

The Torch



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

St. Dominic
Parish

Delhi Township,
OH

August 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, we give thanks to our generous God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us and look forward with expectant faith to what is to come.

Much has changed in our archdiocese and in the United States over the past 200 years. For instance, we are an increasingly mobile society, no longer traveling to work or church on foot or horseback. Compared to earlier eras in our country's history, when waves of European Catholic immigrants faced scorn and discrimination, Catholics have made tremendous progress in educational level, social acceptance, career achievement and affluence. Catholics can now be found in the highest tiers of every profession and public office in this country.

Unfortunately, not all change over the past two centuries has been for the better. American assimilation has brought with it a certain diminishment of distinctive Catholic culture. Religious practice among Catholics, following the overall U.S. trend, is in serious decline. One need only look at the empty pews of an average Sunday Mass to know this. Catholic families are generally not as large as they used to be, and fewer parents encourage their children to consider a religious vocation. Here in our own archdiocese, while we have been blessed these past few years with an increase in the number of men ordained to the priesthood and in seminary formation, we have even more in active ministry who are at or beyond retirement age.

Despite these discouragements, our mission – Christ's great commission to proclaim the Good News of salvation and make disciples of all nations – remains. We are called to be God's joyful witnesses, to radiate Christ in all we do, so that all people might know, love and follow Jesus through this life and into the next.

As Church, together we always have the responsibility to look ahead and make the best use of all the Lord has provided us. If we are to be the Church as Christ intends, we must understand that "status quo" can have no place in our vocabulary. We must prayerfully ask ourselves, "What in God's plan must we do next?" Are our resources properly and most effectively aligned with our God-given mission? Is each of our parishes a strong, vital community of evangelization, centered on the Eucharist, that continuously draws its parishioners and attracts new members into a more intimate relationship with Jesus ... or is it just struggling to survive? If the latter, why is that? And what might we do about it?

To address these questions, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has launched *Beacons of Light*, a process of comprehensive pastoral planning for our third century of faith in this archdiocese. Under the leadership of Father Jan Schmidt, Director of Pastoral Vitality, and in collaboration with our priests and experienced consultants, we are studying every aspect of our archdiocese and parishes to determine how to best array our resources – human, physical and financial – to spread the Gospel far and wide.

This process will naturally bring with it much anxiety and trepidation as you wonder about the future of your beloved parish. This is a testament to the deep affection parishioners have for their parishes, for which I am very grateful. *Beacons of Light* will challenge each

of us to place the best interests of the Church and our future generations at the forefront of our planning. It will require us to be open to solutions with which we may not immediately feel comfortable.

Our local Church is a part of the Lord's plan for His people, and that plan cannot fail. God's love is too powerful for that. It is up to us to rely on that love and respond to it, both as individuals and as members of the one Church. As we look to the future, we can be certain that the Gospel will continue to be preached, the sacraments will continue to be celebrated, and the Lord will always be with His people.

The *Beacons of Light* plan will be finished by the end of this year, but the actual implementation will take several years. You will have an opportunity to comment on the plan in October before it is finalized, and you will be invited to assist your pastor with the implementation at the parish level. I urge you to stay engaged with this initiative by signing up for the free *Beacons Update* newsletter at CatholicAOC.org/Beacons.

As we embark on this challenging, but necessary endeavor, let us together ask for the intercession of our Blessed Mother that God continue to bless us with His presence and His love, as He has our first 200 years.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr,
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Pastor's Desk

Happy Feast Day! August 8, St. Dominic! Check out the bas-relief above the side altar on the right, of Mary and St. Dominic! Notice the dog with the torch in its mouth! The flaming torch is a powerful symbol in the life and the tradition of our patron Saint Dominic. When Dominic's mother was pregnant, she had a vivid dream of a dog with a flaming torch in its mouth running through a darkened world. As it ran, the torch shone with such brilliance that the shadows melted away and the landscape was filled with light. Dominic's mother was given to understand that the dog represented her unborn son, Dominic. The darkness represented sin, untruth, illusion, self-deception, hatred, violence, and every form of evil in the world. The flaming torch was the Light of Christ! Her son Dominic would carry the Light of Christ to the world by his preaching! How prophetic that the followers of her son, the Dominicans, would be called the Order of Preachers!

