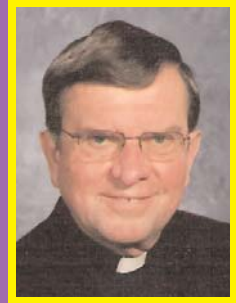




*Dear Family,
Through the forty days of Lent we, each in
our own way, prepare for the highlight of
the liturgical year – Easter.*

>>Read more on P-2 >>



THE GRAPE VINE

April 2009

Featuring:

- YOUTH MINISTRY
- Second Stewardship Drive
- Adult Faith Formation
- School News
- Certificate Program

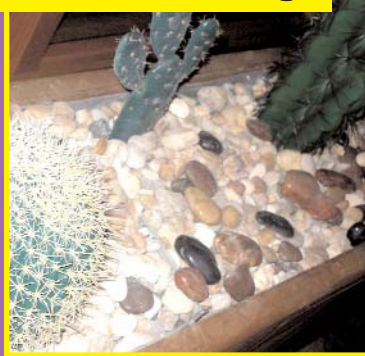
more ...



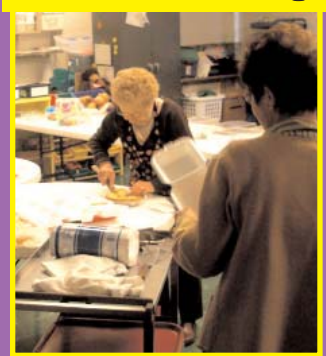
Elyria Youth Cluster



Our Lenten Journey



Desserts at Fish Fry



OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENT TO EASTER

Pastor's Letter

Baptisms

Michael Anthony Arra
Hannah Kathryn
Grimm
Hayden Joseph Krous
Jacob Alexander
Kuchta
Jordyn Ashley Kuchta
Mary Lynn Miller
William John Paradis
Brenda Jean Thoman

Deceased

Richard Sabo
Ralph Bixler
Mildred Horwedel

New Parishioners

Barry & Mary
Balderson
Irene Byars
Jeff Costin & Melissa
Matis
Barb Durrer
Joshua Dziak
Dennis & Nichole
English
Grant & Judith
Lundberg
Michael & Suzanne
Montemango
Edward Planisky
Stephanie Pshock
Patricia Saylor
Kevin Schmitz &
Sarah Wolf
Gerald & Brenda
Weiksner
Robert & Joann

—continued from cover

During Holy Week, we enter into the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery - Jesus' death and resurrection. The goal of our church liturgy is to transform our minds and hearts to a new reality that cannot be explained just intellectually. However, we are invited as people of faith, to again be renewed in God's healing love. This is experienced in a profound interior way through our participation in the symbols and actions of worship.

The resurrection accounts we will read and reflect upon during April have cinematic qualities. It is almost as if we are part of a mystery plot that is unfolding. The Risen Jesus is the same Jesus the disciples knew before his death, yet he is profoundly different. He comes to them as a stranger who opens their minds to the scripture. He brings to them the familiar ritual of breaking bread and sharing the cup. He is with them in a new way, not just physically there, but also within them. His mind and spirit are now active in their minds and spirits. The Resurrected Jesus is a totally new mystery that is not just about his own restoration, but about a whole new creation that includes us.

Because our minds know cinematic storytelling, we imagine the resurrection story in movie terms - narrative time lines

and surprise endings. However, this is only the beginning of a process that begins with questions and ends in prayer and community. May the Risen Christ encounter each of us personally during this joyful Easter Season.

In this trying economic climate, the financial experts debate whether this world is in a severe "recession" or even a "depression." Whatever the prognosis of money or weather, Christians are joyfully hopeful that the SON will "shine" – Christ is truly risen from the dead. Jesus has overcome the darkness of sin. "Be not afraid," he tells us. We are not cockeyed optimists or unrealistic. We know the times are tough. We also believe that the worse tragedy that can happen is to lose our relationship with a loving Father who can raise us up. Jesus knew that the trials of the human condition are a result of sin. He overcame the darkness with His death on the cross and trusted that His "Abba" (Father) would bring Him back to a new and glorious life. We are called to share in this life. That's the Good News! HE IS RISEN - Alleluia! Happy Easter!

