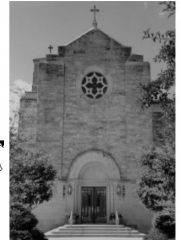


SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA
A MEMBER OF ST. GEORGE DEANERY
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
NOVEMBER 26, 2017



Pastor: Father Tom Extejt ~ Office: 419-659-2263 or 419-659-4190 e-mail: tjextejt@sa.noacsc.org
Deacon: Mr. James Dunn: 419-659-2707 e-mail: jdunn9@woh.rr.com
Deacon Donald Siefker: 419-659-5891 e-mail: dsiefker1@gmail.com
Principal: Mr. Scott Hummel: 659-2103 Fax: 659-4194 e-mail: hummels@sa.noacsc.org
Parish Office: Mrs. Marilyn Siefker: 419-659-2263 Office Fax: 419-659-5202 e-mail: siefkem@sa.noacsc.org
CCD Program Leader, Judy Schroeder : 419-659-5498 e-mail: judyfhc@yahoo.com
Youth Minister: Hannah Warren: 419-303-5476 e-mail: lifeteen@sa.noacsc.org
Parish Office Hours: Monday Thru Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St. Anthony Parish Website: www.cgstanthony.org
St. Anthony School Website: www.stanthonyschool.info
Parish ~ www.facebook.com/cgstanthony/
School ~ www.facebook.com/StAnthonyofPaduaColumbusGrove/

Families feed the hungry, give drinks to thirsty toddlers and welcome strangers and even estranged relatives into our homes.

We clothe children and visit family members who are sick and imprisoned.

The routine actions of family life are religious and priestly for we make Christ present in what we do.

Family life is Beatitude life.

Mass Schedule

November 28	Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Mass	Weekday ~ {Eugene & Gertrude Extejt}
November 28	Tuesday		Confessions, Exposition & Adoration After Mass
November 29	Wednesday	8:00 a.m. Mass	Weekday ~ {Cletus Schumacher}
November 30	Thursday	8:00 a.m. Mass	St. Andrew ~ {For The Parish}
December 01	Friday	8:00 a.m. Mass	Weekday ~ {Father Keith McCormack ~ Deceased Members of the Raymond & Madeleine Duval Family}
December 01	Friday		First Friday Exposition & Adoration Until Noon
December 02	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Rosary
December 02	Saturday	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Confessions, Exposition & Benediction
December 02	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Vigil ~ 1st Sunday of Advent ~ {Joe Blankemeyer ~ Walter Schroeder ~ Alvin "Dick" Schroeder ~ Intentions of Tonya Hoyt}
December 03	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	1st Sunday of Advent ~ {Deceased Members of the Leonard & Lidwina Kaufman Family}
December 03	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	1st Sunday of Advent ~ {Don & Helen Schroeder}
December 03	Sunday	6:00 p.m. Mass	Life Teen & Edge ~ {Denis & Betty Meyer}

Servers

November 28	Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Mass	Tayte Langhals
December 02	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Taylor Schroeder, Dalton Wurth, Brock Verhoff
December 03	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Levi Burkholder, Nate Kamphaus, Ty Meyer
December 03	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Landen Schroeder, Levi Schroeder, Jared Kahle

Lectors

December 02	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Gary Hermiller
December 03	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Charlie Schmiesing
December 03	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Judy Schroeder

Eucharistic Ministers

December 02	Saturday	4:30 p.m. Mass	Norm Schnipke, Teresa Brubaker, Deb Siefker, Bruce Stephens, Marge Tabler
December 03	Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass	Bill Schroeder, Mary Ann Schroeder, Sarah Schroeder, John & Mary Kay Koch
December 03	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Mass	Cheryl Ellerbrock, Bob Maag, Dave & Christie Tabler, Jennifer Siefker

December Eucharistic Minister Coordinators

4:30 p.m. ~ Pat Birnesser - 931-267-2357 **8:30 a.m.** ~ Dan Maag - 419-659-2969
11:00 a.m. ~ Dave Tabler - 419-659-2620

December 03 **Hilty Home ~ 419-384-3218 ~ Karl & Blanche Stechschulte ~ (List can be picked up in the Sacristy.)**

~ **Hilty Home Residents** ~

*Jean Stechschulte-Room 101; Jim Fischbach-Room 104A; Wilbert Roof-Room 105B;
 Agnes Friedel-Room 109; Bill Alt-Room 121; Mary Margaret Bockrath-Room 125;
 Cathy Ruhe-Room 201A; Dolores Daniels-Room 209B; Rita Wenger-Room 300;
 Jeanne Schulte-Room 401; Jennie Maag-Room 510; Margaret Stechschulte-Room 511*

Ushers

December 02 Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass Rob Verhoff, Denny Meuleman, Doug Roof, Don Stechschulte
 December 03 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass Carl Warnecke, Gib Kaufman, Craig Kaufman, Jason Koch
 December 03 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass Kevin Siefker, Terry Giesige, Dave Ellerbrock, 1 Volunteer

Greeter Schedule

December 02 Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass Pat Birnesser, Dawn Davis, Philip & Alesha Siefker
 December 03 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass Dan Maag, Craig Kaufman, Greg & Sharon Kamphaus
 December 03 Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass Kevin & Jennifer Siefker, Kyle Meyer, Glenn & Theresa Kahle

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Parish Activities

For The Week of November 19th

November 27	Walking With Purpose @ 7:00 p.m.	Adult ~ 181	\$ 7,696.75
November 29	Cemetery Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	Children's ~ 22	26.15
November 29	Discipleship Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.		7,722.90
December 02	That Man Is You @ 6:00 a.m.	Other Income	18,383.88
		Total Income	\$ 26,106.78
*****		Total Expenses	\$ 3,715.23



Total Donated Toward 21st Century Fix-Up Campaign To-Date ~267 Donors ~ \$ 232,592.81

**300 Club Winner ~ November 25th ~ Dane & Lauren Benson ~ Ticket #65 ~ \$100.00
 Special 300 Club Thanksgiving Drawing ~ November 25th ~ Dave Moore ~ Ticket #202 ~ \$100.00**

"Why do Catholics....."

Why do Catholics believe in the Trinity? Though the word "Trinity" is not in the bible, there are many verses that reveal this doctrine of three divine persons in one God: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (*Matt29:19*); all 3 are mentioned at the baptism of Jesus (*Luke 3:21-22, Matt 3:16-17*); Jesus says he will send the Holy Spirit (*John 15:26*); Paul greets the people with the Trinity (*2Cor 13:14*); etc. Each person of the Trinity is in union with each other (Father begets the Son, the Holy Spirit is the love that proceeds from them) and yet are distinct: Father-Creator, Son-Sanctifier, Holy Spirit-Counselor. We include the Trinity in several prayers: Glory Be, The Creed, Gloria in the Mass, etc. and it is the model for the Christian "family".

Scrip ~ Scrip will be available this weekend, **November 25th & 26th**, after Mass in the church basement. The helpers are: Ken & Connie Kruse, Jan Kidd, Shirley Goedde, Vonda Nemire, Christie Tabler and Sandy Roebke. Scrip will also be available next weekend, **December 2nd & 3rd**. The helpers are: Ken & Connie Kruse, Gina Wurth, Marge Tabler, Joyce Kaufman, Judy Gerten and Vicky Schroeder.

Scrip News ~ Did you know that you can support St Anthony's by buying gift cards to places where you are already shopping? You pay face value for these gift cards and we make a small profit from these businesses. These profits add up as more people use scrip. Check out the newest scrip order forms at the church entrances. Scrip has several new local businesses participating including: The Axe Handle, Dairy Whip, Grillers, Rowdy Rooster Café and Sycamore Lake Wine Co. We also carry cards for China Garden, Hawkeys Pharmacy, Henry's, Pizzeria, Pizza 101, Red Pig Inn, Shear Power and Town and Country Flowers and many more! All of these local businesses support this scrip program and we ask you to shop local this holiday season to support them. Did you know that you can pay your Kohl's credit card bills in the stores with our Kohl's Cares for Kids gift cards? We will be offering scrip after every weekend Mass starting this weekend till Christmas. Scrip is available at the rectory office during office hours. If these times are not convenient for you, other arrangements can be made for pick up. You can call or text Anne Schroeder at 419-615-0053 for information or to place an order.

Cemetery Board ~ Will be meeting on **Wednesday, November 29th** at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Discipleship Meeting ~ Will be meeting on **Wednesday, November 29th**, at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement.