At our Baptisms, our parents and godparents were given a lighted candle on our behalf, with the words: "Receive the Light of Christ!" They prayed that we would walk always as children of the light. They prayed that we would keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts. As disciples of Jesus Christ and members of St. Dominic Parish, we honor our patron saint by spreading the flame of God's light and love in our world!

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.

Timothy Skelly, husband of Mary Lee Skelly and father of Amy and Frank Wainscott, Angela and Michael Meyers, Kyle Skelly and Kevin Skelly.

Michelle Schilling, wife of Tony Schilling and mother of Kasey and Laith Ibrahim.

Jack Mayer, husband of Jackie P. Mayer and father of Scott and Kimberly Mayer, Nichole and Mark Eckert, and Marcie and Rocco Samuele.

Kelli Kirkendall-Heller, mother of Gabrielle Pasqualetti and Tyler Heller.

Audrey Corbett, mother of Audrey Ann Corbett, Jerry and Barb Corbett Jr. and Dan and Gail Corbett.

Early Torch Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for the September Torch is Wednesday, August 4.

Parish Center Rooms and O'Connor Hall

The Rooms in the Parish Center are now open for use by all Parish Ministries. O'Connor Hall will not open back up until September, but reservations for O'Connor Hall can be made now. To schedule a Room in the Parish Center, or to reserve O'Connor Hall, call the parish office at 513-471-7741, ext. 0.

Safe Environment Child Protection Policy

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has completed the switchover from Virtus to SafeParish. SafeParish is an integral part of the Safe Environment/Child Protection Policy.

All active Virtus registrants should have received information about this switchover, along with instructions on registering with SafeParish.

New volunteers should work with the coordinator of the group/ministry they are volunteering with to get registered and approved to work with children.

You can register with SafeParish at www.aocsafeenvironment.org. The passcode is "protectcincy."

I also wanted to answer some of the questions we have received. This process has been a complicated one, and the Archdiocesan personnel in charge continue to work with Virtus and SafeParish to ensure that things are adapted to fit our needs. Because of that, there are still some unanswered questions. Below, you will find some answers that we do have at this time.

- There will be quarterly, video bulletins, instead of monthly bulletins. The first bulletin may not arrive until September. In the interim, we will use data from Virtus and SafeParish to publish the monthly In-Compliance reports on the St. Dominic website at www.stdominicdelhi.org. All volunteer coordinators will continue to check these lists, published on the 15th of every month. This date may change when we find out when new bulletins are sent.
- Everyone will have 30 days to complete the bulletins. After 30 days, if the bulletin is not completed, the person will be out of compliance. SafeParish will send out weekly email reminders. With this new time structure, I will no longer have the opportunity to send reminders to those at risk of falling out of compliance, as I have done in the past. However, SafeParish will continue to send reminders.

Deacon Mark



Introducing Beacons of Light:

Pastoral Planning for Our Third Century

Some of you may have seen announcements about a process the Archdiocese is undertaking called Beacons of Light. **Beacons of Light is a multi-year process of pastoral planning** for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Rooted in prayer, grouping of parishes will come together as one faith community. These new **"Families of Parishes"** will be stronger together, focused more on mission than on maintenance.

In the Families of Parishes, we will grow closer to God, follow Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, and radiate Christ in our lives.

You will be hearing much more about Beacons of Light in the coming months. For now, you can become more informed about Beacons by reading the overview and signing up for the monthly Beacons of Light Update at <https://catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light#newsletter>.

St. Dominic Parish School of Religion (PSR) Registration For 2021/2022



The mission of the St. Dominic Parish Community is the same as the mission of the greater Church – to bring about a connection with and response to God’s love in our world – and truly live out the Reign of God. We do this through the Sacraments, Scripture, Prayer and our interconnections with others – the family, the Parish community of Faith and the larger community and world.

We welcome all registered parish families whose children attend public schools to attend our Parish School of Religion (PSR). The PSR staff and teachers are here to assist parents in their task of raising their children in the Faith.

Instruction in PSR is offered during the school year (September-May) for children in grades 1-8. There is special emphasis on the sacramental years, usually 2nd, 7th and 8th grades, with added activities for parents and candidates.

