



the Columban

Lent 2018

Loveland, Ohio

Learning, Living, Loving ... our Catholic Faith

What Is The Real Meaning Of Those Ashes?

Ashes symbolize Lent's beginning. This year on February 14, instead of the mark of a red heart being at the forefront of our minds, many of us will bear the mark of ashes on our foreheads, since this is also the date of Ash Wednesday. This day commences the forty day preparation period that precedes Easter. Despite the importance of this season and contrary to what many might think, Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation. So what then obliges so many to come to Mass on that day?

Ashes symbolize mortality. Perhaps it is because in our self-important and narcissistic society, these ashes shock us back to the reality that life, and death, are neither solely all about us, nor are they completely in our control. Just as the ashes that were made from the burned palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday, we too shall someday reach the end of our earthly pilgrimage.

Ashes symbolize reconciliation. Which indicates that now, while we still have the time left, we are to shift our focus to making amends for our malice and misdeeds. From the days of the Old Testament when Mordecai, Job and the townsfolk of Nineveh put on sackcloth and ashes, up through to modern times, ashes assert a person's desire to restore the bridge that has been destroyed through sin, and to reconcile with God and neighbor.

Ashes symbolize repentance. For as these ashes are applied upon us, we hear the charge to "repent and believe in the Gospel." We are called to recognize our failings and to apologize for our offenses. We are to repent, which means to turn away from our previous ways and to instead turn towards something new. This instruction harkens back to the promises made at our baptism, when we died to our old self and we rose to a new life in the Lord.

Ashes symbolize conversion. The ashes rubbed on our temples, are to penetrate through to our minds, and to take root in our hearts, so we might worship and glorify the temple of God in our souls. For living as a Christian, being an authentic follower of Christ, involves converting, changing and transforming our words and our actions, so they can bring about compassion, mercy and forgiveness.

Ashes symbolize purification. We should not suppose the ashes themselves have the power to purify us from our sins. Rather, we are to trust that the ashes spread upon us in the shape of the cross, represent and remind us of Christ's conquering of sin and death. Yes, we have been made clean and complete through Jesus, and these ashes symbolize and point us to the path of our salvation.

~ Scott Mussari, Director of Faith Formation



Lenten Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, March 20

7:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a way to experience the gift of God's boundless mercy. Not only does it free us from our sins, but it also challenges us to offer the same compassion and forgiveness to those who have sinned against us.

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. In confession, we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment during which we place ourselves in his presence and honestly acknowledge our sins, especially mortal sins. With absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church. The Sacrament helps us stay close to the truth that we cannot live without God. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).—from the USCCB

All are invited to experience this sacrament of God's mercy.



St. Columban Girls on the Run Team gives back!

During the fall season, the Girls on the Run team at St. Columban School participated in “Operation Christmas Child”, a community project selected by the team as a way to give back to those in need. This year the team consisted of eight girls from grades 3-5.

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God’s love. Since 1993, this program has collected and delivered more than 135 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories.

During November, the team (with help from two younger siblings) decorated five ordinary shoeboxes and filled them with a variety of small gifts (stuffed animals, school supplies, small toys, puzzles, health and beauty items, etc.) and handwritten notes. The shoeboxes were then donated to Operation Christmas Child bringing delight to four young girls and one young boy at Christmas time.

The team also celebrated their end-of-season 5k event held at Sawyer Point on Saturday, November 18th. All the girls participated in the 5k, many of them running in a race for the first time, and all earned a medal as they crossed the finish line.

Pictured, holding their completed shoeboxes:

Front row: Maggie Worpenberg, Ellie Saylor, Charlie Zierolf, and Jack Saylor

Second row: Emily Santo, Rachel Mlekush, Caroline Lorio, Mara Kindt, Hailey Mollman, and Jane Lorio

Back row: Laura Saylor, Linda Zierolf, Karen Robinson, and Kristen Buck



The Giving Tree ~ 2017

It was another extraordinary year for the Giving Tree thanks to all of you, the parishioners of St. Columban. As a result of your amazing generosity, we were able to provide 15 agencies with a variety of gifts including clothing, toys, household items, personal care items, gift cards and many others. There were a total of 1,250 tags on the tree this year which included 77 tags for families. In addition, St. Columban School provided gifts for 55 families bringing the total number of tags to 1,305! It should be noted that these numbers do not represent the actual number of gifts. Because of the family tags and the fact that so many of you gave multiple items for each tag on the tree, many more than 1,305 gifts were received. It can easily be said that more than 2,500 gifts were donated to this year’s Giving Tree! Wow!

Your overwhelming generosity does not go unnoticed by the agencies served. They are all very grateful to the parish and have made it clear just how much of an impact the gifts have on their agencies and their clients. Your donations bring much joy at Christmas to so many individuals, families and children!

Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and their families who donated their time to make deliveries during the busy weeks before Christmas. Thanks to everyone who contributed and made the 2017 Giving Tree a tremendous success!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13th
5:00-7:00 p.m.
St. Columban Cafeteria
\$6 per adult | \$3 per child
\$20.00 for an entire family



Fr. Larry and the staff will be serving pancakes along with “special toppings” such as blueberries and chocolate chips!

Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras is celebrated the day before Lent begins. Since the custom was to abstain during Lent from meat, eggs, and dairy products, Shrove Tuesday was spent using up these products that were in the kitchen. So bring the whole family and enjoy pancakes (with special toppings), sausage and bacon, desserts, drinks, and lots of fun for your family!

Fish Fry - mark your calendars!



The St. Columban Fish Fry season begins on Friday, February 16th and runs for six consecutive Fridays from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. We will be serving the usual favorites along with our new item for the year....soft pretzels and cheese!

As always, we have dine-in and drive-thru options. Cash or credit cards will be accepted. We are always in need of volunteers. Please visit www.stcolumbansports.com to sign up. Thank you and we look forward to a successful season!

We will also be accepting donations for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. They are especially in need of:

Applesauce, pasta sauce, pasta, pancake mix & syrup, Banquet dinners in a box, Homestyle beef stew, canned chicken and tuna, crackers—saltines or cheese, small laundry detergent, paper towels, and pork and beans. Thank you for your support!



Do you or someone you know have a talent or calling to serve in our parish? Perhaps you're interested in being a part of the Pastoral Council, the consultative body that helps Fr. Larry with the decision-making process in the parish. Or maybe you would like to learn more about the great work that our other commissions and committees provide. St. Columban Parish will be holding our annual Discernment to help guide our parishioners in their walk of service. All nominees will attend 2 discernment sessions (Thursday, April 17, from 7PM - 9:30PM and Saturday, April 28, from 8:45AM-12:00PM). Discernment is a prayerful and reflective communal process that will open your heart to the possibilities that God has intended for you. To nominate yourself or another parishioner, or for more information, please call or text Joe Fondacaro at 513-515-3135, or via email at jdf0499@gmail.com.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, February 23rd.



Encounter Lent Catholic Relief Services “Taste and See”

Deepen your Lenten practice with a better understanding of Catholic Relief Services and “Stories of Hope” in the countries that they serve.

When: Sunday, February 25 | 4:00 p.m.

Where: Parish Hall

What: - Food from countries highlighted this year through the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program.

-“Story of Hope” video and speaker

-More information about Catholic Relief Services and their work and what

“Operation Rice Bowl” does.

Soup Is On!

Living Peace & Justice will be hosting a simple soup supper before the Holy Thursday liturgy on March 29. Various homemade soups, bread and cheese will be served in the Parish Hall from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. All are invited to attend!



They are also in need of volunteers to prepare and bring a favorite soup in a crockpot, with ladle and label, to share. In the past, a variety of delicious soups were enjoyed. Call Marianne Hoekzema at 683-4409 to sign up to bring soup. A freewill offering will be collected throughout the evening to benefit Catholic Relief Services.

ENCOUNTER
THE PEACE
OF CHRIST

February 27 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Light is ON for You

Is there someone you love who has stopped coming to Mass or feels separated from the Church? Join the Lord in inviting him or her back to church to experience the peace of people gathered in prayer. Are you reluctant to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or just find it difficult to get to a regularly scheduled confession time or penance service? Now is your chance to experience the reconciling peace of Christ through the grace of the sacrament. Across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Catholic churches will be open for prayer and confession on Tuesday, February 27, from 7:00-9:00 PM.

Members of our Stephen Ministry will be available to offer support for those who feel a need to talk. Our Stephen Ministers are lay people who provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our community who may be experiencing difficulties or just need someone to listen to them.

Direct questions to Mary Beth Meyer in the Parish Office at 683-0105 or mbmeyer@stcolumban.org.

