

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

- Tuesday, April 25 **9:00 a.m. River's Edge**
 - *William Joyce, Sr.*
- Saturday, April 29 **5:00 p.m. Dowling**
 - *Parish*
- Sunday, April 30 **9:30 a.m. Perrysburg HS**
 - *John Farley, Sr.*



**Pastor's Note:
SINGING LIKE AN ANGEL**

About two weeks ago I received a special treat from a parishioner who didn't even know she was sharing it with me.

As the parish joined together to sing the Lord's Prayer, I was next to one of our pre-school children. She not only knew all the words, but she also sang it loudly and clearly. She was addressing God; it was the prayer of an innocent child. I was the lucky one to hear it and take inspiration from it.

Some saint (could it have been Francis of Assisi?) once said that "singing is praying twice." There is something to that. It takes energy to lift one's voice, but in doing so, a person can go beyond mere words. In the very effort of singing, there can be a connecting of heart and soul with God.

Of course, not everyone is a gifted singer and not everyone knows all the songs. Yet the very willingness to make an effort is itself a blessing. The person who tries will be praising God while also investing himself or herself more completely in the Mass.

There's another great gift that comes from singing. Many of the songs stay with you after you leave church. Humming or singing them as you go out the door is one of the finer ways to have a good word on your lips. It's a way of taking a bit of Mass home with you.

Reading for this Week
Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5: 27-33; Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21
Sunday: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a;
 Lk 24:35-48
You can now find the daily readings on our Parish Website!



WELCOME

Welcome to all who have returned after being with us for Easter. We are happy to have you with us. Please take some time to introduce yourself if you can. And don't hesitate to come back again. You will find literature about our parish as well as registration forms at the tables near the east doors of the school.

REGISTERED PARISHIONERS

In case you are wondering, we have passed the 200 mark in terms of households registered for our parish. Welcome to all. Our doors are always open for those who are trying to find a church that helps them on their faith journey.

Please consider wearing a nametag, so we can all get to know each other better.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.blessedjohn.org**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



GENERATION OF FAITH

Our last GOF for this year will be April 30/May 1. Now is the time to sign up for this gathering. We will be taking an in-depth look at Pentecost and, of course, the Holy Spirit! We have space available in all three of our GOF sessions: Sunday, April 30 at 1 p.m. (Haskins), Sunday, April 30 at 4:30 p.m. (Haskins), and Monday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. (Dowling).

Season ticket holders are already registered. Please let Marla know at moverholt@blessedjohn.org, if you need to change your gathering time or if you are unable to attend. This information is needed to get an accurate food count! The deadline to register for this gathering is April 24, 2006! Registration forms are on the tables at Mass.



WE WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

Abby Johnson, daughter of Michelle Evers and Kevin Johnson, *Kelsey Keen*, daughter of Jennifer Gibson and Luke Keen, and *Cassidy Dankert*, daughter of Sarah Gibson and John Dankert. May the Lord bless them and their families, and guide them on their spiritual paths.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

If you think you may be interested in exploring the Catholic faith and joining the church, please contact Fr. Herb for an informal interview. He can be reached at his cell number: 419-260-4849 or at hweber@blessedjohn.org. This may be the time to check it out. RCIA will resume in September.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We would like to offer a warm welcome to new parishioners: Fernando and Virginia Crotte, Joan Kornasiewicz, Mary Wehde, Sam and Sharon Scamardo and family, David and Carol Zick and family, Rodney and Jacqueline Shultz and family, Terry and Meghan Russell and family, Erik and



Tricia Young and family, Jim and Christy Jordan and family, Vicki Hartkopf, Bob and Mary Kopko and family, Aaron and Joanna Harwell and family, Bill and Holly James and family, and Yvar and Mindy Yap and family.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Our Easter collection was \$8,556.00. Thank you. Many people have really taken it to heart their need to give to the church, to be faithful contributors of our community. God's blessings will be yours. Remember, no matter how generous we are, God will outdo it somehow.

ACA BEGINS

The Annual Catholic Appeal is the Diocesan annual campaign to raise money to run the Diocese and the many services and programs it provides. What people need to remember is that we don't exist except as part of the Diocese. What is funded through this drive -- from our religious education support to our seminarian and priest education to marriage annulments to Catholic Charities work to much more -- affects us directly.

What we are looking for this year, our first year at Blessed John, is a VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION. Your chance to make a pledge or give a gift will be next week. Thank you.



First Eucharist

JESUS NIGHT

Jesus Night retreat will be Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Dowling. This retreat night is for our First Eucharist candidates and their parents. Babysitting will be available for siblings. Please pray for our candidates as they get closer to their special day! You can meet these fine candidates by viewing their pictures on the easel near the information tables at our weekend liturgies! First Communion will be May 7th.

HOME VISITS/PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

If you are unable to, or someone you know cannot, attend Mass on a regular basis, we welcome the opportunity to bring Holy Communion to your home. Please contact Linda Edwards 419-878-0465 or the parish office 419-662-3180.



TODAY'S THE DAY

Many families and individuals have saved money through their Lenten self-denials and set it aside for our parish sponsorship of St. Clement of Rome Parish, Metairie, Louisiana. Our project is to help provide materials for classrooms in their parish school where many teachers are in a make-shift setting since the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina. We hope to use the money collected to provide paper, notebooks, posters, markers, pencils, reference works, and other classroom needs.

