

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 11**  
4:00pm SFX Amy Robertson by Family  
6:00pm SG David Casper by Shirley Espenscheid

**Sunday, March 12—2nd Sunday of Lent**  
8:30am SFX Living and Deceased members of both parishes  
10:30am SG Ruth Pilati by Coletta Crawford

**Monday, March 13**  
8:00am SFX Vi Scurto by Family

**Tuesday, March 14**  
9:00am SG Imelda Peaters by Paul Laher & Family

**Wednesday, March 15**  
8:00am SFX Mabel Bendetta by Don & Virginia Bendetta

**Thursday, March 16**  
9:00am SG Tony & Diane Petrarco by Tim & Joanne Martin

**Friday, March 17**  
9am SG Communion Service

**Saturday, March 18**  
4:00pm SFX Helen Buzzelli by Husband & Son  
6:00pm SG Living and Deceased members of both parishes

**Sunday, March 19—3rd Sunday of Lent**  
8:30am SFX Iola Bryant by Thelma Nixon  
10:30am SG Mary Jo Casper by Robert & Patricia Ailes  
4:00pm SG Taize Prayer Service

## CHURCH SUPPORT:

May God bless you for your generosity to our parishes on **March 5, 2017**

**St. Gabriel:** Adult \$2,761; Loose \$446; Cap Imp. \$132; New Hall \$200; Europe \$315; Flowers \$55 CRS \$100.

**St. Francis Xavier:** Adult \$4,253; Loose \$207; New Hall \$1,975; Europe \$110; Flowers \$165.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** Please make any Checks covering your Regular Church contributions payable to the parish in which you are formally registered. The exception would be if you are making a donation to the New Hall Fund., which should be made payable to: St. Francis Church. Thanks.

**STEWARDSHIP** "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." Genesis 12:1

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live.

**VOCATION VIEWS:** This Lent Jesus invites us to go up on a mountain, to spend extra time in prayer. Don't be afraid of what you might experience. Trust that God is leading you to greater understanding. (Matthew 17:1-9)

## SICK AND SHUT-INS OF THE PARISH

### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

**Stone Crossing:** Vera Kompara  
**St. Joseph Care Center:** Fran Montella, Jerry Nicolet (SG)

### ST. GABRIEL

**Home:** Shirl Bonar; Ivette Martinez  
**Arbors (Great Trail) Nursing :** Richard Lane, Doris Ferguson.  
**St. Luke Minerva:** Stella Kiko;  
**Carroll Health Care:** Mary Wadsworth  
**The Pines:** Roman Ritterbeck (3015 17th St. NW, Canton, OH 44708)  
**McCrea Manor:** Sandra Romano  
2040 McCrea Street, Alliance, Ohio 44601

### Prayer Chain for St. Gabriel and St. Francis:

For the prayer list for St. Francis, please call Dolores Hudson at 330-863-0273; For St. Gabriel, please call Darlene Mackey at 330-868-6639.

**FOR ILL & HOSPITALIZED:** Please call Parish Office as soon as one is hospitalized, and/or to request home visits and Holy Communion, from either parish. The Eucharistic Ministers are not to make these arrangements. Whenever one is admitted to an area hospital, or nursing care facility please inform the Admissions Office you are Catholic and your Parish. Due to the Privacy of Information Act, hospitals no longer give out personal information.



## LENTEN REFLECTION:

Pope Francis tells us as we consider the Transfiguration that Jesus "took with him Peter, James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart" which represents an intimate encounter with God, a place of prayer. Up on the mount, Jesus is revealed to the three disciples as transfigured, luminescent and most beautiful. Then Moses and Elijah appear and converse with Him. Suddenly from on high the voice of the Father proclaims Jesus to be his most beloved Son, saying "listen to him".

From the event I would like to take two significant elements that can be summed up in two words: ascent and descent. We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to "descend the mountain" and return to where we meet many others weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance and poverty. To these, we are called to bear the fruit of our experience with God, by sharing the grace we have received. When we hear and listen to the Word of Jesus and carry it in our heart, this Word grows. Do you know how it grows? By giving it to others! The Word of Christ grows in us when we proclaim it, when we give it away freely! This is what Christian life is. It is a mission for all of us to listen to Jesus and offer him to others!

