministry of St. Sebastian, St. Vincent, St. Mary and St. Bernard Parishes in Akron.

### AM1060 Catholic Radio

The Living Bread Radio Network on-air pledge drive on March 1, 2, and 3 will bring you special programming and an opportunity to pledge your support to keep Catholic radio on the air, on the web, and on your phone. Call in your pledge to 888-966-2093 at [www.livingbreadradio.com](http://www.livingbreadradio.com).

### Feast of St. Joseph Celebration

Joseph's Home, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, will host a celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph on Friday, March 18. Admission is free and all are invited. Mass begins at 4pm in Holy Trinity Chapel, located in St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, 2351 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Cleveland, OH, 44115. A reception will follow in the St. Vincent DePaul room. Validated parking tickets will be provided for guests who park in the lot directly across from the St. Vincent Charity Medical Center main entrance on East 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Please RSVP by March 16! For full event information, directions and to RSVP visit [www.josephshome.com/events.html](http://www.josephshome.com/events.html) or contact Joseph's Home Director of Development Nathan Munn at 216-875-4634 or [nmunn@sistersofcharityhealth.org](mailto:nmunn@sistersofcharityhealth.org).

### Famous Fish Fry!

You are invited to come and enjoy these famous **Fish Frys beginning Friday, February 12 and continuing every Friday during Lent (not including Good Friday) from 4:30-7pm. \$9 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors and \$4 for children 12 years & under.** Held in the school building cafeteria at **88 Kent St. in East Akron**. Excellent menu including baked or fried cod, scalloped potatoes or French fries, Spanish rice, macaroni & cheese, vegetable, cole slaw, coffee, tea & lemonade; Massoli's bread. Desserts and soft drinks also available. **Don't miss out on these fantastic, fabulous fish fry's! Come try it!**

### CANA II Remarriage Preparation

**CANA II is a marriage preparation series for couples, in which one or both have been married before, or one or both will become a stepparent.** Includes Active Parenting for Stepfamilies series on subsequent evenings. Held at **Holy Spirit Parish, 410 Lear Rd., Avon Lake, OH 44012. \$125 per couple. Register at [www.ccdocle.org/program/cana-ii](http://www.ccdocle.org/program/cana-ii). Date & Time: Saturday, March 12 from 8:30am-6pm (includes 5pm Mass) Active Parenting Series. Date & Time: Wednesday, March 16 from 6:30-9pm.**

### NFP

**Natural Family Planning classes** will begin again on **Thursday, March 3**. Come learn the technique and theology behind the only means of family planning approved by the Catholic Church. Whether you are planning your wedding or are married with children, this effective method of family planning has proven to be a great blessing to those who practice it. **For more information on time and location or to register for the class, contact Steve and Julie Mosholder at [juliemosholder@gmail.com](mailto:juliemosholder@gmail.com) or 330-554-6770.** Your marriage and family will thank you!

*Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.*



Save the Date: An Evening of Confession  
 at all Catholic Churches in the Diocese  
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>  
 5 - 8 PM



Catholic  
 Diocese  
 of  
 Cleveland

“GOD NEVER EVER TIRES OF FORGIVING US!” (POPE FRANCIS) | [WWW.WELCOMECATHOLICS.COM](http://WWW.WELCOMECATHOLICS.COM)

## The Healing Balm of Forgiveness

In our first reading, Moses offers God’s people a creedal formula which they are to recite again and again until it becomes rooted in their hearts and in their being. It is to be a constant reminder of God’s gracious mercy that delivered them from enslavement and led them to freedom. It is to be the guiding force to maintain their fidelity with God.

The two creeds which are offered for our use at Sunday Masses are similar in their intent as was the Mosaic creed. But the Creed is not just a list of essential doctrines. It is a living testimony to the beliefs embraced by millions of Christians today and through the centuries who found in those words the Truth, the Way, and the Life offered by the Son of God.

In the gospel, the evangelist Matthew presents Jesus as standing before, confronting, and facing down the devil. Jesus does so in his human nature and, as such, represents all of humanity. He is presented to us as “gospel,” the good news of how powerful we are while united with Him when we are confronted by the evils of the world, or by our personal inner demons. These demons the Church has traditionally named, the Seven Capital Sins. The Lenten season provides an opportunity for us to review how well we have been facing down the devil. Or have we given in, believing we are powerless?

In his decree announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote, “When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive.” Accordingly, the season of Lent presents a special opportunity to be embraced by God’s mercy.

For those who may be moved by God to experience the healing balm of His forgiveness through confession and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, this Sacrament is available in parishes at various times and often with extended prayers. So as to cast the net of God’s merciful forgiveness as widely as possible, this Sacrament will be available in every parish church throughout the diocese on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Please consider this opportunity for God’s mercy and bring a loved one to join you.

Rev. John Vrana  
 Senior Parochial Vicar  
 St. Michael, Independence

First Sunday of Lent  
 2016 February 13/14



2015 - 2016  
 Jubilee of Mercy

**LOVE**  
*hopes &  
 bears*  
**All Things**

Diocese of Cleveland

### **Journaling With Scripture During Holy Week**

Do you want to walk more closely with the Lord Jesus during Holy Week? Pray the Scriptures in a deeper way, using Journaling as a prayer and meditation practice. Come and experience prayer in a new or deeper way. Bring a pen and notebook. Those are the only tools you need. You can bring a Bible with you, or a book of readings for Lent/Holy Week if you have one. Grace will be provided by God! **Presenter will be Sr. Elaine Berkopec, OSU, has a Master's Degree in Ministry from Ursuline College. Please register by February 26. Contact Sr. Madonna Marie at 440-449-1200 x251 or at [mdickus@ursulinesisters.org](mailto:mdickus@ursulinesisters.org). Held on Monday, February 29, from 6:30 - 8pm at Ursuline Educational Center, 2600 Lander Rd., Pepper Pike, OH 44094. \$5 payable at the door; cash or check made out to Ursuline Academy of Cleveland.**

### **Sisters of Selma**

On Sunday, February 21, at 3pm., the Dominican Sisters of Peace will host a showing and discussion of "Sisters of Selma" at the Akron Motherhouse, 1230 W. Market St. The documentary features some of the Catholic religious sisters who went to Selma, Alabama in 1965 to support the African-American community in the struggle for civil rights. **All are welcome.**

### **Walsh University's Encounter Lenten Retreat**

All are welcome to attend Walsh University's Encounter Lenten Retreat on February 22, 23, 24, and 25, at 8pm each night, in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, 2020 East Maple St., North Canton. Attend one or attend them all. These events are free and open to the public. This year's schedule includes presentations by speaker and worship leader Teresa Peterson.

**Monday, February 22:** "Encountering Christ, the Source of Mercy," Reconciliation and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

**Tuesday, February 23:** "Encountering Christ in the Eucharist," Eucharistic Adoration until 3am.

**Wednesday, February 24:** "Creating Encounters with Christ," followed by a ministry social.

**Thursday, February 25:** IGNITE-Student-led Worship Night with Eucharistic Adoration.

Teresa Peterson is a Catholic recording artist out of Philadelphia, PA, and most recently, has partnered with the Penn Newman Center, Philadelphia, in starting a monthly adoration and worship night for the surrounding universities and their students. She has also led worship at events in association with the World Meeting of Families, Heart of the Father Ministries (Unbound), The Culture Project, Teresa has opened for Fr. Michael Gaitley (33 Days to Morning Glory), Archbishop Chaput, and Alanna-Marie Boudreau.

### **DSWC**

A "Caring and Sharing" session for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held Monday, February 22 from 7:30-9pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls. Marlene Maruna, a Licensed Independent Social Worker, will facilitate this session. Open at no charge to people of all faiths. For more info, call Marlene at 330-607-6284.

### **First Friday Club of Akron**

The First Friday Club of Akron will meet Friday, March 4 at Tangier, 532 W. Market St., Akron 44303, and will feature students from four area Catholic High Schools speaking on the topic "How God has Walked with Me Through High School." Archbishop Hoban will be represented by senior Avery Bable, daughter of Angelia Bable, members of House of the Lord. Ms. Bable attended National Inventors Hall of Fame Stem Middle School. Our Lady of the Elms will be represented by senior Alexandra Eicher, the daughter of Mary and Donald Eicher, and members of St. Basil the Great Catholic Church, Brecksville. Ms. Eicher was home schooled for elementary school. St. Vincent-St. Mary will be represented by senior Elizabeth Paydo, the daughter of Ron and Kathleen Paydo, and members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Wadsworth. Ms. Paydo attended Sacred Heart School. Walsh Jesuit will be represented by senior Molly Onders, the daughter of Kathleen Onders, and members of St. Basil the Great Catholic Church. Ms. Onders attended St. Michael School, Brecksville. The cost of the luncheon program is \$20. Doors open at 11am; the program begins at noon, and ends promptly at 1pm. Reservations can be made by sending a check to the First Friday Club of Greater Akron, 795 Russell Ave., Akron, OH 44307, by calling the office, or on the website, no later than the Monday prior to the program. For more information, please call 330-535-7668 or visit [www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org](http://www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org).

### **Listening, Encouraging, & Assisting Families**

Do you have families in your parish, who, because of the incarceration of a loved one, experience isolation, shame, guilt, and an overwhelming sense of being alone? The LEAF Ministry has been formed to be of support to these families. Groups meet monthly offering an opportunity to those who come to listen and share community, network and learn from others who understand their situation, challenges, fears and emotions. All are welcome to participate irrespective of faith affiliation. For more info and to verify schedules, call 216-696-6525 x3500 or 800-869-6525 x3500, email [info@leafministry.org](mailto:info@leafministry.org), or visit [www.leafministry.org](http://www.leafministry.org). No pre-registration is necessary.

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