With best wishes I am
Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Frank P. Kosem, *Pastor*

Spiritual Reflection and Action: Stewardship Commitment

**GET
INVOLVED**

**STAY
INVOLVED**

In the year since last Easter many things have changed and many have remained the same. The forty days of Lent are a great time to reflect on those changes and ask the Lord to help us understand what they mean. In other words, Lent is a time for prayerful reflection and assessment of the growth in our spiritual life.

Now is the time to turn your reflections into positive action this Easter season. For the Parishioners who completed their Stewardship Commitment Cards last October, a review of those commitments would be an excellent starting point for that assessment. For those who haven't completed a card, this would be a good time to do so. If you feel that you cannot complete all of the sections on the Stewardship Card, then complete the sections

that you are able to complete. Spiritual growth into a Stewardship way of life is a life-long process. That is why we ask you to do an annual assessment and re-commitment. It is a great opportunity to turn your reflections into positive action.

We want to thank all of you who have completed your Commitment Card last Fall. There is no need for you to send a new card in this Lent. The Stewardship Commitment activity during Lent is for those who did not return their cards last Fall. If you did not return a card in the Fall, please prayerfully consider how God is calling you into action during this Lenten and Easter season.

--Susan Kuchenbecker

what is Stewardship Sunday?

Stewardship Sunday is a way to combine funding the parish's good works in the community as well as help St. Jude Parish. Many of the organizations in our parish such as the Altar & Rosary Society, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Pro-Life Committee, and Helping Hands support causes in the Lorain County area and in other countries.

Once a month, on "Stewardship Sunday", one percent (1%) of parishioner purchases in the Certificate Program will be given to a designated charity that month. The remainder of the proceeds stay with St. Jude to help pay off our Building Fund debt.

What is the Certificate Program?

You see us in the Gathering Area every weekend. You buy a certificate from us at face value and St. Jude receives a profit from the retailer. It's that easy! It costs you nothing more than a little extra time and effort to plan to purchase a certificate.

We try to carry our most popular certificates in stock such as those for groceries, gasoline, drug stores, and restaurants. They include places you shop at every week such as Walmart, Giant Eagle, Apples, Speedway, Sam's Club, Marathon, CVS, Drug Mart, Wendy's, Applebee's, Olive Garden, and Bob Evans.

You can also place an order for certificates not in stock. These include department stores, specialty stores, movie theatres, dance lessons, home improvement stores, fast food, online stores, hotels, travel, garden stores and services, furniture stores - too numerous to mention them all here. Orders are placed on Tuesday morning, and the certificates will be available for pick up at the Rectory Friday afternoon or at the Church the following weekend. **Certificates purchased at Church AND by order will be counted as part of the Stewardship Sunday program.**

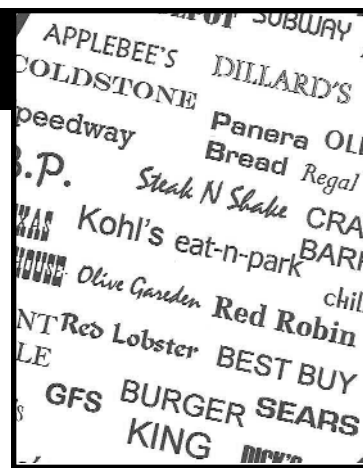
The Certificate Program accepts cash and check payment for certificates. If you usually pay for everything by credit card, we ask you

consider making a cash purchase of one item you might use that week. If everyone makes a \$100, \$50, or even \$25 purchase that weekend, we can help great causes inside and outside our parish community.

Our first "Stewardship Sunday" will be the weekend of March 14/15. One Percent (1%) of your purchases will benefit the El Salvador Mission supported by our Altar & Rosary Society.

The next Stewardship Sunday will be April 25/26 with St. Joseph Homeless Shelter as the charity. Look for an announcement of the dates and charities in the Bulletin each month!

-- Michelle Elwer



The Elyria Cluster Youth Ministry has many events planned for the upcoming months. We look forward to your participation. Please join us for prayer, service, fun and fellowship as we explore our own limits and grow in spirit.

