

# St Paul Catholic Church

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

October 2018



*Grateful.  
Thankful.  
Blessed.*

*Mass of Celebration & Gratitude 2018*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Pastor's Pen  
Page 2
- Altar Server News
- The 5 Youth Group  
Page 3
- Parish Happenings  
Page 4 & 5
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Parish Family Blessings  
Page 6
- Prayer Boxes  
Page 7



What's the opposite of "apotropaic"?

During this time of Halloween, All Saints and All Souls Day, I find myself musing on the realization that one of the signs of our pop culture's descent into functional atheism is the fact that the supernatural now has become treated as the stuff of entertainment and fun rather than reality. Apparently, since it doesn't really exist, there's nothing to be afraid of, to respect or reverence in that whole sector of (ir)reality any more. Halloween has become huge – it's sometimes said to now be the second biggest holiday in the USA after Christmas. (Technically that's in terms of *decorating*, not consumer spending, though that latter is nothing to sneeze at either – I read that the total spending on the holiday this year is projected to be in the range of \$8.4 billion; that the *average* American spends \$82.93 on costumes, decorating, parties, and candy, including an estimated \$330 million on costumes for pets. I sure hope my tropical fish don't feel deprived; I haven't spent a penny on little costumes for them...)

They didn't have roller coasters and thrill rides in pioneer days; daily life itself provided plenty enough terror. Once life becomes placid and safe, we turn to entertainment to provide the adrenalin rush. I think something similar has happened with the supernatural. Our ancestors who had a lively faith in the supranatural, didn't need entertainment to supply faux contact with reality beyond what can be seen, heard, felt and tasted. It's a telltale sign that the popular culture no longer believes in anything beyond the material world, that things supernatural, real and fantasy, have now become entertainment and escapism – we are overrun with movies, TV shows, and merchandising featuring werewolves, vampires, zombies, and various other un-dead or spectral creatures. Fantasy and horror supply the safe adrenalin rush that the reality used to provide. No need for apotropaic measures; now it's all make-believe.

As usual, we Catholics are out of step. The supernatural world is utterly real and nothing at all to be feared but celebrated! We believe with St. Paul that "*just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life*" (1Cor 15:22); we live in a communion with the saints, both the capitalized ones whom we honor on November 1, All Saints Day, and the ordinary everyday ones from our own families who have *gone before marked with the sign of faith*, not least those we commemorate on November 2 at our Mass of Remembrance. If, as the sociologists say, grandparents provide children with that sense of lived history, so our daily liturgical calendar keeps us in constant contact with men and women who lived centuries ago but faced some of the same or even greater challenges than we face today. They are part of our lived world, not fictional, not fantasy conjured up for entertainment; they are as real as our fellow parishioners next to us in the pews – and just like them, they mutually encourage us to be faithful and to excel. To use the imagery of the Letter to the Hebrews, they root for us on the playing field of life today from their vantage point in the heavenly stands, cheering, urging us on to run the race and share their prize of victory at the end of the contest; they give us the home field advantage in our struggle against evil and in the advancement of the kingdom.

That great letter then draws the conclusion: "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us, all the while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*" (Heb. 12:1) I couldn't have said it better myself (!); together – all of us with all of them – we can share in the Lord's gift of victory, and that's not make-believe, that's reality!

*Magr. Ken*





## Altar Server News

By reason of our Baptism, all of us are called and gifted for ministry. One of the liturgical ministries is the ministry of altar servers. Their ministry involves helping the priest serve the people in the assembly. Altar servers help the liturgy flow more smoothly, making it a more prayerful experience for us.

We will celebrate our first commissioning ceremony, honoring all of our current altar servers during the Sunday Masses on the weekend of October 27-28. After the homily, the priest will invite all youth and adult altar servers present at that Mass to come to the altar steps for a brief commissioning ceremony.

### ***Renewing and Revitalizing Our Parish Altar Server Ministry***

For almost a year, the Liturgy Committee has been engaged in a process of evaluating our parish altar server ministry, looking into ways to renew, revitalize, and improve our parish's altar server ministry. We sought input from many people and held listening sessions with altar server parents and altar servers. The task force reviewed the USCCB Altar Server Guidelines and some altar server ministry books and materials for additional input. We hope to have completed our work by December of this year and will keep altar servers and their parents, as well as parishioners, informed of our progress. ~ Marian Bermudez

## The 5 Youth Group

Fall is one of our favorite times in St. Paul youth ministry. Summer is over and everyone is back in the swing of things at school. And in youth ministry, it also means "back to Church." (We have Church during the summer, but attendance is lower!)

