



# From The Heart

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Oberlin, Ohio

Lent 2018

## *Walking Through Holy Week*

Holy Week is when we as Christians celebrate the great events of our salvation. Perhaps we should call it the Holi-est Week since nearly each day we are commemorating another aspect of God's saving deeds. We begin, of course, with **Palm Sunday** when we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. Since the crowd's joyful cry of *Hosanna* will quickly turn to angry shouts of *Crucify*, we read at Mass the story of our Lord's passion and death.

As a prelude to the great Holy Week liturgies, on Wednesday we gather in the darkness of the evening to pray **Tenebrae**. These were the prayers that Jesus knew well and prayed often. Tenebrae is a service that uses the Psalms that our Lord would certainly have prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and during his three hours on the cross. During the service we recall the gradual departure of the Lord's disciples, Jesus' loneliness, his departure from us at the moment of his death, and then his triumphant return at the resurrection. Tenebrae lasts about 45 minutes and is rich with unique prayers and music as well as memorable signs and symbols.

With the celebration of the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** on Holy Thursday evening, the Church begins the Sacred Triduum, i.e., the Three Days on which we commemorate Jesus' saving deeds. We begin by remembering the Last Supper and the gift of the Eucharist by which the Lord Jesus continues his saving presence through time. As a reminder that the Lord came to serve and not be served and has told us that we must do so as well, the priest washes the feet of twelve members of the congregation. The Mass of the Lord's Supper is a beautiful and joyful celebration. At the end of the Mass consecrated hosts are transferred from the church to a place of repose set up in the sacristy and the sanctuary is stripped of all its artifacts. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved for private adoration until 9:30 pm.

On Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus with the **Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**. According to an ancient custom, Mass is not celebrated on this day anywhere in the world. The Liturgy consists of three parts: the reading of the Passion of our Lord as written by St. John the evangelist, the veneration of the cross on which our salvation was won, and the reception of Holy Communion with hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday evening. The celebration of our Lord's Passion is a fitting way to commemorate the sacredness of this holy day.

The **Easter Vigil** is the most ancient and most important Mass in the liturgical year. The liturgy begins in darkness with a roaring, chaotic fire that pierces the dark of the church. From the chaos comes a single flame atop the Easter Candle, the symbol of the risen Christ. The candle is triumphantly carried in procession into the church and its fire is shared with each person in the congregation. As the church is filled with light, we are reminded that we are Christ-bearers to be light to the world. Various stories of God's great love for us are proclaimed from the Old and New Testaments. Since this is the celebration of the risen Lord, if candidates are available, it is fitting to welcome them into the Church as new members through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. With lit candles we renew our baptismal promises and we profess our faith. The liturgy is filled with music both ancient and new that engages us to enter into the wonder of the risen Lord that makes us the Church and that gives us life. The Eucharist is celebrated and we receive communion at this joyous celebration of Jesus' triumph over sin and death.

*Fr. Cole*

*On the Resurrection: "Something perfectly new in the history of the Universe had happened. Christ had defeated death." (C.S. Lewis)*

## PARISHIONER HIGHLIGHT: Amanda Mitchell

We want to introduce you to Amanda Mitchell, daughter of Ron and Janice, sister of Danny, Erin, and Emily, and aunt of Jaxson, Lucy, and Preston.

Amanda, 14, is a student at South Amherst Middle School, where she plays soccer. She is also a member of the Robotics Club and draws the robots as part of club competitions. If there are classes that require artwork, her classmates always want her to do it. And why? She's good.

Sliman's car dealership knows that. They sometimes hire her to paint their showroom windows when they're having a special event, and she provided a lighthouse drawing for the St. Joseph Church women's retreat.

So now you know (in case you didn't already): Amanda is an artist. Recently, one of her drawings won a gold key award for the Scholastic Art Show; it's on display in the Beth K. Stocker Art Gallery at LCCC. One of her paintings was chosen to be part of the annual Young People's Art Exhibit, and a drawing was chosen to be part of the Youth Art Month Exhibit. Both of these are sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association and will be on display in Columbus.

