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From Fr. Tom

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



The past two weeks I have written about lay involvement in parish life with a hint at evangelization. When most people think of evangelization it may be of missionary orders of priests and religious going out to foreign lands to bring people to Jesus. While that is one part of Church's mission to evangelize, another important part is the parish. Unfortunately, evangelization has probably not been our experience as Catholics growing up and living in our parish, besides taking up collections to support those religious communities working overseas.

Most of us would have experienced life in our parish with lots of people in the pews on Sunday, lots of children in the Catholic schools and CDD programs, lots of things happening in the parish for and by the lots of people. What we experienced in the middle of the 20th Century in the middle of America was a distinctive time in our history. Some of the reason for this time was many waves of immigrants coming into our country, many who were our grandparents or great-grandparents, and the baby boom after the Second World War. This unmatched growth of Catholics led to the building of new parishes, many centered around various ethnic groups, and putting all our efforts in

maintaining what we had. The idea of evangelization probably never occurred because we were too busy taking care of our own.

Our challenge today is to accept that only taking care of our own is not going to cut it. We are facing the mission we have long been able to ignore. There are too many reasons for this to mention here, but we are moving into a time similar to that of early Christianity. The fastest growing group in the United States is the "Nones", people who are not connected to any organized religion. In 1990 they made up 13% of the population, in 2024 over 30%. Currently surveys show 17% of "nones" identify as atheist, 20% say they are agnostic and 63% choose "nothing in particular."

We do not have to go to another country to evangelize, for mission territory is in our own backyard. It means we need to recover one of the reasons parish communities were formed in the first place, to bring the Good News of Jesus to the world, not only by words, but by our example, by our actions. It is a lot to take in, and it looks like a mounting task, but it is what we are called to do. If we care about our parishes, we need to do more than only taking care of us. Taking care of ourselves is only the one first step in forming us and building us up to carry on Jesus' mission.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Tom

"THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU"

AN EVENING OF RECONCILIATION

On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, our parish and parishes throughout the Diocese of Youngstown will offer an "Evening of Reconciliation." During this time the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available as a sign for all to embrace and live God's mercy and love more completely. As Pope Francis says, "the joy of God is the joy of forgiveness." Plan to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your Lenten journey on March 19, 2025.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Our St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 16 from 12:15 - 2:15pm in our social hall. Catered by Chef Christopher Bonacci, the menu will include the following: Corn Beef & Cabbage, Pierogi, Chicken Francaise, Potato, Vegetable, Salad & Dessert. Tickets must be purchased by Sunday, March 9. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Adults: \$10; children 10 and under: \$6. Dine-in only. The **Luck of the Irish Raffle** will be held during the dinner.

JOIN US FOR CRS RICE BOWL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

CRS Rice Bowl is celebrating 50 years of helping Catholic faith communities bring Lent to life and encounter God through our global family. During the 40 days of Lent, let us journey together through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Visit crsricebowl.org/join to share your Lenten prayer intentions.

March 2, 2025

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 2

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00am Sherry Veauthier

Monday, March 3

8:30am Watson & Palmer Family

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

8:30am Mass at St. Angela Merici

12:10pm Mass at Christ the Good Shepherd

6:00pm Mass at St. Patrick's

Friday, March 7

8:00am Mass at Christ the Good Shepherd

Sunday, March 9

1st Sunday of Lent

11:00am Jennie Colla

Monday, March 10

8:30am Joseph Connolly

Stewardship at St. Patrick

Regular (50 envelopes)	\$6,829.00
Visitor	20.00
Electronic Giving (28)	1,638.00
Weekly Budget Amount	8,700.00
Difference	- 213.00
Novena	65.00
Preservation	270.00

Attendance at Mass: 164

Thank you for your continued generosity!

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

We are finally back together in classes this week after two weeks out of in person classes. This Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, March 5th, the Church begins the season of Lent as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday. These 40 days of preparation for the Resurrection are meant to have us focusing on prayer, sacrifice, and giving as we contemplate the ultimate sacrifice Christ gave for us in giving His life for our sins. To help you and your family consider ways to prepare together there are some lists on your parish website or Facebook page. Your student will also be given some resources during class on March 2nd. Let's all help each other make this a true season of giving of ourselves for others just as Christ gave of Himself for us.

Beth Jones

beth@stangelayoungstown.org

LUCK OF THE IRISH

We are just 14 days away from our biggest annual parish fundraiser, our **Luck of the Irish Raffle!** First prize is \$10,000. Tickets are \$100, and only 500 are sold. To date, we have 240 tickets sold. To purchase a ticket *and/or split one with friends/family*, please call the rectory at 330-743-1109.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

"Four Shady Ladies: The Genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel" Join facilitator Jim Johnston on the following Tuesdays from 11:30am - 12:45pm in the rectory: March 11, March 25, April 1, and April 8. Please call 330-743-1109 to register.

SOUP & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us on **Fridays** during Lent for soup and Stations of the Cross. Beginning on Friday, March 7, the schedule will be Soup at 5:30pm and Stations at 6:15pm.

*****Calling all soup makers!** If you would be interested in making a crockpot of soup for one of the Fridays, please call the rectory at 330-743-1109.

The Sanctuary Candle

burns

March 1 thru March 7

in memory of

Sherry Veauthier

from Ralph Veauthier.

FIRST FRIDAY

The next First Friday Club Luncheon & Speaker Series will be held on Thursday, March 6 from 11:30am - 1:00pm at Avion on the Water Banquet Center.



Very Rev. John-Michael Lavelle, Vicar of Missionary Discipleship and Pastor, Saint Michael Parish, Canfield will be the speaker. His program is "A Church in Search of Hope: Celebrating the Jubilee." The cost to attend is \$15. Call the rectory at 330-743-1109 to reserve your seat.