ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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Rev. Edward Stafford
Pastor

Mr. Gerry Scopilliti
Permanent Deacon

Sr. Joyce Schreiber, SND
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Margaret Haney
Director of Religious Education

Mr. Bill Davies
Music Minister

Mrs. Kathi Trares
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Cindy Clark
Business Office Manager

Mrs. Ruth Fitzgerald
Ox Roast Fair Financial Secretary

Mr. Jason Garey
Maintenance

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY *5:00 p.m.*

SUNDAY *8:30 and 11:15 a.m.*
8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (Summer)

WEEKDAY *8:00 a.m. Tues.-Thur.*

HOLY DAYS & SPECIAL LITURGIES
(please refer to bulletin)

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)
Saturdays 4:00-4:30 p.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
First Friday each month
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Please call the Parish Office for Mass & Prayer Intentions, Carillon Memorials, Catholic Exponent, Family Info. Changes, Bulletin News, Parishioner Registration, or details about any Parish Organizations, Committees and Ministries.

Proud Home of the Ox Roast Fair!

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 14, 2016

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JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

On Ash Wednesday Pope Francis commissioned "Missionaries of Mercy," priest-confessors sent forth worldwide as "living signs of the Father's readiness to welcome those in search of [God's] pardon." In a way, though, Pope Francis challenges all of us to become "missionaries of mercy" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 18) by living Lent in this *Jubilee Year of Mercy* "more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy" (*MV*, 17). Francis bids us make the prophet Micah's words our own: "God . . . who does not persist in anger forever, but delights rather in clemency. You will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins" (Micah 7:18, 19). Having experienced God's mercy ourselves in the unconditional forgiveness of our sins, how eager we should be to invite others to know the peace of God's boundless mercy; perhaps even to experience, through our reaching out in gentle kindness and compassionate care, something of God's unconditional love for them.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today Lent begins. Ash Wednesday initiates the forty days of the Lenten fast, but since Sundays are not tallied in the days of fasting, today is the solemn opening of the forty days of Lent. The Church has work to do today, principally the calling forward of those chosen (the proper word is elected) for the Easter sacraments. Some of those who have been catechumens may now make a transition to a new way of life as the "elect." For them, this Lent will be a time of "purification" and "enlightenment." For us who accompany them, it is a time of helping them discern God's call and prepare for new life.

This year, while the readings from the third year of the Lectionary cycle are usually read, they are set aside on certain Sundays for the benefit of the elect. We turn then to the readings from Year A, and we give those who journey to the font of baptism three extraordinary companions. In the Gospels for those days, we meet the woman of Samaria and the man born blind, and we come to the tomb of Lazarus three days after his death. Many bishops celebrate the Rite of Election on or near today, affirming God's choice for these new faithful, and also offering them the solidarity of many companions. In 2013, over 38,000 adults entered the baptismal waters in the United States, a remarkable testimony to the vigor of our tradition of receiving and nurturing adult faith.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun. 8:30 a.m. Mass..... *Bert O'Donnell*
11:15 a.m. Mass..... *Aileen Hyden*
Mon. No Liturgy
Tues. 8:00 a.m. Mass..... *Austin Heritage*
Wed. 8:00 a.m. Mass..... *People of St. Joseph*
Thur. 8:00 a.m. Mass..... *Stella Malisiak*
Fri. 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Sat. 4:00-4:30 p.m. Reconciliation
5:00 p.m. Mass..... *Thomas Sevc*
Sun. 8:30 a.m. Mass..... *Bill & Rose Sontag*
11:15 a.m. Mass..... *Joan Pahoresky*

CARILLON MEMORIAL
February 20 *Louise Kaluba*

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Mon: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tues: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wed: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thur: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Fri: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Sat: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

To Prepare For Next Weekend's Mass . . .
Sun: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1 [3:20-4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

PASTOR'S CORNER

As we enter the Season of Lent, this Sunday's gospel reading recalls that Jesus was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit. May we all ask the Holy Spirit to lead us these 40 days to a deeper appreciation and connection with our merciful and loving God. During this special liturgical season that focuses on our need to turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel, may we ask God to guide our lives on the path of peace. May we be promoters of peace and reconciliation through our lives and throughout the world. The Lenten Season gives us the opportunity to increase our awareness of God's presence and love for us as He sent his only begotten Son to reveal the fullness of His love and mercy for His people. May we use this time well by striving to make our lives more open to the voice of God. Simplicity of life, acts of sacrifice and self giving along with silence, afford us with more time in our lives for prayer and greater intimacy with God. May we choose to do all that will help us to hear the voice of God more clearly and follow the path of Jesus Christ that leads to eternal glory!

