



**ST. MARY
PARISH**

731 Exchange Street
Vermilion, OH 44089

stmaryvermillion.org

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**MASS SCHEDULE
WEEKEND MASSES**

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - 8:30am

Tuesday - 8:30am

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday - 6:15pm

Thursday - 8:30am

Friday - 12:05pm

**Lenten & Easter Schedule are on
the last page of this publication.**

CONFESSION TIMES

Sunday - 9:45am - 10:15am

Tuesday - 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Saturday - 3:00pm - 3:45pm

**Or, please call the office to make
an appointment with Father.**



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR



My dear parishioners in Christ,

This has certainly been a unique liturgical year with Advent being the shortest season it could be, followed with the Lenten season starting on Valentine's Day!

(More on that topic inside this newsletter.) Easter Sunday also falls on March 31st, which means we get to celebrate the Easter season all through the month of April!

Some of us might still be faithfully living out our New Year's resolutions that we made at the beginning of the year. If we find that we have slacked off after a month or so, Lent is an excellent time to reinforce those commitments that we made, or to take the opportunity to make additional progress in our spiritual lives.

Starting on Ash Wednesday, we will look for additional ways to pray, fast and give alms. As your pastor, I am always giving out suggestions and planning opportunities for our parish to more easily participate in our faith. But ultimately, I should not have to tell you what you should be doing this Lent. I trust that each of us, in our own capacity, knows ourselves well enough to light our own fire under us, and to let that fire help us move closer to God as we desire Him more this Lenten season.

As you read about all the events offered at our parish this season, think about what you can do to help strengthen the participation our parish community – perhaps start a small group for other men and women. Host a book club to read some great spiritual classics. Attend one of our many opportunities for Adult Faith Formation – (Our Bible Studies on Tuesday evenings. Thursday morning sessions or our new Saints Academy group on Wednesday evenings!) The parish is always available to help equip you with your faith journey in Christ.

Have a blessed Lent!

Fr. Paul

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

14 - ASH WEDNESDAY

- 7 am - Distribution of Ashes - **ONLY**
- 9 am - Mass w/ Distribution of Ashes
- 12:15 pm - Distribution of Ashes - **ONLY**
- 6:15 pm - Mass w/ Distribution of Ashes
- 7 pm - Saints Academy
- 15 - 9:15 am - Coffee, Study, and Conversation - Every Thursday
- 6:30 First Communion Meeting | Parent & Child
- 16 - 7 pm - Stations of the Cross - Every Friday during Lent.
- 18 - 9 am - Jesus & The Eucharist (Everyone is welcome.)
- 2 pm - Rite of Election for OCIA (at Cathedral in Toledo)

19 - President's Day - Parish OFFICE CLOSED

- 20 - 9:15 am - Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament - Every Tuesday
- 21 - 7 pm - Saints Academy
- 22 - 9:15 am - Coffee, Study, and Conversation
- 23 - 7 pm - Stations of the Cross
- 25 - 9 am - Faith Formation (Children's Session) / Confirmation Prep
- Jesus & the Eucharist
- 6:30 pm - EDGE & Life TEEN - **ENCOUNTER NIGHT**
- 27 - Adoration (9:15 am - 9 pm)
- 7 pm - Bible Study w/Deacon John - 2nd & 4th Tuesday
- 28 - 7 pm - Saints Academy
- 29 - 9:15 am - Coffee, Study, and Conversation

MARCH

- 1 - 12:45 pm - St Francis Seniors | First Friday
- 4 - 7 pm - St. Mary Parish Fish Fry**
- 2 - 6:30 pm - Opening of the Parish Mission with Fr. Mark Davis**
- Exploring the Mystery of God
- 3 - 9 am - Faith Formation (Children's Session) / Confirmation Prep
- 9 am - Jesus & the Eucharist
- 11:30 OCIA Class
- 6:30 - Life TEEN
- 6:30 pm - Parish Mission with Fr. Mark**
- Exploring the Mystery of God's Healing
- 4 - 6:30 pm - Parish Mission with Fr. Mark**
- Exploring the Mystery of the Eucharist
- 5 - 9:15 am - Adoration
- 6 - 6:15 pm - Healing Mass
- 7 pm - Saints Academy
- 7 - 9:15 am - Coffee, Study, and Conversation
- 8 - 7 pm - Stations of the Cross
- 9 - 8 am - Men's Saturday Morning Breakfast Gathering (**FREE**)
- 10 - 9 am - Faith Formation (Children's Session) / Confirmation Prep
- 9 am - Jesus & the Eucharist
- 11:30 am - OCIA Class
- 12 Noon - SFO Formation Class
- 1:30 pm - SFO Meeting
- 4 pm - Evening of Grace (4-6pm) (Penance Service)**
- 6:30 pm - EDGE
- 12 - 9:15 Adoration
- 7 pm - Bible Study w/Deacon John - 2nd & 4th Tuesday
- 13 - 7 pm - Saints Academy
- 14 - 9:15 - Coffee, Study, and Conversation
- 15 - 7 pm - Stations of the Cross

