

The Torch



*"Generations Growing in
Faith for more than 75 years!"*

**St. Dominic
Parish**

**Delhi Township,
OH**

December 2020

Pastor's Desk

Advent is upon us! We are in preparation for the great feast of Christmas as we remember that Jesus Christ is coming again in glory! Signs of Advent here at St. Dominic are the Advent wreath, the liturgical readings about John the Baptist and from the prophet Isaiah, the liturgical songs, the purple banners in the Gathering Place and the purple vestments at Mass. We also know it is Advent because the Giving Trees have been out. We will be gathering the gifts on the weekend of December 12/13 this year, the Third Sunday of Advent.

Because of Covid, we will have no communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are on Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:30 a.m., or by appointment. There will be no Mike Davis Advent concert this year.

All our Christmas Masses will be live streamed! We will begin our celebration of Christmas on Christmas Eve with our Masses at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Please note the change of time from 11:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.! The White and Hillgrove families will again provide the music at the 3:00 p.m. Mass. The 5:00 p.m. Mass will not be a Children's Mass. Our final Christmas Eve Mass begins at 10:00 p.m. with no carols by our choir. Christmas day Masses are at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. There will be no 7:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas. To preserve social distancing, there will be live streaming in O'Connor Hall, for any overflow crowd at the Christmas Eve Masses, with Communion. We might have to turn some folks away if the crowds are too big.

For the Holy Day Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, January 1, we will have a 4:30 p.m. Mass on New Year's Eve, and a 9:00 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day.

Last year at this time we had no idea of what 2020 would bring! What a year! We have no idea of what 2021 will bring! This prayer of St. Teresa of Avila might be of help. "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone is enough!" God's blessings to you this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Fr. Jim

May They Rest in The Peace of the Lord

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following parishioners, as they have entered eternal life.

Bill Finkbeiner, husband of Elaine Finkbeiner and father of Jacob Finkbeiner, John and Stacey Hummeldorf and Angie Hummeldorf.

Arlene Stewart, mother of Robert and Barb Stewart and Jodi Stewart.

Cliff Hesse, father of Mark and Pam Hesse, Kathy and Ron Bacon, Sharon Hesse, Gary and Leslie Hesse, Diana and Brytt Lucas and Donna Nease.

Fr. Carl Tenhundfeld, brother of Paul Tenhundfeld and Marlene Lachtrupp.

Martha Nutter, mother of Jean and Paul Calme, Jerry and Gwendolyn Nutter, Mark and Christy Nutter and Michael and Linda Nutter.

Diane Montgomery, wife of Robert Montgomery, and mother of Robert and Rita Montgomery and Pamela Montgomery.

Early *TORCH* Deadline

Due to the Holidays, information for the January *Torch* needs to be received in the Parish Office by Monday, December 7. Thank you.

Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will have reduced hours during the holiday season. Please note these times so you can plan your business accordingly.

Thursday, December 24	8:00 a.m.-noon
Friday, December 25	Closed
Monday, December 28-Thursday, December 31	8:00 a.m.-noon
Friday, January 1	Closed



Parish Office Hours and Inclement Weather

Please take note that when St. Dominic School is on a two-hour delay, or closed for the day due to inclement weather, the Parish Office will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at our regular time. We feel the need to amend our hours during snow alerts, to ensure the safety of all our employees. We hope that this change in our schedule will not cause any inconvenience. *St. Dominic School follows Oak Hills Local School District for delays and closings.*

St. Dominic School Thanks You

My name is Bill Cavanaugh, and I am the principal here at St. Dominic. Last year, you may recall, Fr. Jim contacted Field Development Consultants to conduct a Parish Stewardship Review. Parishioners were interviewed during individual and focus group discussions, and there were areas that were identified that needed to be improved.

One of those areas in which there was a strong consensus is that the school should be air conditioned. Temperatures in those classrooms could get up to 95 degrees! I wanted to let you know the Parish Administration Team took your input seriously and responded accordingly. In September, all the Kindergarten to 8th grade classrooms were air conditioned with window units. On October 12, the Preschool rooms were air conditioned as well.

On behalf of the staff and students at our school, I would like to thank you for your input last year to the Parish Stewardship Review and your financial support that funded this project. Having air conditioning in our school has provided an improved learning environment for our students and a better working environment for the staff.

I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate this unexpected gift of air conditioning! What was once a dream, has become a reality! Thank you very much.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 7, 2020: 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8, 2020: 7:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

Covid Christmas Plans

Maintaining social distancing at our Christmas Masses will be difficult if we have the numbers attending who attended last year, pre-Covid! Here is what we will be doing at St. Dominic this Christmas. We will live stream all the Masses at the times they are celebrated. Mass times are: Christmas Eve: 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Please note that the "Midnight Mass" is now at 10:00 p.m. instead of 11:00 p.m.) and Christmas Day: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. There will be no Children's Mass this year. There will be a cantor at each Mass, but no choir. If we have too many for social distancing in church, we will have an overflow live stream in O'Connor Hall, with distribution of the Eucharist. If we have too many for social distancing in both church and O'Connor Hall, we will ask folks to come back for a later Mass or live stream at home. All of this presumes that the state and church guidelines remain as they are now.