Feather Party ~ Thanks to all who helped make our Feather Party a great success! We had a net profit of **\$3,625.00**. We also want to thank all those who donated and purchased items from our Altar Rosary Bake Sale. Thanks also to those ladies who helped with the bake sale. The Altar Rosary took in a total of **\$646.00**. We also want to thank all of the local businesses who donated the door prizes for the Feather Party. All your donations played a major roll to the success of our Feather Party.

Congratulations to our winners of the 50/50 drawing and the turkeys and hams. The two winners of **\$116.00** each from the 50/50 drawing are Dolly Blankemeyer and Kathie Buescher. The winners of the turkeys and turkey breasts are: Tom Langhals, Karl Stechsulte, Flossie Sehlhorst, Aiden Patrick, Dan Maag, Dolly Blankemeyer, Matt Morman and Keith Bolyard. The winners of the hams are: Steve & Beth Birkemeier, Cheryl Ellerbrock, Dan Maag, Joe & Alice Koch, Karl Schroeder, Betty Hermiller, Tina Doseck and Elizabeth Sudlow.

Congratulations to all the winners of our door prizes and those children who won the prizes in our children's raffles. Those winners are:

- Alt's Gas Station** ~ \$10.00 Gift Certificate - Johneen Verhoff
- Alt's Gas Station** ~ \$10.00 Gift Certificate - Ann Selhorst
- Carl's Hardware** ~ Handheld Spreader & Free 6" Subway Sub - Alice Morman
- Carl's Hardware** ~ \$20.00 Gift Certificate - Kathy Bogart
- Columbus Grove American Legion** ~ 2 Fish Dinners - Teresa Shinabery
- Columbus Grove American Legion** ~ 2 Fish Dinners - Darrick Doseck
- Col. Grove Ins. Agency** ~ \$25.00 Cash- Jennifer (Todd) Pingle
- Dairy Whip** ~ Gift Basket& \$20.00 Card - Dolores Schroeder
- Griller's** ~ \$10.00 Gift Certificate - Lauren Benson
- Griller's** ~ \$10.00 Gift Certificate - Dick Pohl
- Hawkey's Pharmacy** ~ \$10.00 Gift Cert. - Fran Stechsulte
- Hawkey's Pharmacy** ~ \$10.00 Gift Cert. - Tom Stechsulte
- Heffner Printing** ~ \$15.00 Gift Cert. - Kay Schumacher
- Heffner Printing** ~ \$15.00 Gift Cert. - Mary Fuerst
- Hoyt's Tavern**~ \$20.00 Gift Cert. - Louann Schroeder
- Hoyt's Tavern** ~ \$20.00 Gift Cert. - Joan Langhals
- Indian Trail** ~ \$25.00 Gift Cert. - Mike Recker
- Pizza 101** ~ \$10.00 Gift Cert. - Tim Reimund
- Pizza 101**~ \$10.00 Gift Cert. - Dianna Meyer
- Pizzeria** ~ \$25.00 Gift Cert. - Laurie (Don) Siefker
- Rainbow Party Shoppe** ~ Holiday Stein-Tina Doseck
- Rowdy Rooster Cafe** ~ \$10.00 Card-Greg Verhoff
- Rowdy Rooster Cafe**~\$10.00 Card-Craig Kaufman
- Sycamore Lake** ~ Bottle of Wine - Tina Doseck
- Tabler's** ~ \$10.00 Cert & Car Wash-Helen Kleman
- Tabler's** ~ \$10.00 Cert & Car Wash-Dennis Siefker
- Town & Country** ~\$20.00 Gift Cert.-Linda Witteborg
- Union Bank Co** ~ Bag of Goodies - Mary Wagner
- VFW** ~ \$20.00 Breakfast Cert. - Bill Morman, Jr.
- VFW** ~ \$20.00 Breakfast Cert. - Joyce Seyer
- VFW** ~ 2 Steak or Chop Dinners-Darren Langhals

- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Mike Birkemeier
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Keith Bonifas
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Ted Schroeder
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Bill & Tammy Schroeder
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Carla Kohls
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Jeff Schroeder
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Mack Schroeder
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Wendy Wenzinger
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Subway Card - Clay Myers
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Griller's Gift Card - Joe Fuerst
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Rowdy Rooster Gift Card - Johneen Verhoff
- Ft. Jennings State Bank** ~ Office Supplies, Snacks & Rowdy Rooster Gift Card - Joe & Alice Koch

