

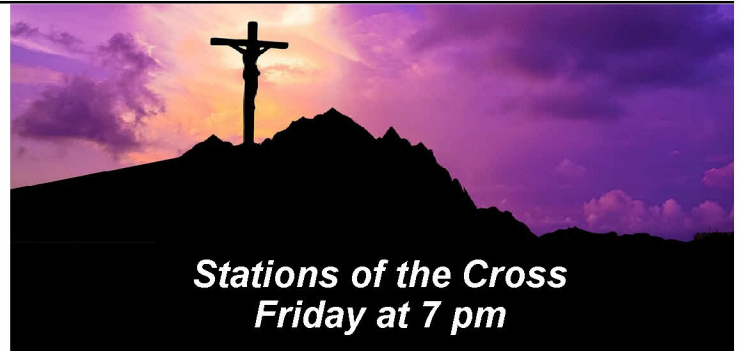


*A note
from our Pastor*

Hopefully, at this stage of the year and at this part of our Lenten journey, we have a deeper awareness that the long cold darkness of winter is behind us. By now we will have noticed more light in the mornings and at evening time. The hibernation of creation and nature is coming to an end and new life is beginning to be seen and felt all around us.

You may have like other people sown seeds and bulbs in the ground or even in small pots during winter. When we sow seeds or bulbs, we care for them and nourish what we have sown. We water and nurture the ground and then we patiently for nature to take its course. As spring approaches what was sown is now beginning to grow and flourish. As if by a miracle beyond our control new life begins to come forth from the dark earth. The small seed sown months ago has changed and transformed into something beautiful that is beyond our dreams and imagination.

There are many different images and symbols used in scripture to talk about and describe Jesus. He talks about Himself as Light, Water, Bread, the Vine and being like a Shepherd. In the gospel this Sunday, He talks about Himself in terms of a seed being sown in the ground. There is nothing romantic in or about nature. The circle and cycle of life can be harsh and even violent. The seasons themselves do not last forever. The each come and go in their own way and in their own time. The fruitfulness of spring and summer give way to the harvest of autumn. The fruits of summer are collected and consumed in autumn and winter. There is always a dying and letting go. Nature does not hold on to things.



Jesus tells us that if a seed does not fall to the ground and die, it is still only one single small seed. However, it falls to the ground and dies, something miraculous happens. Over time the seed ceases to be a seed. In the dark earth it becomes something altogether different. As it gives up its life, something powerful and previously unseen comes to light and to birth.

Though the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, this is what happens for us. Jesus goes into the earth. There through the power of God He is changed and transformed, He emerges from the earth with new and everlasting life. This is the mystery of the cross and fruit of the resurrection. Jesus freely gives Himself to us. He offers Himself to each of us as the seed that falls to the ground and dies only to be resurrected.

Jesus does not hang on to or cling to His earthly life. Like all things in nature, He lets go when the time and conditions are right. We are almost coming to end of our Lenten Journey. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus knows His time of suffering His approaching. As we began our Lenten journey with Him, Jesus now asks to remain with Him.

Can we stay with Jesus as He falls to the ground and dies?

Can we stay with Him, experience the cross with Him so that we can experience the new life and fruitfulness of His Resurrection?



St. Patrick Parish

512 North Main Street
Wellington, OH 44090
☎: 440.647.4375

HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 pm Thursday, March 28

GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 pm Friday, March 29 7:30 pm

BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS

Saturday, March 30 1:00 pm

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, March 30 8:45 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 am Sunday, March 31 11:00 am

StPatrick.cc

SHOJ.cc



Sacred Heart of Jesus

Catholic Church
410 West Lorain Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
☎: 440.707.6707

Please

remember to place your Rice Bowl in a resealable plastic bag when returning it to the church. This helps keep all of the money (especially coins) from falling out.

Join us today, March 17th for corned beef and cabbage and white elephant bingo. Come for just the meal or stay for bingo. The meal begins at 12:30 and will consist of corned beef, cabbage, boiled potatoes and carrots, salad, roll, and dessert. Please bring a white elephant gift for bingo. We are in need of help for set up and clean up. Meals are \$12.00 adult and \$6.00 kids (6-12) children 5 and under free. Bingo is free and will start at 1:30. Make checks payable to St. Patrick Parish and in the memo line write "activities committee".



Potluck Fish Fry!

March 22
from 5-6:30 pm.
Join us!



This Friday will be the last Potluck/Fish Fry of the year. The Activities Committee will provide fish, coleslaw and fries. You bring a side dish and/or dessert to share (enough for 8-10 people). Cost is a donation. Take out orders of fish, coleslaw and fries are available for \$18. Bring your family and friends!

Craft Night

Craft Night is sponsoring a "Learn to Use Your Cricut" class in the church hall on March 23rd. We will have 2 classes available that day. The 3 hour class will be taught by Sandi Singer. Seating is limited so get your reservation in early. The cost is \$30.00 per person and all proceeds will go to Craft Night to pay for supplies. Text Darlene to register 440-371-3888.

HELPING HANDS



The next Pantry
date is:

**Tues., Mar.
19th 6-8 pm**

The pantry is open to residents in the 44090 zip code and ALL St. Patrick Parishioners. Income restrictions apply. You will need a photo ID and address verification.



Thank you to all who supported the Craft Night Bake Sale. We appreciate all of the bakers and all of the buyers!



Mass Intentions

for the week

Monday, March 18

8:45 am at St. Patrick..... Mary Dragan

Tuesday, March 19

9:00 am Our Lady Queen of Peace Grafton

Wednesday, March 20

6:30 pm at St. Patrick..... Ella Holmes

Thursday, March 21

8:45 am.....at Sacred Heart Dennis Smith

Friday, March 22

8:45 am.....at Sacred Heart Elsie McCormick

Saturday, March 23

4:00 pm.....at SH.....Thomas & Michael Findlan

6:00 pm at St. Patrick.....Jean Sudnick

Sunday, March 24

8:15 am at St. Patrick..... Robert Leshnak

10:30 am.....at Sacred Heart.....Michael Toth

Collection Report for February

Sunday Offering.....	\$6392.60
Maintenance	\$50.00
Outreach	\$581.70
Designated for Parish Use Only.....	\$18849.00
Total Received	\$25873.30

**Thank you for sharing that which God
has so generously shared with you!**

Daily Mass Readings

March 17— March 23, 2024

Sunday	Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
Monday	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Wednesday	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday	Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday	Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday	Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

The full text of all Mass readings
may be found at usccb.org