



The Belltower Beacon

A publication to inform, welcome and inspire the spirited community of St. Christopher.

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WELCOMING THE ROMAN MISSAL, THIRD EDITION

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What we begin on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27, 2011) at St. Christopher is not a new Mass! It is however a new translation of the Mass we currently participate in. Joining with Roman Catholics throughout the U.S. we will collectively give thanks to God in the Eucharist with new words and song. We will not be experiencing the type of broad sweeping changes we had in the Mass after the Second Vatican Council. The changes this time will be much more subtle and have much less impact on the community at prayer. For many of us, change does not come easily. Change requires us to stop doing things in a familiar way in order to do something new. Many people find comfort in familiar routines and known ways of acting; change interrupts those familiar routines. But change is also an opportunity for the Spirit to stop and discard what we are doing and for us to come to a better understanding of God, a God who does not change.



Why does the Church change the Liturgy?

In its Liturgy, the Church always attempts to follow the “norm of the Holy Fathers.” This effort “requires not only the preservation of what our immediate forebears have handed on to us,

but also an understanding and a more profound pondering of the Church’s entire past . . . this broader view allows us to see how the Holy Spirit endows the People of God with a marvelous fidelity in preserving the unalterable deposit of faith, even though there is a very great variety of prayers and rites” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 9).

The Liturgy must, therefore, always celebrate and make present the Paschal Sacrifice of Christ – his saving Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Over time it becomes necessary to make certain changes, such as adding prayers for recently canonized saints and adding texts that reflect the needs that the People of God wish to bring to God in prayer. The third edition of the Roman Missal makes such additions and provides a fresh translation of the Latin texts of the existing content of the Missal.

Who decides that the Liturgy should change?

Pope John Paul II approved the promulgation of the third edition of the Missale Romanum, the Latin text, on April 20, 2000. The final Latin edition of the revised text was published in March 2002. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments was responsible for preparing the text. The Congregation is the Vatican office that the pope has charged with overseeing all matters related to the Liturgy and the Sacraments. Any changes in the words of the sacramental formulas – the essential words in the celebration of each of the sacraments (either in Latin or in vernacular translations) – must be approved by the Holy Father personally. In addition, church law also gives to conferences of bishops (such as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) as well as individual bishops certain responsibilities with regard to the Liturgy.

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THE ROMAN MISSAL, THIRD EDITION, CONT'D.

What exactly is changing?

The structure of the Mass (the order of the elements, the actions of the priest celebrant, and so forth) remains unchanged in the new edition of the Roman Missal. However, the translation of the prayer texts will change to more closely reflect the original Latin texts. In some cases, new options for prayers may be available, and some old options may no longer be able to be used.

Will the changes be noticeable?

In the third edition of the Roman Missal, almost every prayer in the Mass – those spoken by the priest and those spoken by the people – has been retranslated from the Latin to English. Some prayers now recited by memory will need to be relearned, and the familiar language of many prayers recited by the priest will change. In preparing the new translation, the translators were asked to make the English texts conform more closely to the Latin originals and to retain traditional theological vocabulary that communicates important concepts of the faith. The language that the faithful will hear and pray is more formal and somewhat more complex than the language of ordinary conversation. It conveys rich theological concepts and retains biblical language and images.

What difference will these changes make in our parish?

Some of the differences will be obvious immediately. We will have to learn new musical settings for the various parts of the Mass. We will learn new words for common prayers, such as the Creed. Those of us who began saying the Mass prayers by heart long ago will need to rely on printed texts again, at least for a while. In the early months of the transition, we may find it more challenging to pray with one voice as people adjust to the new texts and gradually commit them to their hearts. But these surface differences will give way to deeper and more significant changes. If we use the time of preparation well, we will make the changes with a deeper understanding of the Liturgy and a renewed reverence for and appreciation of the Mass. We will hear the prayers with new ears and with new hearts. Our Liturgy will be filled with new life and new spirit as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ made present for us.

What if I don't like the new translation?

For most people, the unfamiliar is always uncomfortable, at least at first. The more familiar the old is, the more challenging it may be to accept and embrace the new. It is completely normal to feel uncomfortable as you begin studying and reading the new texts. Taking steps to become more familiar with the texts can help a great deal. At the same time, be open to the possibility that you will find things to appreciate in the rich language of the new texts. The more you read them and study them and pray them, the more familiar and comfortable they will become and the more you will appreciate the theological depth they convey.

Taking the time to learn more about your faith, including the Mass and Scripture, can help you appreciate the new texts more fully.

Using the catechetical opportunities made available by our parish and diocese can help you overcome concerns about the changes. Finally, you can take your concerns to God in prayer. Pray for a deeper understanding of the meaning of these texts and for an open heart to grow in communion with the Church.



What can I do to make the process of change a good one for my parish?

Everyone has a role to play in preparing to use the new translations:

- Study the new texts with an open heart and an open mind so that you will be ready to use them in the Liturgy.
- Take advantage of opportunities to learn more about the new texts by attending catechetical opportunities and reading articles about the new texts.
- Offer to assist the pastor or parish director of religious education in preparing parish catechetical events.
- If you are a parent, teach your children the new prayers and help them to understand the changes. Encourage them to participate in the Mass fully and to learn more about their faith.
- Be very intentional about celebrating the Liturgy each Sunday and holy day. Arrive on time (or a bit early). Pray and sing with attentiveness. Stay focused on the action of the Liturgy rather than letting your mind wander. Hold the Sacrament of the Eucharist in great reverence. Finally, give thanks to God in your heart for so great a gift.

Times of change are always a challenge. But from this challenge can come a deeper appreciation of who we are as the Body of Christ, gathering to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord.

Fr. Tim Daw

Many of the reflections of this article were based upon the writings of the USCCB and used with their permission.

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OUR STUDENTS SPEND THE SUMMER MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

With the lazy, hazy days of summer stretching before them, what would motivate a group of Magnificat students, who are also St. Christopher parishioners, to spend part of their summer ministering to God’s children at home and around the world? Our parish community can take pride in producing caring young ladies who prefer to give back by sharing precious time with those in need. This past summer saw Magnificat seniors Nora Hudec, Alexa Wilkins, Liz Michael, Kathleen Carey, Rachael Duncan, Emily Miner, and others traveling near and far to share their faith with the needy. Our Lady of Lourdes in Cleveland’s Slavic Village found a group of young ladies ministering to the city’s homeless. According to Liz Michael and Kathleen Carey, the group was motivated by a lifetime of living so close and yet so far from our neighbors in need. “Right in our own backyards and so close to home” the young ladies were amazed to find living conditions that were “shocking and heart wrenching.” They were surprised by the warm welcome, gratitude and love they received from those they served. Every encounter brought the message “God is great, you are the future, and knowledge is power.” The homeless reminded the girls daily that they must stay in school in order to make a difference in our world. The ladies left with a completely new sense of pride and passion for Cleveland.



These Magnificat High School students, including half a dozen from St. Christopher parish, took part this summer in Immersion trips through the school’s Campus Ministry.

Going a bit farther away, the students who found themselves just outside Naples, Florida, were equally surprised that America has such poor neighborhoods bordering the affluent vacation destinations so many of us take for granted. Rachael Duncan and Alexa Wilkins were among the young ladies who traveled at their own expense to serve the citizens of Immokalee, where the population is made up predominantly of farm workers from Mexico, Guatemala, and Haiti. According to the students, the recent economic hardships have caused the people of this town to live in deplorable conditions. They were there to lend a helping hand in the name of God.

Still another distance away but within the U.S., a group that included Nora Hudec volunteered at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, cleaning the grounds and protecting God’s earth for future generations. The group to venture the farthest from home included Emily Miner who spent part of her summer in Ecuador. For Emily, seeing the country’s

poverty and the citizens’ dire living conditions made her grateful to God for the many gifts our parishioners enjoy on a daily basis.

Schools like Magnificat have a long history of immersion experiences so the students can see the hand of God at work in their lives and the lives of those around them. When asked how their faith played a part in their decision to serve, the ladies explained that the solidarity, cohesion, and humility they learned serves to strengthen their belief in God. It motivates them to give back, to be a light to everyone, to welcome strangers just as they were welcomed in their immersion communities. These enthusiastic girls could find no fault with their experiences and are quick to say that they would do it again. They hope that the future will bring continuing opportunities for them to serve all of God’s children.

Carmen Everett DeHaan

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SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL PATHS AUCTION SET FOR SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 19

Get ready to join the fun at the Corner Alley in downtown Cleveland for the St. Christopher PATHS (formerly the PTU) Auction to benefit the children of St. Christopher School! Come enjoy time with old friends, meet new friends, sip a martini (or other drink of choice), enjoy some incredible food and maybe join in a game of bowling. Come one, come all and bring some friends for a night to support the children of St. Christopher. No need for fancy threads ... attire is casual. For more information, call the school office at 331-3075.

PARISHIONERS PITCH IN AT WSCC

Since 1977, the West Side Catholic Center has depended on volunteers to help it reach out to Cleveland residents in need. Ellen Miner and her family are some of those volunteers. They became involved with the West Side Catholic Center through her sister Jane Vitou, whose family volunteers there as well. For the last decade, they have worked one Saturday each month in a breakfast shift made up of St. Christopher parishioners. Before people arrive, they cook the meal and set up. Once the center opens, they serve the food cafeteria style and clean up after everyone is finished. "It's very organized," says Miner. The whole family, her husband Brian and children Riley, 14; Leo, 12; and Charlie, 9 volunteer together. Miner says she chose to involve her children in doing service because she wanted them to "understand the need to give back," and that people everywhere don't have access to the lifestyle of people in Rocky River. She believes that volunteering at the West Side Catholic Center has instilled a sense of appreciation for what they have and awareness of poverty in Cleveland. The most shocking part for Miner is the number of people that the West Side Catholic Center serves and how badly people need the service. "People make it in through rain, snow, and sleet." Last winter was

especially brutal and her children noticed that people still came even on the coldest, snowiest days. "It's something that you wish fewer people needed," says Miner.



Miner notes that the West Side Catholic Center offers more than just food. For example, they pass out school supplies at the beginning of the school year. Many times there is clothing distribution on Saturdays so that more people can have access to the service. For more information on the West Side Catholic Center, visit their website at www.wsccenter.org.

Kristine Lee & Justin Duerk



BRENNA WARRELL JOINS THE SCHOOL FACULTY

Brenna Warrell is the new 5th grade teacher at St. Christopher School. Last year Brenna taught 7th and 8th grade Social Studies at St. John of the Cross School in Euclid (formerly St. Felicitas). She also taught computer to grades 1 through 8 while at St. John. She'll

be teaching 5th and 6th grade Social Studies at St. Christopher, as well as English and Religion to her 5th grade homeroom.

Brenna grew up in Lakewood and counts herself an avid Indians fan. She graduated from Lakewood High School and received a bachelor's degree from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where she majored in history and education. She currently lives in Bay Village.

WSCC RECOGNIZES THE WORK OF ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISHIONERS

The West Side Catholic Center, which provides food, clothing and shelter to the needy from its buildings at W. 32nd and Lorain Ave., has awarded its 2011 Sr. Kathleen Kilbane, CSJ, Walk in Faith Award to the St. Christopher Parish Community. Many of our parishioners have donated time and expertise over the years to the Center. The award recognizes its recipients for their efforts to "advance and support the mission of the West Side Catholic Center in exceptional ways through faith-filled efforts."

The Center had particular words of gratitude for volunteers from our parish, saying, "Few . . . can match the length and scope of the role St. Christopher Parish has played here and in the community. You have helped nurture our growth steadfastly, placing the needs of the marginalized of our community always at the top of your list of priorities. St. Christopher Parish has served WSCC well in so many ways over the years and we are truly grateful to you for all your efforts."

The award will be officially presented to the parish at the Center's Warm Hearts and Winter Nights Annual Gala on November 12, 2011. For information about the gala, or to find ways you can contribute to the work of the WSCC, visit www.helpCleveland.org or call 216-631-4741.

Outdoor Mass



Nearly 25 members of St. Christopher Youth Group attended a special outdoor mass on June 26 at Martin Park led by celebrant Fr. Franz Dool.



Robert Wazevich, son of Bob and Marikate, was awarded the Bishop's Scholarship for Excellence on July 29. Robert wrote an excellent essay about his faith and Catholic education. He was one of sixteen students across the Diocese awarded the scholarship. Robert is in grade 8 of our school and is an honor roll student. Congratulations!

NEW PARISH WEBSITE DEBUTS

In a year of great academic achievement in attaining the Blue Ribbon award for our parish school, expansion of our weekly bulletin, capital improvements to our gymnasium, and a new heating system for our church, it seemed only logical to upgrade our parish website to meet the ever-increasing online needs of our parish family.

The project came to fruition with the assistance of Connie McVicker at SignatureWorx.com and art direction from Terry Grachanin, our seminarian, as well as months of gathering information and wonderful artwork. It is our hope that the new website, still at www.stchrisonline.com, will assist with managing all aspects of parish life at the click of a mouse. Happy Browsing!

Richard Gullion

GOD'S MOUNTAIN



Father John Ostrowski finds his new home high in the mountains and rain forest of Teotepeque, El Salvador. Teotepeque means “God’s Mountain”. The view from the Mission is spectacular and sad. If you look up out and across you see a vista of beautiful valleys, hills and rain forest. If you look down you see shacks, tarps and hovels where families make their homes.

In 1964, the Diocese of Cleveland answered the call of Pope John XXIII to help spread the kingdom of Christ to the poor in El Salvador. Since that date the diocese has maintained a presence in the area, even through years of Civil War and the martyrdom of two of its missionaries in 1980: Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU, and Miss Jean Donovan. Currently, missionaries from Cleveland serve in parishes in Chiltiupan, La Libertad, and Teotepeque. These parishes serve the pastoral needs of over 150,00 Salvadorans. The El Salvador Latin American Collection, which is taken up in the Winter in the Diocese of Cleveland, is their main source of financial support.

El Salvador (“The Savior”) is the only nation in the world to bear the name of Christ. It is approximately the same size as the state of Massachusetts and is located in Central America. It is bordered by the countries of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the Pacific Ocean as its southern border.

In spite of its relatively small size, it is the most densely populated country in the Americas, with over 5 million people living there. It is a mountainous area with a tropical climate and the majority of the land is used for agriculture. Most of the population is poor, with unemployment exceeding 50% and illiteracy approximately 50%.

Father John’s days are very long, hot and tiring. In a phone conversation with him the other night John said he left the mission at eight in the morning taking the jeep through the rough roads to celebrate Mass at a distant canton (can-tone). He heard confessions, celebrated the Eucharist, stayed for some food and visits with families, anointed the sick and then drove on to another canton to do the same. Fr. John said he did not arrive home till nine thirty that night, hot, hungry and exhausted. But, he said “The ministry is so fulfilling here and I really love what I am doing!” Like many of you I miss Fr. John very much. When I hung up the phone from Fr. John I felt assured that he was truly happy in the missions.

On Thursday September 8 in the Parish Center at Saint Christopher we will hold a Pasta Dinner specifically for Father John Ostrowski and his ministry in the Salvadorian Missions. The focus of the fundraising is to provide education grants for those studying to become teachers. Students get up at 4:00 am to travel from Teotepeque to the University of Central America in San Salvador only to arrive back home again in the late evening. Tuition cost for a student is \$644.00 annually. Transportation to the university is \$825.00. There is much accountability in the program. Grades have to be turned in. Receipts from the previous month are reviewed before new funds are issued. Fr. John also meets with the students to give support and evaluation.

Come and join Father John for dinner September 8 or just come and listen to his presentation after dinner. Knowing Father John I am sure it will be a great experience just to be with him again.

Fr. Tim

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GYM RENOVATION CONTINUES

As a part of our parish capital campaign that began in 2008, renovation work was completed on our gymnasium this summer. This work included some tuckpointing on the building, a new roof and new air conditioning units. As this issue was going to print, work was also being done inside the gym. The old kitchen was being remodeled to provide changing rooms for teams to use. The bathrooms and lobby were being updated, storage areas were being reworked and a new area was being put in place for refreshments.

