

Reading for this Week

Monday: 2 Sm 5: 1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6: 12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Acts 22: 3-16; Mk 16:15-18
Thursday: 2 Tm 1: 1-8, Mk 4: 21-25
Friday: 2 Sm 11: 1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4: 26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12: 1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4: 35-41
Sunday: Dt 18: 15-20; 1 Cor 7: 32-35; Mk 1: 21-28

You can now find the daily readings on our Parish Website!

PRAYER FOR UNITY

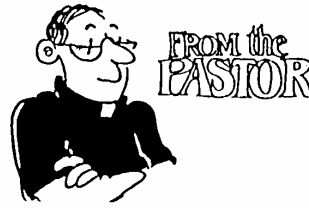
This is the Week of Prayer for Church Unity (January 18-25). We continue to pray for unity with our brothers and sisters in other churches. Perhaps you (and your family) can say the following prayer each day:

God of all people, you have blessed us with the gift of faith. Allow your presence in our lives to lead us to each other, seeking unity over division. May our churches approach one another in good will so that we can join in prayer, in service, and in mutual study of our beliefs. Bring us closer to each other so that one day we will find true communion as we celebrate your presence in our lives. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME

We have been seeing many visitors at each Mass. Welcome. We pray that you feel at home with us. Two things: First of all, please do not hesitate to ask questions. There is a white binder of "Questions of the Week" that you may want to look at. Maybe you have the same questions. Or you can talk to any of us.

Secondly, if you are planning to join Blessed John XXIII Parish, please pick up one of the registration forms at the table near the door. By registering, we get to know you and include you in our regular communiqués.



**PASTOR'S NOTE:
Thirty-Three Years Later**

Those old enough will always remember the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7. For many others, September 11, the day of the terrorist attacks, is permanently etched on their minds. Those who survived the tsunami in the Indian Ocean will readily tell you that it took place on December 26, the day after Christmas.

January 22 is a date that fits the same category. In 1973, with the Roe v Wade decision, the Supreme Court overturned state laws that made abortion illegal.

Many don't remember, but there were legal abortions before 1973 in some states. Since then, however, there have been millions of abortions. The issue continues to be a major topic for political elections.

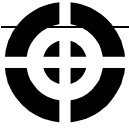
On this anniversary, I want to make only a few points.

First, any society is judged by how it protects the weakest members of its community. Therefore, those who cannot stand up for themselves or speak for themselves need the protection of the society. This applies to the weakest members both before birth and after birth. It seems that our country often fails on both counts.

Secondly, changing laws must be only part of the picture. Changing hearts and helping people see alternatives to abortion is also important. A willingness to support those who are facing pregnancy and those who have already given give birth is essential to a pro-life mentality. Reverence for all human life helps people respect the life of the unborn.

Finally, we must be concerned for those who have chosen an abortion. My experience is that post-abortion trauma is real. Through counseling or programs like Project Rachel (419-260-5811 or projectrachel@toledodiocese.org), people who have chosen abortion can start to find reconciliation with God.

On this day, we pray that our own hearts will become more sensitive to the value of human life.



**GENERATIONS OF FAITH
REGISTRATIONS IS NOW CLOSED**

Generations of Faith registrations for January are now closed. Our next Generations of Faith gathering will be February 26/27. We will study the section of the Creed, "We believe in God the Father, the Almighty the creator of heaven and earth and of all that is seen and unseen," and explore images of God. Registration materials for Feb. game tickets will be available soon.

If you are new to the Blessed John Community, Generations of Faith is our Parish Religious Education process. GOF is open to learners of all ages. For more information please contact Marla Overholt at moverholt@blessedjohn.org.



**COOKING AND SET-UP HELP
NEEDED FOR GOF JANUARY GATHERINGS**

Cooking and set-up help is needed for Generations of Faith, Jan. 29 and 30. Anyone interested in helping set-up, take down, and help in the kitchen for our next Generations of Faith gatherings, please contact Marla Overholt at moverholt@blessedjohn.org. The GOF team is always open to new helpers in these areas. Set up begins on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in Haskins and after 3:30 p.m. on Monday in Dowling! Want to help?? Call the parish office (419-662-3180), or email Marla!! Thanks!!

**"VISITATION TO THE SICK" MINISTRY
MEETING**

Those who have indicated a desire to be trained for ministry to the sick in the hospital as well as those in nursing homes or confined in their own homes, are reminded of a training meeting at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 25, at Christ Lutheran Church, Dowling.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Our Sunday offering last weekend was \$2,547. Thank you. We continue to ask God for generous and grateful hearts.

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

At this weekend's 5:00 p.m. Mass, we joyfully accept into the Catechumenate our RCIA candidates for this year: Adrienne Amborski, Steve Hirzel, and Lana Horner. We also pledge them our on-going prayers.

SMALL FAITH GROUPS DURING LENT

Blessed John XXIII will provide opportunities for adult parishioners to belong to small faith groups for the six weeks of Lent. You may sign up for the day of the week and time of your choice. Each group will meet in someone's home with a facilitator and printed materials to guide you. Sign-up will be on the weekends of February 4-5 and 11-12.



**FIRST EUCHARIST CLASSES BEGIN FEB. 9TH
IN DOWLING**

Attention all second graders or older! If your family would like to prepare you for First Eucharist, please plan to attend the Feb 9, 2006 meeting from 7:00-8:30 p.m. This will be a joint session with parents and kids.

