

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26-27, 2011

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

12:05PM- Communion Service

12:30-3:00PM- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**3:00PM- Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Devotion and Benediction**

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

No 12:05PM Mass

No 12:05PM Communion Service

2:30PM- Autumn Hills- Mike Naples by friends

7:00PM- Confirmation- All are welcome

John Caroselli by Knights of Columbus Ladies Club

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

12:05PM –Infant of Prague Guild by Devotees

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011

12:05PM – Phillip Montevideo

by wife, Vicky Montevideo

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011

12:05PM- Gregory Monteforte

by mom, dad, brothers, Alan, Jeffrey and families

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011

5:00PM- Mr. and Mrs. Sam Petrilla

by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Petrilla

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

9:30AM- Palmer Loro by family

11:30AM- For our Deceased Parishioners especially: Lola DeMathews, Allan P. Syacsure, Marie Ciminero, John P. Sherock by St. Vincent de Paul Society

SANCTUARY LIGHTS THIS WEEK

IN MEMORY OF:

Andrew D'Allessandro

REST IN PEACE

Rocco A. Sedall

BAPTISMS

Sara Rene Shelar

Daughter of Ryan and Elizabeth (Raw) Shelar

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Justin Kaszowski

Niles Community Service is collecting stew/chili/pasta canned during the month of March. Baskets are located in the back of the church.

February 19-20 collection.....	\$ 7,094.00
Church Overseas collection.....	\$ 1,271.50

We really appreciate it when you give us your contribution for the weekends you missed in addition to the contributions given when you are here.

Community Suppers for Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Serving hours are 4:45-6:00PM. Anyone willing to help serve or donate baked goods, please come or drop off items in Marian Hall.

Infant of Prague Guild will meet on Wednesday, March 1 at 1:00PM in Marian Hall.

St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet on Tuesday, March 8 from 4:00-5:30PM in Marian Hall.

Please note: Would you like a statement from us concerning your 2010 contributions? If so, please call the parish office to make arrangements. Postings for 2010 have been completed and we will mail out statements to those who notify us. We are sending statements only to those who specifically request one!

Please bring your old Palms to the church no later than Saturday, March 5. The Burning of Palms will take place on Sunday, March 6 after the 11:30AM Mass. A box is located in the back of the church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kathy Zuppo's email address:

kathyzuppo@yahoo.com

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00PM. Please pray for our Candidates and Sponsors. You are welcome to join Bishop Murry and us.

WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE 1/3/09 THROUGH 2/20/11

This data is from 1/3/09 through 2/20/11
Our church seating capacity is listed as 374.
A crowd of **188** or more equals more than half-filled.

5:00 PM Mass: Here on 2/19/11 = 250 = 66.8%
Average crowd = 198.6 (22,040 people divided by 111 Masses.)
Average % of capacity = 53.1
66 crowds of 111 Masses have had at least 188 people.

9:30 AM Mass: Here on 2/20/11 = 181 = 48.4%
Average crowd = 238.3 (26,686 people divided by 112 Masses.)
Average % of capacity = 63.7
100 crowds of 112 Masses have had at least 188 people.

11:30 AM Mass: Here on 2/20/11 = 219 = 58.6%
Average crowd = 184.4 (20,651 people divided by 112 Masses.)
Average % of capacity = 49.3
35 crowds of 112 Masses have had at least 188 people.

On February 19-20, 2011, 650 people came to Mass.
This averaged 216.7 people per Mass.
The church was 57.9% filled February 19-20, 2011.

Totals of all weekend Masses 1/3/09 through 2/20/11:
Average crowd = 207.1 (69,377 people divided by 335 Masses.)
Average % of capacity = 55.4
201 crowds of 335 Masses have had at least 188 people.

Men's Fellowship Group meets every other Sunday Morning at 8:00AM in Marian Hall and concluding in time for 9:30AM Mass. Our next meetings are March 6 & 20. Open to all men! For more information contact Dave Schmidt at dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com or (330) 652-5825.

