

PROVIDING FOR SECURITY AT MASSES AND AT OTHER PARISH EVENTS –

The more recent shootings at a church in Texas challenge us to look at the matter of providing for the safety of all who gather for Masses and for other parish events and activities.

It seems that there are two extremes that we would hopefully want to avoid. On the one hand, it is not healthy to ignore this issue. None of us can predict when and where sporadic incidents of violence will erupt. It could happen here.

On the other hand, we want to avoid providing an atmosphere of pervasive fear in regard to this matter. Unless we are on guard, we can become obsessed with the issue of providing for security.

The possibility of acts of violence challenge us to remind ourselves of Whose we are and what we are to be about. Our parish faith communities are centered around the Good News of God's redeeming love for all people in our Lord Jesus Christ. Hopefully in a unique way, each group and ministry of our parish communities will reflect and express some facet of the Gospel. In short, our Parishes exist to bring Christ to all people and to lead all people to Christ. Within this broad context which embraces all of us, we need to look into providing a secure environment for all persons who come to all activities.

I believe that this can be best accomplished by appointing a small committee to look into this matter. On this committee should be included representatives of groups who would be in key positions to implement security measures. These might include ushers, greeters, leadership persons in our children's faith formation programs and youth activities, a maintenance representative and others who are in key positions to implement security procedures. Discussing security matters should not preoccupy the time and discussion at group gatherings and meetings. While providing for security has its place, our advisory groups and various ministries are called to dedicate the lion's share of their time and energy to promote what the Lord wants our parish communities to be about.

Assumedly, our security committees will work with law enforcement persons to gain wise and creative insights for promoting security at our parishes and at St. Mary Parish, for the school community.

As we develop security plans, it is wise to consult with other parishes in our Deanery and in our Diocese. Doing this offers a sense of balance to what we do. Issues of this nature can deepen a sense of solidarity that we have with other parishes that share the same faith. We are all in this together.

After our security committees develop specific recommendations, these can be shared with key advisory bodies and with persons who would implement the procedures for their input.

Working in this way hopefully keeps our parishes on course in regard to our God-given mission to be centers of His redeeming love and hope in this world. Hopefully, the security measures and procedures that we adopt will be as transparent as is possible.

When an effective, transparent security plan is in place, this can actually free our parish communities to proactively witness to Whose we are and to what the Lord wants us to be about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Nelson Beaver – Pastor

Eastside Lenten Pilgrimage Luncheons & Worship

Wednesday Services: Lunch at 11:30 Worship at 12:30

Feb. 21 Host Church St. Timothy/East Hills pastor Bob Stull

Feb. 28 Church Ridgeway 1st Ch of God pastor Chris Thomas

March 7 Church St. Mary's of the Snows pastor Jim Carder

March 14 Church 1st Ch of the Brethren pastor Bonnie Peltomaa

March 21 Church Trinity U. M. pastor John Dodds

March 25 Sunday Church Mayflower pastor Vaughn Loose

Sunday, Mar. 25th, Palm Sunday Evening Worship Dinner at 5:30 Worship at 6:30

National Day of Prayer

Thursday May 3, 2018

Big Lots Parking Lot ?

Pastor/ Rich Rader

"Lenten Soup Supper"

During Lent the Christian Formation Committee will sponsor our annual "Soup Suppers". Mass or a Prayer Service, Eat homemade soup followed by our speakers.

Format:

6:00 pm Mass or Prayer Service

6:45 pm Soup Supper in cafeteria. (If 6:00 pm is too early for you than join us for soup and the program)






7:10 pm Speaker

Dates: Five Mondays in Lent

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| February | 19 | Fr. Gregory Hite - "Our Journey With the Lord." |
| February | 26 | Fr. Austin Ammanniti - "Integrating the Beatitudes into our Lives" |
| March | 5 | Fr. Larry Richards - "Becoming a Saint." |
| March | 12 | Deacon Tom Dubois - "A Time to Let God Find Me." |
| March | 19 | Dr. Louis Mancha - "Evil and the 'Mean' God." |



THIS ENGAGING PRESENTATION OFFERS PARENTS:

