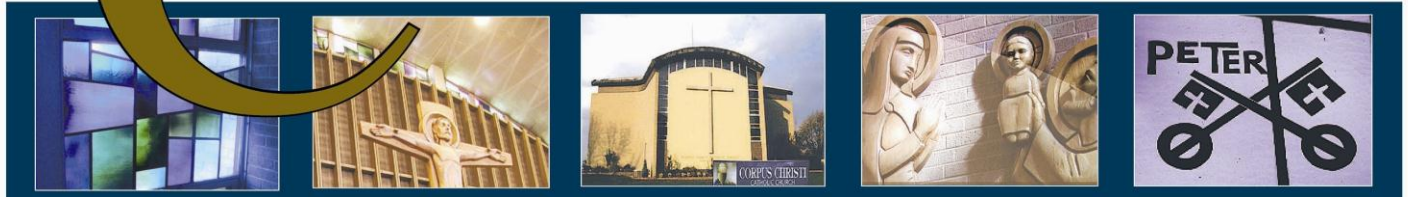


THE COMMENTARY



CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

JANUARY, 2012

OF THIS AND THAT . . .

By FR. JIM

As I write this article it is Monday, January 9th. The weather outside is 'frightful', but rather delightful for an early January day! The temperature is certainly in the high 40's, if not 50 degrees. So far, this has been a rather mild winter. We've just finished the Advent and Christmas seasons, and by the time this publication reaches you, we will be nearing the season of Lent. We are preparing for the upcoming Lenten and Easter seasons as well as the eventual coming of Spring. Here a few items to keep in mind:

- (1) Be sure to keep in mind our Catechumens and Candidates who will celebrate the Easter sacraments and be received into the life of the Church on Holy Saturday night at the Easter Vigil. The RCIA Team and the sponsors of the Catechumens and Candidates have been diligently working with them by way of teaching and faith-sharing on Monday evenings as well as during the Sunday dismissal time. Please continue to keep all of them in prayer over these next weeks.
- (2) Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Included in this issue of COMMENTARY is a schedule of the various opportunities for Mass, Evening and Taize prayer, Way of the Cross, etc. Be sure to consult this publication and future bulletins for more details on the various Lenten events. May this Lenten season be an opportunity for ALL of us to grow more deeply in our relationship with the Lord and one another!
- (3) On the Fridays during Lent you are invited to join us for the Fish Fry which is growing in reputation as being one of the finest in the area. This is a great time to enjoy good fish, food and the company of other parishioners and visitors to the Fish Fry. Come join us!!!
- (4) This is a 'heads up': It won't be long until it our Annual Summer Festival. Right now, it might seem a long way off, but it will be here before we know it!
- (5) The Festival Committee has been at work planning for this event and will be seeking your support in various ways as we draw closer to the dates: FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 23 & 24th. This is always a great opportunity for us to come together to work on this major parish fund-raiser.
- (6) At the present time, Pastoral Council is undertaking the task of preparing a pastoral planning process. This process will hopefully create a 5 year plan for Corpus Christi Parish. We will be looking at several items for discussion and ways to receive input from the parish at large. More information will follow as the process is formulated.
- (7) Our STEWARDSHIP 2011 project has been very successful. We have received a good number of the PRAYER, TIME and TALENT forms for which we are very grateful. We have also received a generous response for the TREASURE portion of the Stewardship process as well. We are MOST grateful for your ongoing support of our efforts to offer quality ministry at Corpus Christi! God bless you for your goodness.

(Continued on next page)

- (8) **PASTORAL AREA COLLABORATION:** Over the past several years our parishes of St. John the Baptist, St. John Neumann and Corpus Christi have been collaborating in several areas of parish ministry. In recent months we have been exploring the possibilities of sharing our Wedding and Marriage ministries. There is strong feeling and enthusiasm regarding possibilities for this sharing. Another area we are exploring is our Food Pantry. For several years now, both St. John the Baptist and St. John Neumann Parishes have been supporting our Corpus Christi Food Pantry on a regular basis. We are looking at ways to provide for the entire Pastoral Area as requests arise for food, etc.

What I have provided here is just some basic information about these various topics. More detailed information may be found in other detailed articles in this issue of COMMENTARY, on our parish web-site or in future parish bulletins. Stay tuned!

ORIGINS OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS CRIB

By KAY MAIER

The date this year was Saturday, December 17, and the event was the annual blessing of the Christmas Crib. Father Jim Meade, with a Book of Blessings and his holy water in hand, blessed the crib scene — this year, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the angel. A medley of Advent and Christmas hymns filled the air. We all know the story of the birth of the Christ-Child, but do you know the origins of the outdoor Christmas scene at Corpus Christi?