RCIA= Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Our RCIA program is held in collaboration with St. Stephen Parish and meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM. Upcoming RCIA topics include:

- ~Lent & Mardi Gras on March 8
- ~Sacrament of Baptism on March 22

Both in the OLMC Parish Meeting Room (in the rectory basement). Persons who are already Catholic are welcome to attend along with those inquiring into our faith. For more information, contact Dave Schmidt, Pastoral Associate, at dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com or (330) 652-5825.

We gladly publish in our church bulletin the names of family members and friends who are currently serving our country in the military. We pray for their safety and for an end to conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Please call the parish office with the individual's name and branch of service.

Ryan Estes- Army; **Joshua Lewis-** Military Intelligence; **Nicholas Perrone-** Navy; **David Mickey-** Army; **Josh Nutt;** **Michael Donadio-** Navy; **Patrick Betteridge-** Army; **Robert Infante-** Navy; **Frank Pezzano-** Marines; **Tim Zysk-** Navy; **Guy Martin Capito-** Marines; **Keith Sponseller-** Air Force; **Jonthan Augusta-** Army; **Ronald Ranalli-** Army; **Vito J. Abruzzino-** Army; **Danny Bennett-** Marines; **Curtis Coole-** Army; **Brad DeRubba-** Army; **Rob Whited-** Army; **Gary Lashley-** Navy; **Michael Loychik-** Air Force; **Paul Brown-** Air Force; **Brad Gordon-** Army; **Nicholas Marchese-** Marines; **Philip Ledbetter-** Army; **Mark A. Selak-** Marines; **Timothy Edwards-** Marines

Scholarship Available to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishioners

Our parish is offering a scholarship to young people who meet the following requirements:

1. A fully initiated Catholic (having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist).
2. A Senior in High School who will be graduating.
3. Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
4. A registered member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Niles. (Those eighteen or older must register in the parish in their own name; those under eighteen must be registered in the parish through their immediate family.) Note: To be a registered member, you or your family should be receiving envelopes from the parish.
5. Complete the application and essay, and submit them prior to the deadline.
6. If granted a scholarship, use the award only for educational expenses (e.g. tuition, books) and provide appropriate documentation to that effect.

To receive an application for the scholarship, contact Dave Schmidt at dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com or (330) 652-5825, or stop by the parish office. Completed applications are due by April 1.

Evangelization Committee Meeting, Monday, February 28, 6:30PM in the Rectory Dining Room. For more information, contact Dave Schmidt at dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com or (330) 652-5825.

Bowl-a-thon for Scholarship Fund

Youth and their families are invited to a Bowl-a-thon on Sunday, February 27, at 1:00PM at McKinley Lanes (2666 Robbins Ave., Niles) to help raise money for the Parish Scholarship Fund. Participants will be bowling two games and are to ask to pledge a set amount (e.g. \$5, \$10, etc.) for each game bowled. Pledges must be collected ahead of time with at least \$10 necessary to participate. Reserve your spot by contacting Dave Schmidt, Pastoral Associate, as soon as possible at (330) 652-5825 or dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com. All youth under age 18 will need a signed parental permission form.

Take Advantage of the Parish Lending Library! Over 400 items are available in Parish Lending Library, found in cabinets in Marian Hall. Stop by and sign-out a book, CD or video. For more information, contact Dave Schmidt at (330) 652-5825 or dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com

From the Pastor:

Many of the ideas I write about in today's Pastor's Column are based on the reflection of the author named Father Tony Claver. He describes how this weekend's Gospel from Matthew 6:24-34 begins by featuring Christ telling His hearers to get their priorities right. That's a constant reminder to all of us. How we need to get our priorities right!

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (The word some translations use is "mammon", but we understand this to mean wealth.)

Think about the illustration used here. Jesus compares serving wealth to slavery. Jesus employs one of the most demeaning institutions humans can experience or impose on others to tell us the facts of life. Slavery was a reality in first-century life. Jesus is not in favor of slavery, but He uses something frightful to demonstrate total goodness. A slave belonged to an owner and was forced to serve that owner exclusively.

How do we discover our freedom? We discover it best of all when we serve God. Stress, compulsive worry, unacknowledged bitterness and resentment easily become our owner. We can't serve two owners. Sometimes whole communities become enslaved to anxiety, to fear of loss, and to dysfunction. We've seen that happen in our own vicinity within our lifetime. Those destroying demons become alternative owners. "No one can serve two owners." Ironically, what Jesus calls "wealth" can be a wealth of troubles to which we cling and which define us and the way we live our lives. In our loneliness, such a wealth of troubles may well own us.

