



God Is Good News

ORDINARY TIME

JULY - NOV. 2015
STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

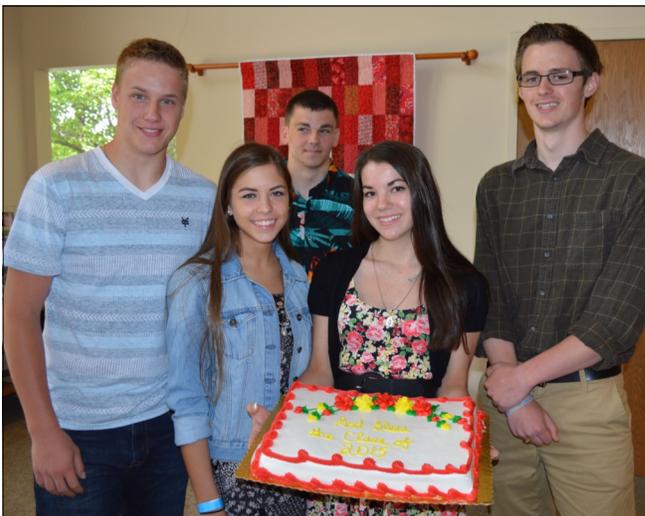


Releasing some energy following an intense Youth Renewal Weekend, the group traditionally dances to a popular song.

Youth group rocks new plans

By Gloria Litwinowicz, Youth Ministry Director

I'm looking forward to wonderful things with the St. Matthias youth. We recently had our first gathering that includ-



Waiting to dig into their baccalaureate cake following Mass are graduates Troy Walter, Brianne Litwinowicz, Joey Fulton, Kelly Kordas and John Marke.

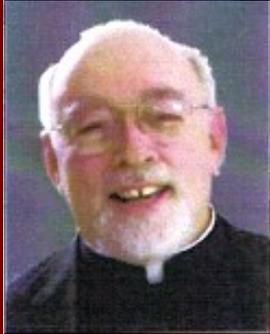
ed food, fun and brainstorming. We looked at programming in key areas – social activities, service to others, spiritual growth and parish community involvement.

We decided to continue some traditions like the annual campout scheduled for July 24-26, as well as some new activities such as a shanty town homeless experience.

Our wonderful core of adult leaders, Steph Gray, Kristin Rock, Lou Zigmund and Ellen Zerucha, are excited and ready to go! Watch for more information on the camp-out, The Fest, a flag football picnic and a party to welcome the recent eighth graders to youth group. We have a new Instagram so that you can keep connected. Find and follow us @stmatthiasyouthgroup. You can also email me at mama-lit@att.net.

The first year is always the most challenging as people look back as much as or more than looking forward. You may have noticed that some things are already being done differently – not better or worse, just differently. I encourage our youth and the entire parish to be open to the future. With God at our center, this youth ministry program will be blessed and thrive!

PadRay Ponders



“Volunteers will go door-to-door asking parishioners what you need, how we can help and just listening to concerns you may have.”

“St. Matthias calling”

Back in my day (I sound like an old fogey as I write that), I remember many who came to our front door: Avon, Fuller Brush, the milk man, encyclopedia salespeople, Jehovah Witnesses.

So taking a cue from old-school models, our Membership Commission is trying this approach, though we won't be selling anything.

Like the apostles, they will go out two by two. Kathy Byrne who heads the Membership Commission says, “We've talked with other parishes and received lots of ideas on how to approach this. So far we have about eight other volunteers, but more are welcome. A two-hour training will be held Monday, August 17 from 7-9 p.m. in the classrooms if you'd like to join us.”

For months, Kathy Byrne, Mike Benedictus, Marty Kearns and Paul Hinko of the Commission have planned how to reach out to all members of our parish family. September 20 is kick-off Sunday when they and other volunteers will go door-to-door asking parishioners what you need, how we can help and just listening to concerns you may have.

