



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.

VISIBLE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

There is something profoundly beautiful about the visible unity of the Church, especially as it is revealed when God's people gather for the celebration of the Holy Mysteries in the Eucharist. We sing together, we pray together, and we partake together of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

As I write this, I have just returned from the annual Mass of Collegiality, also known as the Chrism Mass, for our diocese. At this service, the clergy from across the diocese gather on the Tuesday of Holy Week to join in prayer, song, and sacrament as we renew our ordination vows and the bishop blesses the holy oils for use throughout the coming year. We also concelebrate the Eucharist and consecrate enough priest hosts for each parish to take one back for use on Maundy Thursday as a tangible sign of our unity.

Unfortunately, that visible unity is not always so readily apparent. We live in a time of fracture throughout the Christian world, marked by denominational division, ecclesial infighting, property disputes, cultural compromise, and disagreements ranging from serious theological matters to mere preferences. That is why it is so important to participate in those moments when unity can be seen, felt, and experienced. The Chrism Mass reminds us that we are not a loosely related federation of isolated parishes. We are one diocese under one bishop. And in this, we are given a glimpse of that future day when the whole Church shall be united in all things under one Lord and Savior.

Every Sunday we confess that we believe in the "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church." Even when that truth is hard to see, we should seek out opportunities to express our unity with fellow Christians. This is not to say that our differences do not matter or that convictions should be set aside. There are, indeed, real differences that hinder or even prevent cooperation in certain things. But our hope should always be that the unity of Christ's people would become ever more visible, and that such unity might stand before the world as a witness to the truth of the Gospel.

Fr. Alan Horton+



PALM SUNDAY



A Few Words About the Prayer Garden Renewal

For years, the church's little prayer garden has sat quietly between Wilson Hall and the church. The stone wall had become scattered and the plants had grown thin and tired. People still visited from time to time, but the space no longer felt alive. It was as if the garden itself was waiting, resting in a long pause.

For several years, Bill Griffin has wanted to see a renewal of the prayer garden. He knew the drainage in this area was a big problem, making it difficult for grass to grow and for plants to flourish. This drainage issue would need to be resolved before any beautification of this area could take place.

So in March, Bill started a multi-phase plan to restore this garden to its original place of peace and beauty. First he arranged for an expert to install a new drainage system to correct the issue of standing water. This expert also installed a sprinkler system to water the area so new grass and plants will grow.

Next, a small group from the church came to help. They gathered with gloves, shovels, and a simple prayer: "Lord, make this a place of renewal again."



As they pulled up the old plants, they noticed something surprising. Beneath the dry stems and tangled roots, the soil was still rich and dark. It

hadn't lost its strength. It had simply been waiting for someone to tend it.

A wall was built and new plants and flowers went into the ground with bright, hopeful colors. Fresh soil, grass sod and mulch softened the pathways of the garden. And as the work continued, the garden took on new life. It was being transformed.

Over the next mornings, as the sun rose over the sanctuary roof, light spilled across the new plantings.

A gentle breeze moved through the fresh plantings, almost like a whisper: "See, I am making all things new."



Bill has planned several phases of work to finish this project. And as the work is completed, it is his hope to see people returning to the garden. Some will come to pray, some to rest, and some just to breathe. Every person who steps inside may feel the same quiet truth:

God's renewal doesn't just happen in gardens. It happens in us.

What once seemed worn out can bloom again.

What felt forgotten can be restored.

What looked lifeless can arise with new beauty.

The prayer garden is again becoming a living reminder that God is always at work, turning old soil into new life, one tender act of love at a time.

Many thanks for the donations that helped to further this project. Special "Thank You" to Robin Nabor, Asa Horton, Gwen Horton and Robert Bloomfield for their hard work so far with this renewal.

And of course, Thank You, Bill Griffin, for your vision, commitment and hard work to make this project happen. You have sparked this renewal of the garden and we wait patiently to see the finished area.

Keep watching for the next phases of this project as the work continues. And be sure to speak with Bill about the ways in which you may volunteer to help complete this beautiful garden at St. Gregory's.



FIRST ANNUAL ST. GREGORY'S FISH FRY

After Stations of the Cross on Friday night, March 27th, about 50 parishioners stayed for the First Annual St. Gregory's Fish Fry Dinner in Wilson Hall.

Bert and Donna Sloan hand battered and fried some of the best fish in Mansfield. Serving very generous portions of cod and the southern staple of catfish, these two worked tirelessly to provide parishioners with all they could eat. In addition to the fish, the duo cooked up French fries and hush puppies. Fr. Alan Horton provided homemade tartare sauce to garnish the fish along with his now famous coleslaw.

With so much great food on hand, left-overs were shared with the firemen at the Mansfield Country Club Dr. fire station. The grateful firemen were very happy to receive a surprise addition of fish for their evening meal.



2ND ANNUAL KUBB TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY APRIL 12TH

Our second annual Kubb tournament is scheduled for the Sunday after Easter (April 12). For more information, contact Tim or Father Horton. We will have lots of fun along with some hot dogs & chips!

KUBB (pronounced koob) is a lawn game where the objective is to knock over wooden blocks by throwing wooden batons at them. Kubb can be described as a combination of bowling and horseshoes. Play takes place on a small rectangular playing field, known as a "pitch".



"Kubbs" are placed at both ends of the pitch, and the "king", a larger wooden block, is placed in the middle of the pitch. Some rules vary from country to country and from region to region, but the ultimate objective of the game is to knock over the "kubbs" on the opposing side of the pitch, and then to knock over the "king", before the opponent does. Games can last from five minutes to well over an hour.



Mother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 10th



BURGERS AND BINGO 6:30 pm May 1st



God's vision for the World

By Reverend Mike Endicott

We might be surprised to find out that the most powerful flow of prayer is the way in which God communicates with us, rather than, as we might prefer to view this process, us communicating with God.

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" asked Corrie ten Boom [1892-1983] in her Clippings from My Notebook, 1982.

The role of foreign ambassadors in the world is to equate oneself regularly and consistently with their own government policy and focus on direct instructions from home in a crisis. Things work best if we approach the idea of our relationship with God in the kingdom from the same direction.

The Kingdom of God is where God's will is done, and not necessarily about where we achieve 'what we want', or manage through our persistence, to persuade God to do! To achieve this, we must stay closely in touch with the King of that Kingdom.

It is in realizing this truth, that the beginning of every good (and successful) Kingdom initiative comes directly from God's heart, and is the very foundation for our newly rewarding kingdom life. It raises within us (it would with anyone) the level of a natural 'water table' of trust, the essential building block of any relationship. It serves to underline the basic necessity of listening to what God wants us to pray for, and for us to move into, before any action on our part takes place. The direction we follow, to be counted as righteous in this context, has to be through his instruction.

As a result, we Kingdom people, we agents for change, we prayer-givers, will open gaps in the world to let in the grace-light of heaven. We listen to what God wants to do, and we pray for it to happen and through this partnership, we *"make straight the way of the Lord."*

Then He can move. That is the main characteristic of life in the Kingdom, and it is achieved in practice through the



Submitted by
Heinz Liedke

April Happenings

- 02~Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm
- 03~Noon - Stations of the Cross
6:30 Good Friday Service
- 04~8:00 am Men's Group @Rosa's
9:00am Holy Saturday Service
10:00 am Egg Stuffing
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Service
- 05~9:00 am Easter Sunday Service
10:00 am Easter Potluck & Egg Hunt
- 07~9:30am Women's Study Group
- 09~9:30 am Genealogy Meeting
- 12~9:00 am Sunday Service
10:00 am KUBB Tournament / Hot Dogs
- 14~9:30am Women's Study Group
- 16~9:00am Dominoes & Donuts
- 18~8:00am Men's Group @Rosa's
- 19~Vestry Meeting
- 21~9:30am Women's Study Group
- 26~9:00 am Youth Sunday Service
Food Drive - Canned Fruit & Vegetables
- 28~9:30am Women's Study Group

April Birthdays

- 06~Walt Bradburn
- 07~Sharon Holcomb
- 10~Hannah McDuff
- 14~Jake Mowrer
- 16~Irene Nabor
- 22~Thomas Hightower

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

Our next meeting will be
April 9th at 9:30 am.

Meet in Wilson Hall

Lunch will be at Mexican
Inn after the meeting.

Come join us!

-Gayle Bradburn

St. Clara's Guild

St. Clara's Guild will NOT
meet in April due to other
commitments.

Join us for our next meeting
on May 8 at 9:00 am in
Wilson Hall when we will
continue to make fleece
blankets. - Barbara Edwards

**Ishare
Jesus**
share His birth
His life
His story
His love
His word
His truth
His compassion
His miracles
His betrayal
His agony
His death
His resurrection

Join Us in Service and Fellowship

Altar Guild

This group maintains the altar for Sunday service, Baptisms, funerals and other special services.

St. Gregory's Choir

The choir is for men and women who like to sing and offer praise to God with their voices.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

This group of women take a lifetime vow of prayer, service, study and evangelism.

Evangelism and Outreach

Planning activities and events, this team shows the love of Jesus in our Mansfield community.

Flower Guild

Learn the art and skill of flower arrangement with fresh flowers for our sanctuary.

Healing Ministry

A group of prayer teams to pray on those seeking healing as directed by Jesus.

Men's Study Group

The men of the church meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays for a time of study, service and fellowship.

Women's Study Group

The women of the church meet on Tuesday mornings, enjoying book studies and fellowship.

St. Clara's Guild

This group sews quilts for the sick or to welcome new members at baptism. They also knit caps for newborns in local hospitals and complete other hand done projects for the community.

St. Gregory's Genealogy Group

Explore your family history and heritage with our group. Or learn how to research your family's roots using the knowledge shared by our members.

St. Gregory's Nursery Helpers

This group provides care in our nursery for children under 3 years of age while services are taking place in the sanctuary.

St. Martha's Guild

By providing meals for parishioners and their families during times of illness, bereavement, or even the birth of a child, this group shares God's love.

St. Francis Pet Therapy (Pet Partners)

Through Pet Partners, owners and pets are trained to visit residents of nursing homes and schools, offering God's love through time with a gentle pet. Those without pets may also serve.

St. Gregory's Worship Teams

Our team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lectors, Crucifers and Oblationers (Ushers) make of this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



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