March 20-21 The Elyria Youth Cluster Retreat at the St. Jude Family Center. *Faith to Life, Life to Faith* promises to be a unique experience to see the many ways faith plays a pivotal part on our lives. Activities include reflection and caricatures by Deacon Frank O'Connell, Stationary for Soldiers, Path to Faith Ministry, music, movies, basketball, games and much more. Grab your sleeping bag and join us for an overnight of awesome faith experiences. We will begin at 7:00pm and conclude with Mass at St. Jude's at 4:30pm. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Permission slips are available at the rectory.

March 22 Living Stations presented by Elyria Catholic at St. Jude's. Join us at 7:00pm. Afterward you can meet the cast in the Family Center.



>> Go to page 7 for the rest of our calendar of Events and pictures from the ELYRIA CLUSTER YOUTH MINISTRY

Elyria Cluster Lenten Parish Mission

We are excited this year to have Bishop Anthony Pilla for our speaker for the first Elyria Cluster Lenten Parish Mission. This year's mission is entitled: "God's Never Ending Love". The event is planned by an Elyria Cluster Committee. The Parish Mission is scheduled for Sunday, March 29th through Tuesday, March 31st at 7:30pm. St. Agnes will host the event on Sunday, March 29th and St. Mary will host it on Monday, March 30th. The Mission will conclude at St. Jude Church on Tuesday, March 31st. Each parish will have time for refreshments and fellowship following the presentation. It is our hope that everyone will go to each of the different sites in order to hear Bishop Pilla's reflection in its entirety as well as help to support the Elyria Cluster Community.

PROGRAMS FOR LENT AND EASTER 2009 KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Thursdays -- 7:00pm to 8:30pm

- March 19, 2009: **Annulments and Remarriage**
Presenter: Susan Kuchenbecker (Family Ctr)
- April 23, 2009: **Getting the Most Out of the Mass**
Deacon Frank J. O'Connell (Family Ctr)
- May 21, 2009: **What Catholics Teach About Sexuality and Homosexuality**
Presenter: Deacon Patrick J. Humphrey (Family Ctr)

You can participate in one or all of the Know Your Faith Series presentations.

Lenten Programs at St. Jude

Pope John the XXIII: The Pope of Peace

There will be a video presentation on Pope John the XXIII on Sunday, March 15th and Monday, March 16th at 7:00pm in the Community Room. Ed Asner portrays this great man who initiated the Second Vatican Council. Deacon Frank O'Connell will be the facilitator. Bring a snack to share.

Youth Retreat at St. Jude for Youth of the Elyria Cluster

The high school retreat will be Friday, March 20 from 7pm ending Saturday at the 4:30pm Mass. Plan to attend this overnighter. Fun, food, prayer, games, and speakers will be a part of the event. Call Maureen Vazzano, Youth Minister, 400-322-5722 x 11.

The Living Stations

Students from Elyria Catholic will present the "Living Stations" at 7:00pm in St. Jude Church on Sunday, March 22.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday of Lent at 7pm in the Church.

MORE Lenten Programs at St. Jude . . .

Operation Rice Bowl (boxes are available in the Gathering Area.)

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Wednesday, 7am until 7pm in Chapel

Liturgies at St. Jude

Palm Sunday, April 4-5: Gospel Passion re-enacted by 8th graders at all the weekend Liturgies.

Holy Thursday: 7:00pm

Good Friday: 2:00pm Good Friday Service
and 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday: Blessing of the Food at 2:00pm;
Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30pm

Easter Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am & Noon

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19:

2:30pm - *Readings from St. Faustina's Diary*; 3:00pm *Divine Mercy Chaplet with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*

Elyria Cluster Events

Elyria Cluster Parish Mission: "God's Never Ending Love"
presented by Bishop Anthony Pilla

Elyria Cluster Communal Penance Service:

Sunday, April 5 7:00pm - St. Mary Church

Elyria Cluster Pentecost Taizé Prayer:

Sunday, May 31 7:00pm - Sacred Heart Church

Other Area Events

Lenten Bible Study on St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians: St. Agnes Parish Hall. Fr. Al Krupp and Sr. Jennifer Kramer will direct the sessions on March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 and 6 from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Call 322-5622 to register.

