

The Torch



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

St. Dominic
Parish

Delhi Township,
OH

February 2024

Lenten Message From Fr. Jim

Holy Week comes early this year at the end of March. Palm Sunday, on March 24, begins the most sacred week of our liturgical year. The Triduum is at the very heart of our Holy Week gatherings. The word is from the Latin and it means "three days." On Holy Thursday, we celebrate Jesus' gift of the Eucharist to us. On Good Friday, we celebrate Jesus' gift of His life for our salvation. At the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and our destiny of sharing in God's life for all eternity.

If some of you who get this newsletter each month have not been to St. Dominic in a while, please consider this an invitation to join us for these three special days. The Spirit of God has been transforming our parish community at each Sunday Eucharist. There are marvelous signs of parishioners growing in the Lord. We invite you to be a part of that. If you have been thinking, "I have to get back to Church," trust that that very thought is already the activity and movement of God within you.

Please note the schedule for our Holy Week services. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening begins at 7:00 p.m. Our Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion is at Noon and 7:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil is on Saturday evening beginning at 8:30 p.m. This is the high point of our Liturgical Year and our most important gathering as a St. Dominic parish community. Five adults and two infants will be baptized, and seven other adults will join us in full communion. The twelve adults will be confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time. This is the highlight liturgy of the year for the St. Dominic parish family. We celebrate it well. Come and be lifted up!

On Easter Sunday, our Masses are at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

My hope and prayer for Holy Week is that you will respond with gratitude to the God who gives you the time of your life. And may that gratitude find expression in your giving back to God some of your prime time on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

May you end Lent well! May the Holy Week liturgies fill your hearts with love and gratitude for the salvation that is ours because of Jesus Christ and His Passion, death, and Resurrection! And may you all have a Happy Easter!

Fr. Jim

May They Rest in the Peace of the Lord

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following parishioner, as he has entered eternal life.

John Pohlkamp, husband of JoAnn (Weitz) Pohlkamp and father of the late Michael Pohlkamp, Mark (Kelly) Pohlkamp, Sheila (Jim) Master, Shauna (Tim) Goldrainer, and Matt Pohlkamp.

Lenten Schedule

Additional Masses

Our Lady of Victory - 7:00 p.m. every weekday during Lent except March 21 and March 22
St. Simon - Noon, every Wednesday during Lent

Confessions

Our Lady of Victory - 7:30-8:00 p.m. every Monday; 3:30-4:00 p.m. every Saturday
St. Al's - 7:30 p.m. March 8, and March 22
St. Dominic - 8:45-9:30 a.m. every Saturday
St. Simon - 11:00-11:45 a.m. every Wednesday during Lent
St. Simon - 7:30 p.m. March 1, March 15, and March 29

Stations of the Cross

Our Lady of Victory - 7:30 p.m. March 1, March 8, and March 15;
1:30 p.m. March 28, Holy Thursday (OLV students Living Stations of the Cross)
St. Al's - 7:00 p.m. March 8, and March 22
St. Dominic - 2:00 p.m. every Friday in Lent except Good Friday;
9:00 a.m. March 28, Holy Thursday (St. Dominic students Living Stations of the Cross)
St. Simon - 7:00 p.m. March 1, March 15, and March 29

Holy Week Schedule

Our Lady of Victory

Holy Thursday - March 28 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Service, 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday - March 29 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Service, 3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday - March 30 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday - March 31 - 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses

St. Al's

Holy Thursday - March 28 - 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday - March 29 - 1:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday - March 30 - 9:00 p.m. Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday - March 31 - 9:30 a.m. Mass

St. Dominic

Holy Thursday - March 28 - 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday - March 29 - Noon Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 7:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday - March 30 - 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday - 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses (No 7:00 p.m. Mass)

St. Simon

Easter Sunday - 11:00 a.m. Mass

St. Vincent de Paul

Holy Thursday - March 28 - 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday - March 29 - Noon Celebration of the Lord's Passion begins with Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday - March 30 - 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses

Lenten Holy Hour

Come spend an hour in prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Join us on Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. in church for Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction. Fr. Jim and Fr. Chris will also be hearing Confessions during this time.

Lenten Concert with Mike Davis

Join popular singer and Catholic Evangelist/Educator Mike Davis on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. as he presents "Come Watch with Me: The Perfect Storm." This will be a powerful evening of prayer, meditation and music that is sure to touch the soul on your Lenten journey.

Eulogy for John (Jack) Pohlkamp

by Mark Pohlkamp

Hello, friends and family of my father, Jack. We appreciate your love for him and for attending today to mourn his death and honor his wonderful life.

This is the second eulogy I have written in my life; the first was in 1992 for my twin brother, Mike. I mention this because my father nearly died after years of grieving over my brother's passing. But how he survived and lived after that tragedy is what defined him.