Parishioner Tom Gilbert felt called to have an outdoor Christmas display at Corpus Christi, and in 1991 he approached Parish Council. There were a variety of opinions about the ability of the parish to raise the \$7,000 needed to purchase crib figures. Despite the objections, Tom convinced the parish leaders that he could indeed raise the \$7,000 needed to purchase the crib figures. Tom's hope was to purchase a complete set of fiberglass figurines; he had already done the research and found a set (manufactured in Michigan) which he thought would work. Despite the objections, Tom was convinced that he could indeed raise the funds needed to bring this project to fruition! So, Tom enthusiastically organized his forces and began a campaign to raise the funds. He

had red and green donation envelopes printed, and he even put up a "thermometer" in the back of church so all parishioners could see a visual of the progress of the project. The 'temperature' on the thermometer inched up, and after about 6-8 weeks, Tom was almost at his designated goal — close, but not quite there. He remembers a final check coming in, which pushed the project over the top!



Corpus Christi's first Nativity set was purchased in 1991, and the construction of the stable was directed by parishioner Tom Gilbert (at right above); in the foreground is Herbie Meyer, and at the rear is Ron Wirmel. Yearly, the crib scene is blessed the Saturday before Christmas just after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. That first year, luminaries lit the way from the crib to the fellowship event in the undercroft.

However, little Baby Jesus, along with his mother Mary and father Joseph needed appropriate housing. So, the next project was to construct a stable. Tom solicited the help of a few parishioners. The wood he used to construct the stable was donated — it was part of a 100-year old barn which was being demolished. It was a beautiful place for the Baby Jesus to be placed that first Christmas on Corpus Christi's grounds, just to the front side of the parish office in 1991.



Unfortunately, the outdoor weather has worn the crib figurines over the years, chipping away at the paint. This year, only the three central figures and the angel composed our outdoor display as they were refurbished by parishioner, Gary Lemming. It is hoped that more of the original set will be ready for next year's Christmas display. Additionally, over the years, the weather decomposed the 100-year old wood of the stable, and there is no longer a stable as part of the display. *Sounds like another potential project?!* . . . Twenty years ago, the naysayers said it couldn't be done because the funds couldn't possibly be raised, but the drive and stamina of a determined parishioner saw this project through to completion.

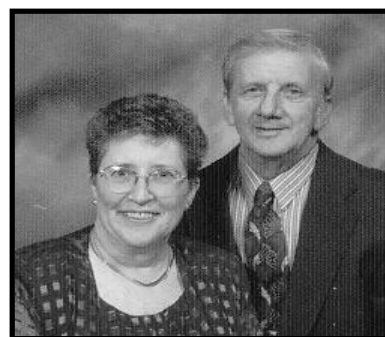
Parishioners since 1959, Tom and his wife Mary Ann have had an enormous impact upon the Corpus Christi Church community. They both fondly recall the early years of our parish — "We were a close-knit group, mostly young families with young children. We worked together for many things — Men's Society (which sponsored dances and picnics), the Ladies'

Sodality (get-togethers for socializing and quilt-making once a month), and the Athletic Association." Tom was quite active in the Men's Club and is still head usher for the Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass. Mary Ann ran several money-making projects for the Ladies' group and for the parish. She was also one of the first women lectors, and she continues in that ministry today. Both have worked the annual parish festival for 50 years. Tom served as chief electrician for many years, working incredibly long hours to make the festivals successful. Mary Ann's is also a very familiar face each year as she solicits donors for the semi-annual Blood Drives at Corpus Christi, seeing to it that Hoxworth Blood Center is supplied with enough blood to give the gift of life to countless persons in need throughout the Cincinnati area. Both Tom and Mary Ann learned the importance of giving their time and talents from their parents growing up; stewardship was a concept both families were very familiar with at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church.

Tom and Mary Ann, now married 55 years, are parents of three daughters; they also have 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.



The Gilbert Family in 1971



A more recent photo of Tom and Mary Ann



Celebration of Marriage
Save the Date!!!!!!!

