

St. Michael Catholic Church - Kalida, Ohio - March 30, 2025

Fr. Phil on "Keeping Kids Catholic" (Part 2)

Last week's bulletin reflected on the challenges parents face in handing on the faith to their children. The next few weeks, we will focus on research backed strategies for sharing the faith with children that increase the likelihood they will practice the faith after they leave home.

The first insight is that parents' consistency of religious expectations and practice directly correlates to higher religious involvement of their children later in life. Research shows parents are more important than any other influence, including youth ministry, quality of clergy, style of music at their parish, etc. In other words, if parents consistently prioritize religious practice (i.e. attending Mass as a family, praying as a family, volunteering, discussing religious topics at home, etc.), there is greater likelihood their children will be active Catholics after they leave home.

Extremely significant are regular discussions between parents and children about religious beliefs and experiences. When there is no discussion about religion at home, then religion can be compartmentalized and seen just as an hour of penance to endure on Sundays. From Jesus' words, we know that our relationship with God should influence everything we do: how we determine our priorities, how we deal with conflict, stress, suffering, free time, rest, success, failure, etc. Parents who verbalize how God influences their daily life are helping their kids see how God can bring meaning to all aspects of their life. They are teaching their children that worship of God is not a superstitious practice we do for an hour each week to win divine favor, but rather, an encounter with our God and Friend who enriches our lives and gives everyday life an eternal trajectory.

At the same time, research shows that condescending religious lectures are unhelpful. Child-centered conversations that invite children to ask questions, ponder, and process religious teachings and experiences are more likely to lead them to a mature understanding of Christianity. Our parish CCD program creates excellent opportunities for parents to have genuine conversations about religion with their children, if parents ask their children about what they are learning and ask their children for their honest perspective.

A few other examples of how to speak about religion with children: On the way home from Mass, ask what they found most meaningful about Mass (i.e. something from the homily, words from a hymn, etc.). When you have had a stressful day, share that it was a challenging day but also mention how you took a minute to say a silent prayer when things got crazy. When you have scandalized your children by less than Christian behavior towards them (especially when provoked by them), tell them you are sorry and invite them to accompany you to church for the sacrament of Confession if you haven't been in a while. When remembering deceased family members, share stories with your kids about how they lived their faith.

As children grow older, helping them see the intelligent reasons and logic of Church teachings is necessary. Unfortunately, if religious presentations to students in middle school, junior high, and high school are too elementary, the students will likely conclude that Jesus is just another childhood fairytale used to teach elementary moral lessons. They will leave religion behind, having already understood basic lessons of respecting others, being kind, sharing with others, etc.

In the same way, showing the complementary relationship between faith and science is key to leading youth towards an

adult faith. If the relationship of faith and science is not addressed, students could conclude that faith is for the unintelligent, not needed by those who understand the scientific foundations of the universe. Helping young adults see how science points to God's existence will lead students to embrace both deeper scientific learning and a deeper relationship with God as they ponder the intelligence and order God placed in creation. A student who has developed a deeper relationship with God using both head and heart is more likely to live the faith as an adult.

Moral teachings are a key focus point for discussions between parents and older children. Welcoming their honest opinions is the foundation for a useful dialogue. Modelling for our youth how to talk about the truth in a way that is respectful, compassionate, and charitable to those who disagree will prepare them to have intelligent discussions when they go away to college, enter the workforce, or encounter critical voices on social media. Young adults who understand the "why" behind the Church's firm stance on certain issues will be more likely not only to live these teachings but also be able to discuss them in a patient and caring manner as adults. Helping young adults understand the reasons behind the Church's teaching will prepare them for discussions with others who disagree with the Church's teaching or even consider the Church to be bigoted because of its teaching on human sexuality, marriage, abortion, etc.

To be continued next week...

Upcoming Mass Schedule

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

8:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

8:00 AM

Pats & Rita Broecker, Successful Surgery
Ed & Mary Ann Grote Family

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

7:30 PM

Bonnie Hoffman, Karen Giesige

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 *First Friday*

8:00 AM

Ryan Cleemput

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

4:30 PM

Vic Merschman, L/D Merschman & Saum Family
George, Nora & Dan Basinger
L/D William & Marilyn Leopold Family

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

8:00 AM

Parishioners of St. Michael's

11:00 AM

Jim Unverferth, Jim & Angie Erhart
Dick & Gladys Unverferth & Family
Ron Kahle, Jr., Andrew Lause

Last Week's Collection: \$ 8,365.00

Last Week's Improvement Fund: \$ 675.00

Choir Assignments - April 5 & 6

4:30: Ashleigh **8:00:** HN **11:00:** Children's

Holy Name Choir Practice...

Monday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your folder of Lenten and Holy Week music to practice.

This Week's Donation Items for Food Pantry

Week of March 31: please donate canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, Beefaroni, etc.) Please deposit in designated area by the elevator entrance to church. Thank you.

