



The Grape Vine



The Parish Newsletter of Saint Jude Catholic Church

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A Letter from Our Pastor

A Month to Remember and Renew Our Commitment to God

Dear Parishioners,

Every year the month of November brings about dramatic changes. From blue skies and warmth, we prepare for the cold and dark clouds. This month we also, in a special way, remember all who have died this past year. In our tradition as Catholics, we all become more aware of our own mortality. This is not meant to be morbid, but rather realistic and hopeful. We believe that after physical death, we enter into eternal life. Bishop Cosgrove, who lived at St. Jude's, used to say, "yes, we all believe that, but as humans, we are not ready yet."

I have just turned sixty-two and am now eligible for Social Security. However, I also now have a different perspective. We all only have so much energy, time, and opportunities. How do I make the best use of what has been given? How can I achieve a better balance and be more life giving? These are questions we all struggle with...more is not necessarily better. What is God asking of all of us today? What are the essentials...simplicity, humility, and gratitude.

We live in a culture and society that has so, so many options, technological developments, and conveniences. This is good. We are blessed. However, to



whom much is given, much is also expected, according to the Scriptures. One size does not fit all and we each work that out proportionately.

It is good for all of us to annually review our commitment/stewardship response. I also take this on as a challenge personally:

Time: I need to set aside the best quality time for prayer and homily preparation. I need to spend more time in Eucharistic Prayer on Wednesdays.

Talent: I need to accept the challenge of getting involved in activities I don't necessarily prefer as a first option, but need to be done. I enjoy pastoral work, but administration can be drudgery. It is a real challenge to have the courage to ask

See "A Month to Remember" on page 6



St. Jude School News

ST. JUDE SCHOOL WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Ms. Christine Fowler is a new addition to the faculty at St. Jude School. Christine is teaching small group reading classes to select students in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Christine's program is called SOAR TO SUCCESS and is designed to assist students achieve reading success. Christine is a creative teacher and has already added new dimensions to the SOAR program. Students are enjoying her and her class! Christine is a recent graduate of Tiffin College.

Ms. Amanda DiFilippo also joins us as our new Enrichment teacher. Amanda sees kindergarten and first grade students as well as sixth, seventh and eighth grade students several times each week. Amanda will be enriching kindergarten and first grade students with science and social studies activities. Junior high students will participate in rotating units of study across several curricular areas. Amanda's enthusiasm and creative energy will make a difference in our program! Amanda is a recent graduate of Ashland University and is also an alumnus of St. Jude School!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

School parents will join faculty for Parent-Teacher Conferences on Sunday, November 5 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Students in grades four through eight are required to join their parents and participate in conferences as well. These conferences are an important opportunity for parents, teachers and students to identify strengths as well as areas in need of further growth.

All fifth grade parents are invited to an important meeting on Monday, November 20 at 7:00 PM in the Family Center. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the fifth grade Benziger Family Life Program which is based on the diocesan human sexuality curriculum. Both fifth grade teachers, Mrs. Swanson and Deacon Pat Humphrey will speak that evening. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions as well as review the textbook used in class. We hope all fifth grade parents will plan to attend.

GRANT AWARDED TO ST. JUDE SCHOOL

St. Jude School recently received a grant from Target. The grant amount was \$2000.00 and will fund an author for Right To Read Week which will be celebrated in the spring. Students will have the opportunity to hear an author and participate in special activities throughout the week. Stay tuned for more information.

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEW CLOTHES

Our school principal, Mrs. Rozann Swanson, will be found in the Library reading to fifth graders on Friday, November 17. Mrs. Swanson will be reading the book, "The Principal's New Clothes," a spin-off from the classic fable, "The Emperor's New Clothes." Fifth grade students will work in groups to design an outlandish outfit for Mrs. Swanson to wear on Wednesday, January 31, which is Parent Day during Catholic Schools Week! Last year's attire included pink hair, flowers and other mismatched items! We can hardly wait to see what the fifth grade students have in store for Mrs. Swanson.

THANK YOU, EVA SCHLOSS

We would like to thank Eva Schloss for coming to St. Jude Church and School to share her experience as a Holocaust survivor. She shared her incredible insights with our school children and again in the evening with our parishioners and guests from the Jewish community. She is a step-sister to Anne Frank and has two books of her own, *The Promise*, and *Eva's Story*. Her visit will be remembered for a long time to come.