In our baptisms we were called out of such ownership. The fellowship of the church is given by God to enable us to share together the wonder of God's love experienced in community. The community of Christ supports us as we learn to offer up the dreadful things that capture and own us, and love takes their place. This isn't a "once and for all" process. We don't give our lives to God and all becomes lovely. We give ourselves to God daily, hour by hour, and God gives us what we truly need. God gives us the "means of grace and the hope of glory." May we appreciate this all our days.

~ Father Larry Frient

Soup for the Soul

On Saturday, March 5, Catholic Men's Fellowship of the Diocese of Youngstown is hosting a luncheon for men from 12:30-2:30PM in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Youngstown, Social Hall. Keynote speaker is Mr. Gerry Faust, retired head coach of the University of Notre Dame, the University of Akron, and Cincinnati Moeller High School.

This free "Soup for the Soul" luncheon is for males ages 15 and older. Soup, rolls and coffee will be served at no charge. Soft drinks will be available.

To reserve a seat, contact Dave Schmidt at (330) 652-5825 or dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com by February 27th.

In the Wilderness...with WiFi: A Lenten Journey for Young People High School age youth are invited to make the Season of Lent special this year! Join us on Sunday, March 6, from 10:30AM till Noon (after the 9:30AM Mass) in the Rectory Dining Room. We will have a light breakfast and some food for thought based on clips from YouTube, GodTube and other internet sources. For more information contact Dave Schmidt at dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com or (330) 652-5825.

Children's Program to Coincide with "Real Life Holiness"

March 13, 14, 15 our parish is holding a Lenten Mission entitled "Real Life Holiness: Stories of Forgiveness, Prayer & Gratitude" (see enclosed flyer). Parishioners with children ages 3 to 10 may enroll them in a Children's Program we are offering each of those evenings. The Children's Program will consist of stories, videos, crafts and games that fit the themes that their parents will be hearing at the Lenten Mission.

Parishioners may enroll their children by contacting Dave Schmidt at dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com or (330) 652-5825 by March 7. There are a limited number of spaces available on a first-reserved, first-served basis. The Children's Program will be held in the Annex.

Men's Conference

The Catholic Men's Fellowship of Northeast Ohio will hold their annual conference for men at the University of Akron on Saturday, April 2, in the James A. Rhodes Arena. Speakers include Deacon Ralph Poyo, who spent his career inspiring thousands of young people while working with youth groups, and Dour Barry, founder and director of RADIX: an organization devoted to spreading and defending the Catholic faith.

Last year, over 1,000 men were in attendance. This year, the goal is to especially invite young Catholic men to the conference. Fathers and grandfathers are asked to invite their sons and grandsons who are juniors and seniors in high school or college students to join the many other men expected at the conference.

For more information contact Dave Schmidt at (330) 652-5825 or dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com

You are Invited to "Real Life Holiness"

You are invited to a Lenten Mission entitled "Real Life Holiness: Stories of Forgiveness, Prayer & Gratitude" presented by Jim Merhaut on March 13, 14 & 15 here at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Each evening will begin at 7:00PM in the church and conclude with a simple reception downstairs in Marian Hall.

In addition to being a speaker, Jim Merhaut is a musician and an award author. He is the president/CEO of Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center. He resides in Canfield with Debbie, his wife of 23 years, and their five children.

For more information contact Dave Schmidt at (330) 652-5825 or dschmidtkofc@neo.rr.com

Cavatelli Dinner of February 20, 2011:

Dinners served: 114

Estimated profit: \$361.35

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society will hold its monthly Homemade Pizza Sale on Friday, March 4 from 11:00AM-4:00PM at the school annex. Regular, potato, spinach and combos (potato and spinach combined) pizza are available. **Please place your order by calling (330) 652-2811 the Thursday before 12:00PM of the sale date.** Orders cannot be taken after 12:00PM on Thursday, March 3. Walk-ins only between 1:00-4:00PM. Pick up time remains 11:00AM-4:00PM.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society is having its Easter Bread Sale on Tuesday, April 19 and Wednesday, April 20 in the school annex. Price is \$7.00 for plain or \$8.00 for raisins. Icing is available upon request. Pick up time is between 3:00-6:00PM. To place an order, please call Cathy at (330) 448-2227 or the church office at (330) 652-5825. **Last day to place an order is Friday, April 15 by 7:00PM to Cathy's phone number.**