MONDAY, MARCH 31
ROSARY FOR PEACE: 1:30 pm in church
HOLY NAME CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:30 pm
TUESDAY, APRIL 1
RCIA: 7:00 pm
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
EUCH. ADORATION: 8:00 am - 7:15 pm
FRIDAY, APRIL 4
CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY: 3:00 pm in church
SATURDAY, APRIL 5:
FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY: 7:00 - 10:00 am in church

Stations of the Cross

The seventh grade will reenact the Stations of the Cross this Sunday, March 30, at 1:00 p.m. in church. Please join us.

Eucharistic Adoration

This Thursday, April 3, from 8:00 a.m. - 7:15 p.m. in church.

Parish Council Election...

will be held the weekend of April 26 and 27. If you would like your name to be added to the ballot, please email Leslie (stmichaelskalida@gmail.com) or call 419-532-3474.

Catechists Still Needed for Next School Year

We are still in need of teachers for grades 5 and 8. We have a leader's guide to assist you with all the answers you need to teach! Contact Connie Cleemput for more info.

Attn: Parents of Current Grade 7 Students

Our current grade 7 students will be attending their Confirmation Retreat at Damascus on November 14-16, 2025. Mark your calendars and plan your activities accordingly. A retreat is required by the Diocese of Toledo and this retreat is one of the best. Registration info. will be coming in April.

Parents of Second Grade Students

Information has been sent to the parents of our grade 2 students on First Communion practice, First Communion and May Crowning, along with picture information from Casey Kahle. First Communion practice is April 30. First Communion is May 4. May Crowning is May 11.

Students Planning Mass This Week...

are Pat Broecker's grade 1 class on Wednesday, April 2, and Annette Schroeder's grade 8 class on Friday, April 4.

Soup Nights During Lent at St. Michael's

Soup will be available on TUESDAYS during Lent, from 5:00—6:00 p.m. for everyone in the parish. Enjoy the soup as a walk-in, drive through (on the elevator side of church) or eat in the basement. If you have any questions, please call Darlene Miller at 419-615-8819.

Catholic Infertility Ministry

Springs in the Desert, a Catholic infertility ministry, is hosting monthly meetings to accompany women struggling with infertility and loss. We offer a place of respite and solidarity—a place to acknowledge the pain and complex emotions associated with infertility. Our next meeting will be held Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph, Fort Jennings church basement. All women of the parish & surrounding parishes are invited to join us. You do not need to have attended any previous meetings to join in—new faces are welcome at any time! For more information, contact Laura Tenwalde at (419)303-5752 or Wendy Schimmoeller at (419)236-0522. It is our honor to walk with you!

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors - April 5 & 6

4:30: PB: Jerry Ellerbrock, Bob Gerdeman
 Alex Gardner, Allie Kuhlman, Becky Lucke, Peter Morrissey
LECTOR: Brenda Aversch
8:00: PB: Janice Foppe, Dave Kahle
 Ruth Foppe, Lynda Fortman, Bob Klausing, Jane Kleman
LECTOR: Amy Wannemacher

Ministers to Homebound:

11:00: PB: Regina Fischnich, Ryan Fischnich
 Lori Erhart, Brandon Erhart, Jim Hanneman, Cherie Kemper
LECTOR: Sandy Westrick

SERVER SCHEDULE

Tues, 4/1	8:00 AM	Ivy Patrick Drew Potts
Wed, 4/2	8:00 AM	Cooper Rampe Riley Ricker
Thurs, 4/3	7:30 PM	Owen Schnipke Ivan Schroeder
Fri, 4/4	8:00 AM	Lawson Straver Kobyn Unferth
Sat, 4/5	4:30 PM	Kara Lammers Ethan Langhals Max Langhals
Sun, 4/6	8:00 AM	Evan Langhals Gavin Leis Annaleice Maag
	11:00 AM	Drew Meyer Olivia Meyer Sophia Meyer

Offertory Bearers - April 5 & 6

4:30: Ryan & Amy Schnipke Family
8:00: Kyle & Jess Recker Family
11:00: Craig & Amanda Recker Family

USHERS - APRIL 5 & 6

4:30: Team 4 **8:00:** Team 5 **11:00:** Team 6

Join Us for First Saturday Rosary

Join us April 5, anytime from 7:00-10:00 a.m. in church.

St. Michael's Cemetery Cleanup

April 15 is the final cleanup date for the mowing season at the cemetery. All decorations must be placed on the footers so the grass can be trimmed properly. Mulch, shrubs, bushes and stones are not permitted on or around the footers, as they don't allow for proper mowing. We would like to keep the cemetery looking beautiful and remain a peaceful final resting place for our loved ones. Thanks for all your help and understanding. *The Cemetery Committee*

Tip for Flower Arrangements on Top of Headstone: Please put duct tape under your arrangements and write the name of the person you are honoring, so if it is blown away, the arrangement can be returned to the headstone. Thanks!

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Glandorf St John's is offering a quiet, reflective experience in the sanctuary of their church on Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to watch brief videos from EWTN on The Seven Last Words of Christ, followed by short prayers. Adults and older children are invited!

Kalida Garage Sales - April 24, 25 & 26

Sign up at Kalida Telephone or Union Bank by April 11.

Putnam County Right to Life Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, in Kalida St. Michael's Church basement at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.