The original plan was to enlarge the gym but pledges and donations fell short of this goal. The renovations will update our facility and accomplish some needed repairs on a building that has served our parish well for 30 years. We are grateful that this work is being done and will benefit the many young people and adults who use our gym during the year.

Fr. John Chlebo

CHURCH CHATTER

OUTSTANDING Congratulations to **Kim McCue**, who was recently recognized by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County with an Outstanding Educator Award. Kim is a Westlake preschool intervention specialist. She has been a St. Christopher parishioner for 14 years. Her proud family includes husband Brian and daughters Bridget, Hallie, and Hannah.

HERE COMES THE JUDGE Second grade teachers **Kathy Rohn** and **Robin Seedhouse** gave their students quite a judicial system study this past spring. The classes participated in a mock trial of a civil case, "The Dog that Got Away," in the downtown courtroom of Cuyahoga Common Pleas Judge (and parishioner) Brendan Sheehan.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE Please remember that Rocky River residents have the privilege and opportunity to vote on important local issues. Some parishioners may be voting on Tuesday, September 13. All others vote on Tuesday, November 8. Many of our parishioners are running for various community leadership positions. Keep them in your prayers and remember them on Election Day.

ST. CHRISTOPHER GRAD **Mary Kate Stinn** is currently a resident of Chicago, Illinois and is teaching fourth grade at St. Jerome School in the Bridgeport neighborhood. She is a 2010 graduate of Marquette University.

YOUTH GROUP Congratulations to the new CYG Teen Advisor Board for the 2011-2012 year: **Katie Klima**, **Claire Stemen** and **Sierra Burleson**. The CYG Advisor Board consists of students who are active in CYG and meet every other month with our Parish Youth Minister, Emily Laco, to offer suggestions for building a strong and vibrant Youth Group here at St. Christopher.

HONOREE Parishioner **Ray Marvar** has been honored with the 2011 Community Challenge Exemplar Award given by Community Challenge, an agency of Recovery Resources whose mission is to help keep kids healthy and drug-free. Ray gives his time as General Counsel and board member of Recovery Resources. He'll receive the award at a celebration on September 13, 2011. For information contact Liz Habat at 216-431-4131, x1309, or visit www.recoveryresources.org/communitychallengeevents.

SCHOOL BELLS The first day of school was August 24. PSR classes will begin on September 11. Drive carefully in school zones as youngsters hurry to school. Please keep them and their teachers in your prayers.

VOTED TO WASHINGTON **Mary Ellen Fink**, a 3rd grade teacher in our school, was chosen from a large pool of applicants to take part in the Library of Congress's Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute.

BIRTHDAY WISHES Remember to wish Fr. Tim Daw a happy birthday on December 2.

Share your spiritual and joyous events with us. Give submissions for Church Chatter to **Roberta Trutko** at 440-333-6099 or roberta32red@hotmail.com.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	October 7	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
September 8	SPAGHETTI DINNER TO BENEFIT EL SALVADOR	October 21	NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME DINNER
September 10 & 11	DONUT SUNDAY	October 30	FAIR TRADE FAIR
September 11	PSR CLASSES BEGIN	October 30	DONUT SUNDAY
September 12	TEN WEEK DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP BEGINS	November 2	EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE
September 18	PANCAKE BREAKFAST	November 4	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
September 18	BAPTISM CLASS	November 6	PANCAKE BREAKFAST
September 22 & 25	STUDENT/PARENT CONFIRMATION MEETING	November 6	CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASSES BEGIN
October 1 & 2	ANOINTING OF THE SICK AT ALL MASSES	November 14 & 17	FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT/CHILD SESSIONS
October 2	PET BLESSING	November 19	PATHS FUNDRAISER
October 3	RCIA BEGINS	November 20	BLOODMOBILE
October 4, 11, 18 & 25	PARENT MEETINGS FOR FIRST EUCHARIST	November 29 & 30	FIRST RECONCILIATION