- 17 - 9 am - Faith Formation (Children's Session) / Confirmation Prep
- 9 am - Jesus & the Eucharist
- 11:30 am - OCIA Class
- 6:30 pm - EDGE & Life TEEN

- 19 - 9:15 am - Adoration
- 20 - 7 pm - Saints Academy
- 21 - 9:15 am - Coffee, Study, and Conversation
- 6:30 pm - First Communion Meeting / Parent & Child

- 22 - 7 pm - Stations of the Cross

24 - Palm Sunday

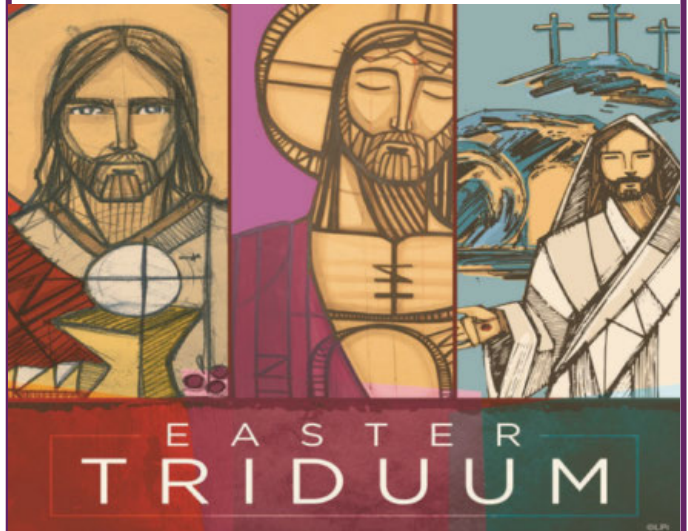
- 9 am - Family Faith Formation**
- 11:30 OCIA Class
- 6:30 pm - Life TEEN & EDGE - **ENCOUNTER NIGHT**

25 - HOLY WEEK BEGINS

- 6:30 pm - K of C | Corned Beef & Cabbage
- 26 - **No Morning Mass**
- 11 am - Chrism Mass - at the Cathedral, Toledo
- 7 pm - Bible Study w/Deacon John - 2nd & 4th Tuesday

- 27 - 7 pm - Tenebrae

28 - HOLY THURSDAY - No Morning Mass



- 7 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Followed by adoration until 11 pm
- In the Gathering Space

29 - GOOD FRIDAY

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
- 1:30 pm - Passion Service
- 7 pm - Stations

30 - HOLY SATURDAY

- 12 Noon - Blessing of Food Baskets
- 12:30 pm - OCIA Practice
- No 4 pm Mass today**
- 8:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass

31 - EASTER SUNDAY

- 8 am - Mass of the Resurrection
- 10:30 am - Mass of the Resurrection

Please save this page for these LENTEN activities

SAVE THE DATES

St. Mary Parish Mission March 2024

Saturday March 2nd @ 6:30 pm - Exploring the Mystery of God

Sunday March 3rd @ 6:30 pm – Exploring the Mystery of God’s Healing

Monday March 4th @ 6:30 – Exploring the Mystery of the Eucharist

FR. MARK DAVIS Coming to St. Mary Catholic Church, Vermilion, OH.



Fr. Mark Davis is in his 25th year of pastoral service in the Diocese of Toledo. A native of South Toledo, Fr. Mark was educated at OLP, St. John Jesuit, and the University of Notre Dame. He has always enjoyed sports, music, entertainment, and being with all kinds of people. While in high school, he shared and learned about faith with people of disabilities and worked for the New Jersey Department of Human Services in Trenton for 9 years.

During that time, he started the Office of Community Education, which helped people understand more about individuals with disabilities through puppets (“The Kids on the Block”), skits and other interactive programs. Being interested in the art of illusion since he was five, Fr. Mark has learned to share about God and our faith through stories, songs, jokes, magic effects, balloons, and just about anything.

