

The Torch



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

**St. Dominic
Parish**

**Delhi Township,
OH**

March 2021

Pastor's Desk

Palm Sunday, on March 28, begins the most sacred week of our liturgical year. The Triduum is at the very heart of our Holy Week observances and devotions. The word is from the Latin and it means "three days." On Holy Thursday, we celebrate Jesus' gift of the Eucharist to us. On Good Friday, we celebrate Jesus' gift of His life for our salvation. At the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and our destiny of sharing in God's life for all eternity.

Please note the schedule for our Holy Week services. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening begins at 7:00 p.m. Our Good Friday Celebrations of the Lord's Passion are at Noon and 7:00 p.m. (Please note that there will be no touching or kissing the crucifix at the Veneration of the Cross. A simple bow or genuflection will be the appropriate expression this year.) The Easter Vigil is on Saturday evening beginning at 8:00 p.m. Our celebration will be simpler this year as there will be no Baptisms.

On Easter Sunday, our Masses are at 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m. We will be observing social distancing so we will not be packing people in. When the church is appropriately filled, we will direct people to O'Connor Hall for live streaming. If that is filled, we will ask people to go home and live stream. With the pandemic, please prayerfully consider live streaming the Holy Week services.

My hope and prayer for you this coming Holy Week is that you will respond with gratitude to the God who gives you the time of your life. And may that gratitude find expression in your giving back to God some of your prime time on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. May the Holy Week liturgies fill your hearts with love and gratitude for the salvation that is ours because of Jesus Christ and His Passion, death, and Resurrection! End your Lent well and may you all have a Happy Easter!

Fr. Jim

Join Us at The Wailing Wall

For over 2,000 years, the Jewish people and many of all religions, have taken their prayers of grief and sorrow to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Prayers and lamentations of all sorts have been written on slips of paper and placed in the crevices of the wall and prayers have been said, silently and aloud, for God to receive these intercessions and show His love and mercy to the sorrowing.

We have all experienced a year marked with many sorrows, individually, as a nation and as a global community. With the Covid-19 pandemic, natural disasters, national unrest and increasing poverty, hunger and homelessness, we are all sharing in the grief of the world. We are all mourning the loss of so many brothers and sisters in the Lord due to many usual factors of disease and violence, but the numbers of those who have lost their battle with the Coronavirus have catapulted these total numbers into the millions worldwide.

During this season of Lent, we invite you to share any grief that you have experienced and offer it back to God by joining us at the "Wailing Wall." Here at St. Dominic, we are building our own "Wailing Wall" on the walls of the Gathering Place. Our children will be adding their prayers of sorrow to this wall by writing them down on "stones" of paper. Their prayers will become the foundation of our wall. You are invited to join your prayers with the prayers of the parish by sending an email to myfaith@stdominicdelhi.org. We will then take what you are grieving and write it on a stone and add it to the wall. (We are doing it this way to maintain Covid-19 protocol and allow anonymity for everyone.) These stones will be added throughout Lent and the paper stones will become the "kindling" for the fire at our Easter Vigil which will become the Light of Christ! This way, as we give our sorrows back to God, Christ redeems our grief with hope in the Resurrection. Let us pray for one another as we offer our sorrows to the Lord.

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.

Mary Ann Schimpf, mother of Tracee (Keith Neal) Schimpf and Ken Schimpf.

Anna Boyce, mother of Ron and Sue Boyce, Bob and Mary Sue Boyce and Sandy and Scott Finrock.

Brandon Vitatoe, husband of Tracie McMillian and father of McKinna and Mason McMillian.

Dolores Budkie, mother of Jim (Gail Dennett) Budkie, Patrick and Karen (Brandstetter) Cusick and Michael (Karen Corder) Budkie.

John Paul Dinsmore, father of Julie Vista and Katie Deitsch.

Shirley Jones, mother of Theresa and Robert Greve and Anthony and Regina Jones.

James Bratfish, son of Jim and Debbie Bratfish and brother of Tara and Jake Callahan, Christy Bratfish, Amanda and Jonathan Netherly, Kelsey and Steven Rand, Jacilyn Bratfish, Hunter Bratfish, and Jared Bratfish.

Charles Backscheider, father of Bonita and Rick Weber, Robert and Julie Backscheider, Barbara and Jim Cornett and Barry and Kim Backscheider.

Elizabeth Neumann, aunt of Don and Barb Neumann, Shona and Joe Taylor, Rick and Marcia Neumann, Mike and Lori Neumann, Mark Neumann and Tim Neumann.

Alvin "Ed" Metz, husband of Loretta Metz and father of Connie and Stuart Cohen, Celeste and Joe Schmitz, Clarissa McDermott, and Eric and Tammy Metz.

St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Dominic Conference

Because of the pandemic and due to the ages of the St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul volunteers and the dangers of meeting face-to-face, St. Dominic's St. Vincent de Paul has replaced our weekly in-person meetings with telephone conference meetings every other week. Rather than in-home visits, we now conduct all our interviews on the phone. When we deliver food to our neighbors, we wear our masks and put the food on our neighbors' porches. St. Dominic's St. Vincent de Paul needs some younger members. Our current group of volunteers has a median age of 78 and we need "new" blood to keep the organization strong.

The Covid-19 virus has NOT slowed down the generosity of the members of St. Dominic parish or the needs of our neighbors. You have been amazingly generous to St. Vincent de Paul. St. Dominic's St. Vincent de Paul's total receipts for the second half of 2020 were \$25,844.47 from the poor box collections, the parishioner donations, the schoolchildren, and member donations.

