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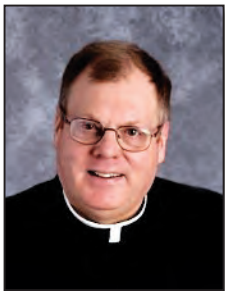
parish News



God is With Us

*Great things thou hast done, O Lord my God;
thy wonderful purposes are all for our good.*

-Psalms 40:5



Dear Friends:

Welcome to our Parish Newsletter! You might well wonder what in the world we can talk about during this time of Covid-19, Quarantine, and Social Distancing. Actually, a lot has been going on at your parish. Through September and October we have celebrated First Communions with our current Third Grade Students, Confirmations with our Eighth and Ninth Grade Students, and weddings almost every weekend [either at Christ the King or St. Stephen].

All of these were postponed from last spring because of the pandemic. But, even though the virus continues to cause problems in our world, your parish community has been able to rejoice in God's gift of Himself in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, and the beauty of committed love and promise in the Sacrament of Matrimony. Along with this, we have commended people into God's care in funerals, helped them through illness with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, celebrated Mass every day, streamed and videoed the liturgy for people at home, begun the RCIA program, started the academic year for our students, and even blessed our furry and feathered friends at the annual Pet Blessing!

Many of you have helped make this happen, and I am so grateful for your generous ministry to the people of Our Lord Christ the King Parish. These past months have surely been a great example of how God works through His people! I hope you enjoy reading about our parish and some of the wonderful people who help make it such a vibrant place.

God bless you always—Fr. Ed Smith



Christmas in a Time of COVID

A Reflection by Father Voellmecke

Goodbye spoiled athletes. So long, millionaire.comers. Good riddance, Hollywood celebrities...America has new heroes. Those are the opening lines of an article published in our local newspaper in November of 2001. The item was described as the first in a series of articles examining how the world has changed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on America on 9/11. The focus was on "America's New Heroes."

Who were these new heroes? They were firefighters, police officers, paramedics, construction workers, the military, mail carriers, and postal workers, "ordinary men and women who willingly put themselves in peril to go to the aid of strangers day in and day out." The view of a lieutenant in the Cincinnati Fire Department was quoted in the article: "People's priorities changed on Sept. 11. They're now looking at the world through different glasses."

Is it possible this Christmas in a time of COVID to look at the world through different glasses? Here are some thoughts. The first Christmas was not all calm and bright; it was quite harsh in fact. But it has been made beautiful with "different glasses" of the Christian tradition because it celebrates heroes, responders to a critical need: God, first of all—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—whose idea it was that Jesus would be born of a very generous faith-filled human mother. God is indeed the First Responder, made visible in Jesus and Mary. Over the centuries, people responding to the grace of that responding God have risen to make their own response in time of need, great or small. They are prepared to make sacrifices, even to put themselves in peril, even over long and trying periods of time.

So this Christmas, different as it is, I will make it a point to put on my glasses and to be mindful of all those responders working on Christmas Day. As always, they make themselves small; their priorities yield to the needs of others. I'll be especially aware of all those in hospitals and care centers—doctors and nurses of course, but also food service and laundry workers, housekeepers and janitors, etc., etc. And when I sing "Come and behold him" I'll have my glasses on as I continue singing "O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord." Maybe you'll find it helpful to do something similar.

Peace, vision, blessings to you and yours at Christmas!



- Sign ups are requested for Christmas Masses; please turn to pg. 6 for details.

- Masks are required. Seating will take place in every other pew. Check the church website for the most up-to-date information.
www.olctk.org

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve—Thursday, December 31
5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day—Friday, January 1
9:00 a.m.



