

St. Michael Catholic Church, Kalida, Ohio - April 24, 2016

From the Desk of Fr. Mark

Hi, everyone. I have got my garden in, with all the early vegetables. I can see down the rows of peas, radishes, lettuce and onions. I go out every day, smile and thank the Lord. When office work gets too much (I hate paperwork) you can find me in the garden. For me there is something peaceful as I entrust the growth of the garden to God (He makes me pull the weeds).

This weekend I am celebrating Earth Weekend. Earth Day was the 22nd. Along with Pope Francis, I love the simplicity of nature and see the connection of God to the earth. Some of my favorite lines in scripture involve praising God in creation. Sun and moon praise the Lord. Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, fruit trees and cedars, animals wild and tame, you creatures that crawl and fly, young men and women too, old and young, praise the Lord. Check out Psalm 148 for full details. When was the last time that you felt connected as a creature to other creatures and to God? Give it a try. I find that I feel so small, yet so loved. God is so amazing.

Last weekend it was vocation awareness weekend. When people ask me about how I felt God's call, many people assume that it was because I had a terrible hunting accident when I was little. People assume my near death experience is the reason I became a priest. I have to say that I became a priest, for a large part, because of my love and connection to God through creation. On the farm, I had the opportunity to see calves, pigs and kittens being born. There is something wondrous about new life. I saw the wonder of shooting stars and constellations. My brother Mike and I always recall the largest moon we have ever seen, on an August night, when we were young. To see kit foxes chase small rabbits gave me shivers. There was, and still is, something so wondrous about how God made everything.

On the back of the farm was a creek that held snakes, crawdads and adventures. Mom and I used to walk the creek to see simple wildflowers. There was a small patch of ground that couldn't be farmed because of that creek. That triangle patch was my prayer spot. I would find myself sitting under a tree to spy rabbits and butterflies. Just as Fr. Elmer meditates in the rocking chair as he spies the tabernacle, I reflected on God as I spied Autumn spider webs. It was from such a tie to God's creation that I felt called to share in God's love as a priest.

On this Earth Day weekend, become small in the bigness of God's amazing creation. Plant a tree or flower. Appreciate an ant instead of stepping on it. Take that spider outside and give it a second chance. In Genesis we are called to be stewards of creation. This week, respect and feel the awe of God's gift of creation. Have a great week. *Fr. Mark*

Volunteers Sought for Maintenance Help

We're looking for persons who are interested in volunteering to help with simple activities at St. Michael's (to work on an on-call basis). A volunteer list will be made and persons contacted, as needed. Examples of work would be lawn mowing, snow removal, holding ladders to inspect roof and air conditioners, spreading mulch, etc. If you would like on the list of volunteers, call Kevin Fisher (419-532-3474, ext. 106). Also, mulch for the church will be arriving soon. We're looking for people willing to help. Call 419-532-3474, ext. 106. This is a good opportunity for families & Confirmation candidates.

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 AM Special Intention for Good Health

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 AM Kenny Moening (HN)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 AM Earl Kleman

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

7:30 PM Jim Knueven, Joan, John & Kim Schmenk
Al & Anna Marie Warnecke

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

8:00 AM Dan Siefker Fam., Hubert & Irma Pohlman

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

NM Recker & Stechschulte
4:30 PM Alvin & Marcella Recker, Larry Leiser

SUNDAY, MAY 1

8:00 AM Alvin & Mary Hoffman, Richard Kruse
Edna Kruse, Sylvester Hanneman
Norbert J. Siebeneck (A)

11:00 AM Mary Ann Grote, Bernard Aversch
Neil Warnecke, Lori Von Lehmden
First Communicants

Last Sunday's Collection: \$ 8,556.90

Choir Assignments - April 30 & May 1

4:30: PW **8:00:** HN **11:00:** Youth

Women of All Ages Banquet

Monday, May 2, after the 6:00 p.m. May Crowning. We will have a "pot luck" dinner, with the main course provided, in the church basement, following the service. **Our speaker that evening will be Fr. Tony Fortman**, speaking on Divine Mercy. There will be activities for the younger children during the speakers' presentation. We will also have installation of new officers. We are still in need of a President and President Elect (don't be shy, you will have continued support from your outgoing president). There are sign-up sheets at each church entrance so we have a head count to order enough meat for that evening. Please call Maggie Wehri (419-532-3791) with questions.

Director of Youth Activities Sought

We're looking for a person who is good with youth, parents and community. The person must have good communication skills and be a team player, who will work with staff and volunteers. Looking for someone who is energetic, creative with good organizational skills who will work with young people in grades 7-12 at St. Michael's and other parishes in the St. George Deanery. All work, play and learning done from a Catholic perspective. 20 hours a week. Send resumes to Fr. Mark Hoying; P.O. Box 387; Kalida, Ohio 45853 or call 419-969-0148.

Ever Considered a Religious Vocation?

Ever wonder what it is like to be called to religious life as a sister, brother or priest? Come join local religious women and men and find out, on Wednesday, May 18, from 6:00-8:30 p.m., at Kalida St. Michael's Church basement. This is for young adults, age 19-39. There will be a free supper with a **pressure-free presentation**/discussion. RSVP by Sunday, May 15, to Sr. Amy (samjcps@gmail.com).