Your household will need to be registered and attending Generations of Faith to begin the process. If you would like to register, contact Marla Overholt at moverholt@blessedjohn.org. Please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to the first session.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CONTINUES
JANUARY 23**



PRAYER CHAIN “UP AND RUNNING”

Our next Confirmation session will be Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Dowling. We will be meeting upstairs in the church this session. Please bring your service experience assignment if you have not already turned it in!! Please pray for our candidates for Confirmation!! We have a really special group who will be and already are a great asset to the Blessed John community!!

If you have indicated an interest to be part of the parish prayer chain, praying for those who are sick or in need, you can join our circle by e-mailing Bill/Mary Batchelor at billbatchelor@msn.com or calling, if you do not have email, the office (419-662-3180). Your name will be included each time a prayer request comes in.

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT PARISH GROWTH

Since our parish began, parish growth has been impressive. Thanks to all who have reached out and invited others who may be searching for a place to call their home.

If you know of someone who needs to be prayed for, please call the office or email tcarella@blessedjohn.org. There are 50 people, and growing, on the prayer chain who will be praying for you. Thank you.

At the same time, it may be good for us to remember to respect neighboring parishes and their active members. Any one parish is blessed as its neighboring parishes also flourish and remain healthy.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

I do not like the term “stealing parishioners” because, frankly, people are not stolen; they go where they want to go. Nonetheless, it is not for us to seek out active members of other parishes if they live outside our jurisdiction.

As a priest I have had many, many occasions to anoint people: before surgery, in the hospital, near death, and at communal anointing services at Mass. I have found it to be a powerful reminder of the presence of the church in someone’s life when he or she is in need. In two weeks we will be anointing the sick at Sunday Mass. If you are chronically ill, infirm because of age, or facing surgery, you may wish to be anointed. The rest of us will be praying for you at that time.

By all means, share your excitement and enthusiasm about Blessed John. And please continue to invite to Mass or any of our programs those who may be interested. It is ideal if we can do this as good neighbors, always respecting the churches around us. Thank you. - Fr. Herb

NURSERY SCHEDULE

‘GOING DEEPER’ SESSIONS

Fr. Herb’s next series, “Know Your Church,” will be on Tuesdays, Feb 14, 21, 28, and March 7. All sessions will be 7:00-8:30 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church, Dowling. Come and “go deeper” in your understanding of your faith.

Every Sunday at Mass we offer a co-op nursery which is open to children of all ages. The nursery is located down the hallway to the right of the restrooms, across from the gym. Each week we have 2 parent volunteers on hand who will provide care and fun for your children while you participate in mass. Feel free to come and check us out!

The following parents have volunteered for the upcoming weeks. Please contact Lisa Suelzer at alisa.suelzer@owenscorning.com if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

January 22nd Marc and Lisa Suelzer
January 29th Adrienne Amborski (still need a 2nd volunteer for this week)
February All dates open

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RETREAT FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All those who have been part of a parish committee or Steering Committee are invited to be part of a four-hour "retreat" on Sunday, February 12, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, just west of Haskins on Highway 582. It will be an exciting time as we come together to pray and set the course for our continued work. A meal is included, so an RSVP to the parish office (419-662-3180) is necessary. Those who have not yet been part of a committee but want to participate are welcome. Please call us. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Doug and Lisa Rhodes who are celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary today. Ad multos annos!

PRAVERS FOR FR. HERB

Let's pray for Fr. Herb as he prepares to walk the "last walk" with Glenn Brenner on Feb. 7th. May he be an instrument of God's peace for Glenn and for the families of his victims Cynthia Sedgwick and Trina Bowser. May God give him courage, as he undertakes this work of mercy! Marla

ST. CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH, NEW ORLEANS

We are seriously looking at "adopting" St. Clement of Rome Parish in Metairie (Jefferson Parish). Like most of the city, it had serious damage from Hurricane Katrina and aftermath. The parish and school are both now up and running but with reduced numbers, serious damage to their buildings, and with little support from parishioners, who have their own problems (not to mention the many who have not been able to return.)

At the adult sessions of Generations of Faith, you will have a chance to learn more about this parish and what we can possibly do.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Visited by an Angel? Do not be afraid...the Lord is with you" is the title of the Annual Women's Retreat at Lial Renewal Center, Whitehouse, Feb 18-20. For more information, please contact Sr. Joanne Mary, 419-724-1412

PARISH LIFE NEEDS YOU!!

Here at Blessed John, we want to have something for everybody. So far, we have the Nursery, Junior Youth Group (just forming), and the Teen Team. We have identified the following groups of interest: singles, families, empty nesters, seniors, men's group, and ladies' group. If you fall into one of these (and we all do), we are looking for your input. Please call the parish office or email dmouch3045@aol.com with your interests, questions, or comments. Our parish really is its people.

HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE

'THEOLOGY ON TAP' MAY BE FOR YOU

'Theology on Tap,' an evening for married and single young adults (ages 18-35), will be held at the Ground Round in Maumee for 3 consecutive Thursdays beginning January 26th. This week's topic is "Friend or Foe? Developing Healthy Relationships" led by Teresa Lammers.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

An informational meeting on God and the Church as it relates to persons who are separated or divorced will be held on January 24 at St. Joseph Parish in Sylvania. The time is 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the school banquet hall next to the Church. For more information call Tim Etue 419-244-6711 ext 404 or email tetue@toldeodiocese.org.

From the Church Office

If you would like your 2005 Contribution Statement, please contact Tina by calling and leaving a message at the parish office (419-662-3180), by placing a note with your name and address in the collection basket, or by sending a note to Tina at P.O. Box 48/ Perrysburg, OH 43552. Statements will be ready by January 30th. Thank you.

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHTED ADVERTISER

Please place Advanced Home Analysis, Inc.