How might I listen to Jesus and share His love with others this week?

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [stgabriel-stfrancis.org](http://stgabriel-stfrancis.org)



**"Come Together, Build Our Future,  
"Leave a Legacy"  
Help keep the momentum growing. Support  
Our "New Parish Hall" Building Fund Drive.  
Help us get to get over the top!**

**Pledge Amounts as of 3/1/2017:**

\$259,794.00	Pledges & Gifts
\$ 57,760.00	Brick, Block and Window Pledges
\$ 317,554.00	Sub-total [Pledge Goal \$350,000]
\$ 79,169.41	Fundraisers/Organization gifts
\$ 13,703.00	Memorial Donations.
\$410,426.41	Total of Pledges and Gifts



## KEEP UP YOUR PRAYERS AND HELP!



**Hurray!** The Drawings for the New Hall have been reviewed and approved by the Diocesan Building Commission. The Hall Building Committee has met with representatives of the Diocese for approval to continue the process. The next stage is to submit the drawings for bids. In order to gain approval for this stage we must present a Financial Plan to the diocese on sources of funding. As you may recall from the beginning of this project, the Diocese requires that we meet three sources of funding: one-third of the project in pledges, one-third in cash/savings, and one-third in loans. In the time that has elapsed since our original projections we are still in need of funding. We will soon offer some ways of dealing with this situation. Your help through: pledges—if you have not yet had an opportunity to do so, other gifts and grant money, giving of your time and talent to assist with future fundraisers, or inviting others to help support our project. One of the reasons for the need of extra funding is do to capital improvements for the entire parish plant, such as upgrading the current Parking Lot. This project will give our parishes greater hope for our future survival in offering a Catholic presence in the northernmost part of our Diocese, especially the Carroll County area and be a sign of the life and vitality of our parishes..



**KEEP OUR VISION GROWING** We need to hear as soon as possible from anyone who has not yet had an opportunity to make a pledge, or gift. We invite all visitors to help in whatever way possible. Invite former parishioners and family members to help as they are able. No gift is too small! Thanks to the many who have already responded. Please pray for the success of our project. Information sheets and pledge cards are available in the narthex of the church, parish Web Site, or by calling the Parish Office.



## LENT 2017

**Days of Abstinence:** On all Fridays of Lent faithful Catholics observe the Law of Abstinence when we abstain from eating meat in solidarity with Christ who died for us. The Church is "confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice" (U.S. Conference Catholic Bishops).

**"Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis" Every MONDAY of Lent at 7pm,** alternating churches each week. **March 13 at St. Francis.**

**New! "Into the Heart of God: Jean Vanier Explores the Gospel of John in the Holy Land."** Following the Monday evening Stations of the Cross. Retrace the steps of Jesus through the Holy Land. Video and Discussion facilitated by Linda Shaw. Also offered again every Thursday of Lent at 1pm in the Annex Rooms at St. Gabriel.

**New! "Living Lent With Love: Encouragement and Daily Prayers from Pope Francis."** A FREE booklet of daily meditations by Pope Francis available in the narthex of each church. We have extra copies. Give one to a friend, children away from home or at college.

**New! "Best Lent Ever." Matthew Kelly,** email reflection on his book, "Resisting Happiness." Do more than give up chocolate for Lent! Sign up at [DynamicCatholic.com/Lent](http://DynamicCatholic.com/Lent)

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN

### INITIATION OF ADULTS

At the Rite of Election with Bishop Monforton our candidates **Cynthia Deeter, Makenzie Jordan and Nancy Jurkiewicz** were recognized as ready to enter into full communion with the Church by making a profession of faith and celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Please keep them in prayer during this Lenten period of Purification and Enlightenment. Please make them feel welcome among us.



### Into the Heart of God: The Gospel of John in the Holy Land

Following the Stations of the Cross on Mondays at 7 PM you are invited to join us for our Lenten discussion based on the Gospel of St. John presented by Jean Vanier of the L'Arche Community and facilitated by Linda Shaw. The series will focus on specific scriptures which we ask you to read prior to coming to the session. This week we will discuss the theme of light and darkness as it refers to the man born blind. Please read John 7:1-39 and 8:12-59. Come and join us for a reflective and prayerful evening as we journey together through this Lenten season. These sessions will conclude at 9 PM and are not continuous so please feel free to come even if you are unable to be there every week. This Monday we will meet at St. Francis.