At the Water's Edge FAMILY RETREAT: Open to all families who seek a deeper relationship with Christ in this world of change. Elyria Knights of Columbus Council #774 is the sponsor. Registration is required: 440-322-2626. Cost: Canned goods. KofC Hall, 118 Kipling St.; Palm Sunday, April 5, Noon to 4:00pm. Potluck dinner at 4:30. Bring a dish to share.

Our Lenten Journey With Peter: Fridays of Lent, Feb. 27 - April 3; 7-8 pm, St. Peter Church: 3655 Oberlin Ave., Lorain. No registration. No fees.

MONTHLY First Friday Forum

April 3: Fr. Eugene Lauer

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE CHURCH?

May 1: Bill Boomer

Director of the Diocesan Family Life Office

11:30 pm to 1:00 PM; Luncheon: \$15 ticket; LCCC Spitzer Conference Center; For reservations or more information, Call 440-244-0643;
Email: fflorain@gmail.com

St. Jude Friday Fish Fry... Carrabine Hall 5-7pm -- ALL Fridays of Lent

Pierogi Lunch: 11:30am -- 1:00pm - Weigand Room - St. Mary Church

Chicken Paprikash Dinner: 12 noon to 3:00pm - St. Agnes Church Hall - Sunday, April 5

st jude school NEWS



into school to the attention of Mrs. Leonowich.

Come enjoy a fun evening of music and witness the talent of over 70 of our students in grades 3-8!

ARTISTS AT WORK...St. Jude School is proud to announce winners in the 41st annual Scholastic Art Show; with over 1500 entries and 400 pieces exhibited from January 15th to February 15th at LCCC Stocker Center, **our winners were:** Peter Blake and Bradley Shaver, gr. 7 - **gold keys;** Jessica Celima and Nathan Payne, gr. 7 - **silver keys;** Mary Scherer and Alyssa Malinowski- **honorable mentions...**the gold key pieces are now on their way to N.Y.C. for national competition. **COME ONE, COME ALL!** Artwork will be displayed throughout the school, Sunday, May 17 from 9:30 to 12:30pm.

SCIENTISTS IN THE MAKING...Fourteen 5th grade students participated in the First Annual Science Olympiad at John Carroll University last month. Participating students were Quinn Berndobler, Victoria Carrion, Ivana DeVengencie, Brad Hetrick, Brad Leonowich, Veto Lopez, Justin Raynak, Julia Scarpelli, Riley Schill, Kaylee Stimmel, Meredith Ternes, Johnny Tirbaso, Sam Tollett and Ashley Watson.

Several teams won awards in their events. **Congratulations to:** Quinn Berndobler and Johnny Tirbaso; **First Place** in Aerodynamics Ivanja DeVengencie and Veto Lopez; **Second Place** in Circuit Wizardry Sam Tollett and Ashley Watson; **Second Place** in Rock Identification Victoria Carrion and Brad Hetrick; **Third Place** in Egg Drop Event Brad Hetrick, Brad Leonowich and Veto Lopez; **Third Place** in Reflection Relay

Special thanks to the following parents who helped prepare our students for their Olympiad events: Mr. and Mrs. Hetrick, Mr. and Mrs. Raynak, Mr. and Mrs. Tirbaso and Mrs. Tollett.

More SJS Stewardship Corner news & events on next page>>

stewardship corner

STEWARDSHIP TAKES MANY FORMS AT ST. JUDE SCHOOL... Several eighth grade students are sharing their time and talent working on the Passion Play to be presented at all masses at St. Jude on Palm Sunday weekend. Peter Blake, Scott Crofoot, Leah Karlie, Nick Kaszar, Andreas Kolaszco, Catherine O'Shaughnessy, Erik Schramm, Shelby Snow and Maria Tony are working once a week after school with eighth grade teachers, Ms. Rosenbaum and Mrs. Primm, and St. Jude parishioner, Gerry Murray. Mrs. Murray is a former drama teacher at Elyria Catholic with lots of experience and pointers for our students. This truly collaborative effort will give more insight at this most holy time for our Catholic faith.

Sixth grade students are working on posters of the Stations of the Cross, which will hang throughout the school during Lent. Seventh grade students are making a Palm Sunday craft for our preschool students, hoping to help them better understand the meaning of Palm Sunday.