-  A UNIQUE, INSIDE PERSPECTIVE ON THE STRUGGLES TEENS FACE TODAY
-  AN OUTLINE OF THE CULTURE PROJECT'S SEXUAL INTEGRITY PRESENTATIONS
-  HONEST FACTS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF AN OVER-SEXUALIZED CULTURE
-  PRACTICAL TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR SPEAKING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT CHASTITY
-  QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION TO FOLLOW



WHEN: 7:00pm Tuesday, February 20

WHERE: St. Mary of the Snows

1630 Ashland Rd

Mansfield, OH 44905

— INVITING OUR CULTURE TO BE FULLY ALIVE —

The Culture Project International is an initiative of young people set out to restore culture by proclaiming the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity. Our mission teams serve local communities on an international scale, delivering presentations to young people in schools, conferences, and parishes, as well as engaging culture through friendship and conversation. The Culture Project challenges the status quo by inviting young people to reclaim a life of virtue, thereby promoting a culture fully alive.

ALL MISSIONARIES ARE FINGERPRINTED AND VIRTUS CERTIFIED.

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THE NEW PHONE NUMBER HAS SWITCHED OVER!!!!!!WE WILL ONLY HAVE ONE PHONE NUMBER FOR THE SCHOOL AND PARISH. THE NUMBER TO CALL WILL BE 419-589-2114. YOUR CALL WILL BE ANSWERED BY A MESSAGE AND YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO PRESS THE EXTENSION FOR THE PERSON YOU WANT TO SPEAK WITH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION DURING THIS CHANGE OVER.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GIRLS: The Catholic Women's Club of the St. Juan Diego Deanery is offering a \$500.00 Scholarship to a high school girl who is planning to attend college. You do not have to be attending a Catholic high school, or plan to attend a Catholic college to apply. See your parish office for an application form.

ST. PETER'S HIGH SCHOOL "OPEN HOUSE" will be on Sunday, March 4, 2018. The day begins promptly at 1:00 pm. in the Franciscan Activity Center, 111 W. First St. The snow date is Sunday, March 11th. This is a day designed for prospective students and parents to meet administrators, teachers, coaches, and current families, tour the building, receive information on the curriculum, extra-curriculars, tuition assistance and State of Ohio School Choice scholarships and to enjoy fun and games! St. Peter's High School stresses family spirit among its students, faculty, parents, and alumni, who by their example, instruction and concern mutually support and assist one another. St. Peter's High School graduates students who practice Christian spirituality, achieve academic excellence and are prepared to be of service to the world. For more information, please call the high school office (419-524-2572) or visit the St. Peter's website at www.mansfieldstpeters.org

Venite Adoremus will meet this coming Wednesday, February 21st, at 7 pm at the Town Money Saver Building. All men of the parish are invited to attend.

Alpha will meet at the Lucas Community Center this coming Monday, February 19th at 6:30 pm.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH SINGING SCHEDULE

FOLK GROUP	CONTEMPORARY GROUP	CHOIR	ORGAN
Sat, Feb 24	Sun, Feb 25	Sun, March 4	Sat, March 3
Sat, March 10	Sun, March 11	Sat, March 17	
Sun, March 18	Sun, March 25	Sat, March 24	
		Sat, March 31	

This year we will have 4 children who are preparing themselves to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, for full initiation at the Easter Vigil. When the children were asked to write their response to the following question, "Why do I want to be baptized?" here is what they responded:

I want to be with my Heavenly Father. I want to be with Jesus. I want to be a member of the Church

AVERY HODGES

I want to be baptized because I want to be closer to Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us look into our hearts to see if I am loving Jesus and others. I love Jesus. **ANGEL MONTENEZ**

I want to be baptized because I want to go to heaven and get rid of original sin. Also I want everyone to know that I believe that Jesus Christ died for me. **JOURNEY ROSS-Resurrection Parish**

I want to be baptized so I can be closer to God and go to heaven. **CULLEN WITHROW**

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

We will be collecting for Catholic Charities next weekend. Please bring your items and place them in the blue barrels next weekend. They are always grateful for the items they receive. They continually need food, household and personal care items. Food items needed included: canned corn (regular & creamed), peas, carrots, instant & boxed potatoes and boxed macaroni & cheese. Household and personal care items needed include: deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, dish soap and laundry soap.