## TRUE FRIENDSHIP

A true friend can hear a tear drop.  
—Anonymous

## FISH FRY DINNERS IN OUR PARISHES:

**ST GABRIEL** Fish Fry dinners at St. Gabriel will **BEGIN this Friday, Feb. 24 from 4:30-7pm.** There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex of the church for volunteers. Please watch the bulletin for more info. If you have

question, please call Ralph Halter at 330-205-5958 or Dave Cinson at 330-205-1324.

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER** Fish fry dinners will begin on Friday, **March 3rd from 5-7pm** in the social hall. There are sign-up sheets in the

narthex of the church for volunteers. Please watch the bulletin for more info. If you have questions, please call Sheri Schott at 330-863-2280. **There will be a bake sale by the St Francis CWC on March 10.**

**QUARTER AUCTION:** This year the Quarter Auction is schedule for April 30th. Doors open at 12:30pm and the auction begins at 2pm. The **"Basket Tree"** is now in the narthex of St. Francis Church. **Please return your basket before April 9th. Baskets received after April 9th will not make the program and will be assigned to the silent auction.**

Tickets are now available for both the Quarter Auction and the Raffle. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Jan Prevot at 330-863-0789 or Jackie Contini at 330-863-0740.

**ADORATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** St. Gabriel is in need of volunteers for the hour of **Wednesdays 8-9am** for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. If you can give of your time, please contact Bill Pilati at 330-868-5794.

## THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday evening bible study continues with the study of the pastoral letters of Titus and 1st & 2nd Timothy, followed by the Letter to the Hebrews. Come and discover more about these books of the New Testament, and St. Paul's writings. All are welcome, and bibles are available; the New American Bible translation

**CEMETERY NEWS:** Please take winter decorations off your loved ones grave **before April 1** to make room for Easter and spring Decorations. Any decorations left on after April 1 will be removed and discarded. (NAB) is used.

## HOLY WEEK CHOIR:

St. Francis and St. Gabriel choirs will combine for Holy Week again this year at St. Gabriel Church. **Practice is Wed. Mar. 15th from 7-8pm, at St. Gabriel.** Anyone from either church is welcome to sing with the group. No need to call ahead, just come to the practices.

## CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

The date of Confirmation is closing approaching for 25 of our parishes' teens. Confirmation takes place on Saturday April 22nd, at St. Francis during the 4 pm Mass. There will be a short practice for all the candidates on Sunday April 2nd, during regular PSR time at St. Gabriel's beginning at 9 am. **Sponsors do not need to attend.** Please be sure your student is on time promptly for PSR that day; they will meet in their usual classroom then proceed to the main church for practice with the confirmation team. The K of C breakfast follows. If you have questions please contact Denise Laubacher 330-868-3808.

## SPRING TEEN RETREAT

The Spring Teen Retreat, "Abide" was attended by 30 of our parishes' teens, led by the Franciscan University SENT ministry team this last weekend. The retreat was an important part of the formation process for our Confirmation candidates, and enjoyed by all. Thank you to those who help to make this retreat possible and may God continue to bless our students with further graces as they approach the day of their Confirmation.

**RICE BOWL:** We encounter Evelina in Zambia as she and other mothers in her community learn new ways to provide nutritious meals for their growing children and families. How do we ensure that those who are hungry have not only food but true nourishment? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more

## PRESCHOOL PSR - APRIL 2nd

Our next Preschool PSR session is on April 2nd during regular PSR time 9 am - 10:15 am. We have enjoyed our preschoolers this year and thank our youth leaders for their help in leading this special time of early faith development for our parish children.