Children's Raffle

- Hello Kitty Set** ~ Hadley Bonifas
- Matchbox Hot Wheels Mega Hauler** ~ Zevyn Maag
- Case IH Axial-Flow Combine** ~ Caleb Stechsulte
- John Deere ~ Semi & Tractors** ~ Tanner Barto
- Ohio State Football** ~ Caleb Bonifas
- Candy Variety Pack** ~ Jaelyn Mangas
- Lego Set** ~ Griffin Langhals
- Crayola Magic Light Brush** ~ Delaney Fruchey
- Shopkins~Tippy's Tea Party** ~ Breanna Hoffman
- Fast & Furious Lykan Hypersport** ~ Evan Verhoff
- \$15.00 iTunes Card** ~ Abby Stechsulte
- 2 Liter & \$20.00 Pizza 101 Cert.** ~ Reagan Ledford

Congratulation to all of our winners and thank you for supporting St. Anthony's Feather Party!

The Altar Rosary would like to thank our 8th grade teacher, Jackie Homan and her class, for making baked goods and donating the profits to the Altar Rosary to help toward the donations the Altar Rosary make to the parish to help defray the cost of the bread and wine.

We will be having a food drive for the Lord's Pantry this weekend, November 25th & 26th. All canned goods or other donations can be brought to church and put in the boxes at the entrances of church. There is also a great need for shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels. The money collected on Thanksgiving Day will also be donated to the Lord's Pantry.

Last year St. Anthony's donated over 1,000 lbs. of food along with a check for \$811.00 to the Lord's Pantry. Thank you for sharing with those in need.

Attention Lectors ~ The *Workbook for Lectors* for **2018** is available to be picked up in Father Tom's Sacristy. Please put a check by your name when you pick up your book. Thank you!

Christian Formation Classes ~ Will be held this **Sunday, November 26th** at 9:30-10:45 a.m. in the school. The next CCD classes will be held on **Sunday, December 3rd**.

Edge ~ The next Edge Night will be **Sunday, December 3rd**.

K of C ~ The K of C will be leading the Rosary before the Masses next weekend, **December 2nd and December 3rd**.

K of C Bowlers ~ 2018 is going to be the 100th anniversary of the State Bowling Tournament. It is being held in Columbus. Our council is scheduled to bowl the weekend of **Palm Sunday, March 24th and 25th**. If you are interested in participating, please give your team captain or the bowling chairman, Dan Maag, a call at 419-659-2969.

Christmas Flower Fund ~ If you would like to make a donation to our *Christmas Flower Fund* in memory of your deceased loved ones, feel free to put their names on the envelope you will find in your contribution packet. We will publish the list after Christmas, Thank you.

Parish Council Nominations ~ Will take place at next weekend Masses as there will be 4 seats open at the end of this year. Please pray about who should be nominated to represent our parish community in this ministry. Here are some guidelines: Eligible candidates are those who are 18 years of age or older, registered members of the Parish, baptized and confirmed practicing Catholics, evidencing the following qualities: Spiritual motivation, good communication skills, resourcefulness, decision-making aptitude, good listening, leadership & consensus-building capabilities, and the ability to motivate, delegate and solve problems. Candidates must accept the Parish mission, work well with the Pastor and others, commit to active participation in monthly meetings and have the ability to not miss more than 3 per year. Generally, the Parish Council is a consulting, supporting and assisting ministry to its President, the Pastor, in his leadership role.

Ministry Schedules ~ Several Schedules are still in back of church to be picked up. Please let Pat Birnesser know of any changes to the next schedule for January-February by **December 12th** by phone/text 931-267-2357 or pat@patbirnesser.com. Thanks for serving our parish.

Greeters & Ushers Meeting ~ There will be a meeting for all present (and newly interested) Greeters & Ushers on either **Wednesday, December 6th** or **Wednesday, December 13th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall to share your experiences, to ask questions and learn more about these welcome, Mass ministries. If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, please notify Pat Birnesser by phone/text 931-267-2357 or email pat@patbirnesser.com and she will get back with you.

Save The Date ~ St. Anthony's will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Thursday, January 4th, 2018** from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the church hall. All donors will receive a long sleeved t-shirt. Please consider donating a pint of blood that could possibly save three lives. Call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome!!!

Cemetery News ~ Winter will soon be here. Any special flowers or special items that you would like to preserve for next spring may need to be removed from the graves of your loved ones. Grave blankets for the winter are permitted. It is suggested to be sure to remove the grave blankets mid to late March so the grass is not damaged in the spring. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the parish office at 419-659-2263.