She can use all manner of media, but she believes she's better at drawing than painting and, if you've had dinner at our parish fish fries and seen her wonderful chalkboard murals, you might understand that view.

Amanda serves the parish in other ways as well. When asked how she feels about the ways she serves God, she responded, "I could probably do more, like most people, I guess. I like helping my parents with set-up and take-down for IHN. I was thinking of becoming a PSR aide after I make Confirmation." She went on to say that serving God is such a big part of her life "because my parents always try to volunteer, and I always tagged along. Now it just seems natural for me to do what I can, too."

In addition to being a member of the Robotics Club and serving the parish, Amanda sometimes takes art classes at FAVA. She likes Erin Hunter's *Warrior Cats* series and enjoys drawing pictures from scenes in those books. She also likes the Netflix series *Strange Things*. When asked if she has chores to do at home, she said, "Ummmm, I'm supposed to keep my room clean, and I have to help with my little brother sometimes."

*Amanda, thank you so much for serving our parish and sharing your artistic talents, not only with us, but with your school and greater community.*



## RECOMMENDED READING

*Perfectly Yourself* (Matthew Kelly, Beacon, 2006/2017). This is the book that was handed out at Christmas. Don't let it sit on your shelf. It is not a difficult read, but Kelly gives us so much food for thought. The book is broken up into lessons, each of which is followed by practical applications and challenges. He makes points that, at first, may take us by surprise. "It is rarely less pressure and usually more pressure that brings the answers we seek." "Deny yourself in small ways." "Put together a not-to-do list." "De-junk." "Niceness is not a virtue." "Sometimes not to speak is to lie." "Self-esteem and self-confidence are not the same thing." If you haven't read this book already, dust it off and give it a try for Lent. It will be well worth your time.



## **CHRISTMAS WITH THE ABDI FAMILY**

Our family invited our refugee family to share Christmas day with us in Oberlin. After borrowing another parishioner's 8-person van, I drove to Cleveland to pick up the seven members of the Abdi family. It was a bitterly cold morning and, as I drove, I was reminded that Jesus and his family became refugees after His birth: what would our family think of the unfamiliar weather, culture, and people?

Before going to my house, we stopped by Sacred Heart Church and were lucky to find Father Cole still inside: it was the first time he and our family had met and, for me, it was a truly special moment.

We enjoyed an easy lunch of chili and crackers, and the family was very adventurous in trying out the new tastes we offered. The Chmura family came over in the afternoon. We played games and exchanged laughter. After, Johannes took the oldest four on a walk to Tappan Square but, accustomed to hot temperatures, their only thought was about everything downtown being closed. They wanted a warm place to duck into for a moment!

As the sun set, we began eating a traditional Christmas dinner of turkey and the fixings: potatoes, stuffing and bread. The family loved the turkey dressing and most of the food, but found the cranberries way too tart. Late that evening, I drove the family back to their home.

Driving back to Oberlin, I reflected on what a gift the Abdi family has been -- to me, to my group, to my church, and to my nation.

*(This is an article, written by Lori Taylor, about her experiences spending Christmas with the Abdi family.)*



## MEET THE CATECHIST:

A series of interviews with those who teach in our PSR program

A catechist, as you probably know, is a person who gives religious instruction. We thought you'd like to know more about the catechists who volunteer their time to teach the children of our parish. To that end, a list of questions was sent out to each, and we hope to introduce these wonderful people to you, two or three at a time, by sharing their responses with you.

**ERICA DROST** has been teaching in our PSR program for six years. She's a lifetime member of the parish – she was baptized, received first Reconciliation and first Communion here. She was confirmed here. She was married here. She's raising her family here. She has an elementary education degree and was a substitute teacher, but mainly she's been a stay-at-home mom to her two daughters. Two years ago, she returned to school and will be graduating in May with a major in Physical Therapy Assisting. Her hobby is photography.

