

The Torch



*"Generations Growing in
Faith for more than 75 years!"*

**St. Dominic
Parish**

**Delhi Township,
OH**

November 2020

Pastor's Desk

My first weeks in the parish, twenty years ago, were spent going to homes to meet the parishioners. Folks with bigger homes would invite the neighbors, so we would have maybe twenty people sitting around with drinks and snacks. I began each gathering by giving a little of my history and background. Then I asked them to introduce themselves and to tell me their experience of the parish, their hopes and dreams for the parish, and where they experienced inspiration in their spiritual lives.

Many folks related that being a parent was significant in their spiritual lives. The challenge to be a faith-filled, loving, and prayerful parent had inspired them and challenged them to be more in touch with God in their lives. Many mentioned Gene Johnson singing "He's Alive" at Easter as one of the spiritual highlights of their lives!

I got the sense that there is a real sense of community here that centers on the school and some events like the festival and the Christmas Giving Tree! I sensed a basic goodness and openness to my leadership.

I also got a sense of what a father must feel when a child takes his or her place in society as a responsible adult and makes a contribution. When the parishioners talked about Fr. Joe Binzer and Fr. Andy Umberg, and what a good job they did as new priests, I felt a sense of pride! As rector, I was responsible for their formation as priests! These were my boys! I experienced a kind of spiritual fatherhood!

The year before I arrived, the parish conducted listening sessions in which many parishioners presented their thoughts and ideas on what they thought was needed by the parish community. Here were their answers to this question: "What is our greatest challenge as a parish?" Having a spiritual, Christ-centered focus! Becoming a true faith community! Getting more people involved in the parish and training them in lay ministry! Keeping the school open with high standards! Increasing the financial support and stability of the parish. Build a parish center for offices, meetings and socials, a gathering space for church, and a multi-purpose practice gym (not enough practice time for the many basketball and volleyball teams!) Get the teens involved. Adult education and spiritual formation programs. Outreach to the poor and needy in the community. Ministry to seniors! These were the parish concerns.

We formed task forces to address these various issues. I was encouraged that the number one priority was a Christ-centered and spirituality-focused parish! The reputation of St. Dominic was that it was "an athletic program with a parish attached." Here is how we addressed this number one priority. 1. We began the program, "Christ Renews His Parish," a year after I arrived. I had launched this program for fifty-five parishes in the archdiocese, when I was working with Joseph Bernardin in the seventies and eighties. Many people have witnessed to how this program has anchored their spiritual lives and energized their ministry. Some folks still meet for prayer and shared life. 2. We started Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays. 3. All these years, Fr. Chris and I have focused our homilies on connecting the Word of God and people's lives. 4. Prayer groups are meeting. 5. The Goldenaires conduct days of recollection. 6. A scripture reflection group meets on Thursday evenings to reflect on the up-coming Sunday scriptures. 7. Before the Covid crisis, Fr. Chris and I had seventy-five people showing up on Tuesday nights for bible study! I continue to be inspired by the deep faith of St. Dominic parishioners!

Fr. Jim

May They Rest in The Peace of the Lord

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following parishioners, as they have entered eternal life.

Joseph Crabb, husband of Martha Crabb and father of Kevin Crabb, Chris Crabb, Sean and Julie Crabb and Brian and Holly Crabb.

James Kennedy, Sr., husband of Beverly Kennedy and father of Kim Kennedy, Deborah Kennedy and James Jr. and Heather Kennedy.

August F. Bardonaro Sr., father of August Jr. and Marcia Bardonaro, Michael Bardonaro, Bruce and Sharon Bardonaro, and Mark and Patty Bardonaro.

Parish Office Thanksgiving Closing and Inclement Weather Schedule

The Parish Office will be **closed** on Thanksgiving and on Friday, November 27. Please plan any business accordingly.

Please take note that when St. Dominic School is on a two-hour delay, or closed for the day due to inclement weather, the Parish Office will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at our regular time. We feel the need to amend our hours during snow alerts, to ensure the safety of all our employees. We hope that this change in our schedule will not cause any inconvenience. *St. Dominic School follows Oak Hills Local School District for delays and closings.*

Early *Torch* Deadline

Please note the early *Torch* deadlines. Information for the December *Torch* must be submitted by Friday, November 6. Information for the January *Torch* must be submitted by Monday, December 7. Thank you.

St. Dominic Education Fund July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

The St. Dominic Education Fund received \$17,741.00 in memory of the following:

Frank Backscheider, Alberta Bechtol, Dominic Bonavita, Dave Binzer, Jean Burke, Loretta Herkert, Lee Jesse, Rita and George Klapper, John Krallman, Mary C. Lipps, John Ludwig, Mary Jo Maher, Mary Jane Mattei, George Merk, Dolores Miele, Gerhard Oevermeyer, Norb Priestle, Rita Riestenberg, Mary Ann Wagner and Mary Wehner.

Included in this total are special donations from the St. Dominic Class of 1959 and a donation from Our Lady of Visitation ESAP/George Hubert Jr. Foundation A total of \$2,548.20 was donated by parishioners in the special envelopes in May and October.

The Adopt-A-Student Program had six benefactors including a donation in memory of Marie Davis and the Edna Mae Cappel Memorial Fund, for a total of \$17,880.

Currently, 50 students from 32 families are receiving \$45,550.00 from the St. Dominic Tuition Assistance Fund and 14 students from 9 families are receiving \$22,650.00 from the Catholic Education Foundation in tuition assistance for the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you to our benefactors for your generous support of our tuition assistance funds and supporting our Adopt-A-Student program.