Life may, at times, seem like nothing but a struggle or series of tragic events, but we are never given a struggle or a tragedy without a gift in its hands. It is up to us to live vigorously and find that gift. This is the greatest act of love we can show God and our loved ones. And that is what my father did. He bravely searched for the gift in this tragic event.

In some way, this taught me that when you live in your highest purpose, problems and tragedies are only opportunities. They bring gifts to those who seek them. Those who do not seek the gifts only experience the tragedy - an illusion.

A famous author once wrote: "The reality is that you will grieve forever. You will not 'get over' the loss of a loved one; you'll learn to live with it. You will heal and rebuild yourself around the loss you have suffered. You will be whole again, but you will never be the same. Nor should you be the same, nor would you want to."

Many of us knew my father as a fighter: he fought and survived the Vietnam War; he fought through the grief of my twin brother; he fought and beat Leukemia; he fought through a series of strokes; and most recently, for almost two months, he fought his final battle through his final breath on January 19.

Oddly, one of our conversations during his final battle was about shoestrings. He wanted me to get his old beat-up (circa pre-2010) K-Swiss gym shoes out of the closet and replace his old shoestrings with new, stronger, and thicker ones. I was taken aback by all the things we could discuss, but he brought up shoestrings. I know this was his way of saying he was planning to come home in those shoes with new, stronger shoestrings. Thinking back on this, what seems to be a trivial conversation embodied a deeper level of how my father communicated.

As many of you would agree, we all express and receive love differently. It's called a love language. As I wrote this eulogy, recounting years of memories, it became clear that my father spoke a different love language. He expressed his love by fixing and building things and pleasant surprises. He would fix something and wait to see if anyone noticed. Especially Mom. Her noticing was how he received her love. He would often surprise her, coming home from work with Bing Cherries. Rather than handing them to her, he would set them on the table to see if she noticed. Her noticing was love.

His faith was intense, and keeping his Catholic obligations was beyond reproach. I recall how my father would rally the family every Sunday to get to Mass on time and to ensure that no one ate anything before Mass so they could receive Communion. On a few occasions, he missed the hour-fasting "rule" by merely minutes. I remember seeing the anguish on his face over the lousy timing. (Although there is some humor in this, it demonstrates how dedicated and committed he was to the Church and fulfilling his obligations).

As a father, he was very strict, loving, and affectionate. He was a hard worker. During the day, he worked his job, and in the evenings, he expressed his love; he fixed things. He took great pride and joy in this and never considered hiring someone to do the job for him. He would attend to whatever was broken, whether it was a broken appliance or a broken heart. He was always there for us. In seventh grade, I remember asking him if I could call girls, and this question ended up in a long, tender, heartfelt birds and bees conversation that left me with more questions than answers. But more importantly, as confused as I was, I felt his love.

Growing up, money was never in abundance, but his love for us was. As kids, it was common for us to want things we couldn't afford. Instead of being denied, he would make it a positive and say, "Let's just build it!" I remember, as a child, when my twin brother and I wanted parachutes for our GI Joes, but the budget didn't allow for it, so rather than say "no," he spoke his love language and helped us build parachutes out of kite string and garbage bags. We also desperately wanted a foosball table, and my sisters wanted stilts, but the budget wasn't there, but "time for his kids" was. He taught me that it was the building together that mattered. To buy would have been meaningless because the time we spent together had no price. It was priceless. Again, this was his love language.

I recall our family vacations, rather than going to expensive amusement parks, staying in hotels, and eating at restaurants, we camped, grilled, hiked, and explored. We all worked together to set up camp, find firewood, cook and grill, sit around the fire, and tell stories. These are wonderful childhood memories that were warmly crafted through his love language.

He wasn't a man of fashion but a man of function. "Things" never defined or mattered to him; they were merely a means to an end. He would be prouder of a \$10.00 suit than a \$10,000.00 suit.

I remember him buying a car to tow our pop-up camper. Four kids (Matt wasn't born yet), and a drooling, smelly dog for over fifteen hours to Ft. Sill, OK, where we camped for six weeks while he attended Army Reserve Training. For this "car," he paid \$100.00 and was so damn proud. It was the biggest eye-sore with no hub caps, AC, or muffler. We truly looked like the modern-day Clampetts (Beverly Hillbillies, for the younger folks) towing the pop-up camper across the country. But to him, it was a trophy honoring his achievement, because he never paid full price for anything. He never bragged about how much he paid for something, but he did brag about how little he paid. He would always ask with a smirk, "What do you think I paid for that?"

As strict as he was, he supported each of us siblings as individuals. Matt, the youngest sibling, wanted to take a different path through high school and college than his older brothers (Mike and me.) Mike and I swam through high school and college, where we studied engineering. And as a strict, disciplined father, he wanted Matt to follow his big brothers' path, attending Elder High School, competitive swimming, and studying engineering. But Matt wanted a different path for himself, and Dad supported him and gave him confidence in this crazy new sport called BMX and a shot at an acting career, despite knowing the extremely dismal odds of success. (For those who don't know, Matt went on to win the 2011 BMX World Championships and has been starring in Lifetime movies for the past eight years. (May I recommend Evil Nanny, Doctor Death, and Taken in Montana?)