The Eulogy of Marty Nutter

By Michael Nutter

I'm here to share some thoughts about our mom.

I'm the youngest of her five children, and the rumor that they decided to stop having children when they knew they finally got it right - has never been confirmed. Of course, I kid. I will never be mom's only daughter, closest confidant and personal healthcare professional like our sister Jean has been. But that said, being the youngest of the youngest definitely gave me some special consideration with mom. We were buds. I was like a second purse for her - something she took everywhere. I still remember the bowling league at Stumps and lunch with the girls at Frisch's afterward. I remember mom being tickled and telling her friends how when she took us into the basement during the Dent tornado of 1967, I asked if it meant I didn't have to take my nap that day. I hear the fondness of her voice when she talks to me on tapes that we sent to Dad when he was overseas during Vietnam. I definitely could make my mom laugh. It fed my love of entertainment and of the performing arts, and I'm proud to see how that has ultimately been reflected in each of my four children. I see her in them.

But putting aside her and my "youngest" connection, mom loved us all equally. She was that toughest of tough moms: a military mom. She was Mom and sometimes Dad, given our father's service to the country. So, she definitely parented with strong discipline. I've frequently related that she even once gave me a written punishment when I was five. When I reminded her that I didn't know how to write words yet, she calmly said, "Well, you know your letters, so just copy the letters that I write in this sentence: I will not sit on the riding lawn mower."

I've often said that I feared my Mom more than my Dad. That said - we knew that our mom was our rock.

She was a classic matriarch, just like her sisters. It seemed like we saw at least one of her sisters every other week. But Mom made sure we developed strong bonds with all of our cousins - both Eckhoffs and Nutters. And we have been so blessed by those relationships.

As kids, we all presented her with our own unique challenges. Just as she kept close to her sisters, she made sure we all kept in touch with each other. When Jean got married and left home, she coped with the void, but stayed in constant contact. When Jerry joined the military, she kept him close to us through letters, calls and visits. She did the same when Mark became the first kid to move out of state to attend college, scheduling a house-sitting vacation with Dad, in Seattle. And facing the prospect of becoming empty nesters, mom gladly invited me to move into my own apartment. Actually, I once teased that she threw me out of the house after I graduated college - and I could see it wounded her.

But her toughness was memorable. And sometimes, a little shocking to those who first met her. Her lawyer told me that she called Mom one of her M&M clients. She explained that when she first met Mom, she wasn't sure how to take her. She seemed strong and unyielding. She had a hardened outer shell. But as she got to know mom, she realized that Mom had the capacity to be very sweet on the inside. An M&M client. I loved that story.

Some maybe don't realize that the toughness of Mom was most likely a product of her own life experience. Mom's was pretty rough. Born during the Great Depression, the youngest of 7 children, her older brother Sylvester died before she turned two, something she felt her mother blamed her for. She felt that the world war "ruined her childhood," especially when her sister lost a fiancé on Anzio beach. She and all three of her sisters lost their first babies. Her loss of Judy was particularly profound. She watched a dear nephew contract polio as a child and later lost two cherished nieces from the same family at a very young age in a tragic boating accident. And as her family aged, she watched her mother, two sisters and a brother all suffer prolonged battles with Alzheimer's. Through all these challenges, Mom leaned into her faith to persevere. She had a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother. I can't tell you how many Rosaries were said during our vacation car rides. It was a lot. When I was young, it felt like a Rosary was something you prayed whenever you went under an overpass.

I think if we all reflect on our own lives, we can draw some parallels. There are things in our lives that have shaped us. Fortunately, we most often are remembered for all of the good that we brought into this world. And as I look before me at our collective family, I see nothing but beauty. I see a true "American" family. And I see a group of people who are building their own beautiful families of future generations. And it's hard not to recognize that none of this beauty would be looking at me today if it were not for Pascal and Martha Ann Nutter. As Mom, herself, would say, "Ya done good, kid."

Martha. Martha Ann. Marty. Mommy. Momma. Mom. Mother. Grandma. Grandma Mimi. Great Grandma. Great-great Grandma. MarthAnn. Marty the Party. She was one of a kind.

We will miss you, Mom. But we know that you are finally healthy again, with Dad and Judy and surrounded by all those who have loved you for so many years - your parents, sisters and brothers, grandparents, Eckhoff, Latscha, Ruthemeier and Becht relatives, Nutter relatives, friends from the military, friends from bowling leagues, friends from bridge clubs, friends from Church. You're home, Mom. Rest in peace.



A Perfect Christmas Gift

Christmas is coming soon! Consider purchasing a Gathering Place paver for the person in your life who is hard to shop for.

Pavers are the gift that lets your mother, father, grandparent, child, or spouse know how cherished they are.

