

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Dear Friends,

In his book *The Power of the Powerless*, Christopher de Vinck tells of his brother Oliver, who was born blind, mentally challenged, disabled and unable to take care of himself. The physicians who attended to Oliver advised the family to place the child in an institution where he could receive the help he needed. But the members of the family disregarded that advice and decided to care for Oliver themselves. In doing so, they learned a great deal about the virtues they needed to practice.

At one point, Christopher fell in love with a young woman and decided to bring her home to meet his family. But when she heard of Oliver's condition, she refused to go. Although disappointed, Christopher stopped seeing the lady. Some time later, he fell in love once again with a woman by the name of Roe. This lady actually looked forward to meeting Oliver. In fact, she would even feed the child his dinner.

Christopher and Roe are a happy married couple today.

For as far back in my priesthood as I can remember, when couples come to me to prepare them for marriage, one of the first pieces of advice that I offer is that, for the most part, when you marry a person, you also marry his or her family. I've observed that some think I'm naive. After all, if we're not living under the same roof, how could parents and siblings make a difference?

Then I ask the parties individually if he or she has any personality clashes with anyone in the other's family. Occasionally one or the other or even both will respond in the affirmative. So I suggest that, prior to the wedding, it may be helpful if the one with the clash would have an honest discussion with the person in the family with whom there is a difficulty. This should be done not so much to settle the matter, but rather to come to a mutual understanding that the circumstance exists. Out of deference to my position, I'll get agreement, but I sense the conversation rarely occurs later.

It seems to me that it is normally within the context of the family that we develop our values. While those values may be tested as we grow, for the most part those basic values remain with us throughout life. Falling in love may lead some to think that any learned unhealthy values have changed or will later. But over time, when the emotion fades, those values often resurface. Yet I have noticed, to, that a mature love can be instrumental in changing values.

In the contemporary mobile society, I sense that it's common for those contemplating marriage to make their decision to proceed to the altar without giving consideration to becoming thoroughly familiar with the other's family by arranging more than a few encounters prior to the wedding. What may be even more helpful is for members of both families to get together. The experience can be fruitful. There was a time when this experience was simply expected and easily accommodated. Today this may take more than some effort.

In a time when family life is changing so much and many elements thereof, once taken for granted, are now questioned, the Church can recognize those developments, and raise our consciousness about their effects. The goal is strong, healthy families.

Love,

Fr. Dave



Schedule of Liturgies	
January 8 - January 16	
SATURDAY , January 8, Vigil: Baptism of the Lord	
4:30 PM	Anna Cecilia Rochester; Ed Smith; Helen Baumgardner; William Kowpak & Anthony Falter Families
6:30 PM	John Davidson / Michael Roth; David & Hilda Tiell
SUNDAY , January 9, Baptism of the Lord	
8:00 AM	Donald Reinhart
10:00 AM	Barbara Somers
11:30 AM	Catherine & John Gaietto
MONDAY , January 10, Weekday	
7:00 AM	Mass at St. Francis Convent
8:30 AM	Hubert & Dorothy Elchert; Donato Monaco
TUESDAY , January 11, Weekday	
6:30 AM	Communion Service
8:30 AM	Liv. & Dec'd. of Albert & Elizabeth Ranker Family
WEDNESDAY , January 12, Weekday	
8:30 AM	Vocation Awareness All School Mass Frank Longo; Eugene & Mary Elchert; Greg & Joan Elchert
THURSDAY , January 13, Weekday	
6:30 AM	Communion Service
8:30 AM	Helen Baumgardner
FRIDAY , January 14, Weekday	
8:30 AM	Liv. & Dec'd. of the Hohman & Zoll Families; Anniversary Intention
SATURDAY , January 15, Vigil: 2nd Ordinary Sunday	
4:30 PM	Bernard J. Borer; Paul Raitz Sr.; Dec'd Members of the Durso & Laparo Families; Matteo Colatruglio
6:30 PM	Michael Roth; Frank Vargo
SUNDAY , January 16, Ecumenical Sunday	
8:00 AM	Donald Reinhart
10:00 AM	Regina Bogner; Eleanor Kasza
11:30 AM	St. Mary Parish Family



SCAT DRIVERS for January 16 are Dennis & Carol Scherger.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the Irish Reverse Raffle on March 12. Much fun and joy will abound!

"NEW LIFE JOURNEY" a ministry to assist divorced and separated persons, begins January 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Wendelin Church, Fostoria, in the Upper Room. This ministry offers a guided 12-week DivorceCare, Inc. recovery/education program that involves the use of a video program based on the Bible, followed by peer discussion in small, private, confidential groups. The cost is \$20 for workbook and materials with financial assistance available. It does not matter if you have been divorced 2 months or 20 years, or if you have unresolved issues, please consider attending. For more information, contact Kathy at 435-6692.

PRAYER SERVICE AT THE CATHEDRAL will be today, January 9 at 4:00 p.m. for the entire diocese. The deacons of the diocese will be holding this prayer service with the solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer service will revolve around Bishop Blair and all parishioners who will be affected by the changes throughout the diocese concerning closings and consolidations.