Salamanca Casino Trip for Relay for Life will be held on Sunday, March 6. Cost is \$30.00 per person (each person will receive \$25 in coin; \$10 in a food voucher). Bus leaves from the Niles Wellness Center at 8:30AM and returns approximately at 9:00PM. Money is non-refundable but ticket can be transferred if unable to attend. Coffee and donuts at 7:30AM at the Well, games, refreshments and movies on the bus. Come and have a great time while supporting a great cause! Sign up at the Niles Wellness Center or Niles City Building or call (330) 349-9355 for more information or to sign up.

Church Overseas Combined Collection- February 20

Last weekend, the Diocese of Youngstown sponsored the **Church Overseas Combined Collection** for ministries to needy people. Thank you for your participation in this important collection. If you did not have the opportunity to respond last week, there is still time to contribute to this combined collection. If you would like more information on these collections, call the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of Social Action, or the Office of Missions at the Diocesan offices ~ (330) 744-8451.

Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center will offer a RCIA Retreat Day: We are Companions on the Journey on Saturday, April 16. The day will include presentations, time for personal reflection, sharing between sponsor and the elect and/or candidate, and a closing prayer service. Cost per person: \$22.00 per person (1-5 participants); \$20.00 per person (6-10 participants); \$18.00 per person (11+ participants). Registration requested by March 14, 2011. For additional information, directions or to register on-line: (724) 964-8886 or www.villaprograms.org

Don't let the IRS tax your IRA

If you have an IRA and are at an age where you are required to take distributions, you know how taxing that experience can be. As a supporter of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church you should be aware that congress recently renewed special incentives to make charitable gifts through retirement accounts. The legislation allows you to keep those IRA withdrawals up to \$100,000 from ever being taxed. For a free brochure that describes these incentives, call Mr. Pat Palumbo, Director of Development & Stewardship, at (330) 744-8451 ext. 325 or email Mr. Palumbo at ppalumbo@youngstowndiocese.org

New Hope United Methodist Church, 21 Fairview Ave., Niles is having a Soup and Salad Bar on Saturday, March 5 from 4:00-6:30PM. A large variety of soups will be available. This dinner will benefit the Relay for Life. A bake sale will also be held. Cost is \$6.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children; under 5 are free.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 381 Robbins Ave., Niles is sponsoring Fish Dinners on Wednesday, March 9; Fridays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 4:00-7:00PM in Marian Hall. Cost is \$8.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children. Dinner includes: baked or fried fish, choice of French fries or macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, cake and beverage. Take-outs are available. Come see what is new and exciting!

Attention prayerful single men!

The famous Gethsemani Trappist Abbey in Trappist, Kentucky will be hosting several free "Live-In Experience" vocational retreats for single men 18-55. Work and pray with the monks and enjoy the vocational talks. You can stay during the weekend only or as long as a week. The Gethsemani Trappist Retreat dates are: March 4-11, March 11-18, April 1-8, April 8-15, May 2-9 and May 9-16. There is no cost but space is limited. If you take a bus or plane to Louisville, Kentucky the monks will pick you up. For additional dates and information call 1-502-549-4103 or email abbey@monks.org Call in the morning from 8:00AM-12:00PM is best.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 348 Robbins Ave., Niles is having Shrove Tuesday (Sausage and All You Can Eat Pancakes) on Tuesday, March 8 from 4:30-6:30PM. Cost is \$6.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children ages 6-12: children 5 and under is free; a family (with school age children) \$12.00 maximum. For information call (330) 652-2952 or (330) 652-4057.