Order forms are available at the doors of church and on the parish website at www.stdominicdelhi.org

(Click on Ministries/General Parish Ministries/Gathering Place Walkway).

You can also stop in the Parish Office to order a paver.

The 4 x 8 bricks allow 3 lines with 13 characters per line and cost \$40.

The 8 x 8 pavers allow up to 6 lines with 13 characters per line and cost \$75.

If you have any questions, call the Parish Office at 471-7741 ext. 0.



Church Envelopes

We are changing the way you receive your church envelopes. Instead of receiving a box of envelopes, in 2021 you will receive envelopes in the mail every two months. If you no longer use Offertory envelopes to make your donation, please send us an email at parishoffice@stdominicdelhi.org and we will update our list so you do not receive them.

Giving Trees

Thank you to all who took a tag from the Giving Tree. Remember to firmly attach the tag to your gift before returning it on the weekend of December 12 and 13.

It has come to our attention that some of you were unable to take a tag due to your inability to attend Mass in person or you feel uncomfortable going to a store during these times because of the virus. If you still would like to participate in this worthwhile program you may make a monetary donation which will allow a member of our team to purchase items on your behalf. Donations can be made online through WeShare. Visit our website at www.stdominicdelhi.org and click the "Online Giving" link on the left side (scroll down to Giving Tree). Contributions can also be mailed to the Parish Office or placed in an envelope marked "Giving Tree" and dropped off at the parish or school office. If necessary, your contribution can be picked up. Please call Joan at 922-6993 for pick up. Thank you.



Another Way to Support St. Dominic

Are you age 70 ½ and required by the IRS to take annual distributions from your IRA account, also known as Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)? If so, you may consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA account directly to St. Dominic Parish. QCDs will satisfy your annual distribution requirement, (RMD), and will not be included in your taxable income for the year. This could be a great way to save taxes and financially support St. Dominic Parish. For more details on Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA account, please contact your investment advisor and/or your tax advisor as we cannot give specific tax advice.



Wedding Anniversaries

On Sunday, October 18, St. Dominic Parish honored parishioners celebrating their 65th, 60th, 50th, 40th or 25th Wedding Anniversary during 2020. Our anniversary couples were recognized and received a special blessing during the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses. Each couple received a certificate from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, congratulating them on their years of marital commitment.

St. Dominic Parish would like to congratulate the following couples. May God Bless you and smile upon your holy union.

65th ANNIVERSARY COUPLES

John and Shirley Crowley
William and Betty Freudiger

James and Marian Dulle
Jerome and Ruth Hilvert

60th ANNIVERSARY COUPLES

Andrew and Betty Camele
Thomas and Mary Malone

Anthony and Mary Ann Chiodi
Ed and Loretta Metz

Roger and Patricia Witsken

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY COUPLES

Anthony and Arlene Coffaro
Michael and Christie Foster
Gregory and Joni Lipps
Joseph and Mary Kay Schaefer

Peter and Karen Feichtner
Martin and Juanita Gatherwright
Thomas and Edna Munch
Frank and Gail Stavale

James and Paula Weldele

40th ANNIVERSARY COUPLES

John and Tina Back
Michael and Nancy Finke
Jerry and Karen Krumpelbeck
Richard and Theresa Miller
Gerald and Janice Stine

David and Amy Brandhorst
Kenneth and Pamela Hilvert
Michael and Linda Meyer
David and Deborah Siebel
David and Kathy Wandstrat

Richard and Deborah Zureick

SILVER ANNIVERSARY COUPLES

Robert and Margo Burger
Chris and Renee Kandra
Steve and Renee Lindsey
Greg and Katherine Paff
Mark and Michelle Royer
Joseph and Collen Schwoeppe

Robert and Kimberly Johnson
Tim and Connie Kellard
Gary and Lauren Oestreich
David and Lisa Pitchford
John and Erin Sunderman
Dan and Jennifer Tettenhorst

John and Constance Vogel



Christmas Floral Donations

This Christmas Season we are accepting donations to help offset the cost of decorating the church. Please consider honoring your special loved ones by helping us to prepare a fitting and very beautiful place to welcome the Lord.

Donors and their loved ones will be listed in the bulletin and *The Torch* soon after Christmas.

You may place your donations in the Sunday Collection, please mark your envelope as "Christmas Flower Donation" or bring your gift to the Parish Office. You can also make your donation through WeShare. Visit our website at www.stdominicdelhi.org and click the "Online Giving" link on the left side (scroll down to Christmas Floral Donations). Please submit all donations by Friday, December 11.

Name: _____

Amount: _____

In Memory of: _____

☐ I wish to have my gift noted in the bulletin and *The Torch*

☐ I prefer my donation remain anonymous

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
4551 DELHI PIKE
CINCINNATI, OH 45238
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HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.,
10:00 p.m. - Final Mass on Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS DAY - FRIDAY DECEMBER 25

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
NO 7:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
9:00 a.m.

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