

Our Family News

ST. WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHAMPION, OHIO

THIRD EDITION ISSUE 14

FEBRUARY 2019



THE JOY OF BEING SANTA CLAUS

by Dan Robinson

“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.” When Francis P. Church wrote those words in 1897 he changed the world. Church, a war-hardened reporter, self-avowed atheist, and a man known to be impeccably honest, examined his conscience and affirmed to children that Santa Claus was indeed alive and well and worthy of their belief. The editorial was run in the New York Post as a publicity stunt by the newspapers editors to gain readers but little did they know the magnitude of this far-reaching editorial. As a matter of fact, the ‘Virginia’ editorial is the most read editorial ever published in a newspaper and is still run every year in hundreds of newspapers around the world. But this short work of literary history is more than a heartwarming message to a child; it is a reminder for all us of something greater.

In the latter half of the 20th Century, Bil Keane, best known for the Family Circus cartoons, said, “God put Santa Claus on earth to remind us that Christmas is supposed to be a happy time.” One thing that is abundantly clear is that human beings need reminding that the gift of Christmas is supposed to be a time of great joy and

happiness. For many of us, the taking down of the Christmas decorations signals an end to the Christmas season. Coldness,



darkness, and grouchiness set in and we forget about Christmas joy until the next year.

God put Santa Claus on earth to remind us that the greatest joy that we could ever know, the birth of Jesus Christ, was a reason to celebrate and be happy. But because we are flawed and forgetful people, God also sent us helpers to remind us of that joy and happiness. For most of the year, these helpers look like you and me. But at some point during the year, they begin to change. SFor example, sometime around July the beard of mild-mannered Tim

Timko starts to grow...and grow...and...*Seriously!*...grow. (Notice that I mentioned the beard and NOT the “bowl full of jelly!”) And, sooner or later, we have a living, breathing Santa Claus in our parish. In service to the parish and community, Tim Timko has taken up the mantle of Santa Claus. Ever on the lookout for cookies and milk, Timothy Claus has also enlisted the aid of his lovely wife Mrs. Claus (aka-Carol Timko) to spread joy and happiness wherever they can. This is their ministry.

Somewhere around 2012, Tim decided that God had given him “that” body shape for a reason and he should heed the call. After much discussion, Tim and Carol went to a costume shop and purchased costumes that, while “ok”, were just not what they were looking for in the long term. Tim affectionately calls this furry, bright red costume his “muppet” suit. But “when God calls he will provide” and soon Maureen Scott (Sexton) was cutting, sewing, measuring, and altering. The result is a beautiful, old-world, Santa costume, handmade and worthy of the pride of both the seamstress and Santa. Burgundy in color and with a longer coat, real leather boots, a wide leather belt, and a long burgundy hat complete the outfit. From the very first time Tim tried on the clothes, he has repeatedly said, “I feel like Santa Claus.”

The original Mrs. Claus
Santa (Continued on page 14)

BAPTISMS

Jaxon Michael Northup

Son of Jared & Samantha Northup

December 1, 2018

Caden Joseph Rowland

&

Jayce Allen Rowland

Sons of Robert & Chrystal Rowland

December 22, 2018

Thomas Michael Boyle

Son of Stephen & Sarah Boyle

January 13, 2019

NEW PARISHIONERS

Jean Clements

Donald & Catherine Stocz

Donald Titchnell

DECEASED

Eledore Stefanik

James Masters

Rita Kittle

Alfred Carrino

Michael Sawayda

Helen Spano

Laura Cligrow

Rose Watson

...from the Pastor

The countdown to Spring is on! After a mild start to our winter, we experienced a major weekend snow storm followed by the arrival of the “polar vortex” and frigidly cold temperatures and biting winds. It is time for winter to be over and spring to arrive! The first sign of spring each year is when we begin the season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday will be on March 6th marking the start of our journey for the next 40 days as we prepare to celebrate Easter and the gift of resurrection and new life on Sunday, April 21. Our Parish Lenten theme this year is “*With Grace and Gladness.*” It is with the “*grace*” of Lent through our penance, sacrifice, and prayer that we can celebrate with “*gladness*” Easter and springtime. These coming weeks afford us the opportunity to reflect on where we are and where we hope to go in life. “*With grace and gladness*” our world will soon come alive from its winter sleep. The days will get longer and warmer; bright sunshine will replace the gray clouds; green grass and budding plants will overcome the snow and ice. For us, too, God’s love will overshadow and overcome our sinfulness and darkness. Nourished during this season by prayer and meditation on God’s word; strengthened by the discipline of fasting; stretched by our generous almsgiving and service to others; we can “*with grace and gladness*” ready ourselves to blossom with new life on Easter Sunday. I hope this upcoming season of Lent truly is a blessed and holy time for you, our parish and our Church!