Registration for the 2021/2022 school year is online. Access the online registration form via the Parish Website (www.stdominichelhi.org). Click on the PSR Registration button on the left side. *There will be no fee for PSR for the 2020/2021 school year.*

PSR is held on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for all grades.

Look for more information in the August bulletins and on the parish website at www.stdominichelhi.org. If you have any questions about PSR you can contact Megan Mattei, PSR Coordinator at mmattei@stdominichelhi.org or 865-607-2070.



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’s 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 513-310-0045 at rachel@lahni.com. Thank you for supporting the Tuition Credit Program.

St. Dominic Festival Baskets and More Booth

Plans are being made for the Festival on October 8-10 and a large part of the Festival is the Baskets and More booth. In years past we have relied on donations from local restaurants, stores and attractions to make our booth successful. This year, we are not sure that we can rely on these donations, and we hope that we can get more donations from our parishioners. We are looking for individual items or complete baskets.

Some basket ideas are: Tailgating basket, Baby basket, Holiday theme (Halloween, Christmas, Thanksgiving), Craft basket, to name a few. There are so many possibilities. We just ask that the basket value be around \$100.00. If you can't donate a whole basket, maybe you can get together with family, friends or neighbors to put a basket together. If you are an Amazon shopper we have put together a Wish List of item/s you can purchase and we will assemble the basket. Just click on the link (<https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2TVFS8KV04UAN>), select the item/s you want to donate, make the purchase and the item is sent directly to St. Dominic. Other items that make up great baskets are: restaurant gift cards, tickets for the Bengals, Cyclones, college sporting events, plays, the ballet, museum center, zoo or other entertainment venues or attractions.

Please check the Amazon Wish List regularly, as items will periodically be added. Gift cards and cash are gratefully appreciated as well! No donation is too small! Please check the bulletin for regular updates about Baskets and More and if you have any questions, please contact Maria Moster at mmoster@fuse.net or 513-295-0691 or Amy Walter at awalter@fuse.net or 513-384-1163 or Lindsey Wittich at lindsey.wittich@gmail.com or 513-238-0067.

St. Dominic School Starts Soon! Are You Ready?



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS: The school office will reopen on August 9, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon daily.

SPIRITWEAR, including gym uniforms, will be sold via an order form sent home at the beginning of school. The Spirit Wear Shop off the gym will be closed, and orders will be filled through school. Contact Nick Luebbering at Blackhawkspiritshop@gmail.com with questions regarding spirit wear.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM: Please contact Kathy Smith at 513-518-9128 or email ksmith@stdominicdelhi.org with questions regarding the before and after school program.

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION AND KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE: Parents of Kindergarten students and parents of new students in grades 1-8 must attend a mandatory New Parent Orientation - August 19, 6:30 p.m. in the church. This meeting will be followed by the Kindergarten Open House. We ask that at least one parent be present for each of these meetings and that kindergarten students do not accompany the parent(s). First through eighth grade students who are new to the school are welcome to attend this meeting and take a tour of the building.

PRESCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT: Parents of preschool students should plan on attending this mandatory meeting - August 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. We ask that at least one parent be present and that children do not accompany the parent(s).

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Wednesday, August 25, 1:00 p.m. dismissal. Uniforms required. Students may bring a snack. Please note there is no afternoon Queen City (Cincinnati Public) bus service for 1:00 p.m. dismissals. Parents of Queen City riders must arrange transportation home on early dismissal days.

TEACHER SUBSTITUTES: Parishioners who have a bachelor's degree and are interested in substitute teaching are asked to call Stephanie Sitzler at 513-251-1276, ext. 422.

PTO UNIFORM EXCHANGE: Thursday, August 19, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the Gym. Bring any used uniforms or spirit wear to donate and/or pick up some items that your son(s) and/or daughter(s) may need this year! If you have any questions, contact Michelle Korb at 513-544-9310 or korbx3@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
4551 DELHI PIKE
CINCINNATI, OH 45238
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The Community Dinner is BACK!!!
Our first dinner back will be on
Wednesday, September 15
in O'Connor Hall
5:00-6:30 p.m.

We hope to see you there!!

*Please look for updates or changes on the
Parish website www.stdominichelhi.org, the
weekly bulletin, and the September Torch.*

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