For example, do you need a ride to church? Do you want to bake cookies for the Military but don't have a way to get goodies to church? Do

We're all Joyfully Gifted

By Elaine Fechko

Are you one of those who believe you have no special gift? “Joyfully Gifted” is a one day retreat that will open your eyes to discover and discern your own charisms and gifts. Please save Saturday, November 14, 9:30 – 3:30 in the classrooms.

This spiritual gifts discernment process will help participants become more Christ-like disciples who are better able to serve their community with the joy of using their own God-given talents.

Sponsored by The Office of Stewardship and The Office of Evangelization, the retreat is meant to help us live the vision as presented in our Catholic tradition and in *The Joy of the Gospel* in which Pope Francis asks us to create missionary disciples in evangelizing churches.

There is no charge. To register, call (440) 888-8220 or email Elaine.fechko@yahoo.com.

you want someone from church to visit you more often? Is a family member struggling and in need of prayer? The emphasis is on what we can do for you—not what you can do for us.

We plan on visiting just once a year, so if we don't get you this year, it will be an on-going program. Our only goal is to continue creating a welcoming atmosphere at St. Matthias. So please give a warm welcome to the Membership Commission members when they arrive.

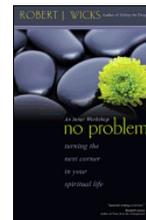
In God's love,



Book Corner...

Summer reads

*By Mary Lou Mallinak, parishioner
Covenant Books and Gifts in North Royalton*



No Problem

**By Robert J. Wicks
Sorin Books, \$14.95**

Robert Wicks is guiding spiritual seekers through 20 lessons, 3 doorways and 30 daily exercises. Just right for summer reading, he has bite-sized, practical lessons and doorways to spiritual riches. In the third part, he coaches readers to conduct their own inner workshop. The readers start where they are and utilize simple practices to be carried by God's grace around the next spiritual corner.

Shepherds to the Rescue
**By Maria Grace Dateno,
Illustrated by
Paul Cunningham,
Pauline Kids, \$6.95**



In this first volume of the Gospel Time Trekkers series, children ages 6-9 take a time-travel adventure to Jesus' time with modern day kids Hannah, Caleb and Noah. They meet Benjamin, a shepherd boy from whose grandfather heard the message of the angels at the birth of Jesus. When they are surrounded by hungry wolves, Benjamin has much to teach them about shepherding.

RCIA for children is family experience

By Norma Delp (Dominic's grandmother)



St. Matthias photographer Joe Medwetz captures the moment before Dominic, age 9, is to receive his First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

For months, our family prepared for Dominic's baptism, confirmation and reception of First Holy Communion on Holy Saturday night. This entire experience served to strengthen our family.

Dominic took seriously going to classes and to church. He liked his PSR teachers a lot and enjoyed making new friends.

We are thankful to Master of Ceremonies Andy Zmecek and his family who guided us through Dominic's ceremony. And we are especially grateful to Dianne Laheta who provided so much extra time outside of classes for his preparation.

My husband Frank, Dominic's mother Kelly and I are beginning to see a difference in how Dominic behaves, thinks and treats others. His Christian values are actually more visible.

The evening of his reception into the church, we felt like Dominic was treated like a king by everyone he encountered at St. Matthias. This was more than anything we imagined, and we are proud of how Dominic and Kelly responded and participated.

We are so grateful for the positive impact this experience has had on our family.

Everyday Faith

'Being accepted is one of the greatest feelings'

By Jacob Taubeneck
(2015 graduate of Normandy High School)

As a former high school student, I know first-hand how hard it is to fit in. Being part of the social "norm" is very important to young adults, and I was no exception. The last thing I wanted to do was profess my religion, because I didn't think it was acceptable.

Then, I was introduced to the youth group at St. Matthias. Here, I was taught to embrace my faith and strengthen my relationship with God. Members of the group shared stories showing me that God is always there for me and that we should try to follow the ways of Jesus Christ.