In addition to the traditional hallmarks of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving – another important part of our Lenten Season is our annual Fish Dinners. They will begin on Friday, March 1 and continue through April 12. A new Fish Dinner Steering Committee was formed in November to review and look to improve our dinners for this year. After much thought and discussion the committee recommended some new and exciting changes for this year. These include the addition of “*haluski*” as a side-dish to the Fish Dinners and also as a separate dinner. Hourly drawings will be held each night along with second chance 50/50 drawings. I hope you will support this important fundraiser for our parish and even join in the fun by volunteering to help out at the dinners. One of the distinctive characteristics and a frequent comment offered by our guests is about the energetic, enthusiastic, and passionate workers they encounter. We can always use your help and in the midst of the “*work*” it is always a lot of fun!

Finally, please know of my sincerest and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all that you do for our parish to make it such a wonderful and life-giving community of faith. There are many good and exciting things happening at our parish because of so many enthusiastic and dedicated parishioners. I hope that you will continue to support and take advantage of the many opportunities that make Saint William the friendly and welcoming community that it is. May God continue to bless you and your family during this Lenten season and may we all look forward to Easter and Spring “*with grace and gladness!*”

Our Family News

Is published on the first Monday after the first full weekend in February, May, August, and November of every year. Articles and submissions are due three weeks before the publish date. Parish organizations are encouraged to participate and submit materials for publication. Contact the editors or publisher for more information.

Publisher: Dan Robinson
drobinson@stwilliamchampion.org

Reporters & Photographers of all ages are needed!

ADULT MEETING ROOM

by Dan Robinson

The last several months have brought great changes to the Adult Meeting Room. Repairs to the drywall, new light fixtures, updated paint, new furniture, and new art have been added. There has been one wall, however, that has remained empty. This area which once was the pass-through window when the room was the original church kitchen, was dry walled over, painted and left empty. Now with a generous donation of a handmade quilt from the St. William Quilters Group the room is now complete! When the quilters were approached during the summer of 2018 to create a work of art to show-off their craftsmanship they said "Yes!" without hesitation. They chose a pattern for the quilt called *Around the Twist* and, with great patience and an eye for color, material was chosen to complement the colors used during the room renovation. The pictures included here do not do the quilt justice. To truly appreciate this masterpiece, it must be seen up close. The needlework is amazing!

On the other side of the room, near the kitchen sink, is a wall of crosses and crucifixes. When the room was being renovated it was discovered that many crucifixes were in drawers and hung haphazardly on walls. A centralized location was planned and, thus, a collection was begun. Recently, parishioners have begun to inquire about adding to the collection. If you, or a family member, has a cross or crucifix that they would like to donate to the cross/crucifix wall in the Adult Meeting Room, please place them on the counter directly under the display. I will personally hang them in an artistic and appealing layout to complement the crosses and crucifixes already hanging.



L to R: Diane Durno, Mary Pytlik, Jean Ruggieri, Verna McNeill, Janice Ventling, and Marie Santone



ANGELIC QUILTERS OF ST. WILLIAM PARISH

PATTY AUGUSTINSKY	MARY PYTLIK
DIANE DURNO	JEAN RUGGIERI
EVELYN HENSON	MARIE SANTONE
NANCY HIGGINS	CLAUDIA VALIMONT
PAT LIVINGSTON	LYNN VASTAG
VERNA MCNEILL	JANICE VENTLING
ELAINE METZ	





Lent 2019

With grace and gladness

*...we...pray...sacrifice...
give alms...and celebrate*

The holy season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 6th. All are encouraged to participate in the three traditional Lenten practices of *prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving*. May this Lent be filled with many blessings for you and your family.

Lenten Regulations

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of *Fast and Abstinence*. (limit of one full meal and two smaller meals for persons 18 thru 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.)

Lenten Mission

Sunday — March 31: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Monday — April 1: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

*“LUKE: Stories on the Road and the Sermon on the Mount”
and*

“Hollywood vs. Faith: The Struggle to Live Faithfully in the Media Age”



Featuring: Emmy Nominated TV Star Frank Runyeon

Frank Runyeon has won national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts over the past 25 years. He is perhaps best known for his many television roles on *As the World Turns*, *Santa Barbara*, *General Hospital*, *the Young and the Restless*, *Falcon Crest*, *Melrose Place* and *L.A. Law*. He is graduate of Princeton University and has studied at Yale Divinity School and General Theological Seminary

Sacrament of Reconciliation



WEDNESDAY ~ March 20 ~ 6:30—8:00 P.M.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation available at all
parishes in the Diocese of Youngstown.*

~ Lenten Communal Reconciliation

March 24 ~ 3 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church

~ Every Saturday ~ 4:00 p.m.

~ Monday, April 15 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday – April 14

Blessing and Procession of Palms at all Masses

Holy Thursday – April 18

Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:00 p.m.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m.

