

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ... Sept. 5, 2021

NEW Parish Picture Directory ... at the Parish Council meeting on August 12, 2021, it was decided that we would begin working with **Unique Church Solutions** (a Picture Directory Company from Mansfield Ohio) to produce a Parish Picture Directory for our Parishes. We have tentatively schedules them to come to take pictures in November (tentative dates are: Nov. 18-20 and Nov. 25-26). Pictures will be taken at both St. Mary Parish Hall and St. Joseph Parish Hall. Specific locations, days and times, will be available later. Please plan to be a part of our Parish Picture Directory.

RCIA Classes ... Fr. Mark Seiker will be leading an RCIA process (Inquiry class in the Faith) **beginning Sept. 13, 2021** until a few weeks after Easter (mid May 2022). After visiting with the Parish Council and checking schedules, it has been decided that RCIA Classes will be held on **Mondays (beginning September 13, 2021) in the Parish Hall from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.** These classes are open to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. **For Catholics, it is a good opportunity to learn more about your faith.** If you are interested call the Rectory or see Father Mark Seiker. Begin praying and thinking about persons that you want to invite to study our faith with you. Our faith is to be treasured, preserved, and lived, but it is also to be shared ... share your faith with a friend by coming with your friend to these RCIA classes. **It would be great to have a Full Hall!**

Sound System at St. Mary Church ... a number of parishioners and Parish Council members are concerned with the sporadic and very annoying loud static that comes from our Sound System. Andrew Ostdiek (one of the Parish Council members) and Father Seiker are in the process of contacting various contractors to ask their input and assistance in improving the Sound System at St. Mary Church. The main sound system rack was installed between 7 – 10 years ago (or maybe even before that), and then various components have been added to the system over the years. As we learn more about options and/or ways to repair and/or improve the sound system at St. Mary Church, we will keep you informed.

New Wireless Microphone ... has been purchased personally by Father Mark Seiker, so that it can be used at St. Mary Church, at St. Joseph Church, and other locations where Father Mark Seiker might need a wireless microphone. This way the parishes do not have to purchase two microphones. A microphone very similar to this has been used in other Churches and locations by Father Seiker. Because everything is contained in one bag, all that is necessary is to plug the AC wire into an AC outlet and the microphone wire into a microphone jack. Hopefully this will assist people in better hearing the Word of God during Mass.

Fr. Mark Seiker Gone from the Parishes ...

From Sunday, September 5 (in the late afternoon) – Monday, September 6, I will be spending some time with friends and enjoying a little break. I will return to the Parish on Monday evening.

On Tue., Sept. 7, I will be going to the 10:00am Funeral of Bob Oldham (the father of Father David Oldham, a Priest of our Diocese) at St. Cecelia Church, Hastings.

NEW VACUUMS ... Two (one for St. Mary Church & Hall, and one for St. Joseph Church & Hall) new commercial Vacuums have been ordered through Catholic Purchasing Services. The Vacuums are Windsor Versamatic HEPA 18 Dual Motor Upright Vacuums, at of total cost of \$1,926.61 [which includes \$163.93 shipping for both].

Religious training of our youth is essential ... Parents are the first teachers of their children. This is an axiom which imposes grave obligations on them. To fulfill this task, parents are entitled to the assistance of the Church. To this end generous people in our parish dedicate themselves to teaching in our CCD program and the Godteens Program, and each week conduct religious education classes for our children. Since very little formal education is normally given in the homes, it seems that parents have a grave obligation to enroll their children in our CCD program & Godteens program. Because the structure of CCD is systematic in approach, the children must be there for every session if they are to learn well. Be assured that our CCD program is well organized & effective.

Sometimes parents bring their children to CCD but fail to attend Sunday Mass. This gives our children a terribly “mixed signal” and almost undoes all that the children are taught in classes. The first three commandments of God imply that our first obligation to God is to offer Him worship. Christ commanded that we do this by making remembrance of Him in the Mass. Please parents! Give your children a chance not only to know about God, but also to experience His love as we pray and worship Him on Sundays.

It was good to meet and visit with some of the parents who came to the Parents CCD Meeting a week ago. I reminded the parents of the words [of the Church] that they heard on the day of their marriage and on the day of the Baptism of their child. Parents are the first educators of their children in the ways of faith. Our Parish [the local Church] is here to assist parents in any way we can.

DAILY MASS CAN HELP YOU ... to avoid temptation and sin; to find peace amid the trials of life; to grow in the love of God; to thank God for all His blessings; to obtain protection against all dangers; to gain the favors of which you stand in need; to shorten the purgatory of your dear departed ones. --Richard Cardinal Cushing.