New Parishioners

Mr. Richard Bernhardt & Dr. Danielle Hoover
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Eby
Mr. & Mrs. Victorio Fragapane
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gibbons
Mrs. Judith Kilbane
Mr. & Mrs. James Satterfield
Ms. Ashleigh Vasi



"You Better Shop Around"

We throw the term "ministry" around quite a bit when referring to parish activities and organizations. The realm of parish life, encompassing that loosely linked body of parish establishments, thrives upon its various ministries. In fact, for most parishes, ministries are the source and summit of parish involvement.



Ministries give us something to do. As humans, we need activities to occupy our time; thus the creation of work. Holy work honors the Lord, and it is not hard to see why - as the old saying goes, "idle hands are instruments of the Devil."

"A parish ministry is simply any activity or organization, liturgical or

social, that goes on within our church community," explains Dr. Jessica Wells, member of our Stewardship Committee and coordinator of this month's Ministry Fair. "Everyone has different skills and interests, and parish ministries allow the members of St. Jude to get involved in the parish."

Our upcoming Ministry Fair, while serving our parish in a variety of ways, will first and foremost give attending parishioners a preview or glimpse of the different ministries our parish offers. "Basically," explains Jessica, "the different ministries will set up displays or booths, almost like advertisements. It's important to let parishioners know what opportunities are available, and the Ministry Fair is designed to do that. We're just trying to educate the parish on what each ministry is about."

The fair, which takes place November 11 and 12, will feature more than twenty of our valued parish ministries. "It's our second annual "Ministry Fair" as a stewardship parish," says Jessica. "Last year was



successful, but we're hoping this year will go even better!"

As disciples of Christ, ministries are one of the most effective tools we can use to fully immerse stewardship into every facet of parish life. When people get involved they get personal, and parish stewardship demands personal investment. The only way we can grow as a church is if each member of our parish family has a personal stake in the success of St. Jude Catholic Church. Parish-wide events, such as this month's Ministry Fair, further stimulate parish involvement while simultaneously building the earthly Body of Christ.

"We're really excited about this year's Ministry Fair," says Jessica. "We're really proud of all our ministries and we encourage everyone to investigate the different opportunities for participation." In addition to her Stewardship Committee duties, Jessica is also a Eucharistic Minister and an active member of Women of Faith. "My experience with parish ministry has helped me meet more people and it's enriched my faith," she says. "So come enjoy this year's Ministry Fair. We'll be set up in the school, in the hallway between the Family Center and Carrabine Hall."

A Month to Remember (cont.)

the hard questions and hold people accountable to their Catholic responsibilities...to do this clearly and yet pastorally.

Treasure: Tithing means ten percent for all charities. I ask myself to make my commitment to St. Jude this year between five to six percent. Each one of us has to do this proportionally, honestly, and purposely.

If we take this annual stewardship review seriously, the result is very rewarding. We are all at a different stage on the same spiritual journey. Let's be realistic...take small steps if necessary, but take a step every year. This will bring a new freedom and peace into your life. God is never outdone in generosity. With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Frank P. Kosem, Pastor



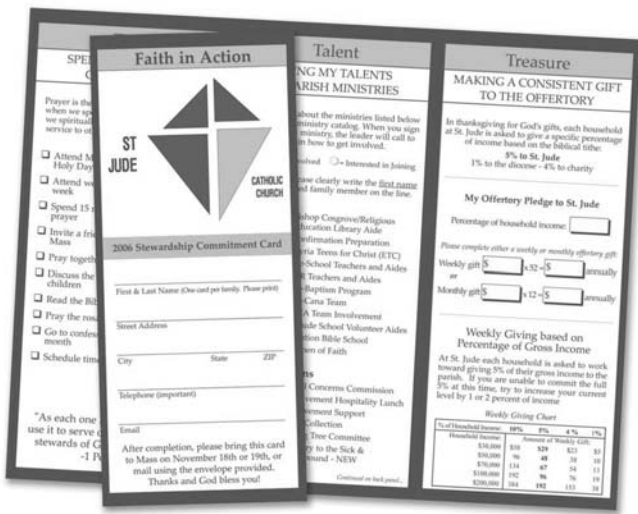
Questions & Answers about...

Once again, it's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. Every year, someone asks, as you may have asked yourself, "Didn't we just have a Stewardship Renewal? Aren't we sufficiently "renewed" by now?" Yes, we had a Stewardship Renewal last year, and we're going to have one next year, too! This is an annual occurrence - part of the rhythm of parish life at St. Jude. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. How is the Lord asking you to give your time, talent, and treasure to our parish this year?

Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving 5% of your income to St. Jude.



My age or physical limitations prevent me from being active in the parish.

Should I still turn in a commitment card?

Yes! The first section of the card-Stewardship of Time-is the most important because it allows you to make commitments to prayer. Even if you can't join a ministry or make it to Mass on Sunday, you can still pray for our parish. Your spiritual support has tremendous value in the eyes of God.

One time I turned in a card, but no one ever called me when I signed up for a ministry.

If this happened in the past, please forgive us! And don't give up on filling out your commitment card! We have a very good plan to call every person interested in joining a new ministry. If for some reason the ministry leader does not call you within four weeks of turning in your card, let the parish office know.

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your commitment card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items.

Commitment Weekend is November 18-19.

Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!



... Our Stewardship Renewal

How much should I give?

Your gift is entirely dependent on how much God has given you. At St. Jude, we ask that you give 5% to our parish, 1% to the diocese, and 4% to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10%) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish, each according to his or her ability. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

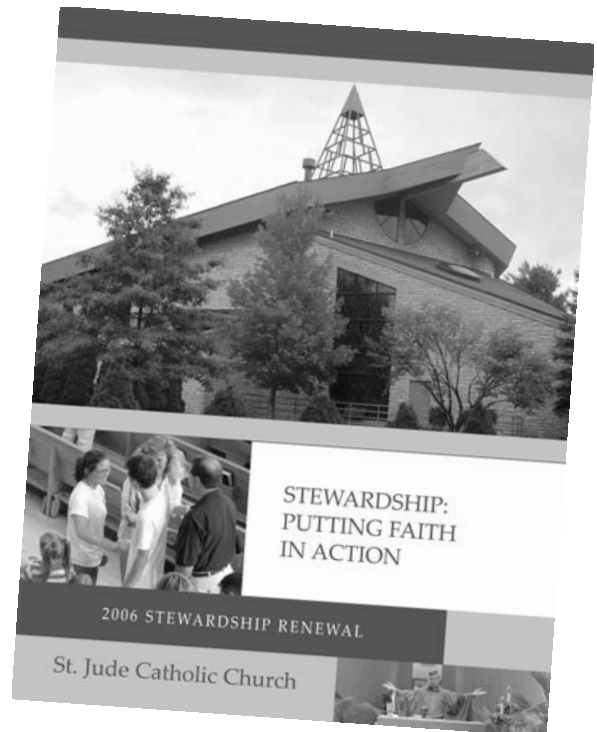
What if I can't fulfill my financial pledge?

While our pledge is not a "contract," we should all make a good-faith effort to fulfill it. Of course, if your financial circumstances change-if you lose your job, for instance-then the amount of money you give the Church will change, too. Likewise if you get a raise or bonus. The biggest reason many people don't fulfill their pledge is that they attend Mass at another parish when they go on vacation, attend a wedding, etc. If you're out of town, just make up for the missed Sunday when you write your next check to the parish. Using your envelopes is a good way to see which Sundays you missed.

I don't even go to Mass very frequently.

Why turn in a Commitment Card?

Because this is your chance to turn over a new leaf! Why not make a commitment to God to come to Mass every Sunday, and then write down that commitment? Even if that's the only commitment you make, take a step forward. Jesus Himself is waiting for you!



What happens if I don't return my Commitment Card?

If you don't turn in a Commitment Card, Father Kosem will turn your name over to the "stewardship police." Well... not exactly. But we will mail you a reminder letter that includes an extra Commitment Card (in case you misplaced yours). Make every effort you can to participate. Our Stewardship Renewal is a very important annual event in the life of our parish. You and your family are part of what makes St. Jude a great community! Most importantly, your commitments are actually promises to Christ Himself. All of us are called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us.

Every parish family receives a special "Stewardship Package" in the mail that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your commitment card.



The True Significance of Thanksgiving

Throughout childhood, the events of our country's first Thanksgiving were imprinted upon our minds. Grade school teachers told and retold the proceedings of that joyous Thursday again and again. Many of us dressed up as Pilgrims, donning black and white Puritan gowns and large hats with shiny tinfoil belt-buckles. We learned about the symbolic significance of Thanksgiving, that like the historic Pilgrims, we too should open our homes and hearts to neighbors and family during the Thanksgiving season. The first Thanksgiving united the Pilgrims and natives together in celebration, and likewise, every Thanksgiving celebration thereafter has been geared toward those same feelings of love, joy, and satisfaction.