As our regulars interact with their friends from school, something awesome starts to happen—it seems like the same pattern every year—they start bringing them to Mass and Adoration! The fall seems to bring tons of opportunities for friendship evangelism and a boost of momentum. It doesn't happen automatically; we have worked to create this kind of culture. It begins with an invitation. On October 7, The 5 Youth Group held its annual kickoff party in the parking lot. Over 40 youth and adult leaders met to enjoy food, fellowship, fun, and faith.

The weekend prior, a number of our youth and adult leaders attended the Feed the Fire retreat in Lucas, Ohio. The youth group joined 125 faithful on a beautiful fall day to start living the "hard as nails way." Keynote speaker Justin Fatica spoke to the group about being courageous and how authenticity matters. Justin took time to speak with each person at the retreat and encouraged each of us to live like we are made for greatness! He challenged us to go make a difference in someone's life today and remember that we are all amazing. The day concluded with Reconciliation and Adoration.

The 5 Youth Group meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday after the 5:00 pm Mass, from 6:10 pm - 7:30 pm. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome! ~ Kelly Ericsson

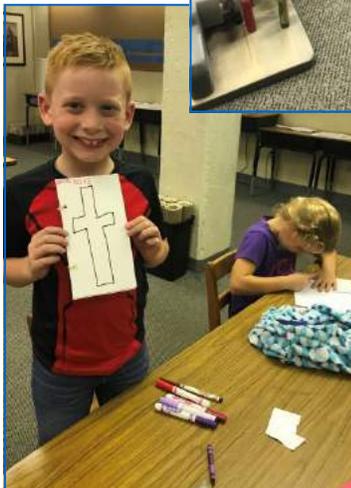


# Parish Happenings

## S.W.A.G.



*Catechesis  
of the Good  
Shepherd*



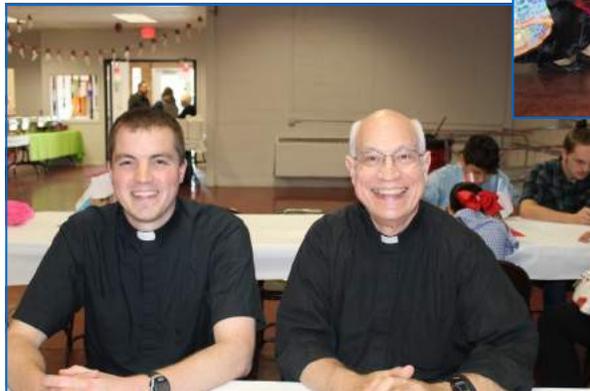
*Sr. Joyce Brennan's  
60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee,  
Sr. Cyrilla Hellman's  
75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee &  
Celebration of  
Religious Life*



# *Eucharistic Devotions*



## *The 5 Youth Group Kickoff*



## *¡Gracias! Hispanic Thank You Celebration*

### New Parishioners:

Carolyn Charville  
 Leonard & Lucia Cuturic  
*Children, Isabella, Luka, Lily and Nikola*

Kevin Deppen  
 Melissa Greene  
*Daughters, Laila and Kara*

Wyott & Shirley Gromley  
 Sam & Rachel Heydinger  
*Sons, Mason and Tyler*

Adam & Sheridan Krause  
*Son, Micah*

Ken & Brenda Landoll  
 Deysi Sanchez  
*Sons, Hector and Kevin*

Matt & Katie Scheerer  
 Stephen Schuh  
*Sons, Nathan and Andrew*

Kristen Martinez & Nicholas Stamper  
*Sons, Caden, Noah and Gavin*

### Deaths:

Debra Boose  
 Kenneth Burdue  
 Shirlene Fox  
 Mary Hickey  
 Donald Hipp  
 William Mazzocco  
 Richard Nestor  
 Thomas Rinner  
 Thomas Rippon  
 Donald Smith  
 Joseph Stein  
 Roberta Terrell  
 Cecilia Young

### Weddings:

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & Leslie (Densel) Spettel  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam & Nichole (Schlessman) Groves  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tyler & Amber (Welfle) Scherger  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander & Sarah (Rhoad) Rospert  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Morgan (Grilliot) Tuttle  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Kacie (Barman) Edwards  
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Hannah (Arnold) Dow

### Baptisms:

Ralph Andrew  
 Son of Sam & Stephanie Forgacs

Sophia Ann  
 Daughter of Nicholas & Ashley Fries

Melanie Esther  
 Daughter of Leonel Vargas & Esmeralda Guzman

Leonardo Angel  
 Son of Juan Hernández & Rosa Aranda

Ella Mehegan  
 Daughter of Patrick & Monica Howerton

Michelle  
 Daughter of Marco Larios & Monica Ilerenas

Alyce  
 Daughter of Javon & Gabrielle Ingram

Rachel Yanilett  
 Daughter of Yadina Perez

Zayn Jacob  
 Son of Ty & Julianne Reer

Yasleemar  
 Daughter of Maximino Rojas & Zoyla Santiago

Leo Daniel  
 Son of Aaron Rospert & Whitney Tea

Brianna  
 Daughter of Juan Solis & Celia Garcia

Natalie Violet  
 Daughter of Troy & Stacy Stein

Avery Jean  
 Son of Wesley & Kelsey Stein

Grayson John  
 Son of Justin & Hannah Wilde

Lane Michael Alan  
 Son of Brandon Wiseman & McKenzie Stoll

Evelyn Rosemary  
 Daughter of Mark & Sara Worley

Rosalina Isabelle  
 Daughter of Reymundo Zavala & Cheyenne Haughn

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

I adore being a catechist in our Atria at St. Paul. I am blessed to be a part of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program here for four years now, serving children in our regular school, parish school, and Sunday school. This program is unique because it allows the children to have special one-on-one time with our Lord—time that is quiet and uninterrupted, which is something they rarely get in this modern, technical world where noise clouds their every thought. The glow these children have, their pure happiness, smiles, and raw responses to the moving of the Holy Spirit in them is breathtaking. It is the perfect exemplification of “*Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.*” [Mark 10:15].

Thus, I would like to thank you for making this program a valuable part of the education our children receive. I invite you to come and tour our Atria and experience a class with the children. I promise you, it will not be a waste of your time. I also wish to ask you for your prayers—prayers that the Holy Spirit continues to be alive in our Atria and parish, and prayers for the children who attend this program. Just this past month, when Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was starting up, I had one child say to me, “Thank you for letting me do this. I don’t really get a chance to think about God except for when I’m here.” And yet, another child made the comment, “Mom says I will get bored if we go to Church, but I keep telling her that I won’t and that I really want to go.” It is obvious that the Holy Spirit is working in these children and helping them to deepen their faith in new ways. As Jesus instructs, let us learn from these children. Let their desires and passion to explore their faith and prayer life be our example. Please remember to keep these little ones in your prayers. ~ Jenn Rizzo



# Prayer Boxes

One of the main characteristics of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is that the Atrium is a community in which children and adults together live a religious experience, which facilitates participation in the wider community of the family, the Church, and other social spheres. The Atrium is a place of prayer in which work and study spontaneously become meditation, contemplation, and prayer. The Atrium is a place in which the only teacher is Christ; both children and adults place themselves in a listening stance before His word and seek to penetrate the mystery of the liturgical celebration.

As a catechist in the Level I Atrium, I found myself immersed in this religious experience with a first-grader three weeks ago. The kindergarten and first-grade group was being introduced to the Atrium and the prayer corner. I sat near a first-grader and encouraged him to create his own silence. It was evident that he was trying to explore his prayer life. This first-grader responded with depth and joy as he contemplated how to pray and what prayer is. He smiled, he hummed, he closed his eyes, and at that moment it was evident that he had found a personal relationship with Jesus, and he was brought to tears. He was completely astonished that he could talk with Jesus at any time. He shook his head in disbelief and continued with tears. We practiced the sign of the cross and gestures that go with initial prayer. We practiced spontaneous prayer with God aloud. As the session came to a close, the young man asked if he could talk to God at home, too. He asked how he could pray at home because Mom did not have the time to take him to Church. We talked about prayer at home and how he could talk to Jesus anywhere— on the bus, in the car, on the soccer field, and at home.

I prayed about this for the following week and spoke with other catechists about this boy's journey. We came up with the idea of prayer boxes for the home. Each second-grader going through the formation process for First Communion this year, as well as the kindergarteners and first-graders in PSR, will receive a prayer box.

Making these boxes took a small army. The eighth-grade Confirmation class, as one of their Works of Mercy for Confirmation, assembled a box for each child. In each prayer box the child will find five pieces of cloth (red, white, purple, green, and blue) representing the liturgical colors, a small cross or crucifix, a rosary, a bottle of holy water, a battery-operated white candle and three prayer books. Once a month the Confirmation students will meet with First Communion students to talk about an item in the box to help reinforce prayer life at home.

We ask for your prayers for all of the parish children, that they have a more prayerful experience at home to help them realize and understand that the Kingdom of God is a mystery of great value and beauty— more enjoyable and precious than anything we could ever possess!

~ Kelly Ericsson

PS Thank you parishioners, for donating several of the rosaries which were used in the prayer boxes.



**St. Paul Catholic Church**

91 E. Main St

Norwalk, OH 44857

Phone: 419-668-6044

Fax: 419-663-5770

E-mail: [lisah@stpaulchurch.org](mailto:lisah@stpaulchurch.org)

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NON PROFIT ORG**

**U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**NORWALK, OH**

**Permit No. 25**

# Save the Dates!

*Mass of Remembrance*

*Feast of All Souls*

*Friday, November 2*

*7:00 PM*

*Mass on Thanksgiving Day*

*Thursday, November 22*

*9:00 AM*