Solemn Night Prayer, 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday – April 19

“Keep Watch Prayer Vigil” 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

Good Friday Passion and Veneration of the

Cross Service, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday – April 20

Blessing of Easter Food Baskets 12:00 noon

The Easter Vigil, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 21

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Mass

WOMEN'S GUILD

by Therese Tuttle

December was a very busy month for St. William Parish. The Women's Guild ended 2018 with the Parish Family Dinner and the Christmas Craft Show. The chairwomen, committee members, parishioners, youth group, and of course Santa Claus made the Parish Dinner a joyous time to spend eating delicious food and visiting with friends and family. The ladies and gentlemen who labored to prepare our feast did a wonderful job. Preparations began Saturday; we set up the tables and decorated them with beautiful center pieces designed by Gilda Stigliano. Therese Tuttle set up and decorated the trees around Santa's chair on the stage. The Women's Guild hosts this event every year to bring our parish together to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. There is a quote by Helen Steiner, in the WG program book, that describes the spirit of Christmas. "*Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day*". We adhered to those words by extending the Christmas Spirit with the annual Christmas Craft Show. Every year, the chairwomen and committee start preparing for this event months in advance, and every year they do an outstanding job. The craft show is



enjoyed by the community and the vendors and many return year after year for the delicious ethnic foods prepared for this event. [If you are interested in helping with the Parish Dinner, contact Therese Tuttle at ttuttle@stwilliamchampion.org or for the Christmas Craft Show, contact Tina McCue at tmccue@stwilliamchampion.org] All those involved in any way to make these two events very special, we thank you with all our hearts. Special thanks go to the youth group, Knights of Columbus, and Santa Claus.

Twenty-Nineteen began with our January 9 meeting. During the social portion of the meeting, we heard from a representative from Inspiring Minds. Inspiring Minds offers free afterschool and summer enrichment programs to underrepresented youths in hope of leading to promising futures. Donations were accepted for St. William Food Pantry. The February meeting brought to us the Life and Estate Planning

Seminar. The presenters were Father Michael Balash, Leo J. Puhalla, JD, and Luke Politsky, CFRE. Donations were accepted for the Animal Welfare League. The March WG meeting will be held on March 13; the program is "A Very Merry Unbirthday Celebration." Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped gift worth approximately \$10.

We will participate in a fun game of exchanging gifts. A Donation will be accepted for Summer Fun, Children Services.

The Annual Card Party will be held April 7 and our April 3 meeting will be a working meeting for the card party. Pizza will be provided. The Easter Kolachi Bake will be held on April 19. Help is always needed and appreciated to prepare these sweet treats. Contact Gloria Karafa at gkarafa@stwilliamchampion.org if

interested in joining this committee. The month of May ends the Women's Guild monthly meetings for the 2018-2019 season with the Installation of Officers which will be held on May 1 at an offsite location to be announced. A donation will be accepted for Akron Children's Hospital "*Reach Out and Read Literacy Program*." On May 5 the Women's Guild will be hosting the Marian Devotion Banquet. And, lastly, we look forward to the Rummage Sale and Parish Picnic in August.

MARCH FOR LIFE

by Tina McCue

This time of year I usually share of my experiences with the young church in Washington, DC during the annual March for Life. Again this year I feel very blessed to have had the privilege to chaperone teens who wanted to stand for life. They amaze me every year with their respect and enthusiasm. We enjoyed wonderful speakers, engaging music, and sharing Eucharist with over ten thousand teens and chaperones, some of whom traveled from as far as Scotland and Australia! March for Life 2019 has also given me a valuable lesson in perspective and the devastating effects of judging others.

There has been much news coverage concerning an incident that happened between teens waiting for their bus and other groups who happened to be in the area at the same time. At first glance of the video that took over social media, I remember shaking my head and asking myself, where are the chaperones for this young man and group of teens. I was so angry and became even more upset after watching an interview of three of the chaperones. At first, I was

livid. I immediately cast judgement upon the chaperones, the teens, and the other adults involved. Then I began to judge the reporters who only exacerbated the situation by sensationalizing the story based on a small clip posted to social media. I became enraged when reading some of the very negative comments shared on social media and in the press and wondered how we as a society have become so hateful. Then I remembered the value of perspective.

One of the most important lessons that my parents taught me was to put myself into the shoes of another; to remember that there is more than one side of every story. Many times when I would complain about someone, my father would say, remove the plank. You know the story, the well-known Sermon on the Mount. Any time you may find yourself wondering how to live, just turn to this sermon by our Lord. Within it is found a multitude of life's lessons, including judging others.

"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into

your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

And he told them a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.

Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam [plank] in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye.

Luke 6:37-42

When I think back on March for Life 2019, I will remember more than being with the young church; more than standing for life; I will remember the importance of looking at my own behavior and concentrate on giving compliments instead of complaints; giving advice instead of criticism; giving the benefit of the doubt instead of judging. In doing so, this disciple will strive to become more like her teacher.



Our Fabulous Fish Dinners Are Back!!!

- ~ March 1 ~ April 12, 2019
- ~ 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ~ Adults and Carry-Out \$12.00
- ~ Children (5-10 years) \$6.00

New This Year!

- ~ "Haluski" included as a side with Fish Dinners!
- ~ "Haluski" Only Dinner! (\$10.00 Adult / \$6.00 Children)
(includes choice of Fries or Mac/Cheese, + green beans, coleslaw, dessert, bread and drink)
- ~ Hourly Drawings 5pm-6pm-7pm *Automatically entered with purchase of dinner (eat in only)*
- ~ 50/50 "Second Chance" Drawings

Come and See What's Happening and New!!!