To underscore this, I recall a quote from an author that I cannot remember his name but what he said has always resonated with me:

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it."

In this spirit. To memorialize and honor him. It is to live proudly and let him watch us do it. Whenever a question arises about what to do in life situations, we can ask, not what does Dad want us to do, but what would Dad want for me/us?

So, in closing...

We all are grieving in ways that reflect the many relationships we had with him as friends and family, and some of you are grieving for us who are left behind. As the Irish poet Thomas Campbell wrote: "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

I know my dad will live in many of your hearts, and I am grateful to all of you. And as the late Queen Elizabeth II so eloquently simplified: "Grief is the price we pay for love."

I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your love and for loving my father.

Thank you.

Parental Preparation for Infant Baptism

Parents requesting Baptism of their first child are asked to attend a preparation session. During this time, we will look at the history and theology of the sacrament, reflect on our own Baptism, and look at ways to pass the Catholic faith on to our children. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Our next session is scheduled for Sunday, April 7 at St. Dominic Church after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Contact the St. Dominic Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 0 to register for the Baptismal Preparation on April 7.



St. Dominic Festival 2024

Mark your calendars! Our Festival will be held July 19-21 this year. You will see some changes this year from past Festivals. Look for more information in future publications of the Torch and bulletin.

Goldenaires

Belterra Casino

Thursday, April 25. The fee is \$10.00 per person for bus riders, \$5.00 per person for car riders. April 12 is the firm deadline for money and reservations to be turned in to Maureen Vonderahe, 5659 Treeview Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45238. Make checks out to St. Dominic Goldenaires. If you have any questions, call Maureen at 513-451-5657 or Marie at 513-910-3938.

Goldenaires Picnic

May 29 at Our Lady of Victory Sports Pavilion. Reservations due by May 20. Details to follow in the May bulletins.

Goldenaires BB Riverboats Captain's Lunch

Back by popular demand, the Goldenaires are sponsoring a BB Riverboats Captain's Lunch Cruise, on Wednesday, June 12. Board at 11:00 a.m. and sail from 12:00-2:00 p.m. The cost is \$45.00 per person for a two-hour cruise, full hot buffet, gratuity, and banjo entertainment. All seating is reserved. A bar is available to purchase soft drinks and alcoholic beverages. Make checks payable to St. Dominic Goldenaires, and mail to Janice Noble, 5535 Timber Way Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45238. Reservations are due on Wednesday, April 3 (required by BB Riverboats). When sending your reservation, mention if you will be meeting us at the boat (101 Riverboat Row, Newport, KY 41071) or if you need to carpool. If you have any questions, call Janice at 513-503-6754.

Bereavement Ministry

The St. Dominic Bereavement Ministry is looking for people to join our ministry. We meet with families during a deeply emotional time and assist them with planning a Mass for their loved one. The meeting with the family can take one to two hours while you help them plan the readings, music, and other parts of the Mass. On the day of the funeral Mass, we are responsible for preparing the altar and church for Mass. Our current ministers will guide new members in this rewarding ministry. No experience is needed. Please reach out to Joyce Waller at 513-910-3996 or call the Parish Office for more information.

St. Dominic - Delhi Knights of Columbus

The St. Dominic-Delhi Knights of Columbus will be selling chances for the "K of C Super Cash Bonanza" after all Masses the weekends of March 9/10 and March 16/17. This is a statewide raffle with over \$100,000.00 in prizes awarded to twenty-five winners. First prize is \$49,680.00 (payable over ten years), second prize is \$18,780.00 (payable over five years), and third prize is \$12,720.00 (payable over five years). There are another twenty-two cash prizes, all paid out when won, ranging from \$4,000.00 down to \$500.00. Tickets are \$5.00 each. All money our council raises with this raffle will be used for charitable works in the parish and community. Over \$15,000.00 was distributed by the Knights in the parish and community during the past year, much of which was the profits of this campaign. All our donations are listed on our bulletin board in the Gathering Place. The Knights thank you in advance for your support.

SafeParish

Important Information for All Volunteers

Quarterly Bulletins - Everyone registered with SafeParish receives a quarterly training video. The training bulletin must be completed within 30 days to remain active and in compliance with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Child Protection Policy.

If you have a bulletin past due, you are not permitted to work/volunteer with children, according to the Archdiocesan policy. Even if you only volunteer during a single sports season, or at certain times during the school year, it is important to keep the account in an active status.

If you did not get the bulletin, check your spam, or junk mail. You can also sign into your account at www.aocsafeenvironment.org. Go to the Training Tab and click on the "Due" link to see which bulletins are due and their due date.

If you have questions, please contact Deacon Mark Bardonaro, Safe Environment Coordinator at deaconmark@stdominicdelhi.org.

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Join us
Wednesday, March 20
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there!!

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