MONDAY, APRIL 25

ROSARY FOR PEACE: 1:30 p.m., in church
VBS MEETING: 6:30 p.m., at the Parish Center

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

CRHP 6: 7:00 p.m., in Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE: 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

ROSARY: 7:00 p.m., in church

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY: 3:00 p.m., in church

Our Condolences

The Funeral Mass for **Kenny Moening** was held on Wednesday, April 20. Please include Kenny and his family in your prayers.

First Communion Practice is This Wednesday

Practice is on Wednesday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the church basement. First Communion is May 1.

April Holy Name Raffle Winners

\$250	Annaleice Maag	\$100	Marilyn Siefker
\$100	James Klausing	\$100	Jon Sakosits
\$100	Aaron Gerding	\$ 50	Darrin Niese
\$ 50	Millie McElwain	\$ 50	Matt Bockrath
\$ 50	Leslie Stechschulte	\$ 50	Ross Recker
\$ 50	Al Knueven	\$ 50	Klara Frommherz

TMIY Plaques

That Man Is You course completion desk plaques are available in the rear vestibule of St. Michael's for men who attended the Saturday sessions throughout the year. Look for the box marked "TMIY" and sign off that you took one. We will mail plaques to the TMIY veterans from other parishes. Look forward to year 2 in the fall. Again, it's for all men!

Kalida Park Reverse Drawing Winners:

Paul Recker, DHR, Shirley Bruskotter, Alaina Schnipke, Karen Lammers, Mitch Donaldson, Ken Bellman & Rick Unverferth. Thanks to all who purchased tickets and the Kalida Fish & Game. We appreciate everyone's support for park development.

Kalida Family Fun Day...

at Four Season's Park, on Sunday, May 15, from Noon - 3:00 p.m. There will be a Kite Flying Event (please bring kite) and a Fishing Contest (bring pole). Cash prizes will be awarded for both. There will also be a Pavilion Shelter House Dedication at 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by Kalida Lions.

Holy Name Raffle Tickets

If you need a Holy Name raffle ticket for the 2016-17 raffle year, call Mike Schimmoeller (419-532-3521) or Nick Schulte. Also, there are lots of tickets out there, so please get your sold or unsold tickets to Nick or Mike. Thanks!

Spaghetti Dinner—Tuesday, April 26

4:30 - 6:30 p.m., at the Legion, in Ottawa. \$8 (presale). Dine-in or carry-out. Proceeds benefit the "Children's Christmas Carnival," in December. Contact Denny & Darlene Hanneman for tickets or for more info. (419-532-3871).

Upcoming Wedding

Gregory Recker & Holly Stechschulte will be married on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Please include them in your prayers.

OFFERTORY - April 30 & May 1

4:30 PM Mark & Deb Kahle Family
8:00 AM Paul & Rose Recker Family
11:00 AM First Communicants

USHERS – April 30 & May 1

4:30 PM Team 1
8:00 AM Team 2 **11:00 AM** Team 3

LECTORS – April 30 & May 1

4:30 PM Barb Unverferth, Brenda Aversch
8:00 AM Don Wehri, Renee Vorst
11:00 AM First Communicants

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - April 30 & May 1

4:30: Bob Gerdeman, Sue Gerdeman, Grace Haselman, Jacob Kahle, Erica Kimball, Stacy Knueve, Mandy Lambert, Becky Lucke, Brooke Lucke

8:00: Joan Peck, Tony & Sandy Vorst, Mary Grote, Darlene Hanneman, Mel Hanneman, Mary Lou Hoffman, Dave & Jane Kahle

Ministers to Homebound: Joan Peck, Tony & Sandy Vorst

11:00: Glen & Annette Schroeder, Greg & Jill Zeller, Ruth Foppe, Dick & Judy Bockrath, Connie Cleemput, Rachel Kahle

SERVERS

Mon, 4/25	8:00 AM	Logan, Madison Langhals
Tues, 4/26	8:00 AM	McKayla Maag David Peck
Wed, 4/27	8:00 AM	Carlie Rampe Evan Roebke
Thurs, 4/28	7:30 PM	Trevor Siefker Zach von der Embse
Fri, 4/29	8:00 AM	Kamryn, Sydney Wurth
Sat, 4/30	4:30 PM	Brooke, Taylor Lucke Trevor Maag
Sun, 5/1	8:00 AM	Alexis, Clay Meyer Nathan Meyers
	11:00 AM	Carlee Miller Morgan Mock Owen Niemeyer

Recent Baptism

NORA JO STECHSCHULTE

Daughter of Ryan & Kristen (Unverferth) Stechschulte

Want to be on the Parish Council Ballot?

Contact the parish office (419-532-3474) by Monday, May 2. Thanks for considering this important way to serve the parish.

VBS Meeting: Mon., April 25, 6:30 p.m., in Parish Center.

Students Planning Mass This Week

are Mary Grote's 1A class on Wednesday, April 27, and Jill Zeller's 7B class on Friday, April 29.

May Crowning is Monday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m.

It involves First Communicants and students in grade 8.

Youth Group Meetings—April 24...

at the Parish Center Youth room, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Baccalaureate Mass: Sunday, May 22.

Our Sunday School Programs...

will have their last class on Sunday, April 24.