THE WOLFE MAN

by Cathy Poponak

The wolf character in fairytales and folklore often portrays the bad guy in a story. The wolf can be a very scary and cunning antagonist, tormenting the likes of young Peter, Little Red Riding Hood, and the Three Little Pigs to name a few. However, we have a “wolf” at St. William Parish, who’s a really good human being, as well as a very interesting and creative character. Eighty-six year old Lee Wolfe is a husband, father, engineer, craftsman, local historian, collector, and all around nice guy. He and his wife Judy are long time St. William parishioners and served as ushers at the 11 o’clock mass for many years.

My husband and I recently had the privilege of touring Lee’s home workshop, and found the visit to be an amazing experience. Lee is a self-described “putterer” who loves the quest of creating something new and challenging. He loves to keep his mind active and

involved in new designs rather than repeating the same project. His handmade wooden canoe is a perfect example of his work. It’s a beautiful, well-engineered piece of art as well as being fully functional.

Every area in his shop is perfectly organized to reflect his many interests. His antique tool collection is vast, and Lee has an interesting story behind every tool. Also amazing are the wooden cabinets and chests he has built to contain his collection.

An engineer trained at the GM Institute in Flint Michigan, Lee is also intrigued by antique precision instruments. He has an impressive collection of tools made by the Lufkin Board and Log Rule Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Lufkin began offering steel tape

measures in 1888 and was the largest manufacturer of steel measuring tapes in the United States. On display is a booklet entitled "The Amazing Story of



Measurement" published by the Lufkin Rule Company in 1949 that presents the history of measurement (like feet, yards, furlongs, and miles) in comic book format.

Of special interest to me was his knowledge of local history. He has vintage pictures of downtown Warren portraying the time when many of these tools and instruments would have been sold and used to build the homes and buildings of the period.

Lee also collects Ohio glass milk bottles from the olden days when milkmen from small local dairies would arrive early in the morning to deliver milk and other dairy products to your doorstep. Of special meaning to Lee is an embossed labeled milk bottle from his great grandfather Eli J. Spencer’s Salem Ohio dairy.

It would be impossible to recount everything we learned about Lee Wolfe, his handcrafted creations, antique collections, and fascinating workshop in a few words; however, what keeps coming to mind is his graciousness, and enthusiasm to share his knowledge. I just can’t help but “howl” about it!





CONGRATULATIONS!
First Reconciliation was held Sunday, February 3, 2019. Congratulations to the following students:

- Sophia Garito**
- Markus Greb**
- (William) Dean Herriman**
- Milania Shaker**

These four students will be receiving their First Holy Communion Sunday, April 28 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.



FAMILY FAITH CELEBRATION

by Carol Timko

On Sunday, January 26, St. William held an evening Family Faith Celebration (FFC) with a theme of "Pride in the Past." We were lucky to have Marilyn Shay, her daughter Melanie Zappia, two granddaughters, Courtney and Morgan (Melanie's daughters), and two of Marilyn's great-grandchildren (Courtney's children) to give a witness talk about growing up Catholic. Marilyn shared stories with us about her parents and some of the traditions that she had while growing up. She discussed the importance of keeping traditions alive and how she valued them so much that she makes sure her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren get to experience them.

One of the traditions that Marilyn discussed was the annual Blessing of the Food Basket on Holy Saturday. Food blessed on Holy Saturday is the food eaten on Easter Sunday. Marilyn brought her basket along with other items from when she was growing up. Students enjoyed hearing stories from Marilyn's childhood.

The PSR families were then invited to decorate their own basket to bring to church on Holy Saturday and have their Easter food blessed. A list was given to the families detailing what foods they should have in the basket to be blessed and why those foods are important for an Easter Sunday meal. In keeping with the theme of the day, we

explained how the traditions of the past are just as important in 2019. When the families had completed their baskets, they enjoyed a walk down memory lane. A few of our PSR families and teachers provided pictures of themselves or their children receiving the sacraments. A "Guess Who" slide show was presented to the group along with a brief story about the photos. Everyone had a great time trying to guess to whom the picture and story belonged. A delicious family style pasta and meatball dinner ended this enjoyable event. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this FFC a success!



PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

by Carol Timko

I reported in a previous newsletter that PSR students were going to begin a Parish Partner Pen Pal Program. Students began by choosing a parish in our diocese based on the parish cross that they liked best from the new Diocesan

poster hanging in our vestibule. I am happy to state that the students have written and received letters to-and-from their chosen partner parish. So far, students have found that even though they do not live close to each other, they are not very different. The letters between the Pen Pals discussed things like: a shared interest in video games and spending time with their families and friends, how great the Christmas holiday was this year and what

presents they received. In addition, the second graders discussed with their pen pals how they were nervous, scared, and excited about receiving their First Reconciliation. This gave students a chance to discuss their feelings with students that are feeling the same thing. The program will continue until the end of the PSR school year in May.

In other news, the Secret Prayer Partner Program here at St. William is going very well. Students and their adult secret prayer partner have been exchanging letters and cards. Both sides seem to be enjoying themselves! On Sunday, March 24, the prayer partners will get to meet each other at the FFC meeting.

