

**Stations of the Cross** - The Stations of the Cross is a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as we move from station to station. At each station is a time for us as individuals to recall and meditate on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, as we move from station to station until all 14 are complete. Again this year the stations will be offered at 2:00 on the Sundays of Lent (except for the forth Sunday when we will be having our Penance Service) we will also do the stations on Palm Sunday. As we enter into this Lenten Season let us take time reflect and pray as we walk with Jesus on the path he walk for us.



The **Senior Citizen Prom**, organized by the youth of the St. George Deanery youth groups, will be hosted this year by Glandorf St. Johns on Sunday, April 9th in the new Life Parish Center in Leipsic. This event is free of charge to ALL Senior Citizen parishioners in the St. George Deanery. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. There will be games, entertainment, and dinner. Call the Parish Office at (419) 453-3513 before April 1st to reserve a spot!!!

**THANK YOU** to my fellow parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish: I wish to say many thanks first of all, for all the prayers that were said when I was in the hospital and rehab. At times I wondered if I would get through this surgery and rehab. It has been a long drawn out time - nearly 3 months - but with God answering the prayers, things slowly did come around. I also appreciate the many cards, gifts of candy and flowers, and visits. It sure was nice to see so many visitors. Many thanks to Father Jerry and Deacon Jose' Flores who came often. Being a friendly visitor for the Rosary Altar Society, I now see the situation from the other side. Thanks, also, to Ann Hemker and Sue Luersman and others for helping Father Jerry with the Sacristan duties while I have been gone. God bless all of you.  
~ Anne Landwehr

There will be a **Festival Planning Meeting** on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room. All festival committee members and event chair persons should plan to attend.

February 25-26, 2017

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

189 Church Street, P.O. Box 296, Otto

Telephone: (419) 453-3513 Fax (4

Email: [immac@bright.net](mailto:immac@bright.net)

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and 12



### SACRAMENTS

**BAPTISM:** First time parents need to attend baptism instruction. Baptisms are normally celebrated during or after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass or anytime agreeable with Father Jerry. To arrange Baptism or instruction, call the Parish Office at (419) 453-3513.

**MATRIMONY:** The Diocese of Toledo requests that all marriage dates be scheduled through the Parish Office at least six months prior to wedding date. Engaged couples must meet with Father Jerry before a wedding can be scheduled. Joy-Filled Marriage workshop information can be found at the website [www.jfmdtoledo.eventbrite.com](http://www.jfmdtoledo.eventbrite.com).

**RECONCILIATION:** Every Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m. or by appointment.

**AN OINTING OF THE SICK:** Contact the Parish Office at (419) 453-3513. In case of an emergency, call Father Jerry's cell phone at (419) 305-5149.

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## MINISTERS OF MASS

<b>WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>March 1, 2017</b>
<b>Mass Servers:</b>	Jack Langhals, Julia Langhals. Conner Wannemacher
<b>Lector:</b>	Theresa Von Sossan
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of</b>	<b>Communion:</b>
	<b>Host:</b> Linda Knippen, Janice Warnecke, Victoria Jackson, <u>Deb Lindeman</u>
	<b>Cup:</b> Sharon Meyer, Carol Hoersten
	<b>Choir:</b> Judith Eickholt
<b>SATURDAY 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>March 4, 2017</b>
<b>Mass Servers:</b>	Tyler Birr, Cody Kemper, Ashlee Landin
<b>Lector:</b>	Mary Kay Schroeder
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of</b>	<b>Communion:</b>
	<b>Host:</b> Judy Eickholt, Ann Hemker. Ted Herman, <u>Don Warnecke</u>
	<b>Cup:</b> Angie Hohlbein, Jerry Hohlbein
	<b>Choir:</b> Christine Herman
<b>OFFERTORY GIFTS:</b>	The Orval Eickholt Family
<b>Ushers:</b>	Dan Bendele, Ralph Burgei, Ron Hemker, Randy Warnecke
<b>SUNDAY 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>March 5, 2017</b>
<b>Mass Servers:</b>	Rachel Kemper, Dylan Kemper, Nolan Miller
<b>Lector:</b>	Rochelle Trenkamp
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of</b>	<b>Communion:</b>
	<b>Host:</b> Rose Brickner, Cherie Kemper, Julie Nussbaum, <u>Jessica Vorst</u>
	<b>Cup:</b> Virginia Beining, Mike Ricker
	<b>Choir:</b> Lenora Ball
<b>OFFERTORY GIFTS:</b>	The Ruen Family
<b>Ushers:</b>	Dan Honigford, Dennis Miller, Todd Miller, Gene Turnwald
<b>WEEKDAY MASS SERVERS</b>	<b>February 28 (Tues.) 7:00 p.m.</b> <b>March 1 (Wed.) 8:10 a.m.</b>
	Elise Kramer, Trey Landwehr, Jacob Ricker
<b>If unable to serve at your scheduled time, please be sure to find a replacement. Thank you.</b>	



## Dear Padre'

**Question:** I'm confused about when Lent begins and ends?

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. The Lenten season is a time when we as Catholic Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, and death. During the six weeks of self-examination and reflection as Catholics we observe Lent typically by making a commitment to fast, or to give up something—a habit, such as smoking, watching TV, or swearing, or a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate or coffee. The goal is not in the what... but to strengthen the faith and spiritual disciplines of the individual and develop a closer relationship with God. Christ gave himself up for us. I wonder what we could do?

Every year, the debate rages about when Lent ends. Some say Palm Sunday (or perhaps the Saturday before Palm Sunday); others say Holy Thursday; still, others say Holy Saturday. There ought to be a simple answer, right? The question, however, is a little trickier than it looks because the answer depends on what you mean by **When does Lent end?** We come to know it to begin on Ash Wednesday so the ending can be just as simple, by saying Holy Thursday, before the celebration of the Last Supper, and the beginning of the Paschal Triduum. That's not 40 days, as the song goes. So when does the **Lenten fast end?** The answer to that question is Holy Saturday (before the Easter Vigil), which is the 46th day since Ash Wednesday (including Ash Wednesday). Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during the Lenten season are set-aside in a special way for fasting and abstinence. Thus, the rules for fasting and abstinence in the United States are:

- Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. (In regards to that, this year St. Patrick Day falls on Friday and our Bishop has waved the day of fasting from meat on this day. That means you can have your corn-beef but you should still do some sort of make-up penance).
- Every person between the age of 18 and 59 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (give up a meal). But it is not just about the fasting; it's about the doing. This Lenten season let us be open to doing for the Lord. The most wonderful and beneficial part of fasting is in the will of the individual and not in the regulation.

The **Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide** will be held at Leipsic St. Mary's Parish Life Center beginning Tuesday, March 7th from 7-9 p.m. This 12-week program ministers to divorced and separated men and women by offering support and healing through the wisdom and truth of the Catholic faith. Topics covered include grief, forgiveness, annulment, remarriage, and much more. New and previous participants are welcome. Registration fee is \$15 to cover the cost of materials. For more information or to register, call (419)615-2298.



Our sincere sympathy to the family of Raymond Kaufman who passed away on Tuesday, February 21st at the age of 93. Please remember his family in your prayers. May he receive his eternal reward in heaven.