Turkey Round-Up



We set a *RECORD!*



50 TURKEYS!

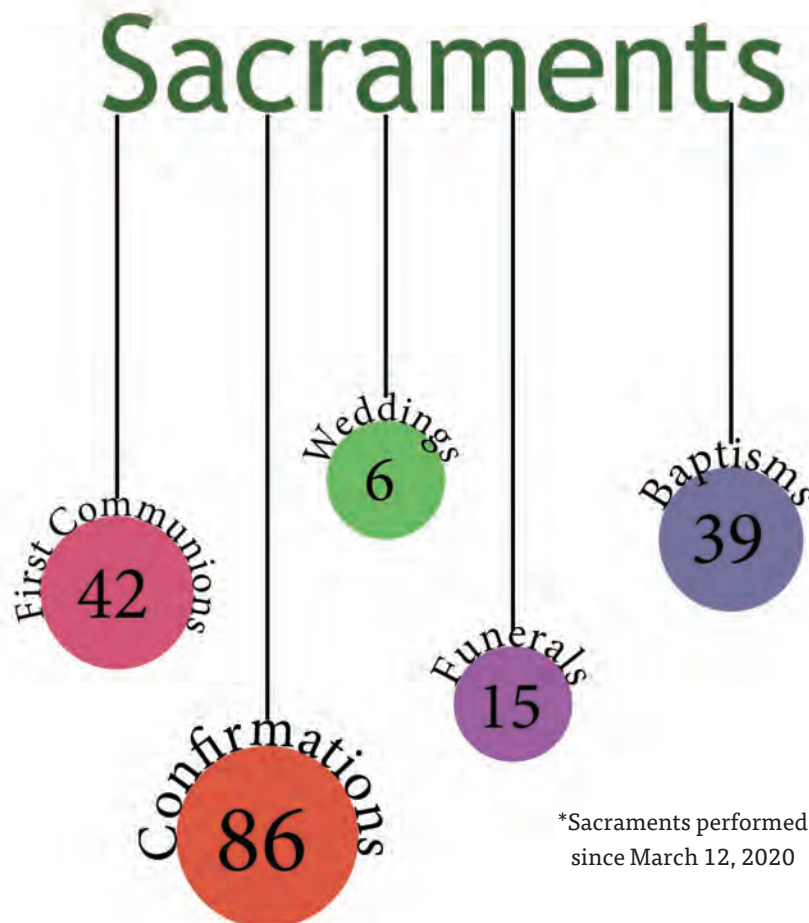
When **Tom Brinkman Sr.**, put out his annual call for turkeys, you responded in the true spirit of Thanksgiving—generously. This year's turkey drive yielded a record 50 turkeys. During the week of Nov. 16, a cadre of volunteers met in the Cardinal Pacelli cafeteria to disjoint, roast, carve and pack the turkey into serving pans for holiday meals at the Queen City Kitchen. Tom, who has headed up this annual tradition at Christ the King since 2012, knows how much the food means to those in need. Tom and his daughter, Sue Brinkman Boehm, delivered the meat to the local soup kitchen on Nov. 20. **Thank you to all who donated and volunteered for this great cause! Way to go!**

Signs of Grace

When COVID struck in the second week of March 2020, almost everything at Christ the King and Cardinal Pacelli came to a grinding halt: school went online, Masses and all sacraments, except funerals, were suspended, and gradually we transitioned to online worship and prayer through live-streaming, Zoom, and video.

This shift brought us some big challenges and introduced us to new ways of practicing our faith. Yet through it all, we recognized what was important: being safe while also maintaining our relationship with God.

Of course, Mass is one of our primary ways of worshipping, but as Catholics we also celebrate Christian life with the milestones of the Sacraments. So when COVID restrictions gradually began to lift there were children who needed to receive their First Holy Communion, young adults who needed to be Confirmed, and couples who wanted to join their lives together in Holy Matrimony. COVID has shown us how essential sacraments are as anchors in our lives, as moments to treasure.



“The sacraments the Church celebrates are signs of grace that make a deeper reality present to us. One reality we encounter through the sacraments is Christ's presence in the Church community, his body.”
-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Our Streaming Masses are Popular!



October 2020

3,362 Total Views

2,194 On-Demand Views

1,168 Live Views

Viewing Device

1,442 Mobile

843 Desktop

272 Tablet

60 T.V.

*Streamed Sunday Masses are available on the church website, at our YouTube Channel “OLCTK Cincinnati,” and by email.

Parish Life—Sacraments



Eli Rhoades with his Confirmation sponsor, John Weinrich



Mrs. Schwendeman's first graders on their First Holy Communion

Confirmation



Kate Wenger's First Communion



Leifheit-Grawe Wedding



Jon Rouse being Confirmed

Christmas Masses – Online Sign Ups

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, and we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ with you. In light of the reality that we are still in a pandemic, Our Lord Christ the King Church is dedicated to offering opportunities to celebrate the Liturgical Feast of Christmas while being vigilant about social distancing and public health.



Therefore, this year we are offering:

- ♦ **Five in-person Christmas Masses - with sign-ups required to control the number of people at each Mass (see pg. 2 for the Christmas Mass Schedule)**
- ♦ **A recorded Christmas Mass that will be available to watch at home any time after 3:00 p.m. on December 24th**
- ♦ **A Live-Streamed 4:00 p.m. Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve**

During COVID-19 our church capacity is limited to 170 people in the congregation and can be increased to 225 if we allow seating in the Gathering Space and rooms of the Atrium. To enable our parishioners and any guests/visitors to celebrate Mass in a safe environment, we will have an online sign up for all in-person Christmas Masses this year.

When you visit the online sign up, simply choose which in-person Mass you plan to attend and indicate the number in your group. There is no need to complete the online form if you plan to view the recorded Mass at home.

SIGN UP for in-person Christmas Mass at www.olctk.org so we can plan for your attendance. Sign ups will be open from December 9-23. Please note: for the most up-to-date information regarding Christmas Masses, we encourage you to check the church website. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.



Fourth Sunday of Advent Reflection

Fr. Ed Smith

Christmas is almost here! And what a year this has been as we count these final days. And what does the Church give us to think about in the Gospel during this last week before Christmas on Friday? It presents us with one of the most important moments in history.

Mary, a young woman who has been brought up in the Jewish faith, is asked by an angel to do something extraordinary [in fact, the most extraordinary thing any human person will ever do]: She is told that she has been chosen to

conceive and bear the Son of God. One of the many interesting elements of this exchange between Mary and the angel is that she is never directly asked, “Do you accept this?” But Mary innately understands that God allows her to be free in her decision and that it is up to her to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’. She says ‘yes’, even though she does not completely *understand* everything that will happen to her; even though she wonders *how* this can happen to her; even though there has never been a precedent of what this will mean. She says ‘yes’, and the whole world changes forever.

What faith she must have had! What deep trust she shows in that she was able to say to the angel, who is God’s messenger: “May it be done to me according to your word”. No, she probably did not understand all the implications of what was going to happen to her...or what the rest of her life was going to be like, or how this child of hers would change the universe. What she did understand is that God is always trustworthy, and that He would be with her throughout her life.

She did an amazing thing: Mary said “yes” and brought Jesus into the world to heal, preach the good news and redeem us. Our task as Christian disciples is to bring Jesus into the world also. We look to Mary to see how to do this with faith, trust and purity. She is truly the example for all Christians: she shows us how to say “yes” to God. She is someone to think about as we count down to Christmas after a crazy and difficult year. God bless you and your family this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Parish Life

Pacelli Students Live-Stream Masses to School



(Left to right) **Nick Petrocelli, Will Weinrich, Kailey Rose, Glenn Kitchen and Luke Sprong** were the first students to learn how to stream weekday morning Masses.



This made it possible for Pacelli students and teachers to “attend” All School Mass from their classrooms. This is truly one of the blessings of technology!



Receive short text updates with **MyParish App!** This free smartphone app makes it easier than ever to stay connected with your parish. Text APP to 88202 to download it today!

A New Website!

Soon we will be rolling out a redesigned church website. It will have a fresh new look and be easier to navigate—especially from your smartphone. We are working with *Diocesan Publications* on the project. This is the same company that prints our bulletins.

www.olctk.org



**Christ the King
CONNECTOR**

**Are you receiving our
weekly digital newsletter?**

To be added to the mailing list, send an email to fisher_a@olctk.org.