Golf Cart Tickets ~ Golf cart tickets will be on sale after this weekend Masses **November 25th and November 26th** after Mass in the church basement. Tickets can also be purchased at the school or parish office during regular business hours. All proceeds go to the school.

Baby Shower For Mary ~ Every November we support HEARTBEAT of Lima by donating diapers, baby shampoos, gift certificates, onesies, baby needs and money to this great organization that helps support mothers who have CHOSEN LIFE rather than abortion. All donations are greatly appreciated. Baskets will be at the church entrances for YOUR donations throughout the month of November. Cash donations should be put in a marked envelope in the weekend collection basket.

Support Our Retired Priests ~ Please consider a donation to *Perpetuate The Gift Appeal* being held **October 1st through December 31st, 2017**. Your gift benefits our retired Diocesan priests and your parish. Once a priest retires, he is responsible for his own personal expenses: medical, housing, car, clothing and food. All funds contributed help reduce the amount the parish contributes to the fund. A gift of cash or check can be sent to Perpetuate The Gift, P.O. Box 954, Toledo, Ohio, 43697, or placed in the parish collection. A gift may also be made on line at www.toledodiocese.org. Envelopes are available at all of the entrances of the church.

Prayer For The Sanctification Of Priests ~ Kindly remember in prayer all our Priests serving in the Diocese of Toledo, as they gather on **Monday, December 4th**, for the annual Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Through our prayers, may the Lord grant them many blessings.

First Saturdays in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary ~ St. Mary Parish, Leipsic, is proud to respond to the turbulence of our times and the urgent need to pray for peace. Please come join us for First Saturday on **Saturday, December 2, 2017**. Adoration/Rosary will begin at 8:00 a.m. with Holy Mass to follow around 8:30 a.m. Let us all pray that there will be a good response to this specific plea of the Blessed Virgin Mary in her apparitions to the three Shepherd children of Fatima and let this be our effort to respond to Our Lady's call. Thank you!

Penance Services ~ The area Penance Services for this Advent Season are as follows:

<i>Monday, December 4th</i>	<i>St. John the Baptist, Glandorf</i>	<i>4:00 & 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 5th</i>	<i>St. Nicholas, Miller City</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Sunday, December 10th</i>	<i>Immaculate Conception, Ottoville</i>	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 12th</i>	<i>St. Michael's, Kalida</i>	<i>4:00 & 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 13th</i>	<i>St. Joseph, Ft. Jennings</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, December 14th</i>	<i>St. John's, Delphos</i>	<i>8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Sunday, December 17th</i>	<i>St. Charles, Lima</i>	<i>3:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Monday, December 18th</i>	<i>Sts. Peter & Paul, Ottawa</i>	<i>4:00 & 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 19th</i>	<i>St. Anthony's Columbus Grove</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>

Extra Confessions at St. Anthony's

<i>Wednesday, December 20th</i>	<i>7:00 - 8:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, December 22nd</i>	<i>10:00 - 11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Saturday, December 23rd</i>	<i>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</i>

Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale ~ The Ottawa Senior Citizens Association is sponsoring a Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale on **December 6th and December 7th**, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Ottawa Senior Citizens Center at 1035 East Third Street in Ottawa. Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday menu is: homemade chicken noodle soup, BBQ pork sandwiches, hot dogs, brat sandwiches, homemade desserts and drinks. On Thursday the menu is: cheesy potato soup, egg salad sandwiches, hot dogs, brat sandwiches, homemade desserts and drinks. Come check out our craft items or indulge in a holiday dessert. Cakes, cookies, pies, candy, bread, noodles and snacks will be available. Eat in the Center or call 419-523-5593 for a carry out order.

K of C Beef, Chicken & Ground Beef ~ If you are planning to use beef, chicken for your family parties this holiday season, consider purchasing your supplies from our K of C. Below are the prices of the items available.

	<u>Beef</u>	<u>Chicken</u>
Case of 24 cans ~ 28 ozs.	\$ 174.00	\$ 142.00
1/2 Case (12 Cans) ~ 28 ozs.	88.00	73.00
Price Per 28 oz. Can	7.50	6.25
Case of 24 Cans ~ 14.5 ozs.	105.00	90.00
1/2 Case (12 Cans) ~ 14.5 ozs.	53.00	47.00
Price Per 14.5 oz. can	4.50	4.00

Call Gene Heitmeyer at 419-659-5574, Dave Ellerbrock at 419-659-5833, Dan Maag at 419-659-2969 or Len Kaufman at 419-659-6153 to place your order.

Community Christmas Choir Practice ~ The Community Christmas Choir practice will be every Sunday and Tuesday from **Sunday, November 26th through Tuesday, December 5th**. Sunday practices will be 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday evening practices will be 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Grove Christian Church, 105 South Broadway Street in Columbus Grove. The concert will be Sunday, December 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Grove Christian Church. Pam Utrup will be the accompanist. Everyone is welcome to sing, so bring a friend or two! Looking forward to sharing this great collection of new and old favorites with you to celebrate the Christmas season again this year!

Toys For Tots ~ A group of National Honor Society students from Columbus Grove High School are hosting a Toys For Tots drive. They will be collecting new and unwrapped toys to help children in our community over the holiday season. There is a box in the back of church for donated items. **The collection period has been extended to December 15th.** Thank you in advance for your donation to help the less fortunate this holiday season!

Grace Morman, Grace Cassidy, Jenna Hardeman, Maddie Nicklaus

A Note from Fr. Tom

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE POOR: Pope Francis proclaimed last Sunday the World Day of Prayer for the Poor. Word was late getting from Rome to Columbus Grove, but we can still reflect profitably on the occasion.

Let's face it: ministry to the poor makes us nervous. "What if they try to take advantage of us?" we wonder. Isn't this an unending commitment with more needs – and more needs – and more needs? We ask, "Why do they keep making bad decisions? Why can't they be like us?" Sometimes people are quite unappealing because they have been exploited – or because sometimes, the exploitation has been going on for generations. Sometimes people are poor because racism has kept them in their place.

The Church has reached out to, and welcomed poor people. For example, the Campaign for Human Development has given many people a boost into independence. Catholic schools have helped generations of poor children to be confident in their gifts and to grow intellectually and spiritually – results that might never have occurred if their parents' only choice was a failed public school system.

When Pope Francis preached about last Sunday's parable, the parable about the sums of money that the master entrusted to the servants, he said, "The Gospel parable speaks of gifts. It tells us that we have received talents from God, "according to ability of each". Before all else, let us realize this: we do have talents; in God's eyes, we are 'talented'. Consequently, no one can think that he or she is useless, so poor as to be incapable of giving something to others. We are chosen and blessed by God, who wants to fill us with his gifts, more than any father or mother does with their own children. And God, in whose eyes no child can be neglected, entrusts to each of us a mission.

"In the parable, we see that each servant is given talents to use wisely. But whereas the first two servants do what they are charged, the third does not make his talents bear fruit; he gives back only what he had received. 'I was afraid' – he says – 'and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours'. As a result, he is harshly rebuked as 'wicked and lazy'. What made the Master displeased with him?... All too often, we have the idea that we haven't done anything wrong, and so we rest content, presuming that we are good and just. But in this way we risk acting like the unworthy servant: he did no wrong, he didn't waste the talent, in fact he kept it carefully hidden in the ground. But to do no wrong is not enough. God is not an inspector looking for unstamped tickets; he is a Father looking for children to whom he can entrust his property and his plans. It is sad when the Father of love does not receive a generous response of love from His children, who do no more than keep the rules and follow the commandments, like hired hands in the house of the Father.

"There, in the poor, we find the presence of Jesus, who, though rich, became poor. For this reason, in them, in their weakness, a 'saving power' is present. And if in the eyes of the world they have little value, they are the ones who open to us the way to heaven; they are our 'passport to paradise'. For us it is an evangelical duty to care for them, as our real riches, and to do so not only by giving them bread, but also by breaking with them the bread of God's word, which is addressed first to them. To love the poor means to combat all forms of poverty, spiritual and material."

A PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING: At last Tuesday's deanery meeting, we began with this prayer to Christ the King, and I would like to share it with you.

"O Jesus Christ, I acknowledge you as universal King. All that has been made has been created for You. Exercise all Your rights over me. I renew my baptismal vows. I renounce Satan, his pomps and his works; I promise to live as a good Christian. And, in particular I do pledge myself to labor, to the best of my ability, for the triumph of the rights of God and of Your Church. Divine Heart of Jesus, to You do I offer my poor services, laboring that all hearts may acknowledge Your sacred kingship, and that thus the reign of Your peace be established throughout the whole universe. Amen.

Father Tom