Church Envelopes

We are changing the way you receive your church envelopes. Instead of receiving a box of envelopes, in 2021 you will receive envelopes in the mail every two months. If you no longer use Offertory envelopes to make your donation, please send us an email at parishoffice@stdominicdelhi.org and we will update our list so you do not receive them.

A Thanksgiving Litany

- From the Presbyterian Church in Canada.
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,
so we lift our hearts up to you, God,
in praise and thanksgiving.

As we count our blessings, and acknowledge your goodness,
our hearts go out to those who do not have,
and who are in need.

We thank you for plentiful harvests and full refrigerators
and ask that you supply the needs of those who are hungry.

We thank you for jobs that provide for our families
and supply the needs of our society,
and pray that you would care for those who have no work,
or the dignity and purpose it brings.

We thank you for opportunities and choices,
for meaning and challenges,
and pray that you would give a sense of purpose
to those who feel trapped.

We thank you for family and friends who love us and care for us
and pray that you would befriend those who are alone.

The abundance of the harvest
is a symbol of the abundance of your love in our lives.
May we live in a spirit of gratitude to you
and generosity to our neighbour.

Loving God, in this season and all year long,
give to us the gift of a thankful heart,
so that we may acknowledge you as the giver
of all that is good in our lives.
In the name of Jesus we ask it.

Amen.

Giving Trees

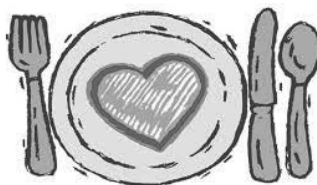


November: A Time for Giving Thanks

Here at St. Dominic we have a unique way of showing our thanks to a gracious God for His blessings. Although 2020 has been a difficult year for some of us, it has been even more difficult for many of our neighbors. We are hoping you can help families from our parish as well as those from St. Leo's parish by participating in our annual **Giving Tree** program.

The weekend of November 21/22, three trees decorated with tags will be at the church doors. Each tag designates a person on the westside of town who, without help from us, would have a meager Christmas. Some of the children are from our own parish, while others are from St. Leo parish. There are some adults included this year from within our parish boundaries also.

The gifts need to be returned the weekend of December 12/13 so that they can be sorted and delivered after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Please consider helping make Christmas a little brighter for someone who may be a stranger to you.



COMMUNITY DINNER

The Community Dinner has been canceled for the remainder of the year.

St. Dominic Men's Society

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

The Men's Society is holding its annual raffle to raise scholarship money for St Dominic students. Winning tickets will be drawn daily throughout December (except Sundays and Christmas), with each winner receiving \$100.00! Tickets are \$5.00, available after Masses, through the end of November. You could be one of 26 winners!

Goldenaires

Due to Covid 19 restrictions there will be NO annual dinner this year and all other activities are suspended until further notice. We miss you, stay healthy!



A Perfect Gift

Christmas is coming soon! Consider purchasing a Gathering Place paver for the person in your life who is hard to shop for.

Pavers are the gift that lets your mother, father, grandparent, child, or spouse know how cherished they are. Order forms are available at the doors of church and on the parish website at www.stdominicedelhi.org (Click on Ministries/General Parish Ministries/Gathering Place Walkway).

You can also stop in the Parish Office to order a paver.

The 4 x 8 bricks allow 3 lines with 13 characters per line and cost \$40.

The 8 x 8 pavers allow up to 6 lines with 13 characters per line and cost \$75.

If you have any questions, call the Parish Office at 471-7741 ext. 0.



St. Dominic Tuition Credit Program

Supporting the tuition credit program is easy with Kroger community rewards and AmazonSmile.

The Kroger Community Rewards Program was designed to support organizations by simply using your Kroger Plus Card! If you are not already enrolled, sign up right away to start earning rewards for the St. Dominic Tuition Credit Program. Your purchases will begin earning rewards within 7 - 10 business days after registering your Kroger Plus Card.

Sign in or create an account at krogercommunityrewards.com

- 1.) Click on Enroll Now
- 2.) Under "Find Your Organization" enter 80206 (St. Dominic R. C. Parish School)
- 3.) Click on school name.
- 4.) You'll receive confirmation that you've enrolled.

AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon that offers the same selection of products as Amazon.com. However, when you shop at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by customers. There is no cost to you! You only have to remember to shop at smile.amazon.com and St. Dominic students benefit! You can search "St. Dominic Cincinnati" on AmazonSmile, or simply visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538541> or <https://amzn.to/2Nb2qtY> to set your charitable organization to St. Dominic.

If you have any questions or need help registering for either program, contact Rachel Lahni at 310-0045 at rachel@lahni.com. Thank you for supporting the Tuition Credit Program.

St. Dominic Men's Scholarship Golf Outing 2020

Thank you to our door prize donors and hole sponsors for making our outing a big success.

Door Prize Donors

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This Christmas Season we are accepting donations to help offset the cost of decorating the church. Please consider honoring your special loved ones by helping us to prepare a fitting and very beautiful place to welcome the Lord.

Donors and their loved ones will be listed in the bulletin and *The Torch* soon after Christmas.

You may place your donations in the Sunday Collection. Please mark your envelope as "Christmas Flower Donation" or bring your gift to the Parish Office. You can also make your donation through WeShare. Visit our website at www.stdominicdelhi.org and click Floral Donation link on the left side. Please submit all donations by Friday, December 11.

Name: _____

Amount: _____

In Memory of: _____

- ☐ I wish to have my gift noted in the bulletin and The Torch
- ☐ I prefer my donation remain anonymous