Cardinal Pacelli School News



A Message from Mrs. Cento



Re-Opening Schools Amid the Pandemic

Cardinal Pacelli School began the new year on August 18th amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the summer I convened a COVID-19 Task Force composed of administration, faculty, medical professionals, and parents in anticipation of beginning a new school year with many new safety precautions.

The state and local health departments, along with the Centers for Disease Control, and Governor Mike DeWine's office, offered numerous mandates and recommendations for schools to reopen in the fall. Cardinal Pacelli focuses on three essentials that we call the **Three W's**:

Wear a Mask!

Watch your Distance!

Wash your Hands!



Each day before the children enter the building, we form a socially distanced line to take all temperatures. All faculty, staff, and students wear facemasks. We have become really good at reading students' EYES to determine emotion! It has become obvious to me that the eyes are truly the windows to the soul! Students have barriers to use at their desks and are eating lunch in their classrooms so that social distance can be maintained. During the warmer days, many classes have gone outside for lessons and lunch in various locations on our campus. This includes the beautifully renovated outdoor classroom area on the patio in front of school. Up until the first part of November, PE classes have been held outside too, which give the children much needed fresh air and the ability to be at a safe distance from each other.

After Labor Day, we began our weekly Mass schedule for the students with a small change. Each week, only one grade level attends Mass in Church, while the other students attend Mass in their classrooms via live streaming. They are so quiet and reverent during their Mass times. It is a beautiful way for them to connect with Christ without being in the church. This is just another example of the new normal our children have been experiencing in 2020.

We have now made it through the first trimester of the new year (50+ school days) and we are all still smiling! Everyone is happy to be back and learning. Having a regular schedule, being with peers and colleagues, and learning something new every day has provided stability for all of us. Cooperation between home and school has been immensely important along with prayer and faith in God. We have also realized that God does provide for us but sometimes we just need to look a little closer for His answers. Today, I feel his answer to us is love and a sense of community because this is what makes us children of God.

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy Christmas and New Year!

Mrs. Cento



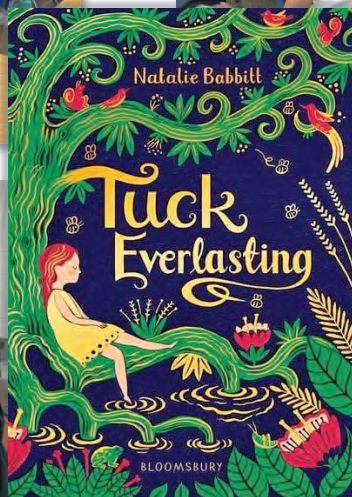
Sixth Graders Place Book Character on Trial

Teacher Gabbie Phelps knew the dramatic climax of the novel *Tuck Everlasting* would lead to an interesting experiment: if students put one of the main characters on trial for a controversial crime, what would the verdict be?

So, this October each sixth grader took on a role in the week-long project that culminated in a court case. Students assumed the role of a juror, witness or attorney. They analyzed the crime committed by the character Mae Tuck, and then put her on trial. The charges? Was Mae guilty or not guilty of first-degree murder and/or kidnapping?

In preparation for the trial, students learned about the legal system from a knowledgeable adult. Holli Thomas, a second-year student at Chase Law School, paid the classes a visit. She explained the different types of courts, how a court case works, and the role of an attorney in a trial. Ms. Phelps said, "The students were full of questions for Holli who gave them an overview of our legal system."

By carefully considering the actions of the characters in the book, and questions from their teacher, students were able to formulate their ideas for the trial. At the end of the four-day case, each class reached a different verdict, which led to its own special discussion.



The sixth graders turned their classroom into a courtroom. They put Mae Tuck on trial to see if she was guilty of first-degree murder or kidnapping. Every student took on a role: witness, attorney or juror.



Cardinal Pacelli School News

What We Learned About Online Learning!