Raised by loving and devoted Catholic parents, who were both converts to that faith, Fr. Mark was also blessed with wonderful Baptist grandparents in West Virginia, who had a profound effect on his religious education and spiritual development.

Fr. Mark studied psychology and philosophy in college and started a master’s in counseling during his time in New Jersey. His innate curiosity about human nature, how the world works, and emotional health led him to begin his theological studies at St. Meinrad Seminary (Southern Indiana) in 1991. Ordained in 1996, Fr. Mark was an Associate Pastor in Sandusky (Sts. Peter and Paul), Maumee (St. Joseph), and Sylvania (St. Joseph). He just enjoyed a twelve-year run as Pastor of St. Aloysius in Bowling Green.

Having grown up on Copland Blvd. across from the “old” Beverly school, Fr. Mark feels very blessed to be “back in the neighborhood” and closer to Wixey Bakery again!

Sacramental Preparation Updates

Holy Eucharist

**Please keep in your prayers the children of
St. Mary parish who will be receiving**

**First Eucharist on Sunday, April 28th, 2024
at the 10:30 Mass**

Daisy Davis	Kevin Meyer	Evie Pulley
Nolan Sokolowski	Kylee Squires	Ayla Jepson

Their Catechist is Mrs. Beth Schaefer



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## Confirmation



**The Sacrament of Confirmation  
will be celebrated April 13, 2024  
with Bishop Thomas at Holy Rosary  
Cathedral in Toledo.**

**Please pray for our Candidates:**

***Cassandra Caffarel, Treyton Colahan,  
Amelia Dahl, Sophia Habermehl,  
Brooke Lehky, Elyse Myntti, Jack Post,  
Jaden Podmanik, Lily Pulley, Sophia Pulley,  
Samuel Riddle, Sean Rini, Daniel Roy,  
Micah Smith, and Colleen Traut***





# From the Heart of Deacon John

Friends, Lent is like Noah's 40 days of rain, the 40 days the Jewish people spent in the wilderness after leaving Egypt, and Jesus' 40 days in the desert. Why then, is Lent 44 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. Lent used to begin on the first Sunday of Lent, also called Quadragesima and ended on the evening of Holy Thursday. If you count the days from the first Sunday of Lent to Holy Thursday, you come up with forty. Over time, the appreciation that Sundays during Lent should not be fast days. Sundays are the Lord's Day, a Sabbath Day, and a day of rest. If Lent started the first Sunday of Lent, and Sundays didn't count as days of fasting, this would make less than forty days before Easter. The resolution was to start Lent on Ash Wednesday and allow for the Lenten fast to conclude with Easter Vigil, therefore giving us forty days for fasting before Easter.

We all have heard by now that Lent is not just about giving up something, not eating meat on Friday, and fasting. Lent is a great time to climb down off our high perches (my mom would say "come down off your high horse and join the rest of us peasants"), examine our lives, and see where we might not be living up to our true potential as Children of God, where we need to focus more to stay faithful, and where there might be something controlling our actions rather than creating space for God in our lives. We should embrace this season as a time for radical transformation. Our Lenten observances of pilgrimages, scripture reading, **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving** are meant to help us with this as we make our pilgrimage to Holy Week and the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we move into Lent, we should hold onto the word **FAITH**. Faith is an attitude of trust. We can look at Abraham, the Father of Faith. God appeared to him and told him "Get up and go on a dangerous desert trek to a land that I will show you." My first reaction would be, "Holy Crap." Then after a moment, I would realize this is not an ordinary adventure, this is a God Adventure! Abraham is asked to go on a perilous journey to a land he has never seen. Abraham's adventurous life is marked by faith. You see, Abraham's faith had an attitude of trust. He does not know where he is going. He does not have a map. He is not in control. But Abraham trusts. That is the basic meaning of faith. We have an Adventurous God!

Let's compare Abraham with Adam for a moment. Adam, at the moment of truth didn't trust God's word, he didn't want the adventure. He wanted to be in control of every aspect of his life and wanted to be in power. At the moment of truth, he didn't want to turn his life over to an Adventurous God.

But God, throughout Sacred Scriptures, refuses to be controlled. God always calls upon his people to a life of adventure, a life of faith. Remember, faith is an attitude of trust. Faith is a pilgrimage with an adventurous God. We are entering into the desert with Jesus for forty days and forty nights. We have left our place of comfort and control to join Jesus in fasting and prayer. We have cast aside the drudgery of the mundane to embrace the adventure of faith. We do not know where our lives are going. We do not have a map or compass other than the light of faith.

Brothers and Sisters, our Lenten Adventure is taking us to our Easter Hope. How we get there is through faith, an attitude of trust, and a **Sense of Adventure**. We are always in danger of being tempted to stay in a place where we can control the sacred mysteries, control our religion, and control our relationship with God. Religion then becomes empty of mystery, absent of faith, and devoid of adventure. This God Adventure is so Amazing!

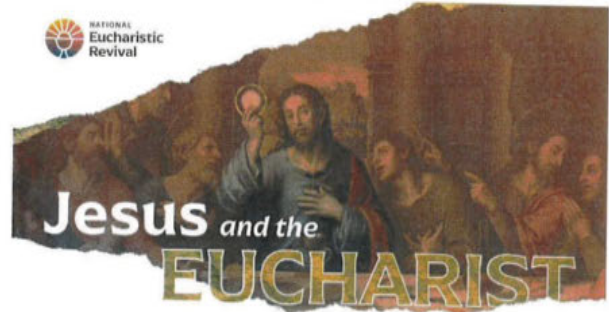
May God Bless Us Everyone,

*Dea. John Murray Jr.*

## What is the ACA?

- ◆ The Annual Catholic Appeal is its full name.
- ◆ This is the annual fund drive run by the staff of the Diocese of Toledo.
- ◆ Pledges are paid within a calendar year.
- ◆ Without the ACA, many of our Diocesan outreach ministries would be seriously affected.
- ◆ This annual drives helps fund many of the ordinary operations of our Diocese. This includes:
  - ◇ Support for seminarians, deacon formation, and our vocations efforts
  - ◇ Funding for the Marriage Tribunal
  - ◇ Support for Diocesan Liturgies
  - ◇ Funding for Catholic Charities
  - ◇ Support for the Catholic Education Office
  - ◇ Funding for prison ministry
  - ◇ Support for college campus ministries.

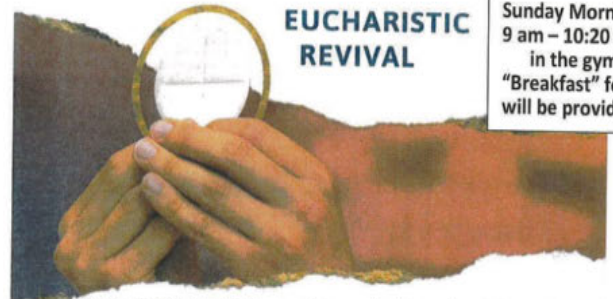
**It's the year of REVIVAL!**  
**God is doing something new and calling**  
**us to be a part of it!**



A SMALL GROUP SERIES FOR

**EUCHARISTIC  
REVIVAL**

Sunday Mornings  
9 am – 10:20 am  
in the gym.  
“Breakfast” food  
will be provided.



*Attend 8:00 Mass? Come afterwards! Have breakfast with us!*  
*Children attend Faith Formation? Take them to class then COME!!*  
*Attend 10:30 Mass? Come a bit earlier! You'll be better prepared for Mass!*  
*Attend 4:00 Saturday Mass? This is worth getting up Sunday Morning!*  
*Need care for little ones? Contact the parish office/Sandy Smith*  
*Can't commit to every one? That's fine.... JUST COME when you can.*  
**Let's pray ... not just for parish renovation .... But PARISH REVIVAL!**  
**Bring a friend! Make it part of your Lenten Plan to get closer to Jesus.**

## LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

## A Message from Father Paul

By now, many of you know that this year's Lent starts off with a unique pairing in 2024. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day! At first glance, you might be thinking, "How do chocolates, flowers and ashes mix together? How does one fast on a day where one usually takes their loved one out for a special romantic dinner?" Well, the short answer is: All things are possible with God!

As most wines can be paired with almost any type of food, I think that we can find a lot of similarities and pairings between both the celebration of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day.

- We are called to both human and divine love – which is reflected in both in the Church and in our human relationships and families. Each celebration is an opportunity to love more!
- St. Valentine was a third century martyr who comforted other Christian martyrs who were being persecuted by the Roman Empire. He also endured suffering and death out of love of his faith.
- We take the time during the 40 days of Lent, (starting with Ash Wednesday,) to pray, fast and give alms – for the purpose of focusing on the Crucifixion of Jesus – His great act of love for us!
- Couples on their wedding day realize that their marriage includes living out and experiencing the sacrificial love of Christ on the cross – a cross that their spouse shares with them.
- *"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."*

(1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

I myself do not mind the challenge of fasting and abstaining both on a holiday and liturgical day. After all, my bride is the Church, and as a priest, I am always looking for more ways to love, protect and serve the spousal Church that Christ gave us. Summed up in the Catholic Catechism: *"The image of the Church coming forth from the pierced side of Christ on the Cross is compared to Eve coming forth from the sleeping side of Adam. This mirrors the image of the Church as the Spouse of Christ – the Church formed wholly by the self-giving sacrifice of Christ, i.e., by Christ's love. §766)*

Sometimes I need to remind myself that I am ordained a priest to be Christ for others, and as such, I need to show His love for the Church – His spouse. On Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, I look for additional ways to enter into Christ's sacrificial love by sharing my time, talent and treasure in different ways in my ministry at St. Mary Church.

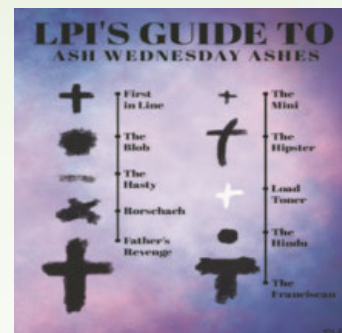
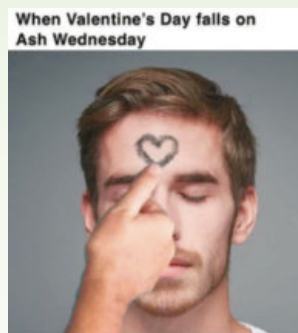
Father Leo Patalinghug, who has a cooking show on the Catholic channel, EWTN, knows a thing or two about making a good Lenten meal, and he sees no conflict in the Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day overlap. Instead, he views it as a great teaching moment.

He says that the overlap of days is a "special providence of God" because it can offer a deeper sense of what love really means – which at times requires sacrifice. "Love is not just sweets and chocolates. You can have chocolate cake anytime." As he sees it, the bigger lesson is to think about "going without and where that will lead you. So often people treat love like fast food when love – and all things of God – take time," he added.

He said this Valentine's Day couples have the "perfect day to start Lent and to have that discussion of what love means." And, they can also have a modest meal that is delicious. Overall, it's "absolutely a win-win," he noted because couples can have a "Lent appropriate menu" essentially infused with the day's reminder "to know humbly we are from dust."

May you be able to celebrate God's love for humanity this Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day!

Father Paul Schreiner,  
Pastor



Editor's  
Humor





## LENTEN CALENDAR

### St Mary Parish – Vermilion

**Ash Wednesday Masses: 9:00 AM & 6:15 PM.** Also, Ashes will be distributed at 7:00 AM & 12:00 Noon word services

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Tuesdays following the 8:30 AM Mass until closing prayers and Benediction at 9:00 PM

**Jesus and the Eucharist:** Continues Sundays from 9 to 10:20 AM in the gym  
(last session-March 17)

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday evenings at 7:00 PM in church

**Fish Fry:** Friday, March 1 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Mary Gym

**Parish Mission:** March 2-3-4 in church "Exploring the Mysteries of God" with Fr. Mark  
Saturday at 6:30 PM - Sunday at 6:30 PM - Monday at 6:30 PM

**Evening of Grace:** Confession and Adoration Sunday, March 10 from 4 – 6 PM in church

**Sacrament of Penance:** Saturdays 3 PM and Sundays 9:45 AM in church

**Chrism Mass:** Tuesday of Holy Week - Celebrated at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo

**Tenebrae:** Wednesday of Holy Week – March 27 at 7 PM in church.

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### **SACRED TRIDUUM (March 28 – March 30)**

**Holy Thursday:** 7 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by adoration until 11 PM.

**Good Friday:** Good Friday Service at 1:30 PM

**Holy Saturday:** Food blessing at Noon

Holy Saturday Vigil Mass at 8:30 PM *(There will not be a 4:00 PM Mass this day.)*

### **EASTER SUNDAY MORNING (March 31)**

8:00 and 10:30 AM Mass of the Resurrection

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### **Lenten Observances & Regulations**

**Fasting:** Ages 18 through 59 on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and Good Friday March 29,  
limiting themselves to one full meal each day, with no solids between meals.

**Abstinence:** Catholics ages 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday,  
Good Friday and all Fridays in Lent.