

The flowers on the main Altar have been designated by Annette Crawford in honor of the Crawford's, Groff's and Jenkins' families.

## Mass Intentions

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Stan and Rose Lawrence
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Cecelia Topper
	10:00a.m.	The People of the Parish
Mon.	8:00a.m.	"Jerry" Sneeringer
Tues.	8:00a.m.	Ed Kuhn
Wed.	8:00a.m.	Charlie Klunk & deceased children Mike & Judy
Thurs.	8:00a.m.	Dr. Vincent Pisula
Fri.	8:00a.m.	Sarah Todt
Sat.	5:30p.m.	Sean Bollinger
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Nelson Bowersox
	10:00a.m.	The People of the Parish

## Offertory Procession

Sat. Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	5:30p.m.	Mr. and Mrs. Eric Staub family
Sun. Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30a.m.	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Felix
	10:00a.m.	Mr. and Mrs. Dick Matthews



**The Second Collection this weekend is the Society for the Propagation of Faith Membership Appeal.**

**From the Pastor:** Much of what we know about Japan involves World War II. There was a time in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century when the Japanese welcomed St. Francis Xavier and he introduced them to the Faith. The following describes the martyrdom of Paul Miki and his 25 companions: Christianity spread like wildfire in sixteenth-century Japan. By the 1580s, less than forty years after [Francis Xavier](#) introduced the faith, the church counted two hundred thousand converts. The growth had proceeded despite the opposition of Buddhist priests and many petty rulers. However, in 1587, Emperor Hideyoshi ordered the banishment of all Catholics, forcing the Jesuit missionaries to operate from hiding. But outright persecution did not break out until late 1596, when Hideyoshi rounded up twenty-six Jesuits, Franciscans, and laypeople and prepared to martyr them. Among the victims was St. Paul Miki, a Jesuit novice who had just completed eleven years of training. Paul's noble family was converted when he was a child and at age five he was baptized. Educated by Jesuits, the gifted youth joined their novitiate at age twenty-two. He had studied intensively the teachings of the Buddhists so as to be able to debate their priests. He welcomed his chance at martyrdom, but may have wished just a little that it would be delayed long enough for him to be ordained a priest. Hideyoshi had the left ears of the twenty-six martyrs severed as a sign of disrespect and paraded them through Kyoto. Dressed in his simple black cassock, Paul stood out among them. Most onlookers

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

realized that this noble young man could have worn the samurai's costume with two swords on his belt. The whole display had the unexpected effect of evoking compassion from the crowd, some of whom later became converts.

The martyrs were then taken to Nagasaki. They were tied to crosses with their necks held in place by iron rings. Beside each was an executioner with his spear ready to strike. An eyewitness gave this account:

When the crosses were set up it was a wonderful thing to see the constancy of all of them. Our brother Paul Miki, seeing himself raised to the most honorable position that he had ever occupied, openly proclaimed that he was a Japanese and a member of the Society of Jesus. And that he was being put to death for having preached the gospel. He gave thanks to God for such a precious favor.

He then added these words: "Having arrived at this moment of my existence, I believe that no one of you thinks I want to hide the truth. That is why I declare to you that there is no other way of salvation than the one followed by Christians. Since this way teaches me to forgive my enemies and all who have offended me, I willingly forgive the king and all those who have desired my death. And I pray that they will obtain the desire of Christian baptism."

At this point, he turned his eyes toward his companions and began to encourage them in their final struggle. The faces of them all shone with great gladness. Another Christian shouted to him that he would soon be in paradise. "Like my Master," murmured Paul, "I shall die upon the cross. Like him, a lance will pierce my heart so that my blood and my love can flow out upon the land and sanctify it to his name."

As they awaited death the entire group sang the canticle of Zachary (see Luke 1:67-79). The executioners stood by respectfully until they had intoned the last verse. Then at a given signal they thrust their spears into the victims' sides. On that day, February 5, 1597, the church of Japan welcomed its first martyrs. Excerpt from [Voices of the Saints](#) by Bert Ghezzi (Loyola Press 2000 & 2009).

**If you need a donation statement for tax purposes please contact the Parish Office at 637-2721.**

**The grand total for the Pennies for Life program came to \$418.67!!!** We were only \$22.18 short of 2014's total. **Thanks** to all who donated, a check will be sent to Tender Care Pregnancy Center this week.

**Christian Music Night at Magic Elm Skateland will be held Mon. Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.** Please bring 1 pr. of flip flops, sock's, men's boxers or t-shirts size XL – 3XL for free admission. Donations benefit HACC Clothing Bank.

**"Hanover Cares: House the Homeless" Marathon Live broadcast on WHVR 1280 AM Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.** The goal is to raise \$6,000.00 which benefits Changing Lives Homeless Shelter operated by Hanover Area Council of Churches, and programs for the homeless provided by Turning Point. Call WHVR at 717-637-0052. Here are some Changing Lives Shelter 2016 statistics regarding the homeless in our area; 266 people used the shelter, the average stay is 27.5 nights per person, 17 single mothers with 39 children, 6 married couples with 14 children and the number of homeless Veterans was 14.

**Attention E-Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers,** please put your serving preferences in the schedule. **The deadline to do so is Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.** The next schedule begins Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> or so.

**Help is needed to clean the Church Thurs. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m.** Please bring a rag and bucket.

**The Health Care Ministers will meet Thurs. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00p.m. at the home of Christine Reynold.**

**Parish Council will meet Thurs. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. in the School.**

**The Women of the Sacred Heart will sponsor a Baby Shower/Tea Social for the Gabriel Project Sun. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall.** See attachment for details.

**Direction for Our Times: come join our Parishioner Wendy McCall in Our Lady's Chapel on Sat. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:15a.m. to pray the rosary and read the monthly message from Jesus, as given to Anne, a lay Apostle.** For more information, call Wendy at 717-969-2452. All are welcome. Check out the website: [www.directionforourtimes.org](http://www.directionforourtimes.org).

**Looking ahead... Fri. Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> is World Day of Prayer, 2017. Service to be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church at 7:00p.m.** All are welcome.

## Sacred Heart School News

**Sacred Heart Athletic Association currently has openings for volleyball coaching staff for the 2017 season.** We have had great interest this year and are in need of at least two coaches for the JV team. Please submit your letter of interest to Travis Kopp, Athletic Association President, at [athleticpresident@shspa.org](mailto:athleticpresident@shspa.org). **If we do not secure coaching staff, we will be unable to have a JV team.**

**Home & School Assoc. is holding a Friday Night Cash Bingo Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall.** (Snow date Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>) Doors open at 6:00p.m. Early Birds 6:30 and Regular Bingo begins at 7:00p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 for 6 cards. Call the School Office for tickets or more information, 632-8715.