Corpus Christi, St. John the Baptist and St. John Neumann Parishes
invite you to a Celebration of Marriage

*Here's a chance to spend time with your spouse
and enjoy the gift of one another*

When: February 11, 2012

Where: St. John Neumann Daniel Hall

Time: 5:00 p.m. Mass St. John Neumann

6:30 p.m. Renewal of Commitments

7:00 -11:00 p.m. Daniel Hall for romantic dinner
and dancing

Cost: \$35 per couple

RSVP: Rosie @St. John Neumann, 742-0953 or rsantel@isoc.net

Payment is requested by Feb. 8, 2012

Make checks payable to St. John Neumann. You may mail it to St. John Neumann @12191 Mill Rd, Cincinnati, Oh 45240 or if you are a member of Corpus Christi, St. John the Baptist or St. John Neumann, you may choose to put it in the collection basket at your parish. Please be sure the envelope is marked "Celebration of Marriage Evening" and includes the information below:

----- (cut here) -----

We will attend the Celebration of Marriage on Feb. 11, 2012, at Daniel Hall, St. John Neumann Parish.

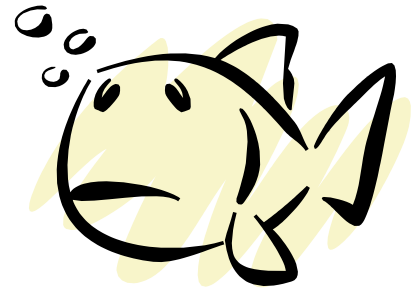
Names _____

Phone _____; Number of people attending _____; Amount Enclosed _____

Corpus Christi Fish Fry 2012

BY TERRI REDER

Come join us each Friday night, February 24 thru March 30, during Lent for a delicious Lenten dinner.

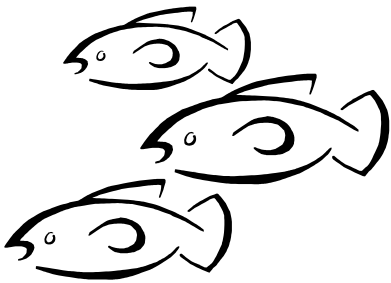


Each week we will be serving our delicious fish (baked and fried), homemade soups and sides along with a weekly chef created special featuring such culinary delights such as: made-to-order pasta bar, omelet bar, stir fry station, or mashed potato bar (new this year).

Beer and soda will also be available for purchase.

It takes quite an effort to put together these weekly dinners, so we are in need of workers for each week. We are always looking for servers and cleanup volunteers. If you are interested in sharing your time and talent, please call Amy Fedyk at 674-9802 or Terri Reder at 742-3136.

If you can donate a dessert each week or one week, please call Debbie Harpring at 772-4157 or Sally Lechler at 245-9498.



Our first Lenten Fish Fry is February 24,
5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft! Mark your calendar NOW!
Remember to invite your family, friends and neighbors.

Watch the bulletin for details including the special of the week!

*Just so you know, the early bird doesn't always get the worm!
Arrive at 7:15 or after and receive a 10% discount off your order and a free dessert.*

*Also, we love our dedicated parishioners. Come to the first
5 Lenten Dinners and receive 50% off your dinner the 6th week.*

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Tuesday, Feb. 21	Palm Burning and Mardi Gras (Pot Luck Supper)	6:00pm	CCC
Wednesday, Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday	All School Mass	8:30am	SJB
	Mass	8:30am	SJN
	Liturgy of the Word with Ashes	12:00	CCC
	Liturgy of the Word with Ashes	12:15pm	SJN
	Mass	7:00pm	CCC
	Mass	7:00pm	SJN
	Mass	7:00pm	SJB
Sunday, Feb. 26	Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	CCC
Wednesday, Feb. 29	Soup Supper	6:00pm	SJB
	Taize Prayer	7:00pm	SJB
Sunday, March 4	Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	CCC
Wednesday, March 7	Soup Supper	6:00pm	CCC
	Evening Prayer	7:00pm	CCC
Sunday, March 11	Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	CCC
Wednesday, March 14	Soup Supper	6:00pm	SJN
	Evening Prayer	7:00pm	SJN
Sunday, March 18	Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	CCC
Wednesday, March 21	Soup Supper	6:00pm	SJB
	Evening Prayer	7:00pm	SJB
Saturday, March 24	Reconciliation Service	10:00am	CCC
Sunday, March 25	Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	CCC
Wednesday, March 28	Soup Supper	6:00pm	SJN
	Reconciliation Service	7:00pm	SJN
Sunday, April 1	Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	CCC
Thursday, April 5	Morning Prayer	9:00am	CCC
	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00pm	CCC
	Eucharistic Adoration	8:00-Midnight	
Friday, April 6	Morning Prayer	9:00am	CCC
	Good Friday Service	7:00pm	CCC
Saturday, April 7	Morning Prayer	9:00am	CCC
	Easter Vigil	8:45pm	CCC

RCIA AT CORPUS CHRISTI

BY TERRI REDER

RCIA stands for “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.” It began as part of the work that came from the Vatican II Council over forty years ago. At Corpus Christi, RCIA is a year long process. It begins with the gathering of names of prospective candidates and inviting them to attend. Then we start preparing teaching assignments and developing schedules. This is followed by initial meetings with participants – all before we actually begin sessions!