This doesn't mean that you have to wear a white robe and go around attempting to perform miracles. It means accepting others for who they are and what they do. Being accepted by someone is one of the greatest feelings a human being can experience. Making this renewal made me want to become a member of the youth group, so I joined.

As a member, I was reminded of acceptance again with participants arriving in all sorts of shapes and sizes at our annual Youth Group Renewal. I was able to apply my knowledge of God's plan, his compassion and his forgiveness with everybody at the event. Finding my acceptance has allowed me to accept others for who they are through Christ.



Three generations of Taubenecks

Share Your Talent

Talent comes in many forms. Consider bringing your talent to one of our South Hills Cluster Groups or benefiting from the talents shared there:

Adult Singles group - St Basil

Widow & Widowers group - St Basil

Job Support group - St Basil

Rosary for Life - St Michael

Holy Land South Hills cluster group

Haiti group - Assumption

Knights of Columbus - St. Matthias & Assumption

Metanoia - St Matthias

ACE - Adult Catholic Education

For more information about these ministries, go to the St. Matthias website (www.stmatthiaschurch.org) and check the online bulletins.

Creating the world we want through

Parish garden: Many hands lead to harvest

Our parish garden is starting its fourth year. Each year the garden club grows stronger, and the garden produces more vegetables. Each member has something different to contribute. We can always count on Eric Poti to rototill at the beginning and end of each year. Kathy Byrne is able to donate plants. Mary Zak and Janet Rymut have been the main workers who show up every time. Micky

Rodriguez, Joann Zak-Bernoffer and Rebecca Zak are new members who have joined the workforce. This year the girl scouts and their moms came to help plant. They promise to weed this summer. We are all excited about a new season of fresh vegetables to be harvested and sent down to Brookside to help the poor in the Brooklyn neighborhood.



They're smiling now, but members of the garden ministry prepare to get down and dirty as they weed and plant.

Christmas in July: Tree brings joy

This July we have our annual Christmas in July project to collect school supplies and uniforms for students living in the Brooklyn neighborhood. Brookside has repeatedly told us that they could not exist without the donations that come from St Matthias. We will also include diapers for Womankind and money for postage for military packages. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more details.



Laden with tree tags for social action ministries, it won't be long before gifts of diapers, wipes, backpacks and gift cards swell our Gathering Area.



In your prayers...

Please remember those serving in the military this holiday season, especially the members of our parish family...

Patrick Chalupa
Teran Chapman
Christopher Dominick

Joshua Haugh
Spencer Kordic
Tim Ryan

David Schmidt
Timothy Schmidt
Sean Sirl

We regularly send "care packages" to our military. If you would like to help by contributing, here are the items we are able to send and are needed by the troops: Band-aids, hand sanitizer, shampoo, sun block, lip balm, hand lotion, individual-size facial tissues, dental products, deodorant, foot pads and foot powder (such as Dr. Scholl's) breath mints, hard candy, dried fruit,

"to-go" powdered drinks that are added to bottled water, crackers, cookies. Energy-drink powder (such as Gatorade powder), granola bars, chewing gum, nuts, raisins, ramen noodles, instant soup, white or black work socks and sausage-beef jerky. Items can be dropped off in the "Military" bench in the Gathering Area. Thank you!

Good Samaritan: When help is needed here



Outgoing Good Samaritan coordinator Dolores Somers (right) prepares to offer some tips to Elaine Mieyal who has volunteered to assume this role.

Good Samaritan is another way St. Matthias church responds to those in need in our area. Many people in the Parma area struggle to pay bills and feed their families. While we do not have funds to pay bills, we do receive enough money to offer Giant Eagle gift certificates to help pay for food, gas and medications. Members of the parish may be helped monthly while non-parishioners receive one-time help.

Our Catholic Social Teaching principle called Solidarity states that we are all one human family and are responsible for the well-being of each other. Indifference to the pain and suffering of others has no place in our society. You can help by using the Good Samaritan envelope in months that have a fifth Sunday or just put your contribution in a plain envelope, write "Good Samaritan" on it and drop it in the offertory basket.