## PSR ROLLER SKATE PARTY

A skate party has been scheduled for our parishes PSR children and families, on **Sunday March 26th, at Minerva Skate Rink from 4 -6 pm.** Free Admission! Skate rental is \$1 for quad skates, \$2 for roller blades, or bring your own skates, and skate for free! This fun event comes to you by the parishes' Youth Group. If you see a Youth Group member, thank them :)

## COLLEGE LIVE-IN WEEKEND AT THE JOSEPHINUM

"Come and See", March 23-25 for men in high school or older. This is a great opportunity to participate in the daily seminarian schedule while also having the opportunity to interact with the men from this diocese who have begun their formal discernment process. To register, the men should contact Fr. Michael Gossett at 740-264-0868 or email [mgossett@diosteub.org](mailto:mgossett@diosteub.org).

# ST. GABRIEL

400 West High Street ▪ Minerva, OH 44657

OFFICE ADDRESS: P.O. Box 275 ▪ Minerva, OH 44657

PHONE: 330-868-4498

EMAIL: [smstgabriel@frontier.com](mailto:smstgabriel@frontier.com) ▪ WEBSITE: [stgabriel-stfrancis.org](http://stgabriel-stfrancis.org)

PASTOR: Fr. Victor Cinson 330-868-4498

SECRETARY: Mrs. Peggy Romine

FAITH FORMATION/RCIA DIRECTOR:

Ms. Linda Shaw

PSR COORDINATOR: Mrs. Denise Laubacher

SOCIAL HALL PHONE: St. Gabriel 330-868-4610

St. Francis 330- 863-0760

## OFFICE HOURS:

9am – 5pm Monday - Thursday; 9am—2pm Friday

## REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 4:00pm at St. Francis

6:00pm at St. Gabriel

**Sunday:** 8:30am at St. Francis

10:30am at St. Gabriel

**Weekdays** 8:00am Mon. and Wed. at St. Francis

9:00am Tues. and Thurs. at St. Gabriel

9:00am Fri. St. Gabriel Communion Service

[See Weekday Schedule inside for changes & special days.]

## Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil (evening before) 7:00pm at St. Francis

Holy Day 9:00am and 7:00 pm at St. Gabriel

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 2:00 – 2:45pm St. Gabriel

3:15 – 3:45pm St. Francis

Other times by request. [Note: Confessions will be cancelled when there is a wedding at either church. Check weekly bulletin.]

## BAPTISMS

Parents are to call the Parish Office to arrange for a preparation meeting. The child need not yet be born to make these arrangements.

## MARRIAGES

Couples intending to marry **must** consult the pastor personally at least 6 months prior to the desired date. No date will be set until this meeting takes place.

## BULLETIN DEADLINE:

All items must be submitted to the Parish Office **in writing** by **12:00 Noon on Tuesday.**



# ST. FRANCIS

125 Carrollton Street ▪ Malvern, OH 44644

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Blessed Sacrament was not reserved in church buildings in the first centuries of the church. In those early years, of course, people met in borrowed "house churches," gathering on the Lord's Day for community, apostolic teaching, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers, as Acts of the Apostles tells us. Dispersed, people went their way into the workaday world until the next assembly. Weighing down their hearts was the absence of brothers and sisters, not only the sick, but those imprisoned for the faith. No wonder they developed a way of extending the food of the Holy Table to them.

Forty years ago, every altar boy in training heard about Saint Tarcisus. He was a twelve-year-old boy at the time of intense persecution in fourth-century Rome. His community had begun to convey the consecrated bread from their Eucharist to those condemned to death or awaiting trial. Normally deacons did this, but on one occasion, it was necessary to send the boy to bear the holy mysteries to the prison. The legend says that he was an athlete, and was detained on the way by some playmates who wanted him to join in their game. When he refused, they demanded to know what he was carrying. The situation went from bad to worse, and he was badly beaten and died of his injuries. A hundred years later, a pope called him a second St. Stephen. In the nineteenth century, Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman of England wrote a novel in which he expanded the story and popularized it. By then, no one seemed to notice that this twelve-year-old was actually touching and ministering the Eucharist, unthinkable until recently. Scholars say the story rings true: the first reason for setting some Eucharistic bread aside was not adoration, but Communion of the sick.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN:

**March 11/12** Flour, sugar & shortening

**March 18/19** Breakfast bars & cereal

Please place items in shopping cart in St. Gabriel hallway,



**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT— MARCH 12, 2017**