Because of your generous donations and money left over from previous periods, from July through December 2020, St. Dominic's SVdP provided \$30,162.27 in aid to 233 of our neighborhood families made up of 545 adults and children. This includes over \$2,000 in Kroger gift cards for families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The breakdown of the aid that was given is as follows:

Duke Energy	\$ 6,485.52	Water Bills	\$ 1,680.92
Food & Kroger Gift Cards	\$ 7,280.04	SVdP Pharmacy, SVdP dues, and other services	\$ 1,329.93
Rent & Mortgage Assistance	\$ 12,785.86	"Twinning Help" to neighboring SVdP Conferences	\$ 600.00

Remember that St. Dominic's St. Vincent de Paul Conference has NO overhead, personnel or office expenses. Every cent that is donated is used to help our neighbors. If you wish to make a donation "In honor of" or "In memory of" someone, there are envelopes and donation cards at all the entrances to St. Dominic Church. The gift will be acknowledged by a handwritten note to the recipient. The honoree will know you have honored them with a gift to help our neighbors.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Dominic Conference

St. Dominic Men's Society

The St. Dominic Men's Society is a service and social organization for the men of the parish. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., typically in the school Music Room. Each January we ask the men of the parish, through the donation envelopes, to contribute \$10 in annual dues to support fundraising for the school's financial aid program. If you're able (and haven't already), we ask that you send your dues envelope to the church or contribute through the parish online giving portal. Your support and membership are greatly appreciated! If you'd like to receive an email reminder of our meetings and other events, and aren't already receiving our emails, contact Mike Liderbach at lidermike@gmail.com.

Lenten Resources

In addition to the major resources available to our parish through the Word on Fire Institute of Bishop Barron, below you will find more resources that may enrich your Lenten experience.

- 1) Along with the Lenten Gospel Reflections, by Bishop Barron, which is available to parishioners for a nominal fee through The Word on Fire, here are a couple of books that you may like:

Surrender All: An Illuminated Journal Retreat through the Stations of the Cross, by Jen Norton. This is a truly beautiful book that will companion you through each of the Stations of the Cross, offering Scripture readings and reflections as well as questions with space for your journaling. This contemporary artist enfolds each Station with imagery that leads your heart to prayer. This book is available on Amazon for \$14.95.

A Saint A Day Lent Devotional: 40 Daily Lenten Devotions for Christians, by Elizabeth Caldwell. This book has a Saint for each day of Lent with information about their life and faith experience as well as Scripture passages and space for your own reflective writing. Follow Lent by walking in the shoes of the Saints and learn from their relationship with God. This book is available on Amazon for \$7.99.

Lent in Plain Sight, by Jill J. Duffield. This contemporary author uses ten ordinary objects of our daily life, such as water, dust, bread, to elucidate our Lenten experience. With Scripture, commentary and reflective prayers, you will have new insight into our daily experience with the Lord. This book is available on Amazon for \$12.49.

- 2) Along with Prayer and Almsgiving, we know that Fasting is a wonderful practice of our faith during the Lenten Season. In last month's Torch, we outlined the guidelines and conditions for fasting from food. The prayer below is a good prayer for our reflection during fasting as well as an opportunity to consider additional ways of "fasting" in our lives.

The Fast Life

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies.

Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; Feast on hope.

Fast from negatives; Feast on encouragement.

Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion.

Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.

Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from anxiety; Feast on faith.

– Author Unknown

Praying as A Parish

During this season of Lent, we invite every parishioner, young and young in heart, to pray a common daily prayer. We ask you to pray the prayer printed below as a way of offering our hearts to God and asking Him to build us into His people. While we are praying together, let us offer this prayer for all of our brothers and sisters in need: the sick and dying, the poor and hungry, the homeless and all those in harm's way. Thank you for walking through this season of Lent together in prayer.

St. Dominic's Lenten Prayer

Lord Jesus, during this Lenten season,

Help us to change our hearts and follow You as disciples:

Teach our hearts Your Good News.

Renew our hearts with Your grace.

Lead our hearts with Your light.

Fill our hearts with Your love.

Open our hearts to the needs of others.

*Gather our hearts to be one with You and live as Your people,
now and forever, AMEN.*

Confessions During Lent

We will not have a Lenten Penance service this year, but on Tuesday, March 9, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Fr. Chris and Fr. Jim will be in church for confessions. Fr. Jim will be in the cry room, and Fr. Chris will be in the priest's sacristy. Additionally, confessions are heard on Saturday mornings from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m., or you can call the parish office and make an appointment.

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St. Dominic Festival 2021

Mark your calendars! Our 2021 Parish Festival will not be held as usual Memorial Day Weekend, but planning is underway for a Pulled Pork Drive-thru and Major Award Raffle on Saturday, May 29 and for a fall Festival Columbus Day Weekend (October 8-10). Look for more information in April in the *Torch* and bulletin or follow St. Dominic Festival on Facebook and Instagram.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- † **Thursday, April 1** – Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.
- † **Friday, April 2** – The Passion of Our Lord at Noon & 7:00 p.m.
- † **Saturday, April 3** – Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. (No 8:15 a.m. Mass or Confessions Saturday morning.)
- † **Sunday, April 4** – Easter Masses – 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (NO 7:00 p.m. Mass)