BINGO WORKERS for today, January 9; Coordinator, Phyllis Hays; Gate, Phyllis Hays, Nick Collet, Marguerite Bernard; In-stants, Nancy Warnement, Steve Gosche, Lori Sherman; Floor; Janet Coffman, Angela Kershner; Charlene Miller, Tina Schank; Concessions, Cindy Paul.

GOD SQUAD JANUARY EVENTS

January 9, General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Capital Punishment, Debate on Virgin Birth/Crosses for unborn). Adoration, 8:00 p.m.
January 22, General Meeting, (Debate on Capital Punishment) 7:00 p.m., Adoration, 8:00 p.m.
January 29, Downhill Skiing, 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.
January 30, Dead Theologians Society, 7:00 p.m.



ST. MARY PARISH'S SECOND YOUTH MASS will be held January 16 with Fr. Dave as celebrant. Come and join us in prayer and hear the God Squad Band perform. The next Youth Mass will be held at St. Joseph on January 30 at 11:30 a.m.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR ENVELOPES yet, please be patient. A new partial shipment has been sent out. Until then, please put your normal contribution in a regular envelope with your name on it. A computer glitch reassigned everyone a different number and in addition some did not receive them at all. Your contributions will be posted by your name so as to keep the records straight. Your original number will be corrected with the next envelope mailing in March. Sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.



MINISTERS OF CARE TO THE SICK will meet January 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Mercy Community Service Center, McAuley Room. For more information, contact Ellie at 447-3193.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL THIS WINTER SEASON! There have been a few incidents with vehicles making contact with the iron fencing around the parking lot. Be careful when parking and exiting. Please be sure to help your fellow parishioners if they have a difficult time. Thank you.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING BUILDS STRONG FAMILIES. It is medically safe, morally acceptable, and highly effective. Natural Family Planning is taught by the Couple to Couple League at a series of four classes beginning January 13 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Church in Norwalk. Build intimacy and increase communication in your marriage. Share the responsibility for birth regulation. NFP is inexpensive and reversible. For more information, call Paul or Monica Depinet, 660-0534.

Sacrificial Giving — January 2, 2005		
Description	Amt.	Env.
Amt. Needed Each Sunday	\$ 13,000.00	
Sunday Offering	\$ 11,768.99	356
(Includes loose money & checks)	\$ 2,984.99	
Difference	- \$ 1,231.01	
Christmas Offering	\$ 2,871.00	74
New Years Day	\$ 2,482.00	136
Repair & Maintenance	\$ 156.00	15
Deposit	\$ 17,277.99	
Sisters Retirement Fund	\$ 25.00	1
Tuition Assistance	\$ 60.00	5
High School Sunday Offering	\$ 13.55	14
Children's Offering	\$ 86.60	87
Total Sunday	\$ 17,463.14	
Total Christmas To Date	\$ 27,542.65	

"52" Club Winners

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| 1. Lima Central Catholic High School | 4. William W. Martin |
| 2. Jerome Kaufman | 5. Jane Weber |
| 3. Margaret Parkins | |

ST. WENDELIN'S 21ST ACTION AUCTION will be held January 29 at St. Wendelin High School gym. A Mexican theme with silent and live auctions, a fabulous buffet, open bar raffles, entertainment and a door prize drawing are part of the evening's festivities. Contact Sue or Sandy at 435-6692 for tickets and table reservations.

TUITION RAFFLE TICKET SALE IS UNDERWAY for \$10.00 each. Only 300 tickets will be sold and the winner will receive free tuition for the 2005/2006 at your choice of St. Mary, St. Joseph, or Calvert. The free tuition must be used for the 2005/2006 school year. The drawing will be held April 9. You can purchase your tickets at any of the three schools or at St. Joseph Guardian House.

LIMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will present *Classics by Candlelight* at St. Michael the Archangel in Findlay on January 14 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available in St. Mary Parish office.

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY will meet in room 22 on January 10 at 1.00 p.m.

FATHER DAVE IS INTERESTED IN BUYING a used generator. Please call the parish office, 447-2087 if you can help.

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICE is available for families with limited income. A 24 hour answering service is provided if you call 447-6855.

CHEERLEADING CAMP will be hosted by the Calvert Cheerleaders on January 21, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and January 22, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$40 and includes a t-shirt. Campers will be able to perform during the halftime of the Danbury game on January 22. Please send check with t-shirt size to Come Cheer With Us, 27 St. Francis Ave. by January 18. For more information contact Teresa Hartman, 447-1268.



TIFFIN K OF C will be holding their 8th annual Reverse Raffle on January 15 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Money raised will benefit various charitable projects. Tickets are \$25 each and are available from K of C members.

MEMORIAL WALK & RALLY FOR LIFE will be hosted by Bascom Life on January 16 at 6:30 p.m. A candlelight vigil walk will begin at Bascom United Methodist Church and proceed to St. Patrick Church, Bascom. The rally will begin at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to park at St. Patrick, shuttles will run from 6:00 - 6:25 p.m. for transportation from St. Patrick to United Methodist.

The Sunday School Teacher asked, "Now Johnny, tell me, do you say prayers before eating?" "No sis," little Johnny said, "I don't have to. My Mam is a good cook!"



ST. MARY SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB
Sunday Night BINGO
 ...in the Recreation Room of St. Mary School
 Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 p.m.
 Two Specials Two Jackpots
Handicapped Accessible * Snacks Available