Lenten Calendar ~ 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		13 February Shrove Tuesday 5:00-7:00 p.m. Have a pancake dinner at church.	14 Ash Wednesday Wear your ashes proudly all day!	15 Choose something to do or something to give up during Lent!	16 1st Fish Fry/ Stations of the Cross (7 p.m.) Invite a friend or neighbor to the Fish Fry.	17 Be patient with someone who annoys you and be forgiving for the next 40 days.
18 1st week of Lent <i>Focus on: Giving thanks</i>	19 Light a votive candle in thanksgiving.	20 Put a cross or crucifix in your room to keep focused.	21 Attend an extra Mass this week. Perhaps 7:00 p.m. tonight.	22 Resolve to only say positive things about yourself today.	23 Fish Fry/ Stations of the Cross (7 p.m.) Write a thank you note to someone.	24 Fast from something negative like gossiping or complaining.
25 2nd week of Lent <i>Focus on: Abstinence</i>	26 Abstain from the computer, iPad, and Facebook.	27 "The Light is On" Church open to all from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	28 Abstain from your phone for one day.	1 March Make a small sacrifice for Jesus.	2 Fish Fry/ Stations of the Cross (7 p.m.) Do an act of service at work/school.	3 1st Com. Parent/Child Retreat 9 a.m. - Noon Abstain from jealousy.
4 3rd week of Lent <i>Focus on: Charity</i>	5 Do something special for or help your teacher or co-worker today.	6 Pray for people who can't afford meat.	7 Passion Play 7:00 p.m. Pay for the person behind you - coffee or lunch.	8 Passion Play 8:30 a.m. Collect canned goods for SVDP.	9 Fish Fry/ Stations of the Cross (7 p.m.) Invite someone unpopular to eat with you.	10 Pay it forward-take an extra carpool turn or run an errand for a neighbor.
11 4th week of Lent <i>Focus on: Prayer</i>	12 Pray the rosary today or every day this week.	13 Watch an Easter movie about Jesus.	14 Get up an extra 15 minutes today to spend time in prayer.	15 Read an entire gospel today.	16 Fish Fry/ Stations of the Cross (7 p.m.) Pray for someone you don't like.	17 Confirmation 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Fast from a bad habit.
18 5th week of Lent <i>Focus on: Forgiveness</i>	19 Forgive someone who hurt you and did not ask for forgiveness.	20 Reconciliation service at 7:00 p.m. <i>Who do you need to forgive?</i>	21 Tell someone you hurt, you are sorry.	22 Think about a way you may have betrayed Jesus and ask for forgiveness.	23 Fish Fry/ Station of the Cross (7 p.m.) Make an Examination of Conscience.	24 Make a conscious effort to see everyone with loving eyes.
25 Palm Sunday <i>This week focus on: Faith</i>	26 Recite the creed and reflect on what we believe.	27 Pick a saint to learn about and try to imitate.	28 Look around for signs of new life.	29 Holy Thursday Soup Supper 5:30 p.m. Mass 7:00 p.m. Attend one of the Triduum services.	30 Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7:00 p.m. Try to imagine yourself at the events of the passion.	31 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 8:45 p.m. Pray for our newly baptized and the renewal of your own faith.

April 1st-Happy Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



We warmly welcome the families who have recently joined the parish!

Daniel, Heidi, Frank, Teddy and Lila **Adkins**
 Phyllis **Biggers**
 Keith and Bev **Broerman**
 Kenneth and Patricia **Broo**
 Robert and Gayle **Bruser**
 Gerardo, Katherine (Grueter) and Chloe **De Jesus Castro**
 Mark and Connie **Fields**
 Mary **Fink**
 Patrick and Mary Jeanne **Fitzgerald**
 Arthur and Laura **Ftacnik**
 Kevin, Kelly, Eli and Molly **Gates**
 Mark, Jessica and Logan **Gittinger**
 Kevin, Stefanie and Connor **Grubb**
 Mark, Kathy, Thomas, Brian and Mary **Haberer**
 Bill, Angela, Bobby and Brady **Jones**
 Blake, Megan, Olivia, Scarlett, Lila and Violet **Jones**
 Christopher, Kimberly and Wells **Lewis**
 Stephen and Anne (Bosche) **Louie**
 David and Andrea **Mack**
 Dan and Pamela **McDonald**
 Dan, Carolyn, Jack and Annie **Milheim**
 Chris, Denise and Paxton **Miller**
 Ray and Valerie **Nimeskern**
 Nicholas and Lindsay **Pace**
 Thomas, Kelly, Lucy and Ava **Parker**
 Jennifer, Kyle and Kyrsten **Payne**
 Cameron, Niki, Ellie and Lucas **Post**
 Bill, Stephanie, William and Lucille **Sabo**
 Matthew, Nicole, Hitch, Rory and Louie **Schaefer**
 Michael and Savannah (Green) **Schell**
 Diane **Sculthorpe**
 William, Jessica, Aevin, Callum, Lucas and Giuliana **Serra**
 Bill, Charlene and Mike **Spencer**
 Henry, Janet, Josh and Meg **Turck**
 Marshall, Beth, Brian, Evy, Chloe and Violet **Van Smith**
 Chris and Mary **Walker**
 Mark, Kelli, Madeline and Grant **Williams**

Welcome to our newly baptized members!



