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Sister Cecilia Announces Departure

This past fall I informed Fr. Black that this would be my last year in Delaware. It is a bittersweet decision because I have loved serving all the wonderful people of St. Mary's. I consulted my superior and informed her that I thought it was time for me to move on after 18 years and cut back on my workload. She understood and gave me her blessing. Initially my plans were to continue ministry at St. Mary's until I was 70 years old in 2010. However, since I will be celebrating my Golden Jubilee as a Sister of the Precious Blood this year, I thought it appropriate to have my anniversary celebration and farewell at one time.

When I told Fr. Black and the staff, I didn't mind if they mentioned it to others, so perhaps some of you have already heard the news. Now I thought it was time for me to inform all of you of my decision, so you are not taken by surprise. I will continue my ministry at St. Mary's until June 25th of this year. As I said before, this is a bittersweet decision for me. I am looking forward to a break and a less busy schedule, yet at the same time I will truly miss the people of St. Mary's and the community of Delaware.

After leaving St. Mary's, I will return to Dayton, Ohio, where many of our

Sisters are located. I will take a few months off for some rest and relaxation and discern how God is calling me to serve in the next chapter of my life. I appreciate your prayers and support.

-Sr. Cecilia Taphorn, CPPS



A Call for Ushers

St. Mary Parish is in need of 30 additional ushers for the weekend Masses. The combination of parish growth and attrition of existing ushers make this need immediate. Please thoughtfully consider joining us for this ministry of service to St. Mary Church. Your usher commitment would be for one Mass per month.

Additional ushers are needed for each Mass -

Saturday, 4:30 pm and Sunday, 7:30 am (7 additional ushers needed at each Mass), Sunday, 9:00 pm (4 additional ushers needed), Sunday, 10:45 am and 12:15 PM (6 additional ushers needed at each Mass).

If you think that this is a ministry for you, please contact Bob Gerspacher at 740-369-7861 or via e-mail at bob@gerspach.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, June 14, 2009

Farewell Celebration for Sister Cecilia Taphorn, C.P.P.S.

Please watch upcoming bulletins for specific details.

Save The Dates

February 25 - Ash
Wednesday
Masses and Distribution of
Ashes Schedule:
8:15 am All School Mass;
12:00 Noon; 5:30 pm and
7:00 pm

Stations of the Cross- 7:00
pm every Friday during
Lent

March 26 - Parish Lenten
Penance Service in the
Church - 7:00 pm

March 27 - St. Mary
Students-Living Stations of
the Cross - 7:00 pm

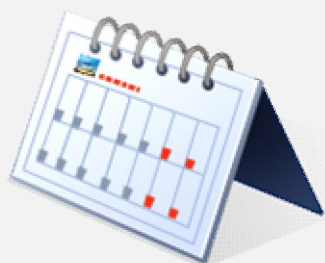
*See Holy Week Schedule
on Page 5*

April 25 - First Communion
Liturgy 2:30 pm

May 2 - First Communion
Liturgy 10:30 am & 1:30 pm

May 8 - Confirmation -
7:00pm

May 23 - Parish Festival



Neighborhood Network News

The NN Core Team wishes everybody a HAPPY NEW YEAR with a hope and a prayer that your blessings exceed your expectations. We are working hard on our main focus of helping to insure that the wonderful Spirit of Community we enjoy in our parish continues to grow stronger. Towards this end, one member of the NN team, Mary Grace, enlisting the help of her RENEW group, assembles the Newcomer Welcome Folders presented at the time new parishioners register in the office. This is a big job

since the folder includes information on each of the ministries and activities of the parish.

A second team member, Catherine Keller, is in charge of arranging a warm neighborly welcome for newly registered individuals and families. When Catherine calls or writes telling you of a new neighbor, please try your best to welcome them to the St. Mary Community.

This is something new NN invites the leadership of ministries, organizations and activities in our parish to

join us in our welcoming mission. If learning something about new parish members in an organized and timely manner would aid in recruiting interested participants, just let the Core Team know and we will work out the details.

Finally, everyone in the parish is invited to share their good ideas for building up the Spirit of Community in our parish by contacting the NN Core Team, that is: Sister Cecilia, Cindy Williams, Mary Grace, Catherine Keller or Bill Edmonds.

Catholics Returning Home

St. Mary's will be doing their 6th Catholics Returning Home program beginning on Wednesday, March 4th and continuing for the next four consecutive Wednesdays. The sessions will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the teachers' lounge of the school.

The sessions will include the stories of returning Catholics, an opportunity for questions and answers, as well as an update on the Mass, the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and

Vatican II and the Church Today.

The faith community of St. Mary invites all those who may be interested, no matter how long they have been away, and for whatever reason, to consider renewing their relationship with the Church.

The sessions are presented by a team of adults who have been away from the church, have happily returned, and are now actively involved. Respect and

compassion will always be demonstrated.

Any person who has questions or is interested in attending, please call Sister Cecilia at 363-4641 or send an email to ctaphorn@rrohio.com. You may also call Jayne Ekleberry at 362-3094 or send an email to jmarie1813@aol.com no later than March 2nd.



Athletic Association Successes

The Fall season was very successful for the St. Mary athletes. We fielded two football teams with our Junior Reserve team winning their Regular Division Championship!

We were able to field a Varsity team with around 13 players (from 6-8th grades) and they worked hard!! Volleyball saw two teams from 8th grade and 13 players from 6th grade – WOW, what a turnout. The 5th and 6th grade teams placed as Runner-

up in their respective tournaments.

This winter, we have 13 teams and 105 children playing Basketball. We are pleased that we have more than 15 children from PSR. To prepare our athletes, pep rallies have been awesome due to our talented cheerleaders from 7th and 8th grade.

Two more milestones for 2009...We are working toward having banners and other decorations in

our fabulous gym to commemorate our past Varsity athletes and our new web site linked to the parish site. The web site has forms, links, schedules, your Constitution and much more.

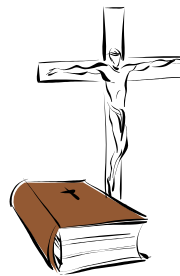
Track and Field and Softball/Baseball teams can start practices as early as March 2 with the first meets and games in April.

Parishioners Invited to Living Stations

All St. Mary parishioners are invited to attend the annual Living Stations presented by the 8th grade class on Friday evening, **March 27** at 7:00 pm in the church. The students will also present the Living Stations on Holy Thursday **April 9**, at 12:30pm in the church

If you have not experienced the Living Stations, please make plans to join us for this incredible presentation.

We thank Lenore Taylor, our 5th grade teacher, who works with the students on this presentation.



Celebrating Catholic Schools

St. Mary School students, teachers, staff and families kicked off Catholic Schools Week with the Student Mass followed by a Tailgate Party on Saturday, January 24th.

The week was full of activities (although many needed to be rescheduled due to the two days of snow that closed school) including an All-School Mass, an Ice Cream Party and a Pep Rally.

A highlight of the week was the awarding of the National Catholic Educational Association's Award to **Marty Wolf Stroud** at the All School Mass. This award is presented to a Catholic school graduate who has expressed a devotion to Catholic Education.

Marty, a graduate of St. Mary, who pursued an education degree from Duquesne University, subsequently returned to St. Mary in 1984, and continued teaching at St. Mary until her retirement in 2007.

First Half Parish Financials

The following summary shows operating results for the halfway point of the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008):

	Actual YTD (Thousands)	Budgeted (Thousands)	Over (Under) (Thousands)
MAJOR INCOME CATEGORIES:			
Offertory Receipts	\$532.4	\$565.0	(\$32.6)
Student Receipts	\$501.5	\$486.0	\$15.5
PSR & YG Receipts	\$31.8	\$22.9	\$8.9
Total for All Income Categories	\$1,189.9	\$1,235.4	(\$45.5)
MAJOR EXPENSE CATEGORIES:			
Parish	\$268.0	\$273.8	(\$5.8)
School	\$680.0	\$678.7	\$1.3
PSR & YG Programs	\$88.9	\$68.8	\$20.1
Adult Education	\$5.0	\$4.9	\$0.1
Total for All Expense Categories	\$1,049.1	\$1,026.2	\$22.9
Net Parish Income	\$140.8	\$209.1	(\$68.4)

Lenten Fish Frys

The local Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, Council 1056, will be holding their annual fish fry dinners during the upcoming Lenten season every Friday beginning February 27 through April 3. Dinners will be served starting from 5:00 - 7:00 pm in the school commons. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$4.50 for kids 10 and older.

SMOW News & Leadership Team Announced

St. Mary Organization of Women (SMOW) offers spiritual, emotional, and social support for parish women of all ages.

Our monthly meetings, programs, volunteering, fundraisers and events foster a sense of fellowship and community in our parish family. New members are always welcome! Brochures and applications are available in the church vestibule as well as on the parish website.

Recently we enjoyed a wonderful children's Christmas party and a beautiful Advent by Candlelight event with a moving presentation by singer/songwriter Jennifer Shaw.

Look for information in the bulletin about joining us for Lent by Candlelight, a wonderful opportunity to take a break and be spiritually renewed, and for news about our upcoming meetings and events. Many exciting things are being planned for this spring!

Our new leadership team for 2009-2010: Director Erin Yerian 740-369-2718 erinarnett@juno.com, Communications/Membership Coordinator Beth Murray-Beachnau 740-595-9692 elmurray@verizon.net, SMOW Events/Fundraising Coordinator Erin Maynard 740-362-129 emaynard73@yahoo.com, Parish/Community Events Coordinator Erika Shimp 740-747-0400 elajtai@yahoo.com.

Experience RENEW

Over the years a new vision has developed regarding a new parish life style based on Jesus' promise:

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst." (Matthew 18:20)

Jesus advocated "community" as one of the ways he makes himself present to his people. This type of gathering has come to be known as a "Small Church (or Christian) Community".

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops defined the value of Small Church Communities and suggested their use within parishes:

"Small church communities not only foster the faith of individuals, they are living cells which build up the body of Christ. They are to be signs and instruments of unity. As basic units of the parish, they serve to increase the corporate life and mission of the parish by sharing in its life generously with their talents and support." (US Bishops – 1995 Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium).

We are soon to begin the fourth season of the RENEW process of establishing Small Church Communities within our own parish. Currently we have 18 active communities including almost 200 parishioners. Everyone is welcome to join a community-no prior experience or special knowledge is necessary.

John Paul II suggested an even larger use of community as a parish life-style:

"One way of renewing parishes... might be to consider the parish as a community of communities and movements." (Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation "The Church in America," 1999).

Here then, is a suggestion for a new way of being parish. Besides RENEW communities, each group at St. Mary, for example Parish Council, Knights of Columbus or the Harvest Ball Committee, is, in fact, its own Small Church Community within the context of the larger community we call "parish".

Three elements that turn an ordinary group or committee into a "living cell that builds up the body of Christ" otherwise known as a Small Church Community are:

1. Obedience to the word of God. As a member of any group at St. Mary, you are working toward fulfilling the requirement.
2. Common Prayer. Many of you are already sharing the Word and a prayer at some point in your meetings.
3. Building Personal Relationships. Now you are invited to focus on the third element which is taking some time.

We are accomplishing this as a parish by participating in the process Father Schalk coined "Mathew 18:20". In this process we begin each meeting with a short verse (from the Sunday readings) followed by the posing of a reflective question which will be given in the bulletin each week. After a minute of silence, the group or committee divides into two or three to answer the question and then closes with the Lord's Prayer. The whole process should take no more than 5 minutes. By taking just a few short minutes at the beginning of every meeting, we honor the gift of our lives and become more in touch with ourselves as well as each other. It sanctifies the work we do and builds up St. Mary parish.

Many of you have already noticed something has changed at St. Mary. We are becoming a warmer, more nurturing and effective parish as we work toward forming "authentic Small Church Communities". Make sure that you are included in this new way of being parish by calling Cindy Williams at (740) 369-0012.

Senior High Youth Group Announces Schedule of Spring Events

Our young people can join 90 other teens from St. Mary on Sunday nights as well as an occasional Wednesday for teen gatherings that are social, spiritual and service-oriented. Calendars are available online at www.delawarestmary.org, or in the vestibule at church.

Life Teen Masses are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month through April.

March 8 will be the organizational meeting for all teens and families traveling to France and Italy. The meeting will be held in Kavanagh Hall at 6 pm. Room assignments and trip details will be

available.

The 14th Annual Spring Retreat, "Indiana Jones and the Search for the Sacred," is **March 20-22**. Registration is open for this event now. Forms will be mailed and will be available in the rear of church. Don't miss this incredible weekend. Join Carolyn, the CORE team, Fr. Black and Fr. Schalk and embark on another adventure into the depths of our Catholic faith along with incredible food, talks, skits, campfire, hikes and this year, three-hour Geocaching experience. The cost is \$85.00. Scholarship money is available.

April 1 - XLT (monthly,

Diocese teens gather for a talk praise and worship). Fr. Tony Ricard from the National Catholic Youth Conference will be the guest speaker. Fr. Tony will bring in teens by the hundreds. Do not miss this dynamic speaker and beloved priest!

June 8-12 Is an opportunity for our Jr. High Youth to experience the Jr. High Summer Fun/Service Camp.

For more details about the Service Camp or any other Sr. High Youth Group activities, contact Carolyn Ferroni, Youth Minister at 740-363-4641 or via email at cferroni@rohio.com.

TAG and SNL2 Celebrate 2nd Year

This is the second year for the TAG (Tweens And God) Youth Group for 3rd and 4th graders and the SNL2 (Saturday Night Live 2) for the 5th and 6th graders. We have 200+ kids registered. Don't let your children miss this great chance to bond with other kids in their faith.

Our theme this year is MISSION: POSSIBLE

Each night we have pizza and games as well as a message! Have your kids come, play and enjoy the night.

March 14 - We will meet in the commons for TAG at 5:30-7:00 pm in the Gym

for SNL2 at 7:00-8:30 pm. The theme is MISSION: OBSTACLES.

April 18 - We will meet in the commons for TAG at 5:30-7:00 and in the Gym for SNL2 at 7:00-8:30pm. MISSION: SHARE YOURS is the theme!

Parents: If you want to help this exciting program, but do not know how, you can help by donating your time at one of the events, or if you can donate any of the following items, we would gladly accept them: pizza gift cards, board games, card games, indoor activity games, plates, cups, napkins, candy, craft items, music CDs and

decorations for the seasons.

The kids love to use their tokens to buy small religious items like rosaries, religious toys or video or even school spirit items at the Holy Outfitters store.

Bigger items on our wish list include video games system, or other indoor activities like TV or computers. If you have a donation or know of a great deal, please let us know. Call Maria Vonada at 362-2246 or Michele Himes at (740) 657-1509.

Holy Week Schedule

April 6 - 12

Monday, **April 6** - 5:30 pm Mass

Tuesday, **April 7** - NO 5:30 Mass but 6:00 pm Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

Wednesday, **April 8** - 8:15 am Mass

TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY- April 9

No 8:15 Mass

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Following mass – Seder Meal (KH) Eucharistic Adoration until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY- April 10

No 8:15 Mass

11:00 am - Walking Stations of the Cross
12:00 Noon - Ecumenical Service
3:00 pm - Good Friday Service
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY- April 11

NO 4:30 Mass

8:45 pm - Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - April 12

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am, and 12:15 pm Masses



St. Mary Parish

82 E. William Street
Delaware, OH 43015

PHONE:
740-363-4641

We're on the Web!

For more information about programs or a detailed schedule of activities, log onto the parish website

www.delwarestmary.org

Catholics Celebrate the Year of St. Paul

Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed this as the year of St. Paul. He has asked Catholic churches everywhere to focus on the life of St. Paul in special ways. St. Mary parish has been pleased to comply with his request through several initiatives.

St. Paul's mission was one of evangelization. He established and nurtured communities wherever he traveled. Our Adult Bible Study, which meets on Sunday nights from 6:30pm-9:00pm in the teachers lounge at the school, has just finished a study of St. Paul. They discovered that the letters that St. Paul addressed to those communities some two thousand years ago provide inspiration in living out our own faith still today.

Also, in the spirit of St. Paul's mission, St. Mary has begun establishing communities within our own parish. Every parishioner is a member of Neighborhood Network.

In addition, through the RENEW process, St. Mary has created another type of community called a Small Church Community, whereby parishioners meet weekly to ponder scripture and help each other grow in faith. In fact, currently 18 of these Small Church Communities have been created with over 200 parishioners participating! Much like those established by St. Paul, these Small Church Communities have an important mission:

"Small church communities not only foster the faith of individuals, they are living cells which build up the body of Christ. They are to be signs and instruments of unity. As basic units of the parish, they serve to increase the corporate life and mission of the parish by sharing in its life generously with their talents and support." (US Bishops – 1995 Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium). Every parishioner is encouraged to honor St. Paul by

joining a Small Church Community for the season of Lent.

Finally, our parish has begun to form communities in a third way as well, by implementing the new "Mathew 18:20" process. At the beginning of each and every meeting that happens at St. Mary Church, parishioners have begun taking just a few minutes for reflection on scripture and faith-sharing. In this way, ordinary committees begin to develop into more Christ-centered Small Church Communities.

St. Paul's vision of evangelization by establishing communities to encourage and strengthen Christians, still inspires us today. By studying his letters, building neighborhood networks and Small Church Communities through both the RENEW and Mathew 18:20 processes, St. Mary parish has found some very worthwhile ways to honor St. Paul.

**ST. MARY CHURCH-SCHOOL
82 EAST WILLIAM STREET
DELAWARE, OH 43015**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED