



the Columban

Lent 2023

Loveland, Ohio

Learning, Living, Loving ... our Catholic Faith

Entering the Desert of Lent



The first line of the Gospel reading, for the first Sunday of Lent this year, comes from Matthew 4:1. It states, "At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert." For Christians, the desert is mentioned and referenced year after year when Lent rolls around. Not only does the season begin with Jesus going out into the desert, but in a similar manner, each of us as followers of Christ is called to embrace our own desert experience.

For virtually all of us, being directed to a desert is not a path we willingly want to partake. It is a task we would prefer to avoid and it is definitely not an exercise we yearn to repeat.

My third-grade teacher, Mrs. Nelson, taught me the following trick to correctly differentiate and spell the words desert and dessert. Desert has one 's' because you only want to visit there once, whereas dessert has two because you want to revisit it over and over.

So why then, would the Catholic Church focus on a desert? Why would it stress this particular symbol as somewhere we should allegorically go to visit? Of all the images that could be emphasized, what is it about a barren land, with minimal rainfall, that could possibly connect us to Lent?

Perhaps it is more about what is not present in the desert, than what it actually contains. For a desert is a place where things are stripped away. The climate uncovers and exposes thus revealing the bare essence and the heart of the matter. Masks are discarded and non-essentials are disposed of. Pilgrims journeying through a desert cling to just what is truly necessary.

From this desert perspective, the three pillars of Lent which are prayer, fasting and almsgiving, become more relevant and pertinent.

Prayer involves us turning our hearts and minds more completely towards God. It is surrendering our independence, and openly embracing our dependence on the divine. As we swelter in the desert heat, we realize we cannot survive on our own. When we are praying with a burning passion, we admit we do not want to go through life without our Lord.

Fasting requires self-discipline and self-control. It is going without the things we think we want, so we can better rely on the things we actually need. As we face dehydration in the bleak desert land, we come to understand what we physically thirst for. When we are spiritually fasting from our vices and shortcomings, we embrace the bread and wine of Jesus that we desperately hunger for.

Almsgiving entails sharing our blessings with others. It is giving our treasures to someone in need, and it is giving of ourselves to everyone. As we walk in the desolate desert sand, we witness that the land seems devoid of life. When we are giving to help neighbors and strangers alike, we become servants who bring the life force of the Holy Spirit to humanity.

Maybe as we stare out at the figurative desert this Lent, we can enter into it with our eyes wide open. We can view it more clearly as a metaphor of how it invites us to change and conversion. Perhaps we can imitate the example of Jesus, and permit ourselves to be led into the desert as equally enthusiastically as we go back again for that second dessert.

~ Scott Mussari, Director of Faith Formation



Rite of Christian Initiation

Welcome to Our Soon-to-Be Newest Members!

The following parishioners will receive the Sacraments of Initiation and enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Please keep them in your prayers and consider being a part of the celebration by attending the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 8th.



RCIA Elect Blake Hemphill

Blake Hemphill is ten years old and his parents are Christy and Brad. He has two older brothers, Hunter and Bryce. The family has been at St. Columban for almost five years. Blake is in the fifth grade at Loveland Intermediate School and his favorite subject is science. He enjoys playing lacrosse, video games and watching football.

"I am grateful to St. Columban for teaching me more about God, and about my faith. I am looking forward to receiving the Sacraments and participating fully at Mass. I have chosen Saint Sebastian for my Confirmation name because he is the patron saint of athletes."



RCIA Elect JT Bowman

JT is nine years old and his parents are Kristen and Kevin. His family have been parishioners for nearly a year. His older sister, Natalie, is also participating in RCIA. JT is in third grade at Seven Hills School and his favorite subject is social studies. He enjoys playing soccer and playing with dogs.

"I have enjoyed being in RCIA, and all the activities and games we do, help me remember the things I learn about. My favorite story from the Bible is the parting of the Red Sea. I have chosen Kevin for my Confirmation name."

RCIA Elect Jamie Berning



Jamie and her husband, Jerry, have been married for four years. They have twins, Alexander and Anastasia, who are two years old. Their family have been

parishioners for over a year. Jamie is a stay at home mom who keeps very active with her young family and their two dogs. She is currently studying to take her CPC certificate exam as a medical coder. In addition, she enjoys working out, self-care activities, and spending time with her family and friends. Jamie chose Anne for her Confirmation name, because it relates to Mary's mother Anne, and her role as a mother. In addition, Anne was at the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, and it inspires Jamie to believe and share her faith with others.

"There have been so many positives with my RCIA journey. It has pushed me to dive deeper into my faith and I have received valuable insights into Catholicism. With the demands of twins, it has been challenging to participate on Sundays. However, I am proud I am pushing myself, and I am growing in my faith. I want to give so much gratitude to everyone who is supporting me. I know I can be totally transparent with our group, and I feel safe to do so. I definitely feel cared for and blessed. Thank you!"



RCIA Candidate Natalie Bowman

Natalie is eleven years old and her parents are Kristen and Kevin. The family has been parishioners for nearly a year. Her younger brother, JT, is also participating in RCIA. Natalie is in fifth grade at Seven Hills School and her favorite subject is writing. She enjoys volleyball and animals.

"I have really enjoyed learning more about God, and the Catholic faith. I like the crafts that we do in RCIA, to help me better understand the things I am learning about. My favorite Bible story is Daniel in the lion's den. I have chosen Isabella as my Confirmation name, because this saint was so kind and cared for the sick, and I hope to be a nurse someday."



RCIA Candidate Nick Ashcraft

Nick and his wife, Annie, have been married for sixteen years. They have two children, Will, who is six years old, and Max, who is three. Their family has been parishioners for two years. Nick is an Assistant General Counsel for Fidelity National Information Services, which is a payment processing company. Nick enjoys to oil paint, and he is currently learning to play the piano. One of Nick's favorite stories from the Bible is when Jesus heals the soldier's ear in the garden, because it is one of the most merciful acts in all of Scripture.

"Each week at RCIA, I learn something new and I feel energized when I leave. It has been a great experience. I feel as though I am growing in spiritual discipline. I started reading the Bible regularly several years ago, but I had not been to church with any frequency in decades. Being part of a community of churchgoers is important to me. It inspires me to improve in other ways too. I want to set a good example for my kids and I hope to raise them in Christ. Being a member of the parish is one of the best ways that I can lead my family."



RCIA Candidate Josh Klein

Josh is a Medical Illustrator. He creates images and 3D models for a neurosurgeon that shows key steps during surgery. In his spare time, Josh enjoys weightlifting, hiking and drumming.

"I grew up attending Christian schools. However, the RCIA has allowed for learning new aspects of the faith, as well as the history and traditions of Catholicism, of which I was mostly in the dark. I have seen commonalities with what I grew up with, but I also have gained respect for Catholic observances and beliefs. I look forward to continuing to learn in this process of RCIA, now and afterwards."

RCIA Candidate Mike Fuson



Mike and his wife, Jenifer, have been married for thirty-six years. They have been parishioners for over ten years. Mike works for Modern Builders Supply as an Inventory Manager and Customer Service Specialist. He enjoys being outdoors, particularly fishing, and he can fish anytime and anywhere, as long as they are biting.

"I began my journey to become a Catholic because of my granddaughter. With Kenzie's coaxing and prayers, I was finally able to make the leap and begin the RCIA process. I have enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere each week, and I have learned so much about Catholicism. I am grateful to everyone who has supported me, and a special shout out goes to my sponsor and my grandson, Evan. I now feel more confident in my faith, and I am looking forward to being fully welcomed into the Catholic Church."

FAITH FAMILY FUTURE



OUR SUCCESS IS DUE TO THE CARE, SUPPORT
AND CONTINUED PRAYERS FROM OUR PARISH,
COUNCILS AND COMMISSION, FACULTY, STAFF,
PARENTS, AND AMAZING STUDENTS.

In partnership with our St. Columban Parish community, St.
Columban provides a faith-filled, family-centered environment
with challenging academics that prepares students for future
success and service to others.



REGISTRATION IS
OPEN!
REGISTER TODAY
AT

[saintcolumbanschool.org/
registration](http://saintcolumbanschool.org/registration)



ST. COLUMBAN
SCHOOL



To Fast or to Feast Lenten Calendar ~ 2023
Fast or feast each day to grow in
God's mercy and love!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		21 - February Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner 5:00—7:00 p.m. Cafeteria	22 - Ash Wednesday Fast all day Abstain from meat.	23 Feast on seeing the best in people.	24 - 1st Fish Fry 5:00—7:30 p.m. Stations of the cross 7:00 p.m. What will you fast/feast from this Lent?	25 1st Communion retreat 9:00 a.m.—Noon Fast from misplaced anger
26 1st week of Lent <i>Focus on:</i> <i>Giving thanks</i>	27 Fast from condemning diversity and disrespect. Pay it forward to someone you don't know.	28 Feast on recognizing the sacred in all life. Light a votive candle for all life!	1 March Fast from Facebook, Instagram, text, or social media for a day.	2 Feast on speaking less and listening more. Give others all of your attention.	3 Fish Fry 5:00—7:30 p.m. Stations of the cross 7:00 p.m. Fast from complaining and whining.	4 Feast on trusting in God. Put a cross or crucifix in your room to keep focused.
5 2nd week of Lent Donut Sunday <i>Focus on:</i> <i>Charity</i>	6 Fast from discontent or jealousy. Try to see all with loving eyes.	7 Feast on gratitude. Make a list of 10 things you are grateful for.	8 Fast from comparing yourself to others. We are one in God.	9 Feast on limitless patience without complaining.	10 Fish Fry 5:00—7:30 p.m. Invite a friend to the Fish Fry. Stations of the cross 7:00 p.m. Fast from worry.	11 Trivia Night 7:30-9:30 p.m. Feast on kind words. Write a letter to a relative or friend.
12 3rd week of Lent <i>Focus on:</i> <i>Abstinence</i>	13 Fast from saying bad words that hurt others. Tell someone you hurt that you are sorry.	14 Feast on curtailing extra spending and donate what you save to a charity.	15 Fast from negatives and being a cup 1/2 empty person. Find a Saint to imitate.	16 Feast on doing something creative for the glory of God.	17 Fish Fry 5:00—7:30 p.m. Stations of the cross 7:00 p.m. Fast from criticizing others aloud or silently.	18 Confirmation 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Feast on affirming others.
19 4th week of Lent <i>Focus on:</i> <i>Prayer</i>	20 Fast on overscheduling your time. Leave some time to simply be.	21 Reconciliation Service 7:00 p.m. Feast on compassion for others.	22 Fast on gossip that tears others down. Pray for someone you don't like.	23 Feast on praise that builds up. Look for signs of new life!	24 Fish Fry 5:00—7:30 p.m. Stations of the cross 7:00 p.m. Fast from bitterness that begrudges.	25 Feast on forgiveness that reconciles. Make an examination of conscience.
26 5th week of Lent <i>Focus on:</i> <i>Forgiveness</i>	27 Fast from hitting the snooze alarm. Get up and use the time for prayer.	28 Feast on prayer that is for someone who is troubled or hurt.	29 Fast from thoughts that weaken.	30 School Passion Play 8:30 a.m. Feast on promises that inspire.	31 Fish Fry 5:00—7:30 p.m. Station of the cross 7:00 p.m. Fast from despair and discouragement.	1 April Feast on hope. Read an entire Gospel, today.
2 Palm Sunday <i>This week focus on:</i> <i>Faith</i>	3 Feast on candle light. Sit by the light of one candle in your home.	4 Fast from harboring hate. Write a thank you note to someone.	5 Feast on living with love. Show someone you love them.	6 Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Attend one of the Triduum Services.	7 Good Friday Stations of the cross 12:00 p.m. Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Try to imagine yourself at the events of the passion.	8 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Pray for our newly Baptized and the renewal of your own faith.

April 9th ~ Happy Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Parish Community Center February update

In our last update, we reported that we received four bids for the project in December and narrowed them to two companies. Since then, the campaign leadership team has done its due diligence in asking for value engineering reductions in costs, as well as met with both contractors and spoken with a prior customer of each company. The team has chosen D.E.R. Development Company as the winning bid. They are a third generation, family-owned construction company with over 75 years of service to the tri-state area. They pride themselves on their years of experience, as well as being able to self-perform many project tasks that are normally subbed out with their team of experienced contractors. The projected start date is April 10th and estimated completion date is April of 2024.



As you will recall, our original cost estimate was \$4.2M. We met our pledge goal back in 2021 and since then have garnered new pledges in the amount of \$300,000 for a total of nearly \$4.5M in pledges. D.E.R.'s bid in combination with the contingency, Archdiocesan assessment and estimated loan interest came in at \$4,686,554, which includes the increase in material cost and inflation over the last 18 months. Finance Council and Pastoral Council have both approved respective motions to move forward with the new project costs.

We are beyond grateful to report that half of our donors have completed their pledges and so we have \$2.5M in-hand. This means we will not have to take a loan for some time, and will lead to less interest charges. It also gives the team a chance to reach out to parishioners who have not made a pledge, in hopes of gaining new pledges to cover the close to \$200,000 shortfall. It is also our hope that current donors might consider advancing their pledges by a month, a quarter, or whatever is feasible in order to collect funds sooner and end up with an even smaller loan amount/interest. If you haven't made a pledge to this important project, now is a good time to join us in the journey.

We cannot thank you enough for your prayers, your pledges, your patience and your love for this great parish. What an exciting year this will be as we complete this long-awaited addition to our campus.

Blessings,

Parish Community Center Leadership Team: Fr. Larry Tensi, Greg Ionna, Cathy Nagy, Patrick Leshner with the help of parishioner construction experts Tim Elmore and Larry Kramer

The Giving Tree – 2022



Thank you to all the St. Columban parishioners who helped make the Giving Tree a success this year! As a result of your incredible generosity, St. Columban was able to provide 15 agencies with a variety of gifts including clothing, toys, household items, personal care items, gift cards and much more. This year, our parish supported this important ministry by bringing in items for 1,100 individual tags.

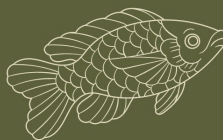
A special thank you to the Parish Office staff for its overall annual support, as well as taking in St. Leo's family gift requests this year. Additionally, thank you to Mrs. Linda Hansel, St. Columban School and Student Council for supporting the Bethany House gift requests. In addition to the gifts, we collected \$2,507 in donations.

Your overwhelming generosity does not go unnoticed by the agencies served. They are all very grateful to the parish and have made it clear just how much of an impact the gifts have on their agencies and their clients. Your donations bring much joy at Christmas to so many individuals, families and children!

Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and their families who donated their time to make deliveries during the busy weeks before Christmas. Thank you also to all the St. Columban Scouts and families who helped sort gift donations as they were returned. And a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to make the 2022 Giving Tree a tremendous success!

St. Columban
Boosters

Fish Fry



Join us for our annual Booster's Fish Fry. Drive Thru, Order online, or dine in—however you order we are here to serve you! Mark your calendars to join us!

St. Columban
Fridays of Lent-Feb.24,
March 3,10,17,24,31
5:00pm-7:30pm

1. Drive up and go through our drive thru line to order and get your food
2. Order online at www.stcolumban.org and food will be brought out to your car or to the Parish Hall at designated time
3. Come to the Parish Hall and order your food from our staff or online and the food will be brought to you. Drinks and desserts available for purchase!

Credit cards only for food purchases!



Holy Thursday soup supper
April 6
5:30 p.m.—6:45 p.m.
Parish Hall

ALL are welcome for a homemade soup supper before the Holy Thursday liturgy. Various homemade soups, bread and cheese will be served. A freewill offering can be made to benefit Catholic Relief Services. This event is hosted by the Living Peace and Justice committee.

Easter Vigil Reception

Each year, after the Easter Vigil, all are invited to the Parish Hall to celebrate and welcome our neophytes, their families, and our parishioners. It is quite the celebration and we hope you will come and join us. We will have food, drinks, and desserts. Parishioners help provide paper products, drinks, baked goods, fruit, appetizers, side dishes, and various items for the buffet each year.



To sign up to bring a dish or non-perishable item, go to the Parish website homepage and click on the Easter Vigil reception link. Non-perishable items can be dropped off at the Parish Office at any time. Food items can be dropped off at any time on Saturday, April 8th in the Parish Hall.

Thank you in advance to all who can help welcome our newest Catholics to St. Columban. Any questions, call Terri Kerley at 513-683-0105, ext. 2118.



Lenten Reconciliation Service March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a way to experience the gift of God's boundless mercy. Not only does it free us from our sins, but it also challenges us to offer the same compassion and forgiveness to those who have sinned against us.

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. In confession, we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves in his presence and honestly acknowledge our sins, especially mortal sins. With absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church. The Sacrament helps us stay close to the truth that we cannot live without God.

Eucharistic Exposition

Eucharistic Exposition is held the first Wednesday of every month and is dedicated as a "Day of Prayer for the Sick." This observance begins with Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m., continues throughout the day with Eucharistic Exposition, and concludes with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us. Commit to an hour or just visit as your schedule allows.



The blessing of Easter baskets

Why are families taking baskets of food into the Day Chapel? It is a tradition in Eastern Europe to bless the Easter food before it is prepared for Easter dinner. In earlier times, meat and dairy products were excluded from the daily diet during the entire season of Lent. As the end of the strict fast approached, people showed their joy and gratitude by taking their food to church to be blessed and eaten after the Easter Liturgy.

This tradition celebrates the joy of the resurrection as the Easter meal breaks six weeks of Lenten fasting, and the foods represent fare abstained from during Lent. St. Columban will once again celebrate this tradition on Holy Saturday, April 8th at 1:00 p.m. in the Day Chapel. Families who wish to participate in the basket blessing are invited to bring samplings of foods they will eat on Easter Day in a basket (baked goods, bread, eggs, ham). Come and have your Easter food blessed!



We warmly welcome the families who have recently joined the parish!

Tim & Molly **Barney**
Adam, Jess, Elizabeth & Marcus **Carroll**
Jay Chen, Jing Yang, Ainie & Sellick **Chen**
John, Jill, Luke & Hannah **Doemeny**
Chris, Kara, Henry & Maddie **Eisenacher**
Adam, Abby & Austin **Groh**
Andy, Emily, Lily, Luke & Lucy **Haberman**
Dave, Beth, Olivia, Sophia, Camille & David **Hagen**
Joe, Catherine, Jack, Phinn, Joey & Caroline **Herzog**
Jake, Sabrina & Grayson **Horn**
Alex, Alli, Gracie & Lilly **Kellerman**
Matthew & Morgan **Kenney**
Scott, Katherine & Logan **Lape**
Sharon **Miller**
Austin **Palmer** & Lauren **VanDierendonck**
Will **Piening**
Woodroww, Katie, Hank, Lila, & Gus **Plunkett**
Kevin, Nicole, Graham & Reed **Rotsching**
Harry, Hannah, and Leland Wolfe & Rylan **Henderson**
Brandon, Het, Jonah & Callie **Zurlindens**

Welcome to our newly baptized members!



Reece **Bain**, son of Allen & Sarah
Beau **Bunevich**, son of Sean & Katie
Reese **Bunevich**, daughter of Sean & Katie
Ella **DiModica**, daughter of Drew & Natalie
Jacob **Dolan**, son of Luke & Mary
Daniel **Fulks**, son of Nick & Molly
Tatum **Gannatti**, daughter of Tim & Mara
Ellie **Georges**, daughter of Tim & Katie
Nia **Gibby**, daughter of Iwan Gibby & Vicki Wood
Chloe **Grubb**, daughter of Kevin & Stefanie
William **Heck**, son of Andrew & Amy
Levi **Keith**, son of Ken & Sarah
Noah **Keith**, son of Ken & Sarah
Jude **LaPorte**, son of Andrew & Emily
Jacob **Lopinto**, son of Matt & Lindsay
Charlotte **Meister**, daughter of Rob & Heather
Emilia **Reimer**, daughter of Christopher & Christine
Cecilia **Smith**, daughter of Darrell & Lori
Kyrix **Tucker**, son of Cassidy & Jen
Margot **Weisgerber**, daughter of Peter & Stephanie
Maverick **Wermert**, son of Randy & Kimberly



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 1/2 - Palm Sunday

We will begin in the gym and receive palms. After they are blessed, we will process over to church.

April 6 - Holy Thursday

Soup Supper from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.

*Everyone is invited to have his or her feet washed during this liturgy. Please bring your **rice bowl** and a non-perishable item for SVDP.*

April 7 - Good Friday

Way of the Cross at 12:00 p.m.
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:00 p.m.

April 8 - Easter Vigil at 8:30 p.m.

Blessing of the Easter food at 1:00 p.m., Day Chapel

April 9 - Easter Masses at 8:00, 9:45* and 11:30 a.m.*

** In the interest of hospitality and safety, overflow seating and a video feed of Mass will be available in the Parish Hall for the 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. Masses.*



River's Edge Brass Band Concert

St. Columban will host the River's Edge Brass Band in concert on March 19th at 3:00 p.m.

The REBB is a traditional British brass band featuring 33 skilled brass and percussion players from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Founded in 2014, the band has performed for audiences all over the area ever since. Brass bands play on a specific set of conical instruments and perform a wide variety of traditional and popular music and marches. This band will sound amazing in our church!

The conductor is Dr. Kevin Holzman, who is the Head of Wind Studies and Conducting at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. Dr. Holzman has conducted bands around the world and is a frequently requested clinician nationally and beyond. He brings a high standard of musicality and excitement to the REBB performances.

Our concert at St. Columban features "British Brass Band Classics," performing both traditional and contemporary works written for brass bands. These include R. Vaughn William's overture *Henry the Fifth*, Gustav Holst's *Moorside Suite*, and an exciting and challenging piece from English composer Phillip Sparke, *A London Overture*, among others.

The concert will last about one hour and all ages are welcome. There are no tickets required but a free-will offering for the band will be accepted at the conclusion of the program. Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music! For more information, contact Mary Bellman at mbellman@stcolumban.org.



Join us for Trivia Night March 11



Join us in the Parish Hall for our next trivia night on March 11th. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the game begins at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.stcolumban.org to RSVP.

The cost is \$10 per person plus a nonperishable food item or household cleaning item for St. Vincent de Paul. Light snacks will be provided and you may bring your own beverages and appetizers if you choose.



Stephen Ministry—we are here to help

Experiencing difficulty from job loss, illness, or any other life crisis? Having someone to talk with can bring relief and insight. Our trained parish volunteer Stephen Ministers would like to help you. Call our confidential line at (513) 583-3999.

Calling all St. Columban School alumni

No matter where you are or what you are doing, I pray all is well and that this new year will be filled with many blessings for each of you. An exciting school milestone approaching. In September of 2026, St. Columban school will celebrate our **Centennial Anniversary** serving the Loveland Community. Believe it or not, you have been an important part of those first 100 years!

St. Columban School is thriving with over 460 students in Pre-K through 8th grade. The school's mission: *"In partnership with our St. Columban Parish community, St. Columban school provides a faith-filled, family-centered environment with challenging academics that prepares students for future success and service to others."* is a clear statement to the parish's commitment to this important ministry.

Our graduates perform very well as they move on to high school and college academic pursuits demonstrating the excellent preparation they have received. I hope you feel that way as well as you look back on your time here at St. Columban. We are blessed to have a talented and dedicated faculty and staff in collaboration with our school parents and the generous support from St. Columban Parish.

Adding to the excitement, this past year the parish secured funding from our parishioners and announced plans to build/complete the St. Columban Community Center in 2024. When completed, this facility will provide expanded meeting space, a gym and theater providing a spacious, gathering space for parishioners of all ages to come together. We also plan to use it in outreach and service to the greater Loveland community.

My purpose is twofold. First, to make you aware of this milestone as well as plans to celebrate our Centennial school celebration. Second, to make you aware that we are in the midst of putting together a development team for the school.

One of the early goals is to create an alumni data base. The first step is to reach out to you and your classmates. We would like to gather your contact information to keep you up-to-date on school happenings as well as the upcoming Centennial plans. Please complete your contact information by going to the school website/alumni page: <https://www.saintcolumbanschool.org/alumni> or by clicking the QR code below and also let us know of classmates you stay in touch with so we can reach out to as many former students and faculty as possible.

Meanwhile, it will be great seeing familiar faces that once walked down our halls during my twenty years here at St. Columban. Hopefully, you will be able to join us!

Blessing and peace,
Fr. Larry Tensi



SCAN ME



40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful all-day vigils. This year, the local 40 Days for Life Lenten/Spring campaign takes place February 22nd through April 2nd. St. Columban has adopted Wednesday, March 22nd as a focused day of prayer for our parish. Our goal is to have at least two people praying in front of the Planned Parenthood building at 2314 Auburn Avenue in Cincinnati during each hour of the day from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Susan Kues at 513-677-3699.



Nursery is open!

Our church nursery is open to all little ones who are walking up to the age of three during the 9:45 a.m. Mass. Keep your little one happy while you attend Mass! Moms and dads who are Safe Parish trained will volunteer on a rotating basis. If you want to become a volunteer, please email Sandra Kurth at kids.kurth@gmail.com.

Free Covid tests

The Hamilton County Health Department has donated many Covid tests to the parish. If you would like to have some on-hand, please stop by the Parish Office to pick them up. You may have as many tests as you need. Note: The tests have an expiration date of April 2023.

Parish visioning survey



Two years ago St. Columban completed a three-year parish Vision: *In 2021 we will be more actively living our faith, in family, in parish, in community.* The three priorities for the 2018-2021 Vision work were:

- Youth and young adult engagement
- Journeys to deeper faith
- A vibrant, faith-based school

As we were launching the Vision in 2018, parishioners were invited to take the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey** to reflect on their own spiritual growth and discipleship and identify the ways in which the parish effectively supports that growth. The three Vision teams used the results of this survey to help form their goals and objectives. DMI is conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute, a non-profit Catholic apostolate that does leadership training and development nationally and internationally.

Parishes in the Archdiocese are taking the survey this month, and in our case, we will gain additional insights as we compare our 2023 results to those of 2018. Whether you have taken it before or not, we would like as many parishioners as possible to complete the **10-15 minute survey between now and March 12th**. Visit <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/y9a683> or you can find a link on the home page of our website. Paper surveys are available at the front desk of the Parish Office.

The survey results will be invaluable to our staff and our many volunteers as we seek ways to best support everyone in their discipleship journey. At the completion of the survey, our parish will receive an aggregate report of the results. We will NOT have access to individual survey responses. This survey offers us a unique and important opportunity to learn about issues of importance to families in a confidential and professional way. We will use these results to 1) look at opportunities to support parishioner growth in discipleship and 2) create goals and action plans to achieve that growth.

Thank you for helping with this important project! We look forward to sharing the findings with you when the project is complete. If you have any questions please contact Cathy in the Parish Office: cnagy@stcolumban.org or 513-683-0105.

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