Fr. Ed Stafford

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Suzy Hafemeister	Paula Krebs	Lynn Davis
Joe Robine	Diane Sanderson	Jo Marie Bailey
Sabina Delgado	Irene Welling	Dan Nuti
Andy Kollarik	Cheryl Erickson	Susan Temple
Joan Kodash	Dean Kohanyi	Angie Daczko
Mary Ann Feddor	Jane Raps	Zoe Craig (Pinter)
Dan Baumbick	Kathy Morcarski	Bunny Fritz
Natalie Jahn	M. Theresa Surgeon	Pat Smith
Alivia Julliana	Vic Santillo	Chuck & Marcia Verardi

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE—2/20-21:

	5:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:15 a.m.
SERVERS	M. Cymanski	C. Rowe	G. Lesnak S. Maretka
LECTORS	K. Cofojohn J. Horvath	W. Custer J. D'Aurelio	D. Engelhart M. Fratus
EUCH. MIN.	J. Robine T. Sargiovanni J. Cofojohn	G. Scopilliti D. Festa V. Festa P. Fussaro J. Jakacki M. Jakacki	B. Sabol B. Colin R. Skocdopole A. Wetshtein **E.M. Needed* **E.M. Needed*
***SUPPORT MINISTRIES*:**			
MASS SET-UP		W. Custer	C./J. Ober
CLOW CATECHIST			R. Fitzgerald
CLEANERS	J. Garey		

2015 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Requested 2015 Contribution Statements are available for pick up in the Narthex. You may request a statement by signing up in the Narthex or calling the Parish Office.

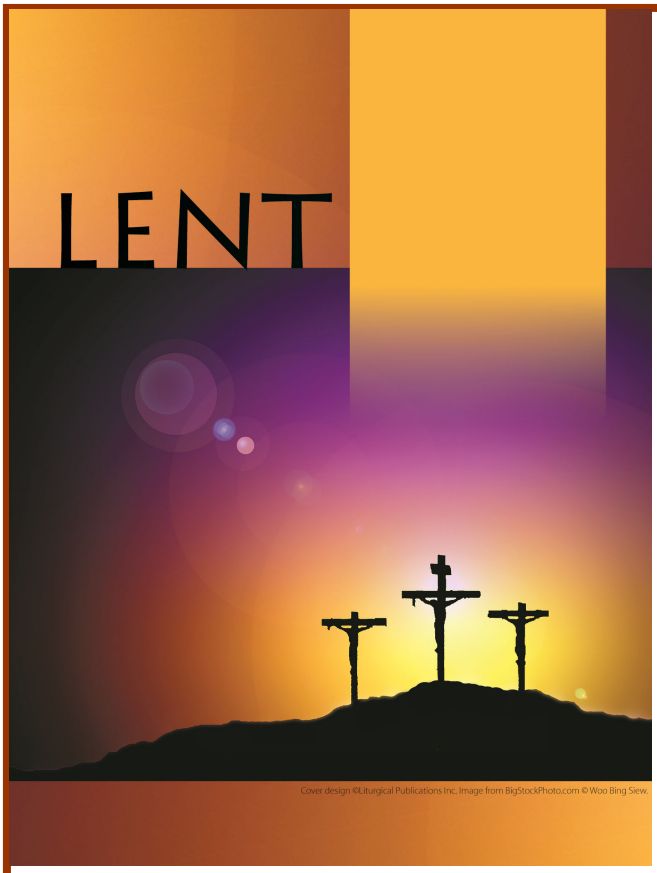
STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE

SUNDAY COLLECTION (2/7):	$4,990.00
ONLINE GIVING (2/7):	$ 542.00
WEEKLY AMOUNT NEEDED:	$6,125.00
OVER/UNDER:	—$ 593.00
# OF ENVELOPES & ONLINE:	172 (of 568)
CHILDREN'S OFFERING:	$ 0

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

First, do you give to God from your "first fruits", the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is leftover? Second, do you remember that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day.

Visit us on the web at www.stjosephmantua.com



HUNGERING FOR OPPORTUNITY

Our journey with CRS Rice Bowl begins in Colombia, where coffee beans are changing lives! What actions can we take this Lent to change lives—at home and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org for more. If you have not done so, pick up your family's Rice Bowl from the Narthex.

Please plan to join our parish family as Joanne Sawyer leads the Stations of the Cross based on the Stations led by Pope John Paul II. Everyone may gather Friday afternoons of Lent at 3:00 p.m. in the church as she leads prayer & reflection for the Way of the Cross. On March 4, Stations of the Cross will be led by Deacon Gerry Scopilliti at 7:00 p.m. (instead of 3:00 p.m.) and will include Eucharistic Adoration. All are welcome.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Saturdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m.
- ***"Leaving the Light On - An Evening of Reconciliation"*** Wednesday, March 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (celebrating the Year of Mercy throughout the Diocese of Youngstown)
- ***Portage County Deanery Communal Penance Services*** March 12, 1:00 p.m., Immaculate Conception, Ravenna & March 15, 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Mantua

JESUS AND THE DEVIL

The devil tempted Jesus by quoting scripture, as today's Gospel reminds us. Try a self-serving miracle. Try selling out. Try dazzling the audience; people are gullible, after all. Try all these easy ways. The tempter tries to urge Jesus onto the slippery slope, attempts the old soft-soap, the snake-oil solutions that are always readily at hand. The devil knows better, but is powerless to do better, much less be better. The devil is evil personified, who senses in Jesus the stronger, truly attractive presence of holiness.

Evil is exposed and engaged, we are reminded in this Sunday's Gospel. Evil knows the jig is up. The undoing of lies begins with Jesus, who takes up the work of soul-healing and world-healing. This Lent, the Church invites us to enter into this renewing, re-creative work and be made whole again.

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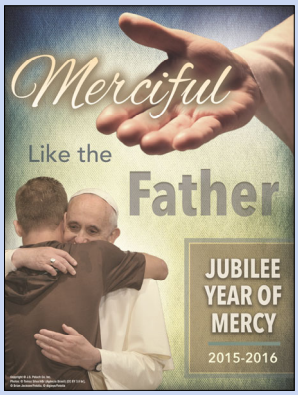
LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence - limit of one full meal and two smaller meals for persons 18 through 59 years of age; no meat for persons 14 years of age and older. All Fridays during Lent are days of Abstinence - no meat for persons 14 years of age and older. There is no obligation to fast during the weekdays of Lent. Will you give something up or add something more this Lent?

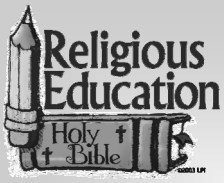
MERCY CORNER



In a special ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica on Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis will commission over 1200 priests as global missionaries of mercy. In a meeting with these priests on Tuesday, the Pope said, "It is not easy to offer yourself before another man, and to confess your sins. Shame is an intimate sentiment that affects the personal life and requires from the confessor an attitude of respect and encouragement…, we are not called to judge, with a sense of superiority, as if we were immune from sin… Going into the confessional, always remember that it is Christ who welcomes; it is Christ who listens; it is Christ who pardons; it Christ who gives peace."

On a very cold January day I went to Sheetz for lunch because I had free coupons for food. As I walked in I noticed a young man sitting at an iron picnic table. He looked so sad. When I came out with my food the young man was still sitting there in the freezing cold. I said, "Excuse me, you look so sad. What is wrong?" He told me he was homeless. I felt heartbroken for him. I gave him the rest of my coupons, worth about sixty dollars in food, and a Walmart gift card with a little money left on it. As I started my truck to drive away, the young man put his hands in a praying position and mouthed, "Thank you." I would have done that anytime, but during this year of mercy…

(Do you have a personal story of receiving or extending mercy to share? Drop it in the **Mercy Corner Box** in the Narthex. Your witness will inspire others.)



NO PSR—February 14 (Presidents' Day)

CONFIRMATION NEWS
This year's Sacrament of Confirmation is on Sunday, February 28, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown. Our Confirmation class will join several other classes from around the diocese for this special Mass presided by Bishop George Murry. Please join me in praying for our candidates as they begin the final phase of their preparation.

WINTER GAMES
This year's Winter Games are on Sunday, February 21, during PSR. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Peg Haney @ 330-274-2268 or phaney@stjosephmantua.com.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
This month's Free Community Meal is on Sunday, February 28, 12:30-2:00 p.m. This month's meal is sponsored by the Turpin family. PSR students are asked to donate a dessert for the meal. 6th grade and 3rd grade students will be in charge of set-up, serving and clean-up. For more information, contact Peg Haney @ 330-274-2268 or phaney@stjosephmantua.com.

AREA LENTEN FISH DINNERS

St. William Church, 5431 Mahoning Ave NW (St. Rt. 45), in Champion, begins their annual Fish Dinners Fridays, February 5 through March 18, 4:00–7:00 p.m. These delicious meals feature baked or fried fish, fries, macaroni & cheese, green beans, coleslaw, dessert and beverage. Adults/Carry Out $10.00, Seniors (65 and older) $9.00, Children (10 and under) $5.00. Visit www.stwilliamchampion.org/fish-dinners.html.

St. Joseph School, 2617 Waterloo Rd., Randolph, will once again host Fish Fry Dinners during the Lenten season, Fridays, February 12 through March 18, 5:00–7:00 p.m. in the school hall. Dinners feature baked Alaskan cod, hand breaded fried Pollock, breaded butterfly tail shrimp, mac 'n cheese, or combo dinners. They come with cole slaw or apple sauce, choice of two sides (baked potato, rice pilaf, seasoned French fries, green beans & mac 'n cheese), bread, beverage & dessert. Dinner prices are $5-$10 & carryout is available. You won't go away hungry! For more info., please call 330-628-9555 before 2:30 p.m.

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL BINGO

St. Michael Church, 9736 E. Center St. (St. Rt. 303) in Windham, is hosting a Valentine's Day Special Bingo on Sunday, February 14. Games start at 1:30 p.m. This event is open at adults 18 years old and older and includes refreshments, raffles, baked goods, and a gift table. Come on out for great fun, great food, and great games!!

ST. JOSEPH CARES PROJECT

Our parish's outreach effort, working to serve needy residents of Portage County, is sponsoring a collection of new items for The Horizon House, a residential drug and alcohol treatment center for women, and The Root House, a residential treatment center for men, both of which are in Ravenna serving Portage County. A collection basket will be in the Narthex Feb. 13/14 and 20/21.

WISH LIST FOR THE ROOT HOUSE (ABOUT 12 RESIDENTS):

Shower shoes	*Razors*	*Shaving cream*
Toiletries	*Snacks*	*Non-perishables*

WISH LIST FOR THE HORIZON HOUSE (ABOUT 12 RESIDENTS):

Bedding for twin size beds (pillows, sheets, blankets, comforters)
Bath Towels/Washcloths/Bath Rugs
Toiletries, Makeup/Nail polish (no perfume)
Kitchen Towels *Individual candies/treats*
Gift Cards: Goodwill, Movie, Bowling, Gabriel Brothers

SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GAY AND LESBIAN CATHOLICS

St. John Vianney in Mentor will host a presentation by Eve. Tushnet, author of Gay and Catholic: Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, and Living My Faith. Program will be held in the Father Kline Social Center, 7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor. This event is co-sponsored by the Cleveland Diocesan Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry.

ST. HELEN'S WOMEN'S RENEWAL

St. Helen's Parish, 12060 Kinsman Rd., Newbury, is holding it's 12th Annual Women's Renewal Saturday, February 27, beginning at 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Sunday, February 28 (you must be able to stay the entire time). This overnight event is open to women 18 years or older who would like to improve their relationship with God, develop friendships with other Christian women, and become more involved in the church community. There is no cost to attend. Freewill offerings will be accepted on the last day. Please do not let finances hinder your attendance. Brochures with registration form are available in the Narthex. Registration deadline is February 17.

TWO PART LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath, an Oblate of Saint Francis de Sales, a writer, and an artist will present a two part Lenten Day of Reflection series at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 342 S. Chillicothe Rd., Aurora on Saturday, February 20. Session I: *Heavenly FBB's: Saints, Sinners, and Us* will take place from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cost for the session is $5.00. Session II: *Coloring Your Spirit* will begin with a light supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the presentation from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost for the session is $10.00. Participants are invited to attend either or both sessions. The 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass will take place between the sessions. Please call 330-562-8519, x100 to register by February 17.

MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST

Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth Chapter of Magnificat, a women's ministry modeled after the Visitation, invites you to a Breakfast Saturday, February 27, at Walsh University, Barrette Center, 2020 East Maple St., North Canton. Join them in a special time of fellowship and sharing. Cheryl Langford will be the guest speaker. Cost is $18.00. Make checks payable to "Magnificat of Stark County" and send to Shirley DeOrio, 409 7th St. NW, North Canton, OH 44720. Seating is limited. PLAN on getting your reservations EARLY! **Reservations cannot be accepted after February 20.** Open seating. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. There will be an optional Mass at 8:00 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University. For further information call Shirley DeOrio at 330-305-1146.

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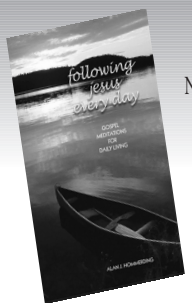

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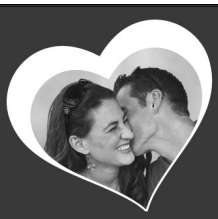

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Schedule of Events

~ For the Week of Feb. 14 - 21 ~

Sun.	No PSR/CLOW (President's Day Weekend)	
Mon.	6:00-8:00 p.m.	G.S. Troop #90188 Mtg. (APR)
	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Exercise Class (1/2 Hall)
	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Mtgs. (Classrooms)
	7:30 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Mtg. (K of C)
Tues.	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Mtg. (Hall)
Wed.	6:00-7:30 p.m.	G.S. Troop #90311 Mtg. (Kindergarten Rm.)
	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Umpire Training Class (APR)
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council Mtg. (PC)
	8:00 p.m.	AA Mtg. (Hall)
Thur.	6:00-7:30 p.m.	G.S. Troop #90815 Mtg. (Rm. #3)
	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Exercise Class (1/2 Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Music/Choir Rehearsal (Church)
Fri.	3:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross (Church)
	7:00 p.m.	Cub Pack #3575 Blue & Gold Set-up (Hall)
Sat.	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Cub Pack #3575 Blue & Gold Banquet (Hall)
	After Mass	Appalachian Experience Bake Sale (Narthex)
Sun.	9:30-10:50 a.m.	PSR Classes (Classrooms)
	9:30 a.m.	Doughnut Social (Hall)
	After Masses	Appalachian Experience Bake Sale (Narthex)
	At 11:15 a.m.	CLOW (Conf. Rm.)
	3:00-9:00 p.m.	CYF United Dinner/Auction (Hall)

2016 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND CHURCH

Last weekend our parish joined with parishes throughout the Diocese of Youngstown in making a commitment to the ***2016 Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Charities and Church***. This year's goal is **$4.2 million**. The Appeal, in its **20th year**, is the primary funding source for Catholic Charities in our six-county diocese. There has been an ever-increasing number of needy persons coming to Catholic Charities for help and they depend on our support of the Bishop's Appeal. The Bishop's Appeal also helps to subsidize traditional Church ministries including Religious Education, Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Bishop Murry is counting on our support of the 2016 Bishop's Appeal. It is his fervent hope that every parish will reach their goal. Thank you to those members of our parish who have responded to the in-mail phase or through the in-pew packet. If you are not prepared to make a commitment this weekend, please take some time to read the in-pew appeal packet and prayerfully consider how you can best respond with a commitment next weekend. Thank you for your prayerful reflection and generous response to the Annual Appeal.

APPALACHIAN EXPERIENCE BAKE SALE NEXT WEEKEND

Donations of baked goods are needed for after each Mass.
Thank you for your support!

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

We welcome *Piper Jane Evelyn Hirsch*, daughter of Brian & Jen, who became a member of our faith by being baptized on Saturday, February 6, 2016. We congratulate the parents, godparents, family and friends of Piper. Let us pledge our prayers and support to help her grow strong in her faith.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY—FEB. 14

Each year World Marriage Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of February. Worldwide Marriage Encounter, which sponsors World Marriage Day, offers many ideas that couples can use to mark the Day at wmd.wwme.org. Additional resources on marriage may be found at the "For Your Marriage" website, an initiative of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.foryourmarriage.org.

THE CATHOLIC EXPONENT

In today's second reading for the first Sunday in Lent, we hear from St. Paul's Letter to Romans that "the word (of God) is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." Jesus in today's Gospel from Luke is tempted in the desert but responds to the temptations by calling upon the wisdom of Scripture and the insights of His faith tradition. We all face temptations in our own lives and in deciding larger social issues. The Catholic Exponent, our diocesan newspaper, offers news and commentary to help us respond to our challenges and temptations in light of our faith tradition and God's word. The Exponent's prize-winning Scripture reflection by our own Father James Walker and adult faith formation offered in our other commentaries and articles help us remember that "the word is near" despite the confusion and anxiety we face in the world. Subscribe or renew your subscription today by dropping the green "Special Contribution Envelope" from your parish packet into the collection basket (check Catholic Exponent). Or call 330-744-5251 for subscription information. Hear and know the word. Read the Exponent.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

St. Joseph Parish will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, February 22, 1:00-6:00 p.m., in Hughes Hall. For more information about donating, please visit www.redcrossblood.org/ or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

CAN YOU HELP? We are in need of a couple of volunteers for the donation day to help with registration and the refreshment area. Please sign-up in the Narthex if you're able to lend a hand for all or part of the day.