Brookside Meal: Feeding the hungry

Social Action has traditionally hosted a few meals each year for the Brookside ministry. This year our May 24 meal served about 100 people of the Brooklyn neighborhood. Coordinated by Allyn Davies, many parishioners and friends pitched in by either donating money, cooking, baking or serving at the Pearl Road United Methodist Church.



Back to work, Karen Spirakus! Jackie Costanzo and Bob Fabian are still plating brownies for one of the Brookside/Bethany meals that St. Matthias serves.

Womankind: Making medical care accessible



Womankind celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

This past Lent, Womankind made a plea for money to buy medical supplies and furniture to help them provide better service to the prenatal clients they serve. St Matthias generously responded with \$6170. The Womankind staff was overwhelmed and most thankful. They said, "If it weren't for the generosity of St Matthias, Womankind would not be able to carry on." The success of this drive is an indication of how seriously our parish takes the call to social action.

St. Matthias Upcoming Events

Sacrament of the Sick

July 25
after 4:00 Mass
September 20
after 9:00 Mass

Christmas in July July 31-August 10

Movie Night
No Greater Love
Aug. 12, 7:00 p.m.
Ice cream after

Door-to-Door Outreach Program Sept. 20

Blanket Sunday Oct. 4

Joyfully Gifted
Retreat
November 14
9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

All Souls Day
Memorial Mass
Nov. 2, 7:00 p.m.

Women's Bible
Study
Every Tuesday
9:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Wed.
9:00 a.m.

Holy Week 2015



Randy Kula washes the foot of Tom Litwinowicz during the Holy Thursday liturgy.



Parishioners bless themselves from the holy water font to renew their baptismal promises.

Logan, Michael, Jake and Erika process up the aisle to dress the altar before Mass.



Setting the altar for Holy Saturday liturgy are Deacon Ken and members of Dominic's family.





In preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Father Ray baptizes Dominic at the Easter Vigil Mass. (See story on page 3.)



One of the most meaningful practices on Good Friday is to insert a nail that we have carried throughout Lent into the cross made by Paul Clark.



Father Ray, Deacon Ken and Tom Litwinowicz prostrate themselves at the altar at the Good Friday services.

Illuminated by candles lit from the Paschal candle, Emma Clark adds liturgical movement during the reading of the

We celebrate the holiest time of the year



Saint Matthias the Apostle Church

1200 West Sprague Road, Parma, OH 44134

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 688
Cleveland, Ohio

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Statement of the People of Saint Matthias Church



We, the family of Saint Matthias, called to be disciples of Christ, reach out with a loving and caring spirit. Proclaiming the message of the Risen Lord, we provide for the spiritual growth and development of our community. By sharing liturgies, ministries and responsibilities, we promote God's kingdom.

GOD'S GIFTS for GOD'S PEOPLE
(time, talent and treasure)

"God Is Good News" is the newsletter of Saint Matthias the Apostle Church...a Stewardship Community.

Editor: Patti Bertschler

Staff: Irma Baker, Elaine Fechko, Mary Lou Mallinak, Chris Walter

Saint Matthias Church

(440) 888-8220 - www.stmatthiaschurch.org

Masses

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Holy Days: 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Weekdays:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Liturgy of the Word: 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

Anytime by appointment or Saturday 3–3:45 p.m.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Matthias Parish Staff

Rev. Raymond A. Sutter, D.Min. - Pastor

Ken Golonka - Deacon

Elaine Fechko - Pastoral Minister - Outreach

Dianne Laheta - Pastoral Minister - Catechesis

Gloria Litwinowicz - High School Youth Minister

Sig Mikolajczyk - Music Director

Joe Mikolajczyk - Choir Director

Michael Starinsky - Business Manager

Chris Walter - Office Manager

Laura Walters - Receptionist

Joe Medwetz & Bob Arbuckle - Facilities