In late August, we begin weekly two-hour sessions covering topics like Catholic Beliefs, the Trinity, the Bible, the Sacraments, and Christian Morality to name a few. These classes continue through Pentecost with the high point being Easter Vigil where the Sacraments of Initiation are received by some and all are received into the Church. Along with the classes, the candidates are on this journey with a Parish Sponsor who helps them become acquainted with and active in the parish.

The candidates and catechumens this year are Terrance Brown, Tom Cunningham, Jillian Eddy, Heidi Girten, Cassandra Mares, Jason Melson, Danielle Nelson, Stephanie Ries, Al Silber and Jeff Stacy. The children going through this same process are Claire Girten, Olivia Girten and Isaiah Erickson. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in this process.

There is a small army of dedicated parishioners who serve as sponsors, instructors, mentors and companions along the way. This group serves our Corpus Christi family well as they dedicate themselves to the work on preparing the newest members of our faith community. The teaching group for RCIA this year includes Larry Day, John Corson, Jim & Sally Lechler, Amy Fedyk, Debbie Harpring, JoAnn Denzler, and Terri Reder. We are also grateful to Cathy Floyd and Audrey Woehrmeyer for their dedication in working with the children weekly.



Left to right: Danielle Nelson, Jillian Eddy, Heidi Girten, Al Silber, Stephanie Ries, Jeff Stacy, Tom Cunningham, Terrence Brown, Cassandra Mares, and Jason Melson.



Left to Right: Olivia Girten, Isaiah Erickson and Claire Girten

PRAYER, TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE: LIVING EXAMPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

BY BILL MARSHALL

Thanks to Fr. Jim, along with the dedicated men and women on our Finance Council, and most of all, our generous parishioners (you!), we have experienced a significant increase in our Offertory collection each weekend. As was mentioned during the Masses the weekend before Thanksgiving, our expenses had been exceeding our income, but your enthusiastic response has our income back on track.

But as Deacon John and Fr. Jim have reminded us numerous times, the idea of stewardship is about sharing all of the gifts that God has given to us. Your financial support is important to the success of the Corpus Christi community, but it is just as important to become involved in the life of our church.

We are especially blessed to have a wonderful Faith Formation program led by Pam McLaughlin. This year we have a very active youth group, and a large number of participants in the RCIA program, with a wonderful group of sponsors and teachers leading the way. Deacon Larry and Deacon John do tremendous work in so many ministries, ranging from Baptism and Marriage preparation to Bible Study and other faith formation sessions.

Our office operations, led by Patti Baechle and Susan Sauerwein, are remarkably efficient, and wisely manage the time and financial resources of our parish. Bruce Niebling does an excellent job keeping our grounds and buildings in top shape. But Patti, Susan and Bruce would be the first to name the dozens of volunteers who help in these processes – from those who help in cleaning the buildings and grounds, to the dedicated team of offertory collection assistants and other volunteers in the office.

From a liturgical perspective, I don't have to look far to see the positive impact that numerous volunteers have had on the quality of our worship. The art and environment team does an excellent job preparing the Church and Gathering Space for the seasons. Our musicians (two of whom, Joan Fluegeman and Rita Ritter, have been leading our song for over 50 years!) share their musicality and spirit with the congregation. And we give thanks for the dedication of our servers, lectors, ushers and greeters.

The list could go on and on: Our leaders in the preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage, as well as Bereavement planners and volunteers, touch the lives of hundreds of people in such a positive manner. So many dedicated people take communion to the homebound. Under the leadership of Mary Ann Gilbert, the semi-annual blood drive continues to attract record numbers of blood donors. Our global and local Outreach work is phenomenal. Last year, the Food Pantry volunteers alone donated nearly 5,000 hours of time.

Terri Reder achieves amazing results in her many roles (leading the Parish Festival, the Lenten Fish Fry dinners, Wedding Ceremony preparation and her key role in the RCIA program). And the Corpus Christi Archives Committee has spent hundreds of hours gathering and compiling a wealth of information about the first 53 years of the parish's existence...and this group remains active recording the events of the present. It's wonderful to review the achievements of the past, and the accomplishments of today.