Online learning presented a huge challenge when Cardinal Pacelli closed down on March 12, 2020 due to COVID-19. It also presented an opportunity to be creative and to learn in new ways. Here are some thoughts from Pacelli students regarding their experience of learning online for 10 weeks. Thank you to all the students who shared their thoughts!



What was online learning like?

I think it was good because the teachers were good about posting things and answering all my questions. -Mia Veith, Grade 7

I understood what we were learning (it was mostly review); I maintained a good schedule and my grades were really good! -Samantha Stagnaro, Grade 7

I liked that you can do stuff at your own pace. -Walker Burson, Grade 7

I liked working at home because I could have a bigger work space and I could work without getting disturbed from a classmate. -Gabe Castellini, Grade 8

What I liked about working from home:

I got my work done very fast, and I didn't have to wear my uniform! -Margot Kukulski, Grade 7

I liked being able to eat whenever I want, being able to see how I learn best, and being able to work on my own time/ make my own schedule. -Francie Goff, Grade 8

You could wear comfy clothes, you could sleep in, you do not have to worry about being late. -Zoey Boehm, Grade 7

What's it like to be back in school?

It feels kind of weird having to wear masks but I'm getting used to it. -Evie Smith, Grade 7

I feel good. I like this better, and I feel like I am more engaged. -Luke Sprong, Grade 8

I like seeing everyone again. I feel like it is easier to communicate right then and there. I think it is also easier to learn. -Kenzie Hardewig, Grade 8

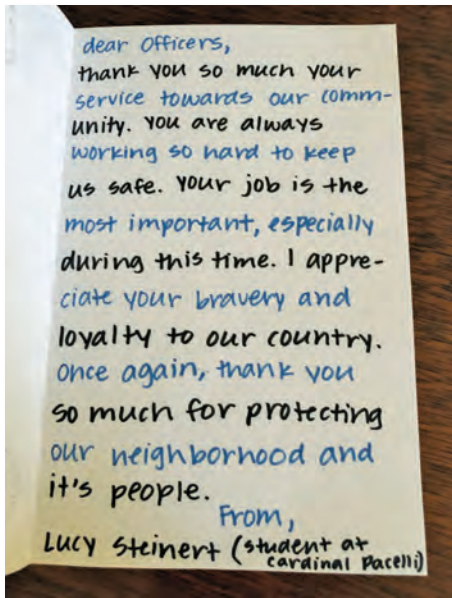
Which do you prefer: in-person or virtual learning?

I learn better with the interaction of the classroom with friends and teachers. I can still focus online, but I think it was too much screen time for us to handle. -Mary Theodorou, Grade 7

I like in-person learning better because I prefer having physical instruction rather than doing it through a link and a video. I also enjoy socializing with the teachers and my peers because I believe it makes the experience of school much more enjoyable. -Alexis Burke, Grade 7

I prefer to go to school because if you have a question you can ask the teacher in person. If you have a question for online school you have to send them a email and wait for them to respond which could be a while. I do not want to go back to online learning. -Lauren Dorger, Grade 7

Cardinal Pacelli School News



(Left to right) Lucy, Oliver and Peter Steinert deliver their gift basket & cards to the police.

Thank You!

On September 29, 2020, the Steinert children presented a special surprise to the local police. They delivered a gift basket of treats to the District 2 police officers in Hyde Park.

"It's important for us to have a positive relationship with the police," said Charlotte Steinert, who brainstormed with her children about ways to show their appreciation to the police. Even though traditional types of community service may be limited by the pandemic, there are still ways to show our frontline workers that they are so very important to our lives and well being.



Julie Florio, Enrollment Coordinator

Enrolling at Cardinal Pacelli School

Cardinal Pacelli welcomes you and your children to our Blue Ribbon School! If you would like to learn more about us or schedule a tour, please visit our website at www.cardinalpacelli.org and click on the Admissions page. There you will find an Online Inquiry Link. Please complete this form and our Admissions Office will be in touch to set up a time to meet you and your family.

You may also call 513-321-1048 x14.



Educating the Heart and Mind



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Merry Christmas from Christ the King!



Celebrate with Us • In-Person • Live-Streamed

2020