Mita **Brunck**, daughter of Luke & Amber Harper
 Harper **Christy**, daughter of Eric & Laura Charles
 Charles **Doud**, son of Nicholas & Lauren Connor
 Connor **Grubb**, son of Kevin & Stefanie Brody
 Brody **Gumbert**, son of Steven & Heidi Hunter
 Hunter **Kurtz**, son of Jason & Jill Paxton
 Paxton **Miller**, son of Christopher & Denise Charlie
 Charlie **O'Malley**, son of Tommy & Lindsay Isabel
 Isabel **Rosing**, daughter of Keith & Jessica Rylee
 Rylee **Stevens**, daughter of Matt & Jennifer Molly
 Molly **Tremblay**, daughter of Chris & Brigid Caleb
 Caleb **Tabor**, son of Michael & Savannah

Helping SPARK Ignite

Can you be a positive role model, a reference point for a Loveland-area adult striving to improve their family, work, personal and spiritual life? If you can offer 4 hours per month for one year, here is a great opportunity to live out your faith.

St. Columban partners with other Loveland churches at the Care Center at Northstar Church in Loveland, where the **Spark Program** offers participants a means to move ahead in life, practically. The "spark" comes from an established network of support and resources which promote personal advancement and stability. But the core component of the program is the Spark coach. Coaches and program participants are matched by personality, but always men with men and women with women. Spark needs both male and female coaches. Female coaches are particularly needed at this time, since there is a waiting list of women participants.

Responsibilities include:

- Develop a positive relationship with your participant
- Pray for and encourage a participant towards personal advancement
- Help set personal goals, work towards achieving goals, and track progress
- Participate in a coaching team for support and to problem solve

Coach training and support:

- Spark training includes topics such as the culture of poverty, developing resources, healthy coaching, and tracking goals.
- Each coach is placed in a team with other coaches for additional support. Coaches will meet with their team quarterly.
- Each coach will receive a resource binder with local service provider information to assist you with goal setting. St. Vincent de Paul may also identify additional resources for parishioner coaches.

After training, you'll meet personally with your participant twice a month and connect weekly via phone or e-mail. There is also time spent at the coaching support meeting described above. If you are interested in learning more, sign up for an orientation session to be scheduled by Greg Knake, the Director of the Care Center. To indicate your interest in attending this meeting or if you have questions, please contact either parishioner Walter Klein klein.wr@gmail.com or Greg Knake at gknake@golovelive.com.

CRHP for Men

Men of St. Columban

It has been over 36 years since the very first *Christ Renews His Parish* (CRHP) retreat took place at St. Columban. Many of your fellow St. Columban brothers have participated, and in turn, renewed our parish.

This faith-building event is full of spiritual reflection, growth and comradery. Don't let the thought of a weekend time commitment sway you from taking action to strengthen your bond with the Lord!

Our 2018 CRHP weekend occurs March 10th and 11th. All you need to do is say OK. Great food and drinks are guaranteed and registration is free. Jesus relies on each of us to use the talents He has provided to continue the renewal.

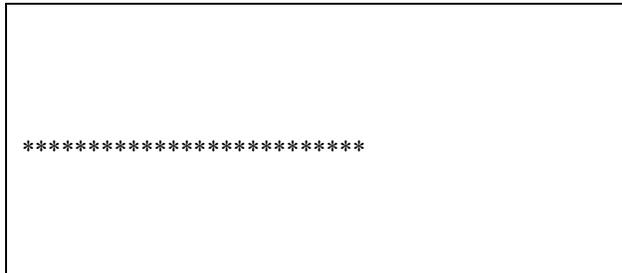
Contact John Soehnlén, jsoehnlén@yahoo.com, to sign up or get more information. You will be happy you did!



Grand Affair ~ February 24

Come Sail Away with this beautifully designed Allison Kaufman “sail” pendant set in 14 karat white gold and donated by our friends and fellow parishioners James and Laura Wolf at James Wolf Jewelers. It has a stunning ombre’ of natural blue topaz gem stones, accented with the most brilliant cut diamonds. There are forty-nine various sizes and hues of blue topaz weighing 4.81 carats accented by thirty-six brilliant-cut, white diamonds weighing .13 carats. This designer has earned its reputation for three generations as one of the world’s finest jewelry manufacturers. Valued at \$1,600, this pendant can be yours by simply playing our Jewelry Game the night of the event.

Event tickets and live auction raffle tickets are on sale now at www.18columban.gesture.com. We are excited to bring you lots of Live & Silent Auction items this year as well as fun opportunities created by our great hosts of our Party Parties. Grand Affair is one of our major parish fundraisers supporting the operating budget and our many ministries. We hope you are able to support the parish at this fun night out on Saturday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m. at Receptions in Loveland.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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