Please place your offerings in one of the "tubs" in front of the altar today before Mass. If you forgot to bring it in, please do so next week. Thank you.

HOSPITALIZED PARISHIONERS

We want to be there for you. Because of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act), hospitals will not release names of patients without your approval. If you are hospitalized, it is important for you, or a family member, to **call our office** and also to answer, **"Yes,"** when you are asked if you want your church to be notified of your admission.

PRAYER CHAIN

Many people have added names to the parish prayer chain. Thanks to all who have continued to pray for those who are sick or otherwise in need of prayer. If you are interested in joining or you have a prayer request, go to our website www.blessedjohn.org and click on prayer chain. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the office 419-662-3180.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

The following parents have volunteered for the co-op nursery which we have every Sunday at Mass. We would like two parent volunteers on hand who will provide care and fun for your children. Please contact Lisa Suelzer at alisa.suelzer@owenscorning.com if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

Apr 23	Dave and Valerie Suelzer
Apr 30	Roger and Dana Frank
May 7	Marc and Lisa Suelzer

SPOTLIGHT OF THE NATION

It is very sad that the nation's media is turning its attention on the Toledo Diocese with the murder trial of Fr. Gerald Robinson. With headlines like, "Priest accused of killing nun," there is bound to be interest from tabloids and others. Perhaps some of you have been asked about this event or even ridiculed for being Catholic. How should we Catholics respond?

First of all, it is a hallmark of our country's justice system that a person is "innocent until proven guilty." This is often quoted, but many simply jump to conclusions of guilt once there is an accusation or indictment. Please try to keep this attitude in mind.

Secondly, we pray for justice. That is, we pray that the system works and that Fr. Robinson will be treated fairly by all.

Most importantly, however, we have to step back and think about our understanding of priests, sisters, and all religious leaders. There is something unseemly about a priest even being on trial. This is embarrassing and challenging to our faith.

We hold religious leaders to high standards, and we should. We also have to admit that just because a person has made a commitment to serve God, that doesn't remove that person from sinful temptations, wrong thinking, bad decisions, or illegal actions. Simply put, priests are humans who, like the population in general, can fail.

I am not concluding anything about Father Robinson's case. Like everyone else, I don't know. But I do know that as Christians we need to pray for him as we pray for anyone else who may have to go through what he's facing in the courts.

I did not know Sr. Margaret Ann Pahl, who was killed in 1980, but this must be a very hard time for her family and her religious community, the Sisters of Mercy. Please pray for them as well.

Finally, I ask your prayers for all priests as well as those among us who will have to "explain their faith" to others during this time. Who knows, it may be a graced moment for sharing your beliefs, something that someone else may need. – HW

*Rejoice,
and again
I say -
Rejoice!*

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

NOT OVER, BUT...

We had a great, jubilant celebration of Easter last weekend, but Easter is not over. It goes on for several weeks as we reflect on the wonders of the Paschal mystery. Now is our time to *live* Easter.

LOOKING AHEAD

In two weeks, on May 7, we will celebrate with our children who will receive the Eucharist for the first time. That week, because of previously scheduled use of the Commons, our Mass will be in the school auditorium once again.

LENTEN GROUPS

From what we have heard, those who participated in the Lenten small faith groups found them to be a blessing. We want to continue to do this and make small groups available to all...maybe again in the fall. Please let me know your comments. – Fr. Herb



THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thank you so much to all those who helped in any way with the liturgical celebrations of Holy Week. Holy Thursday's foot washing and celebration of the Last Supper Mass was inspiring. The Good Friday veneration of the Cross was moving. Saturday's Easter Vigil was exhilarating as we baptized and confirmed the adults of RCIA.

And Sunday morning's joy-filled Masses were jubilant. Thanks to those who decorated, served in many liturgical ministry capacities, and led us in music. It was all outstanding. And a special word of thanks to Michael Pappas for his leadership with the music through all these days.

No one who was here will forget this first Easter for Blessed John XXIII Parish.

LISTEN TO HOLY WEEK'S MASSES

Our Masses are digitally recorded. You can borrow the CD to play in your car or share with a friend. Just stop at the tables after Mass at the High School.

MID-WEEK MEDITATIONS

Fr. Herb sends out a short Mid-Week Meditation each week. If you want to be on the e-mail list, then please e-mail him at hweber@blessedjohn.org and he will include you. Just what you need to keep your focus in the middle of the week



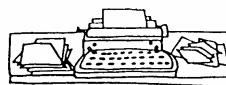
TEEN TEAM SPRING CLEAN OUT

Start gathering up your clothing that you no longer need to help out the Teen Team of Blessed John and Saint Vincent DePaul.

There is a special need at this time of year for clothing and shoes. Saint Vincent DePaul will have a truck parked at Blessed John before and after Mass **next week**, Sunday, April 30th. Please bring your unwanted CLOTHES or SHOES to Mass to drop off for the needy. Thank you for your generosity.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for next week's bulletin is Monday at 12:00 noon. Please submit your article by email to tcarella@blessedjohn.org.



Thanks.

SUCCESSFUL STEPFAMILIES WORKSHOP

Kevin Ricker and Cyd Laurel, counselors and stepparents, will present two workshops: Sunday, April 30, 4:00-5:30 p.m., at Christ the King Parish, Toledo; and Sunday, May 7, 4:00-5:30 p.m., at St. Michael's.

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHTED ADVERTISER

Please place "Dale's Bar & Grill"
ad here