

From the Pastor—March 28, 2021

Are They Holy Days? The days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday do not oblige a Catholic to attend Mass and services at church. I want to encourage you to take part to the fullest of your ability. My devout parents made sure that us Grell kids were exposed to these great mysteries of our beautiful Catholic faith. I remember looking forward to Holy Week because we got to go to church so many extra times!

Divine Mercy Novena The novena for Divine Mercy Sunday begins on Good Friday. This message of mercy is so important for us to enter into. I encourage it highly; I hope to offer our parishes a Divine Mercy holy hour, chaplet, and confessions on Sunday, April 11.

St. Mary's New Camera, Microphone If you look above the baptismal font in St. Mary's Church, you will notice a new addition. A professional, remote-controlled, HD camera has been added to provide better streaming of the Mass into the overflow seating of the hall. This past week, our electronics contractor installed cabling between the two projectors in the hall and the overall sound system in the back sacristy. The sharpness of the projected picture will really be noticeable to you from the hall. Also, there are pre-sets to the camera such that zooming in upon the altar, the ambo, and the presider's chair will be possible. We did receive a donated laptop (thank you!) which will help this whole process to run well. We also attained this week what I was told was intended from the time of the 2014 re-model: a handheld, cordless microphone to be used in the hall. I can foresee that a speaker in the hall would use this mike to great advantage. Times that such technology could have been used in the recent past include the talk on human trafficking by the religious sisters, the meeting of the women's Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, and various master-of-ceremony directions given during the Fall Festival. We are thankful for these gifts of technology.

Pandemic Tithing A recent in-depth study by Brendan Hodge for The Pillar (a Catholic-based news service) revealed fascinating data about giving of contributions during the Covid pandemic. Archdioceses and dioceses across the United States were surveyed according to large and small cities, rural areas, and a wide range of demographics. I don't know how the study analyzed all of the numbers; the data relied a lot upon on-line bulletins published by the parishes under study. One of the findings showed that parishes who have a strong connection with their pastor fared better in the area of financial giving (I can't claim to know my connection with you, dear reader; please know that I pray it is strong). To be noted: neither our parishes nor our diocese were included in the study. But reading it gave me pause to be thankful to you for your support of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. We have had great blessings from your continued giving, even during the shutdown of Masses from March to June, 2020, and during the spike of the coronavirus locally in November and early December. I am very grateful that you love Jesus, and your parishes, and support your faith so generously.

Confessions and Penance Services A number of parishes in our area are conducting penance services where groups of priests will gather to hear many confessions. Our parishes are offering a total of seven hours of extra confession times (see the details elsewhere in this bulletin). Other parishes may have their bulletins posted on-line so that you can see when their confessions times are scheduled.

Blessed Imelda To ready the St. Mary's 2nd grade

class for First Holy Communion, I taught a lesson about Blessed Imelda Lambertini (1322-1333). This young saint, who died at age 11, desired to receive Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. From the day she turned 5, she kept asking when she could receive him. She was known to say that she did not understand how people did not die of pure joy after receiving the Eucharist. Blessed Imelda, indeed, died such a death. It happened in church one day when a blessed Host appeared in the air above her head. Imelda knelt and adored. The priest, following the Church law of those times, had required that Imelda and her friends wait until she was 14 to receive First Holy Communion. But when he saw the miraculous Host, he knew it was a sign. He took it out of the air and placed it in Imelda's waiting and open mouth. She beamed with joy and an otherworldly smile. A little later, after everyone had cleared out of church, Imelda remained kneeling in the same place. Those nearby spoke to her, that it was time to go, but she gave no response. Finally, a nun went up and touched her gently on the shoulder; Imelda collapsed onto the floor. She was dead. Imelda died of joy after receiving Jesus. Would that we could have such desire and such joy after receiving Our Lord! When our time comes for God to call us out of this world, could it be any better than to die right after receiving Holy Communion? You ought to search on the computer to learn more about this beautiful Blessed of the Church.

St. Joseph Feast Celebration We celebrated St. Joseph's Solemnity with great joy last Friday in Giltner! We recited the Litany of St. Joseph along with Stations of the Cross. Some cookies, bars, and other treats were enjoyed by women, men, and children after Stations. It was good to have this social time, in honor of our patron, St. Joseph; people really enjoyed themselves at this gathering.

St. Joseph's Lawn As per our liability insurance carrier, those under 16 years of age are not allowed to mow our parishes lawns. St. Joseph's is in need of a lawn mowing contractor to care for our church grounds this season.

\$1,000 for the Needy A generous donor at Christmastime gave \$1,000 to St. Mary's to be used for those most in need according to my judgment. I have nearly exhausted this amount; the people I have helped are grateful to the donor. We have in Hamilton County a Cheer Fund through our Ministerial Association. These funds are redeemed through vouchers payable to local businesses. A couple of people I have helped recently were passing through, rendering the local business vouchers mostly unhelpful. I ought not use general contributions you have given for helping such wayfarers. We are so blessed here in our parishes; any gift you designate to help as I have described here would be welcomed.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,
and forever!

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell