

THE CHIMES

St. Charles Parish Summer 2020 Volume 19 Issue No 5



FR. KENT KAUFMAN Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

The last letter I wrote for the Chimes was five months ago. We were just welcoming Fr. Thomas and anticipating some changes in our Pastoral Ministry Team. At the time, I had no inkling of the coronavirus or how much our lives would be turned upside down.

I pray that you are healthy and doing well despite how much has changed in our day-to-day living. I pray that you are finding new ways to trust in God, especially when things seem out of our control. Ultimately, we always admit dependence on God. It is a daily act of faith if we understand God's plan for the universe and our role within it.

I hope that you enjoy this special "Covid-19" issue of the Chimes. I believe that you will discover that even though church, school, and offices have been closed for much of these past five months—and our now are only gradually being reopened—much has still taken place. I want to thank our Pastoral Ministry Team as well as Mrs. Scheid and the school staff for keeping things moving along, even when given a major detour in how to reach our destination.

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Lima, Ohio Permit No. 62

St. Charles Catholic Church 2200 West Elm Street Lima, Ohio 45805 I want to also thank our parish leadership. Our Finance Council, Pastoral Council, School Advisory Council, Endowment Board, and the five commissions continued to meet using new platforms like Zoom. In fact, if anything we probably met more often during these past months than we would have met in normal circumstances!

As you read through this issue I think you will discover that the five commissions have been busy these past few months and many new projects are underway even as we await the full reopening of our church, school, and ministries.

June is the time of the year when five members of our Pastoral Council complete their two-year term on council and three-year term on a commission. Since we didn't have an in-person leadership meeting that month, we didn't have a chance to recognize their time of service. We hope that it might be possible to bring them back for recognition and a social time at the end of our first meeting of the new year in September.

Completing their terms are: Dan Gowanlock (cochair), Mark Dieringer, Tammy Delong, Chuck Schierloh, and Deacon Fred Wuebker. Please join me in expressing gratitude for their dedicated service in helping our ministries to flourish here at St. Charles. Taking their

seats at our council meetings in the new year will be: Terri Danik (Development), Jamie Duncan (Discipleship), Keith Schroeder (Facilities), Angela Reif (Outreach), and Jeff Oravitz (Worship). They will join with Greg Kirwan (co-chair), Adam Rector, Christopher Powell, Marianne Bradshaw, and Pat Black who are moving into their second and final year on Pastoral Council.

Commission members have especially been helpful in preparing for some of our Pastoral Ministry Team changes. You will find in this issue some of the fruit of their effort. One ministry area that is still not complete is our Director of Life Teen. We had anticipated filling that spot this spring, but with the Covid-19 issue at hand and so much uncertainty about whether and when in-person gatherings can resume, we decided to put that hold. We still intend to reach out to our youth, but also recognize the limits of what we can do at this time.

As the summertime unfolds and the harvest ripens, I pray that God's Word will bear fruit in you and yield a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Kent

How COVID-19 has changed how we practice our Faith

The Covid-19 pandemic greatly altered the way we express our faith in the liturgy. In keeping with Governor Dewine's directives for the entire state and our need to mitigate our social interaction, the bishops of Ohio dispensed the faithful from their Sunday Mass obligation beginning March 15. Then during the next week, the bishops deepened the directive by eliminating completely the public celebration of Masses. A series of extensions followed into May. Finally, a plan for the Gradual Restoration of Public Masses allowed for the return of the congregation beginning on Monday, May 25.

The flexibility of our church at St. Charles allowed us to reorient the celebration of the Mass toward the new livestream camera that had been installed in

November 2019. The HD camera together with the newly installed "digital sound box" allowed us to "broadcast" our liturgies in real time via the internet. Recordings were also uploaded to the website and YouTube for anyone to view at a later time.

The bishops asked that only necessary ministers be present for the Masses. At St. Charles this consisted of Fr. Kent and Fr. Thomas along with Deacon Fred and Deacon Jim. Summer Aebker provided the music. Only the Holy Week with its extra readings and music required additional ministers.

Other liturgies were also added. A daily rosary with special prayers for an end to the pandemic were added at 7:00 pm. Night prayer with different devotions followed at 8:30 pm. At 4:00 pm the Divine Mercy Chaplet was added. This time allowed participants to watch just prior to the governor's daily press conferences that usually took place between the 2:00 and 4:00 pm hours. Sister Yvonne added Marian devotions at 1:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during May. A special diocesan novena to the Holy Spirit began at 1:30 pm nine days before Pentecost, May 31, the first weekend when the congregation was able to return to Mass.

In the first weeks without a congregation, parishioners were invited to send electronic photos of themselves and their families to the parish and "fill the pews." Printed photos were then displayed in the pews of the St. Charles section as reminder to all of those praying along at home.



Palm Sunday Mass April 5, 2020



SR. YVONNE FISCHER, OSF-T Pastoral Care Coordinator

Pastoral Care Ministry

Pastoral Care ministry is alive and well, it just looks different since the Pandemic has changed our lives. Calling the Catholics we serve in Nursing Homes and the Homebound is a weekly event. Uplifting cards have been sent to many and porch visits are just beginning. Several months back Emma DeLong volunteered for Pastoral Care ministry. At the time we had one parish-

ioner at Otterbein-Cridersville not far from her home whom she visited and brought Eucharist. She also started to visit one of our active 90 year olds. Here is her story.

God's peace! My name is Emma DeLong, and I have been a member of St. Charles Parish for ten years. I am currently a junior at Lima Central Catholic High School and anticipate graduation in 2021. You may have seen me busy around the sacristy during weekend Masses or singing with the Life Teen band on Sunday nights. Recently, I got involved in the Pastoral Care ministry at St. Charles delivering Holy Communion to those who are unable to come join in the celebration of the most Holy Eucharist. There had been a tugging in my heart to join another ministry in our parish before I knew exactly what God was

calling me to do. I wanted to reach out and try to get to know some of the older people of our parish so that I

could make myself more familiar with our parish as a whole community. I like the example Saint Paul uses when he says, "As it is, there are many parts, yet one body," in 1 Corinthians 12:20. We are each a part of Christ's Body, and the Church cannot work if it has missing parts, just as a body cannot work if it has missing parts. We are each needed to complete the Body of Christ. When I realized this is when I knew the Pastoral Care ministry was the one for which I was searching.

Ministering to older parishioners in nursing homes and their own homes is a beautiful work which should never be looked at as a chore or a job. I look forward to visiting the nursing home after Sunday morning Mass each week. The joy that comes across the faces of the residents as you walk into their rooms is so profound and so genuine. To be able to share Jesus Christ with our spiritual brothers and sisters is a feeling unmatched by any other feeling. Along with visiting the nursing home, I am also able to visit a homebound parishioner and bring Christ to them. Sitting down with them and being able to

learn about them and their life and their perception of our Lord is quite an amazing experience. Our older parishioners are truly young at heart and have so much wisdom and knowledge to share. Before you begin to push the thought aside, I encourage each of you to take time and pray about this ministry, asking if this may be something the Lord is calling you to. Especially our younger parishioners, being one myself, I truly encourage you to sit with the Lord in prayer and ask if he has a place in this ministry just for you. Thank you, and may God bless each one of you abundantly.

Sister Yvonne coordinates the Pastor Care Ministry in the parish. Please contact Sr. Yvonne Fischer at <u>fisch</u>

ery@stcharleslima.org or by calling the parish office at 419-228-7635



Emma DeLong





Comment out loud.

#TryAlpha

September 9, 2020 | 6:30 PM St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church 2200 West Elm Street Lima, OH 45805

www.stcharleslima.org/tryalpha

Alpha Testimonials

I am very glad to have gone through the Alpha program. The theological videos present ideas that are thought-provoking. Unfortunately in my normal life, the ability to further explore these most important issues is very difficult. Alpha provides the opportunity to work through these concepts with wonderful people in small groups. The program was great at giving me a new perspective on some things that I may not have stumbled upon otherwise. And on top of all of that, the childcare and food provided were fantastic! All in all, the program is amazing!

Jill Miroglio

Alpha was a great experience to pause the craziness of life and take the time to turn back to God. The videos



were thought provoking and really helped me to examine my faith life. It was also a great opportunity to talk, share a meal, and to get to know fellow parishioners and to build community.

Natalie Buckholdt

As a result of the Parish Assessment Renewal process and in an effort to keep our parishioners better informed we have developed a Facebook page and a Twitter account.

The various activities and ministries of the parish will be posted to these social media sites.

Like us on Facebook: St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church-Lima





Follow us on Twitter: St. Charles-Lima

St. Charles Catholic Church Mission Statement

To build a community of faith united with Christ in the Eucharist, living as disciples, sharing God's love and grace.

Pastoral Council, June 2018

PARISH WEBSITE Check out the parish website at stcharleslima.org

The Chimes StaffCathy Huber - Marge Snow

MISSION STATEMENT





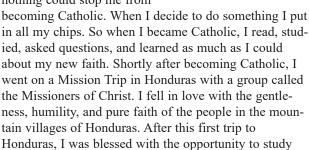
The mission of The Chimes is to foster parish unity, to promote Christian ideals and to publish newsworthy events within the Parish community.

St. Charles Parish 2200 West Elm Street Lima, Ohio 45805 chimes@stcharleslima.org

Introducing Zach Everett

During High School, I began searching for meaning and, ultimately, searching for truth. During my childhood, faith was important to my family, but we were

not always consistent in how often we went to church as well as what church we attended. I have been Baptist, Methodist, Non-Denominational, Pentecostal, to name a few. This search eventually led me to the Catholic Church. I attended Life Teen, and during my first Steubenville Conference in Louisiana, I encountered the real person of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. After that encounter, nothing could stop me from



Theology at Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. It was here that I continued to learn about my faith, about myself, about the importance of community and friendships, as well as the importance of healing. I joined a group of men called the Knights of the Holy Queen who have a special devotion to Our Lady, and they challenged me to be holy and to work on my rough edges. I still had a passion for mission work, so I decided that every sum-

mer, spring break, and winter break that I could, I would go back to Honduras to serve.

The last time I went to Honduras, I invited a short Ohio girl to come with me named Kristen. We had been dating for some time, and I wanted her to see and experience mission work. On the final day of the trip, I asked her to marry me in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, and she said yes. In our short

nearly eight years of marriage, we have experienced the importance of trusting in God for everything. We started our lives in Steubenville then quickly moved to Pittsburgh to work in ministry, we were called to go back to Texas where I worked in both parish and diocesan work, and now eight years later we have returned to Ohio. My wife Kristen, daughters Juliana & Adeline, and sons Curtis and Thomas are all incredibly excited to join your community and serve alongside you!





By Emily DeCanio

St. Charles' volunteers provided for two homeless families in June, while they stayed at the Wingate hotel in town. Everything went very smoothly, and the families were happy to have a safe place to stay and hot meals to enjoy each evening. Thank you for your kind service to these families!

St. Charles will host families again the week of August 9. If you are interested in volunteering to provide a meal or your time, please contact the parish office or one of the coordinators: Emily Decanio and Carmen Cecala-Wells. We will be happy to add you to

Christian Corner Community Center

Hello St. Charles Family,

I hope everyone is doing well in our pandemic. Christian Corner has reopened and doing well. With all our new rules in place, most of our regulars are back and some new people are coming. We played all day BINGO the first couple of weeks to welcome everyone back, and they loved every minute of it! I'm happy life is somewhat back to normal.

But school is quickly approaching, and as we have done in the past Christian Corner would love to support our friends and neighbors by offering book bags full of school supplies. Last year we handed out close to 75. We do have some supplies that have been donated throughout the year, but we still need more, Christian Corner is asking for help from our amazing support system with our St. Charles family! The kiddos' faces are so full of happiness and appreciation when they receive their book bags. We still need: kid scissors, book bags, markers, highlighters, lose-leaf notebook paper, one subject notebooks, glue, pencils, hand sanitizer (if you can find it) and tissues.

The center is also in need of Kool-Aid, bathroom cleaner, and toilet paper. I know times are hard but if you're able to donate some of these much needed items you can call me (Jodi) @ 567-712-3928 to set up a pick up / drop off at the center (1601 McClain Rd) or you can drop off at the parish office.

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and safe Fourth, and I thank you for all the support Christian Corner gets from all our St. Charles family!

Thank you and may God Bless you!

Jodi Roberts

christiancornercc@wcoil.com (419) 222-4425 1601 McClain Rd. Lima, OH 45804

Special Thanks **Judy & Dennie Horlander and Sharon & Jerry Laurent**

At first,

the whole prayer

list was mailed to

it got so long that

they decided to

change to e-mail

format. They were

then able to share

requests, with peo-

ple who were pray-

requests were more urgent. Still, some

of the prayer part-

receive the requests

by regular mail at

month, rather than

the end of the

by e-mail daily.

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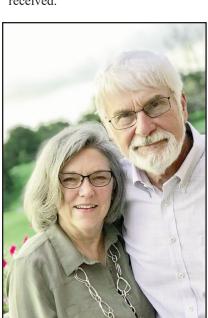
manner, as some

everyone, but soon

The Horlanders and the Laurents began Prayer Ministry at St. Charles Parish and are now retiring from this ministry. Here is their story.

About 30 years ago, two couples – Judy and Dennie Horlander and Sharon and Jerry Laurent – were meeting once a week for prayer and fellowship. At one point, Judy presented the idea that they begin a prayer ministry for the people of St. Charles. They would ask others who were willing to pray for the needs identified by parishioners to join in this ministry.

After going through all the "red tape," they were given permission to begin. They started one Sunday with Sharon making pleas after all the Masses for people to sign up to pray for all the needs which would be received.



Judy & Dennie Horlander

You have seen the phone numbers for the Horlanders and the Laurents in the bulletin. People would call in their requests. All requests were sent to Jerry, who would then email them to the group of prayer partners on a daily basis. At the end of each month, Jerry would send out a



Jerry & Sharon Laurent

summary list of all the requests to the prayer partners. A few of the praying members preferred to receive the list by snail mail. Dennie took care of these mailings.

The Prayer Request Ministry is a wonderful way for people to help others with their many needs. Those involved with the ministry have prayed for vocations, Alpha, and the very real needs of all those who called for their many requests and intentions. These prayers have been powerful. Many people have responded back to say how thankful they were and to share how prayers have been answered.

It is our fervent hope that this prayer ministry will continue and many are blest.

But truly God has listened. He has attended to the voice of our prayer. (Ps 66:19)



JULIE FISCHBACH
Youth Faith Formation
Coordinator

Sunday, March 15, 2020 was the original date scheduled for our second parent meeting for Confirmation, the Second Scrutiny for our RCIA group, and our Lenten Penance services for both EDGE and PSR. However, Covid-19 decided that these things were not going to happen in the traditional way. From there on out, nothing about faith formation here at St. Charles was going to be traditional.



Adreanna Gilmore

We waited on the Bishop's directives on how we were to proceed as we worked from our homes. After the

The Sacraments Amid Covid

Governor's order to shelter in place, Father Kent was eager to make sure that every possible precaution was taken to ensure the safety of the community and the church staff. We worked as a team together to make sure that the right hand knew what the left hand was doing. Even the office phones were forwarded to our home phones or cell phones. Though there were a lot of changes all at once, everyone worked together to help everything go very smoothly and very quickly. Between our volunteers, church staff, school staff, families, and support from neighboring parishes, we all came together as the Body of Christ.

The first thing we did was a mass email to all the parents of kids in PSR, EDGE, Confirmation, First Communion, and RCIA. We re-set dates, offered alternate services, and even assigned some homework, and of course the St. Charles school kids were still in touch with their teachers. At that time, Mass was still available with the dispensation in place. But not for long. Within a short amount of time, we went from normal Mass attendance to Mass available exclusively online until after Easter. By that time, we had already made the transition from PSR and EDGE to online Zoom meetings, instructional emails and phone calls.

Next, the RCIA group were dispensed from the 2nd and 3rd Scrutinies, but they did still require some of their lessons before they could proceed once things got back to normal. The younger kids met via Zoom meetings and were included in EDGE emails. Norma Kriegel handled the formation of our adult candidates. Since Mass was not open to the public at that time, and

the limit on the number of people to gather was now under 10, the Initiation at the Easter Vigil was not possible. We decided to delay the Initiation for a later date since we had a smaller group. As we began scheduling and moving closer to June, we made the decision to put RCIA on the sacrament calendar and pray.

The Confirmation meeting we had scheduled for March 15 was postponed until after Easter, with the hopes that everything could proceed as normal. In the meantime, parents and students gathered paperwork for completed projects to return via snail mail, email, or drop off. Those assignments had been due at that March meeting. Without a meeting, I did some additional, and



Jackson Pisel, First Communicant, with his parents and older brother, Alex

See **SACRAMENTS** - page 12

COVID - from page 1

Parishioners requested that lights be left on in church through the night so that people at any time could view through the livestream our church. A special light was placed on the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe hanging in the Seton section. Candles were placed before the image as well as the statue of St. Charles Borromeo. Both were visible on the camera, night or day.

The accompanying photos reveal the changing look of the church. You will see Palm Sunday with the palms strewn on the floor forming a "carpet" as they would have been in the streets of Jerusalem for Jesus.

The large wooden cross was a striking reminder of Lent and the effects of the coronavirus. We joined with Pope Francis in an extraordinary prayer service on March 27 for an end to the pandemic when Italy was in the grips of the disease. To see the pope alone in the square before the miraculous crucifix of San Marcello dating to the 15th century was something new for all of us.

The other photos show the cross transformed for



Fr. Thomas and Fr. Kent celebrate 8:00 a.m. mass - May 24, 2020

Easter with the Paschal Candle, flowers, and the white shroud signifying resurrection. Finally, the large cross is removed as we prepare for Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

As we go to press for this special issue of the Chimes, our Masses have reopened to the public, but the bishops' dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation continues. Masks are encouraged and many changes to the liturgy are in effect. The Precious Blood is not being offered to the congregation at this time. The Sign of Peace gesture has been suspended. Hymnals have been



Fr. Kent leads the "congregation" in the rosary prior to the 8:00 a.m. mass - May 17, 2020

removed. The music is now printed in the bulletin which is to be picked up as you enter church. Sunday offering baskets are no longer passed but rather placed on small tables as you leave church. The Gathering Space is not available for use which means coffee and donuts are on an extended holiday.

In mid-July as this issue goes to press, our daily numbers in Ohio are trending upward as is the case in

much of our nation and throughout the world. Please join in offering prayers for a speedy end to this pandemic.

Prayer to End the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, full of grace, Mother of the Church, in this time of worldwide illness, we ask your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. We pray for all who have lost jobs or security in this time. May your Son watch over all who are sick and their caretakers, Bring to heaven all who have died, and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure for the coronavirus.

St. Damien of Molokai, minister to lepers, pray for us St. Anthony the Great, who healed infectious diseases, pray for us

St. Rosalie, whose parade of relics saved Palermo from plague, pray for us

St. Rocco, patron of contagions and epidemics, pray for us

St. Edmund, patron of victims of pandemics, pray for us

St. Frances Cabrini, foundress of hospitals, pray for us

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, patroness of nursing homes, pray for us

St. Agatha, patron of nurses, pray for us St. Luke, patron of doctors, pray for us

St. Joseph, patron of the dying, pray for us

St. Thomas, patron of India, pray for us

Amen

Mary the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, pray for us

All of the holy angels and saints, pray for us
Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence
in the tender compassion of our God. Calm our fears
and help us to trust in the Divine Physician.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.



Summer Aebker Liturgical

In 1867, Dr. Joseph Lister's article in The Lancet discussed "germ theory" and a new way to kill germs. The idea was revolutionary, because "not very long ago, you could die from a broken arm—and many did" due to a lack of knowledge regarding germs and the inevitable sepsis and infection post-surgery. But Lister's sterilizing practices and washing hands became the new normal by 1875. Important to note, this was not a oneman idea. Semmelweis and Oliver Wendall Holmes had equally important contributions to this progress. "Holmes introduced the concept that puerperal sepsis was spread from patient to patient by physicians. Lister developed the concept that surgical infection was of bacterial origin. Semmelweis proved that childbed fever was transmitted on the contaminated hands of the attendant. In 1846 he effectively used a chloride as an antiseptic for time."² Today, washing hands to reduce sickness is a common hygiene practice for most people and a requirement for certain industries and health fields. It's been the new normal for years.

The new normal, that's what I want to focus on... In this world pandemic of Covid-19, what can *back* to normal possibly mean? Maybe we should consider another new normal instead, one that will ultimately provide our freedom to move about safely while we control our environment with technological advances. Like the antiseptic and hand washing revolution in the 19th century, we could be on the cusp of awareness and innovation that will ultimately provide a safer environment for all in many ways. Meanwhile, we are doing what we can to eliminate infectious spread while trying to live our lives as humans are meant to do in our myriad of ways.

As we persevere with patience, humbleness, and humor, let's remember that this will not last forever, but maybe the new normal will keep us safe for a long time to come.

You know the drill of best practices while we mitigate the control of this coronavirus: wash hands, don't touch your face, don't go out if you have a fever or other symptoms, wear a mask to protect and respect others in case you are asymptomatic, avoid large *uncon-*

AUDIO/VISUAL MINISTRY

Father Kent and the Worship Commission are seeking volunteers. Our parish has been blessed to update the sound system and add visual aids. We are in need of volunteers to assist during Mass to run the new A/V system. We would like to have teams of 2 (one for sound and one for video). This entails use of a laptop to control the visual aids and ensuring the web stream has audio and video capabilities for the homebound. We will have training available and all skill levels can learn this. However, a familiarity with iPad, laptop, and a Powerpoint type (or Propresenter) presentation would be helpful. While this ministry happens during Mass, it is an invaluable service to fellow parishioners who utilize the audio and visual aids offered in our church and on the internet. A sign-up sheet will be available online soon. Or, please call the office at (419) 228-7635, or contact us via email at www.stcharleslima.org.

Perservering in the Time of Covid-19

trolled gatherings (although I will strongly note that those who have protested in recent events are willingly putting their lives on the line to represent others, that's how important these matters are), maintain social distancing of 6 feet *and more* if you are talking loudly, laughing loudly, singing...

Which brings me to singing. It's problematic. Back in May, 2020, a German study came out that said singing was dangerous, especially in group or congregational atmospheres. The idea was that aerosol spread with the droplets of possible infected particles was more prevalent than in speech alone. Therefore, one might conclude that social distancing needed to adjust to a greater distance than 6 feet. This is not easily achieved in groups that are accustomed to listening to each other and singing (or playing) side by side. There have been countless examples of large gatherings (in church, too) that have erred on the side of hopeful luck and "not I" attitude which resulted in massive infectious spread. For those who heed the advice of distance, another terror awaits loss of social interaction, and/or loss of work. Musicians have been hit especially hard. My gigs cancelled, all of my friends' gigs cancelled; tours, symphony concerts, opera companies, Broadway, you name it, they are gone...for now. And what about schools? How do we handle music in our schools? Well, it's a very good question that our amazing teachers are still trying to work out. The Ohio Alliance for Arts Education has submitted guidelines to keep students and teachers safe.³ The general theme is rather bleak, but keep social distancing, keep masks when possible, consider using plexiglass barriers, etc...

Information to keep in mind, there's a promising Covid-19 aerosol research study that will have preliminary results for woodwinds and brass due out on July 10th, followed by preliminary results for singing and theatre by July 25th. We all want to know what is safe and

what is not. "This effort will be a duplicated study and will test how aerosols can spread from brass and woodwind instruments, the four vocal ranges, theatrical speech, and aerobic breathing." Funded by nearly 100 organizations in addition to schools and individual contributors, this is a potentially productive study. We are desperate for definitive answers so that we can create safe and effective mitigating aids during this time of progress. Yes, progress. Like the 19th century discoveries of Semmelweis, Lister and Holmes that catapulted the world into a new normal, this pandemic has seeded innovation that will eventually allow a comfortable and even safer existence than we knew to think of before. We will not only have a vaccine; we will have a better understanding of cleanliness and disease prevention in our environment.

As is often the case, invention is born out of need. For example, when the automobile first came out, there were no traffic signs. Not surprisingly in hindsight, many accidents and deaths occurred. Traffic signs were invented to save lives. Later, the addition of seatbelts saved lives. This is progress. This is how the world works at its best.

But for now, please, wear your mask, wash your hands, and use good judgment.

- ¹ Eschner, Kat. "The Idea of Surgeons Washing Their Hands Is Only 151 Years Old." Smithsonian.com. Smithsonian Institution, March 16, 2017. https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/idea-sterilizing-surgical-instruments-only-150-years-old-180962498/
- ² Beck, William C. "Handwashing, Semmelweis, and Chlorine." *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* 9, no. 8 (1988): 366-67. Accessed July 9, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/30145464.
- ³ https://oaae.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Arts-Educatiooaaen-Recommendations-06232020.pdf
- $^{4}\ https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/$

We are excited to present our new music concert series! Currently, we are still looking for sponsorship. Sponsors will be named in the programs unless they wish to be anonymous. Please contact us at 419 228-7635 or stcharleslima.org.

PURPOSE: Outreach and evangelism. Invite our surrounding neighborhoods and community into the church within the medium of cultural sharing and art, surrounded by the wholesome environment of our church.

OUTCOMES: Open our doors to open people's hearts through welcoming hospitality. Give a reason to be in the church, maybe they will consider joining. Be a positive leader for multi-cultural appreciation, fostering peace through our example; demonstrating interest and care for the wonders of "other" through the universal language of music.

PROGRAM:

Oct. 17^{th,} Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Petar & Daniel, Guitar Duo (Latin, Spanish and Balkan to Traditional Guitar Music) http://petarjankovic.com/pdguitarduo/

Dec. 5th, Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Vitaly Serebriakov, Piano (Russian Classical Pianist) https://www.serebriakov.com/
Feb. 6th, Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Octavian Moldovean, assisted by Danny Milan, Flute and Piano (Romanian Flautist) https://moldoveanoctavian.wixsite.com/website

April 17th, Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Karrie Lester and Friends, "Lift Every Voice & Sing", a history of black music and the African-American experience in this country. (Local African-American Musicians and Scholars)

This year's theme is "multicultural experience." We have artists from Serbia, Brazil, Russia, Romania, and here in the United States. From international to regional, to local, we are bringing the world to our community. This is a free, non-ticketed event; free-will offerings are appreciated.

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS: We are currently set up for best practices with social distancing, hand sanitation, available masks and sanitation crews. All things considered; this is the ideal environment for live concerts in these times. Additionally, these concerts will be livestreamed as well.



Courtney Neumeier Director of Operations

Facilities Improvements Are on a Roll

What an exciting summer we have planned! Well, for facility improvements anyway. Because of social distancing requirements, we will have a much easier time with scheduling our work at the church. Thank you to all of our generous parishioners who have donated to our Visitation Sunday! Your generosity has allowed us to make these improvements.

We will be in "phase two" of our landscaping/grading project. All of the grading was completed last year and the final touches on landscaping for the church and school will be completed towards the end of this summer.

Some of you may have noticed that our beautiful Steinway piano is gone, as it is out getting fully restored! There were many items that have needed fixed over the years and the Steinway is finally getting the love it deserves. We currently have a "loaner" from the company restoring our piano. We should have our Steinway back sometime in November.

Also, coming soon, we will be installing two 98" monitors in the church. One behind where the cantors are located and one behind the presiders chair. When these are first installed we will be mainly utilizing them for song lyrics, but as our A/V ministry evolves, we have many other great plans! (If you are interested in joining the A/V ministry please contact the Parish Office.) Next time you see Summer, make sure to give her a big THANK YOU for the hard work she put in (along with her amazing volunteers) to get the piano project and monitor project underway!

The project I am most excited about is we are finally getting new bathrooms in the church! We are still in the early stages reviewing the contracts with our Diocesan lawyer, but all three (men/women's down stairs and handicap upstairs) will be getting a much needed face

We are still working on the boiler/HVAC project at the church. There are many things to be looked at and decided upon. We are hoping to have this project decided upon and completed before heating season, but, we cannot guarantee this.

Outside of our Visitation projects, we have some other exciting projects either completed or in the beginning phases. With COVID-19 impacting everything we do, we are working to make the safest environment we can when school resumes. Every classroom has been outfitted with air purifying devices. These devices will actively be purifying the air supply while killing mold, bacteria, and viruses. (Additional benefits include reducing allergens, static electricity, and other particles in the air without creating ozone or harmful byproducts.) Every classroom also had hand sanitizing units installed. Both of these projects are either completed or almost completed. We are also in the very early stages of receiving quotes to install a new ceiling in our school cafeteria.

In addition, our playground equipment is approaching the 25-30 year mark. We would love to be able to provide a NEW playground to our students. We have written a grant (thank you to Megan Scheid and Mary Beth Krumel) in hopes to secure some of the funding but we have also raised money throughout the years. If you would like to donate to the new playground a fund has been set up on the "Online Giving" section of our website. Money donated here will be restricted meaning it can only be used for a new playground. A HUGE THANK YOU to Kirk and Tami Niemeyer. The work they have put into this project and the help they have provided is invaluable!

Introducing Dave Luersman



As many of you know we have been on the "hunt" for a new Director of Facilities. Kenny is retiring at the end of 2020 and has put in over 48 years of service to St. Charles! The amount of knowledge Kenny has for both St. Charles church and

school is not something that can simply be written down and handed off to the "new-guy."

That being said, we decided to hire an individual to start this July and work hand-in-hand with Kenny until his retirement date. A team of staff and volunteers reviewed almost 30 resumes and conducted interviews before we found who we thought to be the best fit for both the church and school.

Dave Luersman could be described as a "jack of all trades" who has worked in the construction industry and even owned his own construction business with his brother.

In addition, Dave is a dedicated Catholic who has served at his home Parish – St. Joseph Parish in Ft. Jennings, as a lector for five years. Dave is excited to start at St. Charles, serve on our Facilities Commission, and get to meet all of our wonderful parishioners!

"My name is Dave Luersman and I've been a member of St Joseph Ft Jennings my whole life. My wife Kathy and I have been married 20 years and we have 4 children. I spend most of my free time supporting my children's sports teams."

Sister Johnene Wellman **Parish Library**

Come and see the parish library located under the bells at the Elm Street entrance between the

Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saint Joseph sections of the church.

Please Let Us Know!

If you have a family member or loved one in a nursing home or assisted living facility, please notify the church office, 419-228-7635, in order

Father Kent or one of the Communion distributors will be happy to visit at any time.

Attention Knitters and Crocheters



Parishioners of St. Charles who knit or crochet have a wonderful way to share their talents. The Blanket Ministry is accepting hand-knit or

hand-crocheted baby-sized blankets to be given to Heartbeat or others in need.

Completed baby blankets can be dropped off at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space after any of the masses or brought to the church office during office hours.

that the parish may minister to him or her.

Can Collection Spot



Please continue to collect your cans for Heartbeat, but please drop them off at the dumpsters by the school in the

church parking lot. Either the door or the gates will be unlocked for you to set your collected cans inside. Thank you for continuing to support this worthy cause.

It's Safe It's Easy It's Convenient

And

It Helps St. Charles **Save Money**

Online Giving



Sign up today by visiting www.st-charles.org and clicking on the Online Giving icon.

Habitat for Humanity – Lima Area Continues to Serve With Your Help

Mission statement: Seeking to put God's love into action -Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope

It is a blessing to work with Habitat for Humanity here in the Lima area. As a Christian nonprofit organization, our affiliate depends on the generosity of people, civic groups, businesses, and churches to make affordable, decent housing available for needy people in our community. These generous people are construction volunteers, ReStore volunteers, committee members, people who donate funds to sustain us and help us build, people who provide meals for our volunteers, and do many more tasks. A few of those volunteers from St. Charles are Gino DiMattia (has helped with construction for many years), David Gratz (chair of the Church Relations Committee and member for many years), and Elizabeth Conrad (ReStore volunteer for many years and member of the Construction Committee). There are others from your congregation who have volunteered in a variety of ways, such as the group that just recently brought a noon meal for our ReStore volunteers, as well as people who have donated funds to the affiliate.

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in nearly 1,400 communities

Restore Volunteers Needed

Due to the generosity of many donors, we are in serious need of more volunteers to help process items that have come into the Habitat ReStore. You can volunteer anytime between 9-5 Tuesday through Friday or 9-3 on Saturday. (The current store hours are only 10-3 Thursday & Friday and 10-2 on Saturday.) We are also open to having small groups come in during the evening, perhaps a Sunday School class or family. That would provide an even safer environment. Contact us if you can help in any way. Again, our overall concern is for your safety. So, please volunteer only if you feel safe to do so. We do have state safety protocols in place. Thank you for considering volunteering with us

across all 50 states and in approximately 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity partners with people in your community to help them build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With your support, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families.

Founded in 1991 in Allen County, Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area, Inc. has built 55 houses in the area as of 2019. Our next build will be in Delphos, once the social distancing restrictions are lifted.



Our most recent build in Elida – completed in November

In 2008, the affiliate took a significant step in leasing a building and opening a ReStore on E. Wayne Street in downtown Lima. In 2012 the Lima Affiliate moved both the ReStore and Habitat offices to our current location, 550 W. Elm Street. The building also houses a warehouse for construction and construction materials used in building our homes. Habitat's ReStores accept new or gently used building materials and household items that will be sold in the store to support Habitat's mission and programs. This means we can recycle and improve our planet through good stewardship. You can either donate items by dropping them off at the ReStore during open hours or having the ReStore truck pick up large items at your house for no cost to you. To schedule

a pick up, either call the ReStore at 419-222-4257 or go to their website and schedule it yourself at www.restoreli-ma.org/.



Our ReStore

Our staff has continued to closely monitor the escalations surrounding Coronavirus / COVID-19 and is making adjustments as needed. We urgently need your financial support. As businesses throughout our community are impacted by closures, so are many Habitat homeowners who make their family's living in the service industry. These families will certainly be concerned about continuing to make their mortgage payments. We are committed to working with each family during this uncertain time, but we need your financial support to sustain us in that. When you give, you'll help us do more to help them. In addition, please join together in praying for those who are already ill and those who may become ill. Pray for our government leaders and medical professionals. Pray for protection over our entire community and world and for all those who come into contact with our Habitat for Humanity ministry. And contact us to see how you might help in the future.

> Mark Suderman Volunteer Coordinator

Contact information:

Habitat for Humanity – Lima Area 550 W. Elm St., Lima, OH 45801 www.habitatlima.org habitatlima@habitatlima.org

Congratulations Fr. Michael Bialorucki



Father Michael Bialorucki's New address:

St. Paul Catholic Church 91 East Main Street Norwalk, OH 44857



AmazonSmile

Do you shop on Amazon? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. The link for St. Charles is https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-6407479. Every time you shop on Amazon, please use this link – every penny counts.



The Redwing Reader St. Charles Catholic School





MEGAN SCHEID Principal

Learning Curve

First, let me express my thanks for the support and understanding given as we, as a nation and community, responded to the unexpected invasion of COVID-19. I am very proud of the way our St. Charles students, parents, employees, and parish members handled the demands we were faced with to protect everyone as we continued to educate our students during the most unusual of circumstances. Although many of our traditional end of the year events were disrupted I am so proud of the creativity and adapablility by our school and parish community that allowed for some celebrations to take place, albeit in a different manner.

This year's Positive Addiction Week and Race was switched to a complete virtual event. Each day had a theme to educate students about healthy, positive alternatives to dangerous and negative lifestyles. The students participated in various activities throughout the week, including a virtual 5K. My favorite part of the week was the car parade where we were able to see many of of school families from a safe distance.

We celebrated our 8th graders as we said goodbye to them in a unique "parking lot" graduation

ceremony in May. We will certainly miss them as they move on to high school this fall. A special congratulations to Mya Racynzski and Jacob Venturella for receiving the Principal's Award this year.

After many revisions of plans we were able to welcome several students and adults into the church as well as celebrate Confirmation with our 8th graders and the first Reconciliation and Holy Communion with our 2nd graders. We certainly appreciated everyone's flexibility and understanding as we worked through the details to make each of these events as special as possible while keeping everyone safe and healthy.

As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how schools plan to reopen in August. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety of our students and our employees. Be assured, we have been working diligently on our 2020- 2021 Reset and Restart Plans. Due to all the factors and information needed to plan as COVID-19 issues unfold, the Reset and Restart Plan will continue to be a working document. I encourage our parents to frequently visit our webpage for up to date and accurate information. Our priority is to keep everyone safe while not making life more difficult for our parents. Each family situation is uniquely different. We fully understand your varied concerns about health and safety, distance learning, the importance of face-to-face instruction, parents needing to work, the economy, and all of the other unexpected consequences of not being in school or being in school in a traditional method. Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for ALL of our students and employees during these challenging times.

Retirement News

Please join me in extending best wishes to Pat Willoughby, our beloved physical education teacher, who retired at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Miss Willoughby has been an esteemed member of the St. Charles faculty for 45 years, and she will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike. We have all benefited from her unique teaching style and her love of physical fitness has been an inspiration to us all. She will be sorely missed and impossible to replace. We hope Miss Willoughby is blessed with many wonderful experiences and enjoys some good days out on the bike paths!



Libraries Rock!

By Muriel Collins

"In these uncertain times", I am so tired of hearing this phrase, yet know *and* feel the truth behind its meaning.

As we prepare for the 2020 - 2021 school year there are unanswered questions, many discussions, endless guidelines to peruse and concerns of how it all is going to look as we move



. I am appreciative of our Lima Catholic School administrators and their collaborative efforts to create a safe, cohesive plan that suits the needs of our staff, students and parents.

I have attended virtual meetings with various librarian groups (doesn't that sound exciting) to discuss the safest and most effective practices for library protocol. It may be labor intensive with wipe downs and quarantining books, but it will be possible.

As I look forward to the coming year: Book Fair, Mock Caldecott Election, Chess Club... there may be some hiccups, but bring it all on because I CAN NOT WAIT TO SEE OUR PARENTS AND STUDENTS AGAIN!

Thank you for entrusting your loved ones to our care and know that we are always thinking of what is in the best intrest of your child.

A Higher Calling



Father Kent forever checking to make sure our Live Stream viewers have a good seat

Virtual Classroom: Learning Can Be FUN! By Lisa Mahler



As of March 13, teachers around the world were recreating the way they taught. We began teaching remotely and oftentimes feeling good about the connection we were making with our students and being the 'support' for the parents. There were some 'bumps' along the way - learning how to be the best teacher in this new

way of teaching . . . however, we learned how to be resourceful and persevered to end the year on a positive note!

This summer, teachers are learning even more! I am having fun creating virtual classrooms for remote learning for my kindergarten next year -just in case we need it but more importantly to keep my technological skills sharp and to provide virtual learning for my students as enrichment. This classroom pictured highlights basic kindergarten skills -when you click on the poster you will connect to a video or website to learn about months of the year, days of the week, colors and shapes. The books are also interactive!

As teachers, we enjoy these weeks of summer, but we are also getting ready for whatever comes our way for the 2020-2021 school year. WE will embrace it and we will be the best teachers we can be for our families at St. Charles.

Flat Teacher Summer Project: A FUN Version of the book, Flat Stanley



Mrs. Mahler went on a trip in an envelope to visit her students over the summer! The summer project included a miniature, FLAT Mrs. Mahler and each student was asked to take a photo with 'me' and write about what they are doing this summer!

love seeing these photos and connecting with the families! Pictured are Kamie and Kendall with their family! If you look closely, Kamie is holding me!

Nail Polish Holder

Fresh

Fruit Bowl

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Cardboard Constructions

By Mary Niese

Now that we are "social distancing" and getting many of our necessities shipped to our homes to avoid stores and help "flatten the curve," cardboard is coming through our front door like never before! Did you know that almost 90% of products shipped in the US use some type of cardboard packaging?

Cardboard is a versatile material that can be cut, bent, painted, wrapped, and configured in almost any way imaginable. Whether purely just for fun or to create something practical, students up-cycled their cardboard and gave their packaging a new purpose!





Dominoes Phone Holder

Lima Central Catholic High School Academic News

Submitted by Mary Sreenan

Congratualtions to the Class of 2020!

Awarded \$1,902,852.00 in Scholarships!

Summa Cum Laude

Cumulative GPA of 3.90 or greater
Madeline Brinkman, Chase Caprella, Brandon
Goldsberry, Anna Janowski, Anna Kahle, Olivia Kesner,
Megan Latham, Victoria Lauck, Jocelyn Morrisey,
Quentin Potempa, Kaylee Rigg, Jenna Rose, Sophia
Santaguida, Megan Sealts, John Sreenan, Ethan Truex,
Rosalie Williams, Jared Young, Jack Zerante

Magna Cum Laude

Cumulative GPA of 3.70-3.89 Bryanna Chambers, Peyton Craig, Jacob Evans, Elena Gamble, Austin Hatcher, Kassidy Meyer, Hannah Riepenhoff, Phillip Venturella

Cum Laude

Cumulative GPA of 3.50-3.69 Alivia Contini, Michael Seffernick, Ana Voltani

Bishop's Cross: Kaylee Rigg and Ethan Truex Catherine G. Quatman Student Award: Michael

Catherine G. Quatman Faculty Award: Trudy

Thompson

Monsignor E.C. Herr Scholarship: Megan Sealts and Jack Zerante



Class of 2020 Baccalauareate Mass

Class of 2020 Departmental Awards

Mathematics: Jocelyn Morrisey Science: John Sreenan English: Victoria Lauck

Social Studies: Quentin Potempa World Languages: Olivia Kesner Theology: Chase Caprella

Art: Elena Gamble Vocal Music: Anna Kahle

Instrumental Music: Aizlynn Blythe



Class of 2020 Drive-Through Diploma Pick-up

Academic Letter Awards 2019-2020

The following students have earned an academic letter award by achieving a 3.6 cumulative GPA as calculated at the end of the first semester of the academic year.

First Year Awards

Sophomores: Nicholas Chambers, Reed Doneghy, Carrie Heider, Kelly Koenig, Emma Mayers, Frankie McDonald, Jr., Noah Nuesmeyer, Madeline Quatman, Jaylen Roehm, Noah Schneider, Brayden Truex, Carlie Van Meter, & Allison Young

Juniors: Olivia Garlock, Zachary Jacobs, Isabella Joseph, Zaria Keys, & Jillian Lieurance

Seniors: Kassidy Meyer, Phillip Venturella, & Ana

Voltani

Second Year Awards

Juniors: Hayden Bader, Nathaniel Bruno, Lauren Chaney, Morgan Chaney, William Cira, Anna Delamotte,



Emma

Delong, Zoey Foster, Sophia Luchini, Erin Mulcahy, Mary Kelly Mulcahy, Allyson Oravitz,

Ross Otto, Nicole Patricio-Agosto, Zachary Patterson, Joseph Rinehart, Gavin Schimpf, Katherine Siatkosky, Nathan Stolly, Quishaun Thomas, Alexander Wisser, & Taylor Wisser

Seniors: Chase Caprella, Bryanna Chambers, Peyton Craig, Hannah Riepenhoff, & Rosie Williams



LCC Class of 2020

Third Year Awards

*Past LCC Honors Career Mentorship Program Participant

Seniors: Madeline Brinkman, Jacob Evans, Elena Gamble, Brandon Goldsberry*, Austin Hatcher, Anna Janowski*, Anna Kahle, Olivia Kesner, Megan Latham*, Victoria Lauck, Jocelyn Morrisey*, Quentin Potempa, Kaylee Rigg*, Jenna Rose, Sophia Santaguida, Megan Sealts, Michael Seffernick, John Sreenan*, Ethan Truex, Jared Young, & Jack Zerante*

2019-2020 LCC Honors Career Mentorship Program

Students who earn an LCC Academic Letter are eligible to participate in the Honors Career Mentorship Program.

Name	Career Interest	Mentors
Bryanna Chambers	Surgeon	Dr. Jeff Wisser-Mercy Health St. Rita's Medical Center
Emma DeLong	Theology Professor	Dr. Sandra Yocum-Univ. of Dayton
Jacob Evans	Mechanical Engineering	Shawn Bihn, Ian Manger, Isaiah Markley, Don Wiktorowski-Honda, Jim Morrisey-City of Lima
Zac Patterson	Motorsport Engineering	James Dillard-Honda Mike Tomlinson-Tomlinson Motors
Quentin Potempa	Engineering, Natural Sciences	Mike Foos Jonathan Nichols-JSMC Craig Barr-Allen County Wildlife & Forestry
Ethan Truex	Secondary Education	Michael Mays – St. Gerard
Taylor Wisser	Physical therapy	Ashlyn Erman-Mercy Health St. Rita's Inpatient Sue Sheehan-Elida Preschool Erin Savukinas-Mercy Health St. Rita's Outpatient

Summer 2020

Friends of the ChimesWe are grateful to the following parishioners who have so generously made contributions to The Chimes. Their patronage will allow us to continue this important publication.

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Philip Wise Alan Murino Mary Vorhees Alejo De La Cruz Gerald Picker Cecilia Griesdorn Jack McDermitt Jeanne Smith Juanita Sain James "Randy" Soules

is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honor of a Christian.

SACRAMENTS - from page 4

inevitable, tracking down of paperwork. We did our best to stay connected with parents as the pandemic played out, all while our families waited anxiously for the new scheduled date. One blessing we received was when Bishop Thomas gave faculties to parish priests. This means that even though it is always the Bishop or the Bishop's delegate that may confirm any of our Candidates for Confirmation, with "faculties", Father Kent was now able to take on this role for our parish. Now choosing dates became easier and there was less worry about what would happen if we got extended past our next appointed date. We chose the date for Confirmation to be June 7 and, even more boldly, the retreat (which is a prerequisite of Confirmation) for June 5. In the meantime, some "homework" was sent home for the EDGE kids, and there were Zoom meetings for those that wanted to attend. Mary Niese took charge of



Noah Williams

the students from St. Charles Catholic School. The parent meeting evolved into a Zoom Q and A since there were more questions than an email could provide. It also gave us all a little bit of much needed community.

Our Confirmation Retreat is usually given by Life Teen. I knew that the Life Teen kids already had a retreat planned, but with the limits on how many we could gather and social distancing, we

were struggling to come up with a solution that would be both safe and promote spiritual growth at the same time. Personally, I was hoping that Life Teen would somehow be able to help us, not only because they already had a program that was effective and well done, but also because they are a real life example of peers being bold and unashamed of their faith and happy to share it with others. A retreat is always best coming from someone you can relate to. God bless them! With the leadership of Amy and Kevin Briggs, they did it! Even with the restrictions that we had in place, they made it engaging and motivating. We did have to sacrifice the skits in person, but we found some good YouTube replacements, plus we had four very well done witnesses for the day's events. Oh, and did I mention, they did the retreat for us twice! We felt, for the sake of safety, that it would be best to have two smaller groups for the retreat, so we did one group in the AM and one in the PM. All that was left for Mary Niese and I to do at that point was go through Confirmation practice with the kids and be handy just in case they needed a hand with something, which they did not.

First Communion was almost a delayed response at first because we thought maybe they dodged the bullet as their dates for First Reconciliation and First Communion would not be affected during the first round of "shelter in place". But by round two, things needed to change. The first was the retreat. Normally we have a four hour retreat for the kids and parents, which includes First Reconciliation. Now we had to improvise a little. The retreat was now a home retreat, so a small packet was provided for the parents to go over with their child. As for the First Reconciliation and First Communion, we

were still very concerned about gathering in large groups even if we were permitted to do so. Plus, our LiveStream could only pick up one section of the church at a time. With social distancing, and in the spirit of the families being able to be together, this only allowed seven families per First Communion Mass. For our First Reconciliation, we had a little more room to play with because we could accommodate 14 comfortably. So we offered four dates for First Reconciliation and eight dates for First Communion over the course of two weeks in late May. We felt this would be best to accommodate all health concerns and family schedules. So we had an online sign-up followed up with a Zoom Q & A for parents. Then came another directive from the State. After we had nearly everyone signed up and ready to go, we had to



RCIA

move the date again, which meant a whole new sign-up.

All things considered, things went well. I know some may think that we could have pushed back the dates even further since we really didn't know how long it would be before we could once again gather, but the kids had worked towards this goal all year and they were looking forward to their special day. Families wanted to go on vacations and work schedules would ramp back up, not to mention that kids grow so fast! We didn't want them growing out of their fancy clothes. I think only one pair of shoes "shrunk" over the course of those couple months. But all in all, even though things seemed out of the norm, when I said earlier that things were not going to happen in the "traditional" way, I should have used a

different word. Everything we did was still very traditional in nearly every way. The parish coming together as one body, whether connecting via email, phone call, text or Zoom is still connecting. Getting homework and asking the parents to make sure the kids understand the material is nothing new to parents, they have always been their children's first and primary teacher. Everything about RCIA was still the same even without it being on Easter Vigil. We all waited along with them, unable

to be present and share in receiving the Eucharist, so that first Sunday we could again celebrate, we did it together at the RCIA Mass. The whole experience was beautiful and moving, reminding me of the anticipation each one of our candidates was going through as they waited through what seemed the longest Lent ever! And we celebrated on



David Burkholder receives a candle to represent the light of Christ and the flame of faith

Pentecost! Father Kent as the Confirmation Celebrant was a little different, but the Mass and the fact that all the kids were confirmed, and the way that they were confirmed, was still very traditional. Even through a mask. First Communion in small groups was a wonderful experience, allowing the kids to have their families right with them to help with nervousness and also have that more personal experience. What a wonderful tradition that is. With our world changing every day, especially lately, it is very comforting to me that our faith, our Church and our God is constant.

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