FROM NANCY'S KITCHEN:

Wowee! It's cold outside! I'm more than happy to stay at home and test out recipes that I have had on my "to do" pile for quite a while. Having the extra warmth from that oven certainly doesn't hurt!

The Hot Cocoa Cake is a winner and it is really easy to make. Paired with a cup of hot cocoa makes this a great late night snack.

Turkey Tetrazinni is an easy weeknight supper that is sure to become a cold weather favorite. This one is comfort food for certain!

Keep warm and keep cooking!

Love ~ Nancy Hart



HOT-COCOA MARBLE POUND CAKE

12 Tbsp (1 ½ sticks) unsalted butter
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp kosher salt
¾ cup sugar
4 large eggs
2 tsp vanilla extract
¾ cup whole milk
¼ cup hot cocoa mix



1. Preheat oven to 325°. Butter and flour an 8 ½"x4 ½" loaf pan.
2. Whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. Beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Reduce speed to low and beat in eggs one at a time, then vanilla. Alternately add flour mixture and milk, mix until just incorporated.
3. In another bowl, mix hot cocoa mix with 1 Tbsp boiling water. Add ½ cup vanilla batter and mix to make chocolate batter. In a prepared pan, spoon ⅓ of vanilla batter and top with small dollops of ⅓ chocolate batter. Repeat twice, ending with chocolate dollops. Using a butter knife, gently swirl mixture in a figure eight pattern a couple times.
4. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, approx. 70-75 mins. Let cool in pan for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

TURKEY TETRAZZINI

1 12oz pkg Frozen Egg Noodles
1 10 ¾oz can cream of mushroom soup
½ cup milk
½ cup water
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1 ½ cups turkey, cooked and cubed
1 ½ cups mixed frozen peas and carrots, thawed
2 Tbsp pimiento
¼ cup seasoned bread crumbs
2 Tbsp Parmesan cheese
2 Tbsp snipped fresh parsley

Cook noodles, uncovered, for 20 minutes. Drain. Combine soup, milk, water, and cheddar cheese in saucepan. Cook and stir over medium heat until cheese melts and sauce is hot. Stir in cooked noodles, turkey, peas, carrots, and pimiento. Spoon mixture into greased baking dish. Combine crumbs, Parmesan cheese, and parsley. Sprinkle on top. Bake, uncovered, in 375° oven 30 minutes or until hot.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lauren Ozanich, daughter of Tom & Linda Ozanich, granddaughter of Angela Tombar, graduated with an MBA on December 15, 2018 from Ashland University where she is a member of the Delta Mu Delta International Business Honor Society. Best Wishes, Lauren!

A PRAYER AND A SONG FOR THE SEASON

by Pat Maciejewski

With grace and gladness we will soon enter the season of Lent. We will do so when we rejoice with gladness in God's free and selfless gift of love and mercy in our lives. Will we ignore the gift, or will the gift help us to open our eyes and offer grace and gladness to others?

Recently, I came across a choral edition of a song many of us know: "Open My Eyes" by Jesse Manibusan. This edition from OCP# 12765 is arranged by Kathy McGrath and Michele MacAller, who combine "Open My Eyes" with the traditional anthem "Amazing Grace" in a beautiful and simple setting. Listening to the "new" song, I was struck by how well the two pieces fit together. For it is only through God's gift of grace that we may open our eyes this Lenten Season. Thus, we may be truly grateful for God's love, mercy and sacrifice.

How can we express our gratitude for God's sacrifice? We can repent for our sins and vow to do better. We can offer love, forgiveness, and grace to our family members, our communities, and our friends. We also can care for those in need of shelter, food and clothing. Many opportunities abound here at St. William. Just check out our weekly bulletin and our wonderful website. Oh, and don't forget the possibility of adding your voice to our wonderful choir. We can never have too many angels of song.

My prayer is that we may all be touched by all these possibilities this Lenten season.

SAINT VALENTINE OF TERNI

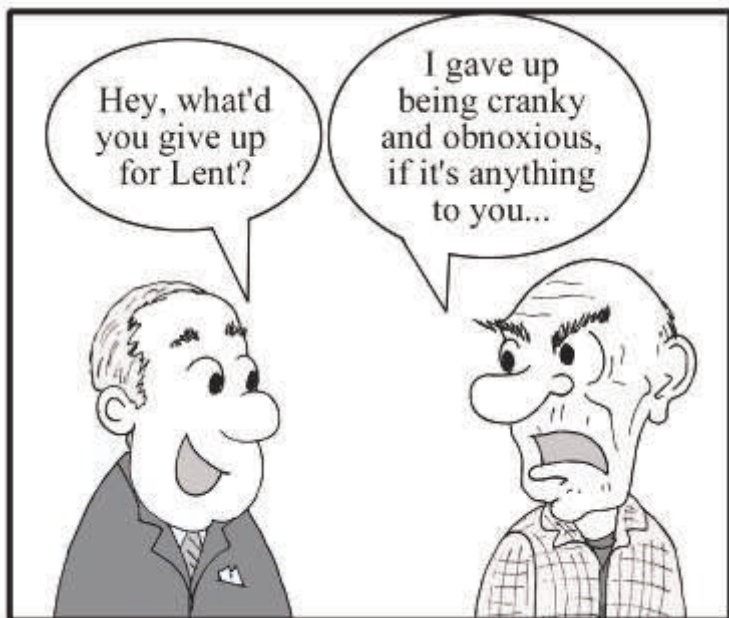
by Terese Tuttle



There is little reliable information about Valentine of Terni. What is known is that he was born 226 AD in Terni, Italy and is a third-century Roman saint commonly associated with courtly love. The stories surrounding Valentine might involve two different saints by the same name. A common story about Valentine is that at one point in his life he was under house arrest with Judge Asterius, with whom he discussed religion and faith and the validity of Jesus. The Judge tested Valentine's faith by presenting his blind daughter to Valentine and telling him to restore her sight; He vowed that if Valentine was successful, he would do anything Valentine requested. Valentine placed his hand on the child's eyes and restored her vision. In return Valentine demanded that all idols around the Judge's house be broken, that he fast for three days and that he be baptized, along with all members of the household. Lastly, Valentine requested that his Christian prisoners be freed. Valentine was later arrested once again and sent to emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II). The story says that Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and providing aid to Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes against Rome. Befriending Claudius, Valentine set out to convince Claudius of Christianity thus enraging him. Claudius sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten and beheaded. Another variation of the story is that Valentine refused to honor pagan gods. He was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, Valentine sent the girl a note and signed it "Your Valentine." Valentine was executed outside the Flaminian Gate in Rome on February 14, 269.

Saint Valentine really did exist. Archaeologists have found a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as his feast day in honor of his martyrdom. Saint Valentine is the Patron Saint of couples, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, young people, epilepsy, fainting, plague, and travelers.

The romantic nature of Valentine's day may come from the Middle Ages, when it was believed that birds paired couples in mid-February. According to 18th century antiquarians, Valentine's Day was most likely created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia. Another belief is that Valentine's Day is a revival of an ancient pagan practice, which consisted of boys drawing the names of girls in honor of their goddesses. The exact origin of present day Valentine's Day is not agreed upon, but it is universally recognized as a day for love, devotion, and romance.



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

Our New Parish APP



Would you like to...

- ~receive special notices about parish activities, news, and cancelation notices!
- ~get bulletins, schedules, and the parish calendar!
- ~have access to daily scripture, reflections, and news about the Church!

...Right on your smart phone? You now can!

Text **App** to **88202** to download the St. William Parish app for iPhone and Android smart phones today!

1. Download **myParish App**.
2. Select St. William Parish Warren after opening.

Our parish app will allow us to better communicate with you throughout the week and keep you updated with relevant parish news and updates. Our app is very well designed, very intuitive and keeps you connected to all that's happening at Saint William. It also provides daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayers, our bulletins and much more!



Search for **myParish** on the App Store or Google Play to download our app today!



As you start your spring cleaning, remember our **August Rummage Sale!** Please hold onto items no longer needed by your family, but so appreciated for our sale. Once again, we cannot accept computer monitors, appliances, large TV's or large furniture. Thanks for your continued support.



Saint William Parish Youth Ministry will host Warren Area Catholic Teens to pray the Stations of the Cross on March 22, 2019 at 7:00pm. All are invited to pray as we adore our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With
Pride
in the past

and
Faith
in the future

Celebrating 75 Years

CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF YOUNGSTOWN

Parish School of Religion
Cordially invites you to the
Family Faith Celebration

March 24, 2019

9:30am

as young members of the parish
present their
'Faith In The Future' Projects
and meet their prayer partners

AN ADVENT STORY

by Mary Ann Poli

I'm often asked, "How do you stay so upbeat?" "You're always so happy. How do you do it?" and from those in a more curmudgeonly frame of mind, "What do you have to be so happy about?"

I'm never quite sure how to answer these questions. Yet the First Letter of St. Peter encourages us to have a reasonable explanation for our hope (1Peter 3:15), or in some translations, "joy", so I feel I must try...

The morning of my First Holy Communion, April 22, 1962, was tomadic. The rain came down drenching anyone foolish enough to think he could run between the drops. Mom, in her last trimester of pregnancy, was stressed. I had outgrown my Communion dress and no amount of Bobby pins could keep my Communion veil in place. The house was filled with family all trying to help but making things more chaotic. It was not an auspicious start to a special day.

Just the same I was elated! While a patient at Chicago's Shiners Hospital for Crippled Children, feeling lonely, abandoned, and heart broken, a children's Bible song presented me with hope. The lyrics told me I belonged to and was loved by a man named Jesus! My five-year-old heart leapt for joy! I clung on to that promise like a little lamb who has fallen off a steep cliff clings to the brambles that caught it. I wanted to claim my place with Jesus, but how?

Two years later, I began preparation classes for receiving my First Holy Communion. Mrs. Waxminsky, a pretty lady in a huge pinwheel hat, told us that, not only would we be meeting Jesus, He would be living in our hearts! I was filled with joy! Over the next few weeks, the anticipation was at times overwhelming. Now the extraordinary day was here, anticipation making it difficult to breath.

I wish I could tell you that once we were at the school where our mission parish met for Holy Mass, the situation improved. We all got soaked, rusty rivulets ran along my iron leg braces leaving

brown-orange streaks on my legs and lacy anklet socks, and tempers flared, leaving me feeling I was to blame for all our trials. My joy began to dim.

At last the moment arrived. I was nervous. What if I fall? What if Father won't give me Communion because I can't kneel? What if ... I managed to get off the folding chair without it collapsing and out into the aisle. Folding my hands as best I could, I began the walk toward the altar. The sound of my clinking braces rolled around the silent room. I imagined my family cringing in embarrassment.

Finally, I reached the Communion rail, flushed and breathless. I leaned into the rail like a plank against the side of a house. Like a fledgling, I lifted my face and opened my mouth waiting to be fed. Gently Father placed Jesus on my tongue. Then the sun broke through the clouds. Its beam seemed to land on me following me like a spotlight. I was sure this was a sign of Jesus' welcoming me into His heart as His own! The rhythmic clinking of my braces became music and I stopped worrying about what people thought of my unusual hymn. I was so filled with joy I must have been glowing because an elderly lady sitting in an aisle seat stopped me with her hand. Giving me a little shake, she snapped, "Stop smiling, girl! Don't you know Jesus died for your sins!" The sun disappeared and with it my joy.

That evening after the festivities, we children were invited to see a neighbor's new pool table. The walk to the house with the pool table wasn't far, but when we got there everyone was allowed in but me because I might fall down the stairs. So, I took a seat on the damp stoop and waited as I was told.

While waiting, a little brown bird landed in a puddle near my feet. It was so close its splashing got my shoes wet. It splashed and played, bathing in the puddle as if I weren't there. I was captivated. Eventually the little bird flew off. As I watched it rise into the sky, the beauty and

freshness of everything around me caught my eye. Green shoots coming up from the ground. Tiny curled leaves popping out of branches on the trees. The air smelled clean and felt cool but not cold. I felt as though I'd found my place. I wasn't alone.

As the others came out, so did the sun. It followed us all the way home. Though the group ran ahead leaving me behind, I didn't mind. My braces were making music again, the sun was at my back and Jesus was in my heart.

I've pondered this experience often as I grew. In those prayers, God led me to see the events surrounding my First Holy Communion differently. He showed me how He had been holding me in His hands from the moment I was conceived and had never left my side. He taught me that on my Communion day He was there in the gathering of my family. He was present in the ushers who did their best to keep me dry. He walked with me, the little girl who others believed would never walk, down an aisle to receive His Son. He gave me the world and its wonders to enjoy. He gave me Jesus who lives so that I may live forever too!

I still have my share of trials. As a repentant sinner, I go to Jesus often in the sacrament of Reconciliation. I am not spared from pain – physical, emotional, and spiritual. In the darkness of night, I sometimes shed hot, angry tears over the callous, thoughtless actions of others challenged people. But unlike so many who use the human condition to reject God, I remember what Christ told St. Paul, "My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection." (1 Corinthians 12:9) And always, in some small unexpected way Jesus turns something ugly, into something beautiful.

The reasoned explanation for my hope, my joy? It's simple. Jesus made a promise to me. He has always kept it and I trust that he always will.

May God bless each of you this Christmas with eyes to see and ears to hear the power of Perfection. Be assured of my prayers, my gratitude for your presence in my life, and my love. Merry Christmas!
12/18/2018
[Mary Ann is the daughter of Frank Poli]



(Continued from page 1) Santa

costume was not Carol's favorite because it is adorned with her least favorite flower, the poinsettia, and the whole costume looks like a flannel nightgown. Luckily, her granddaughter Alexa has another grandmother (Judy Szykulski) that is also an excellent seamstress. After finding material to match Tim's custom suit, Judy outfitted Carol with a beautiful burgundy dress complete with a plaid apron and matching mob-cap hat. The overall effect of the two outfits is astounding. Certainly, some of the appeal to children and adults is the striking realism that the beautiful costumes bring to their ministry.

Santa and Mrs. Claus never lack for helpers.

In years past, granddaughter Alexa has dressed up as an elf to help deliver goodwill and cheer...and, of course, presents. This year, daughter Emily joined Santa and Mrs. Claus as the "head elf." No matter where Tim and Carol go, someone is always willing to pitch in and help. Over the years, Tim and Carol have visited as Santa and Mrs. Claus in places like, Stadium Elementary in Boardman, The Polar Express in downtown Warren, The Ohio Valley College of Technology in Calcutta, and The Ohio State Highway Patrol Breakfast with Santa, plus private home visits all over Eastern Ohio. Santa has given away brides at weddings, taken part in wedding receptions, attended Christmas Rock Concerts in Columbiana, craft shows in Windsor, and 'arrived' in Painesville for a photo shoot.

The moment that sticks in both Santa and Mrs. Claus's minds when asked about their most inspirational event and, coincidentally, the one that brings a tear of

absolute joy to their eyes, is East Cleveland. Every year the special day spent with the East Cleveland police department handing out gifts is the most emotionally draining day imaginable but also an incredibly spiritually fulfilling day.

Carol says, *"For the past two years, we have gone to East Cleveland to hand out gifts before Christmas. We go house to house with the East Cleveland Police Department. The children are picked by the Resource officers at school. They know what students are in need. The parents are given a form to fill out with a wish list for each of their children. The items are put on giving trees and the gifts are bought and wrapped. Then a day is picked, the officers call to make sure the children are home, and we go deliver. If the children are not home, we do not leave the gifts. We either come back later that day or the officers arrange to deliver the gifts. If neighbors come*



*I will honor
Christmas in my
heart, and try to
keep it all the
year.*

~Charles Dickens

out while we are at a house, we find out how many children, age, male or female, and they are given gifts also. We have even given out comforters and sheet sets for beds, as well as Christmas trees and decorations, which are set up before we leave that house. All the children, no matter what age, get a stuffed animal or two. Some are huge animals that are bigger than the children. We have given out over 1,100 gifts each year.

Most of the places we go, we really do not have to prepare mentally because it is a happy time everywhere. East Cleveland is the exception. We see the conditions that these families live in: broken windows, blankets on doorways, heating the home by cook stove or with hot water is just heartbreaking. Children crying when you hand them gifts, parents crying and hugging you, because they can't thank you enough. Telling us because of us, their children will have a great Christmas.



Mr. & Mrs. Claus and East Cleveland Police Department 2018

The gifts we hand out are the only gifts the children will get that year. It is so hard to describe the feelings we have while doing this. Sometimes you just want to cry but you have to put a smile on your face and be happy."

Not all stories are as emotionally draining as the above. Spreading joy

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14) Santa

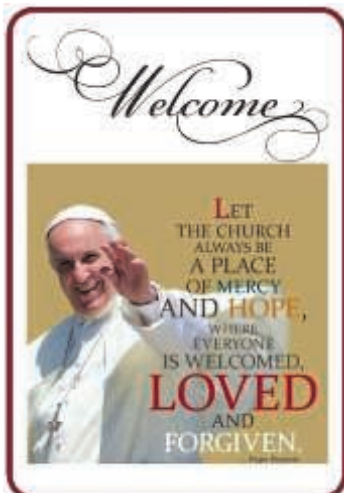
and happiness is the norm, not the exception. For example, Tim and Carol have dressed up for Halloween twice as Mr. & Mrs. Claus and handed out candy canes for trick-or-treat. The first year, a little boy came over and gave them both hugs. He turned to his mom and said, "They even smell like cookies!" It was actually the Bailey's Irish Cream in their coffee (for medicinal purposes, naturally.) The following year, a police car stopped as they were passing out treats and asked if he could take a selfie with Santa!

Come Christmas Day, though, Santa is ready to shorten the beard and put away the outfit until next year. The lazy, quiet days of January are a welcome respite. After the Christmas decorations are packed away, the cookies are no longer calorie free, and there is the odd minute to put their feet up, they get reminders of the fulfilling work that

is still to come. On a warm August day, a jolly, bearded, fat man in a funny automotive racing t-shirt and dirty jeans gives a deep, jolly laugh. As his belly shakes like a bowl full of jelly, children, young and old, snap to attention and remember the promise of Christmas joy. Even without the costumes, cookies, or reindeer, the ministry continues. The peace and happiness of Jesus' birthday is remembered. Peace, love, and innocence still prevail.



Mr. & Mrs. Claus and East Cleveland Police Department 2017



ST. WILLIAM PARISH WELCOME MINISTRY

*Invites you and your family to the
New Parishioner Luncheon*

**Sunday, February 24, 2019
Noon-1:30 p.m.**

New parishioners are invited to attend a luncheon held in your honor on Sunday, February 24 following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. If it has been awhile since you visited St. William, you are most welcome to attend this luncheon and become reacquainted with your parish family.

UPCOMING EVENTS


- Mar. 1 ~ Apr. 12: FISH DINNERS 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday Mass 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 20: The Light is ON for YOU ~
An Evening of Reconciliation 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Mar. 24: Lent Communal Reconciliation 3:00 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Church
- Mar. 31 ~ Apr. 1: PARISH MISSION
Sun. 6:30 p.m. / Mon. 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 7: Women's Guild Annual Card Party 12:00 noon
- Apr. 10: Women's Guild Kolachi Bake
- Apr. 14: Palm Sunday
- Apr. 18 ~20: Holy Week Triduum
- Apr. 21: Easter Sunday
- Apr. 28: Last PSR / First Communion 11:00 a.m. Mass
- May 5: Marian Devotion /May Crowning /
Mother-Child Banquet 12:00 noon



THEY'RE BACK!!

ST. WILLIAM
"Fabulous"
FISH DINNERS

MARCH 1 - APRIL 12
FRIDAYS 4-7PM



<http://www.stwilliamchampion.org>

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
WARREN, OHIO
Permit No. 160

St. William Catholic Church
5431 Mahoning Ave NW
Warren, OH 44483
Return Service Requested