The crew for Drama Club has been busy designing, drawing, and laying out the flats for the show, *The Music Man, Jr.* All crew students have been assigned "jobs," and are doing fantastic work! Some students searched online for 1912 building design ideas, while others took inventory of our supplies and made a spreadsheet for future use.

Faculty and Staff are working on stewardship school improvement goals as well as working on stewardship in-service through videos and reflections at each faculty meeting. Faculty and Staff are also focusing on lessons that encourage students to share their talents with others.

We applaud our students as they share their time and talents and work to serve the community of St. Jude School.

CURTAIN, LIGHTS, MUSIC...St. Jude Drama Club will present the classic American musical by Meredith Wilson, *The Music Man, Jr.* on May 1 and 2, 2009. Show time is 7:00pm at Elyria Catholic High School's Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased by stopping in or calling the school office (366-1681) or by downloading an order form from the Drama link on our school web site and sending the order

2008-2009 REGISTRATION

The retention of our current families and students is an important priority as we begin to plan for the coming school year. As you look to make important decisions about re-registering for the 2009-2010 school year, know that we, too, need to make important decisions about the 2009-2010 school year to ensure the continued viability and health of our school.

It is vital that registration forms are returned on a timely basis this year as we will only offer the number of classrooms our enrollment numbers can realistically support. That may mean reducing the number of classrooms and teachers at certain grade levels. We simply cannot wait until late in the school year to make those decisions. Hence, the importance of the March 2 deadline!

In the face of all these decisions, know that you are important to us. The relationship we share and the connection we have remain priorities to us. If you are uncertain about re-registering for next year or if you have concerns or issues, please contact someone on our school staff. It is important that the lines of communication remain open; we welcome the opportunity to talk together.

In speaking for all faculty and staff, we continue our unwavering commitment to Catholic education and to the pursuit of excellence in both teaching and learning. We ask you to trust what has been our unwavering faithfulness and dedication to holding ourselves to a very high academic standard.

CONGRATULATIONS SJS STUDENTS

SCIENCE FAIR FINALISTS...Seventh and eighth grade students participated in our junior high Science Fair in early February. The following junior high students have the opportunity to advance to the next level of competition in Columbus. Good luck to all of them!

Grade 8 First Place: Devin Gabriel, Ian Kovacs & Joe Nemeth; all in Physical Science

Second Place: Stephanie Decker, Emily Denney & Leah Karlie; all in Physical Science
Third Place: Dylan Brown, Angela Capelety, Chris Clark & Colin Lester; all in Physical Science

Grade 7 First Place: Claire Miller; Life Science & Emily Witt; Physical Science

Second Place: Becca Pronesti; Physical Science & Marie Vasitas; Life Science

Third Place: Morgan Falasco, Eliza Lockhart & Mary Scherer; all in Physical Science and Kevin Turner; Earth Science

BUDDING AUTHORS...Junior High Literature

students were dazzling at the fifth annual St. Jude Oscar Day celebrating great literature. Students and faculty dressed to the nines as they walked down the red carpet in the junior high hall. Winners were announced in categories such as Best Supporting Female Character or Best Novel, and the students' acceptance speeches were gracious in their thanks and support for family members, authors, and many other influences. This wasn't just an event of fun and games; students also learned how to write persuasive speeches in Mrs. Primm's classes, nominating their choices under the various categories, and received practice in delivering persuasive speeches. Eleven lucky winners from each grade level also gave an acceptance speech, based on the class votes in each category, and took away their very own "Oscar," a Tootsie Roll pop wrapped in paper and ribbon. This fun-filled event is always a favorite every year. Be sure to stop by the school, and check out the results and pictures from this very special day to celebrate literature!

IT'LL BE A HOOT...Junior High Book Club is trying something new this year. Every month, approximately 40-50 students gather at lunch to discuss the book selection for that particular month. This March 18 from 6:00-8:00pm, Mrs. Primm and the Book Club officers, Madelyn Joviak, Marie Vasisit, Emily Witt, Emily Denney, and Claire Miller are hosting a Family Read Night. Carl Hiaasen's book, *Hoot*, was chosen for this first endeavor, and fifth graders are invited to attend. Mrs. McFarland and Mrs. Machovina are also on board to attend our fun-filled night with a pot-luck dinner and discussion on this very popular young adult's book. Nurturing a love of literature is one of our goals, and we hope this is a way to continue that tradition.