Her older daughter, Leah (an altar server), was confirmed last year and has since joined her as a classroom aide. Her younger daughter, Hannah, went through her class last year, so it was a very special year for the entire family.

One of the questions we asked was how Erica came to teach in our PSR program. "I saw in the bulletin that a second-grade PSR teacher was needed. As I sat in my pew, I just had this feeling that it was what I was supposed to do. I had such fond memories of my own experience within the PSR program here at Sacred Heart, I was very excited to become part of that for future students going through the program.

"This year I will have the youngest of three members of the same family make his first Communion. His older brother was in my first class; his sister came through a couple of years ago. All three have grown, not just in appearance, but in their faith. It is very special to see."

In answer to a question about teaching this particular age of student, Erica said, "I have gotten to watch many of them grow up in the pews around me, watching their family members and others receive the Body and Blood of Christ. It is very special to see them come into my classroom knowing it is finally their turn to make their first Reconciliation and first holy Communion."

She has this to say to anyone considering joining the PSR staff, either as a catechist or an aide: "It is far-reaching. Where your work with these children ends is limitless. I appreciate the privilege the families and students give me each week to share and learn our faith together."

***"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." (Jn 15:13-14)***

## MEET THE CATECHIST: JAN MITCHELL

Jan was baptized at St. Joseph Church in Amherst. She grew up there and was married there, but she and her husband, Ron, moved to Oberlin in 1995 and, happily for our community, became members of Sacred Heart. They are the parents of four and grandparents of three.

This is Jan's 20<sup>th</sup> year teaching. She's currently responsible for our combined 5<sup>th</sup>- and 6<sup>th</sup>-grade PSR class, although one year she taught fourth. How did she come to be a PSR teacher? "Fr. Bill Padavick called and told me he needed a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher. I reluctantly accepted. When I look back, I am so glad that I did." She's only taken off one year – the year her son Danny was born.

Why fifth and sixth grades? "I like this age because the kids are flip-floppers. They think they are independent and mature, but then revert when they want the comfort they are sometimes afraid to ask for. At this age they can think logically about concrete problems. They get excited about what they're learning, but also have anxieties about peers at this transitional stage of their life. I like to listen to their stories and be reassuring and supportive. I try to show them how to react to their environments and challenges from a Catholic perspective."

To prepare for each class, Jan uses the Sadlier PSR teacher guide books. She looks through the lesson, notes what she wants to talk about, looks for supplemental material she might want to use (for instance, word searches, crossword puzzles, games) that might complement the lesson.

In Jan's view, what is the best part of being a catechist? "I love watching the children when they get excited about something I'm telling them. I see the growth in their faith and understanding. I love the deep discussions and thoughtful conversations we have. They are cooperative and *very* competitive." As for others who might be considering becoming catechists or teachers' aides, she says, "It's very rewarding, but can also be challenging. You will learn a lot about the children and also about your own faith. I'm constantly learning."



## RECOMMENDED READING

*Pioneer Priests and Makeshift Altars: A History of Catholicism in the Thirteen Colonies.* (Fr. Charles Connor, EWTN Publishing, 2017).

If you enjoy American history or Church history, you'll want to read this book. Fr. Connor begins by covering the movers and shakers in the Protestant "reformation" – Martin Luther, Henry VIII, Calvin, Wycliffe, Zwingli, and others, from whom came the idea of the pope as antichrist and that Catholics were idolaters because they prayed to saints. He then moves on to how Catholics ended up in the colonies and how, even in Maryland, they came to be persecuted. "Brings to life an important period

of history in ways that continue to shed light on the ecclesial realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."  
(Archbishop Bernard Hebda)

**PARISHIONER HIGHLIGHT: Cantor/Server/Choir Member Aubrynn Reichle**

Hello, I'm Aubrynn Reichle!

I am 10 years old, turning 11 in May. I go to school at Firelands Elementary in Oberlin and I'm in the 5th grade. The members of my family are my mom - Molly, my dad - James, my brother - Seth, my baby sister - Evelyn Mary, and my puppy - Roman.

I became interested in being a server by watching and wondering why there were extra people at the altar. I thought their participation played an interesting part in the Mass, so I asked to be one, even though I was only nine. I was accepted. I have been a server for almost a year.

I wanted to be a choir member because I've loved to sing since I was little. I have been in church choir for a year and a half. I started being a cantor when I was at choir practice and one of the other members asked me, "Why don't you go up there and sing?" I said, "Sure! Why not!" I've done the responses a couple of times. When I'm practicing for the response, I practice with Mr. Carl when we have choir practice, then a couple days before Mass, and again with Mr. Carl before Mass starts. How nervous I am depends on how hard the psalm is for me to sing. I was especially nervous when I sang for Bishop Perez and on Christmas Eve. I am pleased to serve God by interacting in the church. I would like one day to be a PSR aide or a Eucharistic minister. I like to serve God by using my voice and serving at the altar. I like to sing and serve because that is a way I can use my voice and talents.

My parents take me to Mass. My mom taught at a Catholic school which I attended for 3 years before I went to Firelands.

I was in the Oberlin Choristers singing group for 3 years. I am involved in basketball, softball, volleyball, and honors choir at my school, and I play trumpet in band. My hobbies are sports, reading, singing, gardening, playing outside, hiking, camping, cooking, and biking. My favorite author is J.K Rowling, who writes Harry Potter, and C.S Lewis, who wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia*. My favorite book is *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. My favorite movie is *The Sandlot*.

I do have chores like unloading the dishwasher, doing my laundry, cleaning my room, and taking care of the puppy. Now you know a little more about me!

*Aubrynn P. Reichle*

*"No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it." (1 Cor 10:13)*



## A big Thank You to Ted, Jill and Judy at Allan Kenard Printing

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440-323-7405 / 7406 [akpinc@windstream.net](mailto:akpinc@windstream.net).

Ted spent many hours with me helping format the first issue of this newsletter and found a local mail house that would prepare it for mailing. Without the hard work of Ted and other staff at Allan Kenard Printing our newsletter would still be in black and white and cost a good bit more to prepare and mail.

*Gerry Findlan*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

- 25 Mission at 2:00 p.m.
- 26 Mission at 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Mission at 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Evening of confessions from 5 - 8 p.m.

### MARCH

- 2 Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Communal penance service (St. Patrick Church in Wellington) at 1 p.m.**
- 16 Fish fry at 5:30 p.m.; Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Fish fry at 5:30 p.m.; Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Tenebrae at 8:00 p.m.
- 29 Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.**
- 30 Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 p.m.**
- 31 Holy Saturday blessing of Easter foods at 1:00 p.m.; Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m.**

### APRIL

- 1 Easter Mass at 10:00 a.m.**
- 7/8 Men's Retreat (St. Joseph Church in Amherst)
- 20 Charismatic Mass at 7:00 p.m.

### MAY

- 6 First Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Mercy Healthcare blood panel from 9 a.m. until noon

**“We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, for by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.” (Stations of the Cross)**

## **DID YOU KNOW ... these artists (among many, many more) were**

### **Catholic?**

Giotto	Fra Angelico	Bernini	Botticelli
Brunelleschi	Caravaggio	Ghiberti	el Greco
Cellini	Michelangelo	Raphael	del Sarto
Velazquez	Rubens	da Vinci	Cezanne
Donatello	Dali	van Dyck	Goya
Titian	Mantegna	Delacroix	van Eyck

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*Please let us know if you have comments or suggestions! We would really appreciate feedback of any kind and would like to know if people are reading this newsletter.*

*You can send your comments to EDITOR at:*

[sacredheart1newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheart1newsletter@gmail.com)

*Feel free to submit your comments, suggestions for future items or an article of general interest to our parishioners. This newsletter goes to all registered parishioners and is a way to reach out to the entire Sacred Heart community and hopefully beyond.*

*Thank you, we would love to hear from you.*