Those who have gone before us, those present with us now, those who will be part of the community in the future: we all are Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. Thank you to all who are sharing, and who will be sharing, your gifts with this wonderful community.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH FESTIVAL 2012

Can you believe it, there are just 4 months to our
Parish's Annual Summer Festival.
The dates this year are June 22, 23 & 24!

It may be cold outside, but the festival committee has been hard at work for months planning and organizing our summer festival.

Given our success last year, we are very excited about this year's festival.
We have great plans and lofty goals.

But, we can't do it alone.....WE NEED YOU.

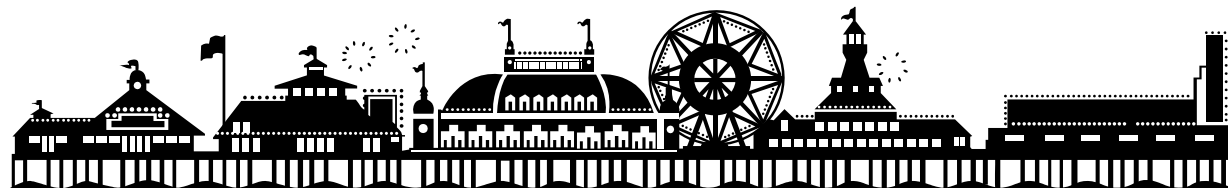
Recently we have talked quite a lot about Stewardship:
this is a great way to share you time and talents.

We are looking for booth chairpersons, booth workers, youth workers to work on the Crew,
behind the scene workers (needed before, during and after the festival weekend), setup &
cleanup folks, and many more .

So, please consider this your invitation to help make the festival a SUCCESS!

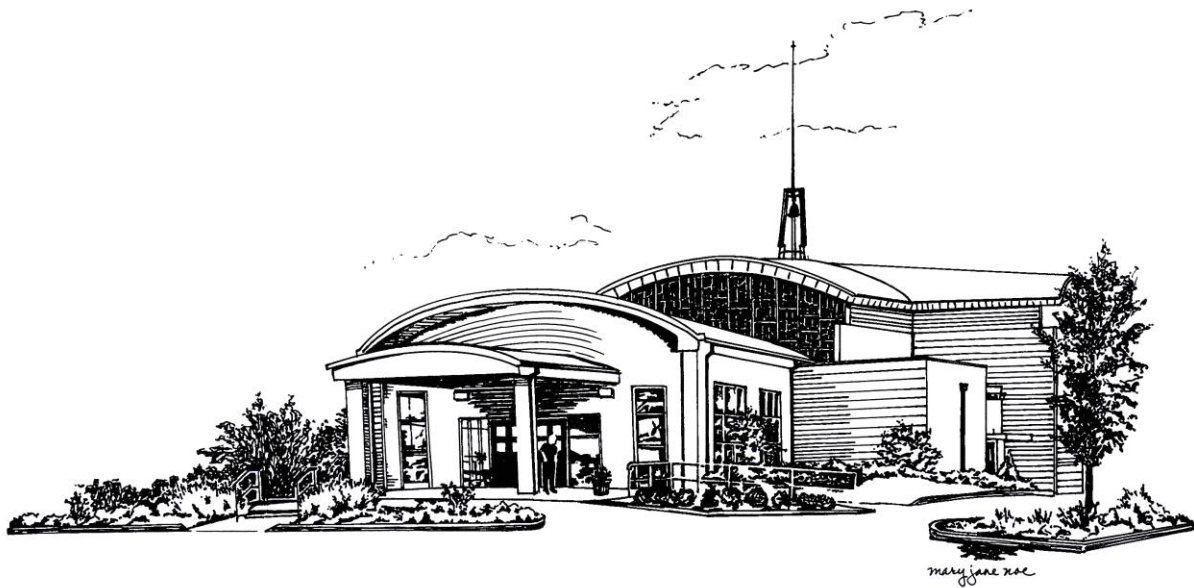
Please contact Debbie Day at 834-5886 or the Parish Office at 825-0618.
One hour, one day, or all weekend....Any time you can contribute would be wonderful
and appreciated.

Last year, we were able to make \$53,999.48 for the parish. We can all make a difference to
help keep our parish a wonderful, vibrant faith community.



**CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
2014 SPRINGDALE RD.
CINCINNATI, OH 45231**

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