MUSIC TO OUR EARS...The Lorain County Solo & Ensemble Contest was Saturday, February 7, 2009 and was a very successful day for St. Jude musicians!

The following students received an "Excellent Rating:" Stephanie DiVaccaro - Piano Solo
Eamon Dillon, Claire Miller & Matthew Resar - Trombone Trio --

Stephanie Decker & Hannah Laubenthal - Flute Duet
Jennifer Frombaugh - Piano Solo

The following students received the highest rating possible, a "Superior Rating:"

Rachel Elwer & Hannah Saunders - Flute Duet

Alyssa Malinowski - Clarinet Solo
Rebecca Malinowski - Piano Solo
Eamon Dillon - Trombone Solo

Allie Norris - Piano Solo
Claire Miller - Trombone Solo
Matthew Resar - Trombone Solo

Brittany Resar - Piano Solo
Savanna Brown & Allie Norris - Vocal Trio
Teresa VanKeuren - Vocal Solo

a "mark" for our journey

-- Deacon Frank



Mount of Temptation in the Jordan Valley outside Jericho

Lent is traditionally a time for self-reflection - 40 days that mirror the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, and on the Mount of Temptation, wrestling with the call on His life.

This is considered to be the mountain in the Scripture where Jesus was tempted by the devil and where Jesus took up his ministry. They say it is awe-inspiring - it stands high above the Jordan Valley. (See the picture above). Those who have seen it really do think that you can see the world spread out before you. This is what Jesus experienced as He was taken to this place and tempted by the Devil. And it's not difficult to imagine the temptation Jesus faced when presented with the choice between power over the nations or the plans God had in store.

During our journey we'll be doing a bit of self-reflection and introspection as well. Together, as a faith community of St. Jude, we will take up the challenge of figuring out our response to the daily reality of life for each of us (it begins within) thereby filtering to others in our workplace, neighbors & families.

During Lent and during our journey we will face temptations.

The temptation for us to have the courage to make this 40-day journey is not about us necessarily, but the difference the journey can make for others because of our focus, our sacrifices, and our prayer.

It will be tempting to think that the current situation in our church is not our concern (where have all the people gone?), or that there is nothing we can do about it (sharing our gifts of commitment and spirituality with this community). It will be tempting, most of all, to search for reasons to convince ourselves that the life and teaching of Jesus 2000 years ago has nothing to say to the situation today (our touching hearts in this community) -- but it does -- dramatically.

These 40 days

On Ash Wednesday, we received the "mark of repentance" on our foreheads. We are (not literally, but figuratively) to wear these ashes throughout Lent. Our response as the ashes were marked by the sign of the cross on our foreheads this year was, "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." This indeed, marks our beginning journey toward Easter Resurrection.

Daily prayer

The prayer for each of us as you read this today is that God travels with us. We can be inspired by the teaching Jesus gave to us as well as the stories from the people, friends and family that walk along with us.

We are not alone. Pray this> *Lord Jesus, our companion on the road, enter with us the wilderness of our uncertainty. Be with us on this journey of discovery, and help us as we seek to follow in your footsteps. Amen.*

What about you? What is your prayer for your Lenten journey?

Sit in quiet this Lent, take the time to be in the silence and listen as God moves in and through you to make a difference.

Recognizing Lent and Easter in Symbols and Music



We can experience the Lent and Easter seasons more deeply by becoming aware of the liturgical environment in Church and listening attentively to the music that is part of our weekend Masses. This year, the environment for Lent at St. Jude's is simple and stark. We see empty branches near the altar to remind us to turn our hearts towards God. (See the cover photo). Often, open spaces help us to listen to what is going on inside of us. Jesus went into the desert to pray and the Lenten Scripture readings tell us of His experience. The Gathering Area has a desert theme of cactus and stones. These items are reminders to us to make space in Lent to pray as Jesus did.

The Kyrie, a Greek response of "Lord have Mercy", will be heard during the weekend Masses this Lent. It is our request to ask for God's help in our everyday lives. Soft music during the preparation of the gifts will be played to create a quiet atmosphere.

--- Continued from page 2

The Elyria Cluster Youth Ministry EVENTS



Please contact Maureen "Mo" Vazzano for more information about any of the events at 440-308-0333 or 322-5622x11.