2011 Engaged Encounter Weekend Schedule

The next weekend opportunity for Marriage Preparation will be May 6-8 at St. Leonard's Retreat Center, Avon, Ohio. For reservations and information, call Dennis and Rita at (440) 572-8954; e-mail at Daarlings5@aol.com or www.clevelandencounter.com/registration.htm

Jump start your St. Patrick's Day celebration with Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities First Annual Irish Comalya will be held on Saturday, March 12 from 6:00-10:00PM at St. Michael Parish Family Life Center, 300 N. Broad St., Canfield. Live performances by County Mayo and traditional Celtic Music by Colleen McNally-Harris and Harper Kirk. Hors d'oeuvres buffet, cash bar featuring Irish beer and stout, games, prizes, raffles. Enter to win our "Luck of the Irish" Dream Vacation raffle. Drawing will be at 9:30PM for a \$3,000 travel voucher to use anywhere in the world! Raffle tickets are \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100.00. Winner need not be present. Event tickets are \$20.00 each. 21 and over, please. For more information, call (330) 744-8451 ext. 328 or visit www.ccdoy.org

St. Rose Parish, 48 E. Main St., Girard will have a "Winter Warm-Up Cook-Off" on Sunday, March 13 from 12:30-3:30PM in the Lower Church Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 and features: Several chefs, pizza and pop for sale, Chinese auction, bake sale. Come to "sample" and "vote" for your favorite dish.

Capuchin Franciscan Friars: For 800 years followers of Saint Francis of Assisi have been rebuilding the Church. The Capuchin Franciscans are priests and brothers who serve Christ in the spirit of Saint Francis. Men between the ages of 16 and 40 are invited to visit a Capuchin friary. Visits to Capuchin friaries in Pennsylvania, Washington, DC and Ohio are held regularly. For more information call 1-888-263-6227 or email frtomcap@yahoo.com or visit www.capuchin.com

St. Luke Church Banquet Hall, 5225 South Ave., Boardman invites you to a Mardi Gras Beer Taste on Saturday, March 5 at 6:00PM. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Food, music, dancing, Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle and more! Tickets are available at St. Luke Parish Office. Call (330) 782-9783 for further information.

Catholic Cruise to the Exotic Western Carribean

Come and sail away on a 7 night Catholic Exotic Western Carribean Cruise with Fr. Martin Jones on September 18-25, 2011 on the Carnival Valor out of Miami, FL. Ports of call: Grand Caymen Island, Isla Roatan, Belize, Cozumel (Mexico). Prices begin at \$1,112 for two passengers which includes all port fees and taxes. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposits of only \$50.00 per person will reserve your cabin. Space is limited. For further information or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at 1-860-399-1785 or dpayttc@aol.com

The Benedictine Sisters of the Byzantine Church at Queen of Heaven Monastery, are offering a day of spirituality on Saturday, March 12 from 1:00-5:00PM. It will be held at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Center, 180 Belvedere Ave. NE, Warren. To register, please call (330) 856-1813 or e-mail gohm@netdotcom.com before Tuesday, March 8. The presenter will be Rev. Thomas Wesdock, Pastor of St. Gregory Nazianus Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, PA. His topic for the day is "The Great Fast: The Journey to the Spiritual Feast of Pascha." There will be time for reflection, questions, and refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation. You are welcome to pray Vespers with the Sisters.

God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage is a day-long marriage preparation workshop designed to assist engaged couple in preparing for their life-long vocation of marriage. It is a day to study, review, and learn the truth, beauty and joy of God's plan for marriage. There will be time for couples to focus on their relationship with each other, with Christ, and with His Church. The retreat day begins at 9:00AM and concludes at 4:00PM; consists of a series of short presentations providing basic instruction in the nature of the Sacrament of Marriage- its' essential elements, marriage as a Christian vocation, as well as couple discussion and prayer. In addition, couples will receive a clear understanding of Christian sexuality and the role that God desires to play in marriage and family life. The next retreat is Saturday, January 29 at St. Columba Cathedral, 154 W. Wood Ave., Youngstown. Cost is \$60 per couple and includes lunch. Registration forms are available in the parish office. Deadline to register is Friday, March 25. Space is limited so register early!

A Family Perspective

Because we believe we can control and create our own world, we attempt to juggle multiple agendas and we pay a price of neglecting those closest to us. Too late we reach the point of asking "Was it worth it?" We really can't serve two masters.

~By Bud Ozar