The actual historical events that transpired on the first Thanksgiving are disputed, and sometimes even forgotten. But, a few things have been agreed upon as fact. The first Thanksgiving took place sometime during the early 1620s. A simple harvest festival, the first Thanksgiving was not

***Why not begin your holiday
this year by attending Mass?
Even though Thanksgiving Day is
not a holy day of obligation, what
better way to show our thanks to
God than spending an hour of
our hectic morning at His table.***

given the status of "holiday," but simply signified the lasting presence and perseverance of the Pilgrims in a severe and harsh new land. The first Thanksgiving was, if anything, a sign of success and praise, where the 50 or so surviving Pilgrims gave thanks to God, sharing the abundance of their first harvest with each other and the neighboring natives. The celebration was also designed to boost the morale of the settlers, many of whom lost family and friends to disease and hunger during the early stages of civilized development. Thanksgiving was not celebrated as a national holiday until Washington's presidency, when our

first president declared that Thursday November 26, 1789 remain "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts, the many and signal favors of Almighty God."

The significance of Thanksgiving has never strayed far from our country's heart. Several past presidents have preserved its presence in our yearly calendars as a day of public observance, thanks, and prayer. As Catholics, Thanksgiving has added meaning and significance. Not only do we spend Thanksgiving Day praising God for His provision and our plentiful harvests, but as a season, Thanksgiving calls us to remember Christ's ultimate sacrifice of love. For us, Thanksgiving is a harvest festival of supreme spiritual importance. As the sacrificial lamb, Jesus became our harvest - a precious seed that grew into a soul-saving tree of righteousness and perfection. He gave His life for our benefit so that we could live in His death. Much like the first harvest our ancestors joyfully experienced, Christ strengthens our souls and is health to our bodies. Jesus is our harvest celebration, and we experience the life-giving results of His death each time we partake in His precious Body and sacred Blood.

As disciples of Christ, let us share Jesus with the world, just as the pilgrims shared their spoils nearly four hundred years ago. Jesus is the reason for every season, including Thanksgiving. As we lift our glasses in praise of God's many gifts, focus your thoughts on the abundant harvest of Christ.





St. Jude Parish Festival Sponsors



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Thank you to the above companies and individuals for sponsoring the St. Jude Parish Festival.
The success of the festival was due in large part to their generosity.

A special thank you to all who worked so hard, therefore making the festival possible.

Chaircouples Larry and Anne Marie Miller, Troy and Denise Smith;
 all the volunteers who coordinated and manned the booths, setup, tore down and cleaned up...
 Thank you also to all who attended and made this 22nd annual festival such a success!



Parish Profile: Seminarian Michael Denk

My name is Michael Denk. I will be ordained as a deacon on November 5th and a priest on May 12, 2007. I am from Holy Family Parish in Parma. I've been assigned to Saint Jude's this year to serve as a "Transitional" Deacon. As a deacon I am ordained to assist at the Eucharist, preach at mass, baptize, and marry. I will be here at St. Jude's once a week until January when I will be living here on the weekends.

I've been in the seminary for over five years. I entered in the fall of 2001 as I was finishing up a degree in Communications at Cleveland State University. I specialized in video production because I'd always dreamed of being a filmmaker. When I decided to enter the seminary it seemed like six years would be an eternity, but the time has flown and these have truly been the best years of my life! I have such good friendships from the differ-



Michael Denk

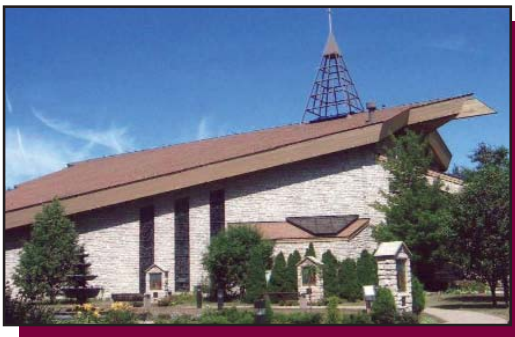
ent parishes that I've been assigned to and have some great friends in the seminary as well as a number of priests who have been so supportive of me. I'm also blessed to have six kids in my family with two nieces so far and another due in December.

God has blessed me with many great opportunities over these years. I've spent summers in Africa working with AIDS orphans and street children, played guitar and danced with the homeless in Madagascar, and this past summer I visited our missionary

team in El Salvador where I climbed into the back of a truck and drove through the mountainsides to get to the rural parishes. These trips have given me a special love for the poor that will greatly impact my priesthood.

As I enter priesthood I look at it as such a wonderful gift. I've always been one for adventure. I love the outdoors, snowboarding, rock-climbing, sky-diving, pretty much anything you can do in nature I've done or would try. But, I've come to find that the Great Adventure is really living a life of holiness - learning how much we are loved by God and sharing that with others. This is the adventure I hope to share - this is the journey I hope to be on with all of you. I look forward to meeting all of you in the weeks to come.

With Warmest Regards and Prayers,
Mike Denk



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