The simplicity of music and decorations are aids to help us to focus on God's presence in our hearts, in the liturgy, and in the parish community.

On Palm Sunday, the statues will be covered in purple. This is a traditional practice to help us to center on the journey of Jesus through Holy Week. With the celebration of Holy Thursday, both the music and the decorations will become more festive as we celebrate the Last Supper. The second graders preparing for their First Communion will participate in a special Children's Liturgy of the Word and will also be a part of the closing Eucharistic procession. The children's presence is a witness to the parish community of their preparation for receiving this Sacrament of Initiation. The altar decorations will be taken away at the end of the Holy Thursday Service to prepare for the solemn liturgy of Good Friday where the primary image is the Cross.

For the Holy Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday, the environment will change to a festival of flowers celebrating the Resurrection. The music will be triumphant with bells and instruments.

On Holy Saturday, five catechumens will be receiving the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Additionally, eight candidates will be fully initiated into the Catholic faith by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. We welcome all of them into our faith community.

As we journey through Lent to Easter, we are invited to notice and experience the environment, symbols, and music that enhance our understanding of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. We thank our parish choirs, musicians, cantors, the members of the Liturgical Environment Committee, and all those who assist in decorating the Church for Easter. They prepare the atmosphere for our Lenten/ Easter Journey.

-- Sr. Margaret Marszal



April 5 At the Water's Edge Family Retreat sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Open to all families who seek a deeper relationship with Christ. Noon to 4:00pm. There is a potluck at 4:30pm. Reservations are required. Call 322-2626 to register or for more information.

April 5 Chicken Paprikash Dinner at St. Agnes. Volunteers are needed to help serve, bus tables, and help as needed. Service hours will be given.

April 16 Cooking for St. Joseph Church's Homeless Shelter. We will meet at St. Jude's in the afternoon and use our culinary skills as we reach out and help those in who depend on the generosity of others. Service hours will be given.

April 19 High Ropes Adventure at CYO Camp Christopher. Meet us at St. Agnes for 8:30am Mass and then we are off to conquer the high ropes. Lunch and transportation is included in the \$20.00 cost. *Permission slips are available in the rectory.*

THE ELYRIA YOUTH CLUSTER FEST IS COMING JUNE 6th. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Getting Ready for First Communion



Second graders and their families pulled their creative ideas together when they made First Communion Banners on Saturday afternoon, February 28. Carrabine Hall was energized with many busy hands and good family conversations. Here are some of the comments from the day from both parents and their children. They completed the statement: *One of the things I experienced today was:*

"Spending time with my son, and working on his banner with him, and learning about God and what the symbols for God stand for." – *Kristen Walker*

"I had fun today working on my banner with my family." – *William Stanley*

"Special bonding time with my entire family." – *Cari Topping*

"It was nice to share this experience with the community." – *Laurie Menner*

"That it's fun to craft and work with your family" – *Maxwell Menner*

"This was an excellent idea for getting both Avery and his family ready for First Communion." – *Brian Gabel*

"This was great. I had fun." – *Avery Gabel*



"Family fun and creativity." – *The Allen Family*

"Community with other families from our parish." – *Brian Rogers*

"Togetherness, fun and excitement, and making a banner." -- *Justin Yates*



"The togetherness I experienced with the other families of our table." – *Tracy Lee Smalley*

"How to make a nice banner to give to God."

"Watching my brother making his tree...I realized he is a fantastic artist!" – *Emily Norris*

Togetherness as a family, which was nice." – *Mark and Barb Schuckman*

"To be closer to Jesus." – *Grace Schuckman*

"With teamwork you can get things accomplished." -- *Ilona Kiss*

"I liked working together with my parents."

"It is fun to make a banner and to go to Church."

"A sense of camaraderie with the other families. We loved being able to do this with our daughter. A great experience."

"Excitement because the banner is for me." – *Alex Lundberg*

"I felt happy." – *Will Rankin*

FISH FRY AT ST JUDE

Catch the action of the Holy Name Fish Fry Team as they jump into action each Friday during Lent with fantastic catches to get hooked on. 5-7pm in Carrabine Hall



ST JUDE CHURCH
590 POPLAR ST
ELYRIA OH 44035



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