Palm Sunday

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday   March 21
8:30am   Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday  March 22
8:30am   Joe Bischoff
Wednesday March 23
8:30am   Otto & Tina Meyer
Holy Thursday March 24
7:30pm   Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Good Friday March 25
2:00pm   Good Friday Service
          Stations of the Cross
7:30pm   Good Friday Service
Holy Saturday March 26
8:45pm   Easter Vigil
          RCIA Neophytes
Easter Sunday March 27
8:30am   Vicki Toerner
10:30am  Matthew Harmeyer

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Easter Sunday
March 27, 2016
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
John 20:1-9

In what way have you risen from "deadness" in your life?

MASSES FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, March 26, 8:45pm – Fr. George
Sunday, March 27, 8:30am – Fr. George
Sunday, March 27, 10:30am – Fr. Bob

Incense Free Mass – Easter 3/27, 10:30am

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers the family of Howard Kreider, Jr., father of Ellen Poppleton who passed away recently.

Thank You to the family of Rose Meier and all who contributed to St. Clare in her memory. It is very thoughtful and generous of the family to include St. Clare in their memorials to Rose.

Time to Return your Rice Bowl

Our Rice Bowl Lenten journey of mercy ends this week. Rice Bowls will be collected in a special basket during the Holy Thursday liturgy. If you cannot attend Mass that evening, place your rice bowl donation in the collection the next Mass you attend.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Palm Sunday – "The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them,” says Isaiah in today’s first reading. The gifts God has given us are likewise given for the good of others. How am I using my gifts?

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land. In these challenging times in the Middle East, your support means that our church will conduct parish ministry, provide Catholic education, feed the hungry, build housing for Christians, maintain shrines and operate refugee centers in the Holy Land. Christians, along with all of the clergy and religious who serve in the Holy Land, will deeply appreciate your prayers and financial help! The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Our parish will support Christians in the Holy Land through the Good Friday Collection, as requested by Pope Francis. Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help carry the cross under very difficult circumstances in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL asks you to prayerfully consider serving on Parish Council for the June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2018 term. Anyone who is a registered parishioner, 18 years or older and baptized or fully received into the Church is invited to be a candidate for this year’s election. Questions and nominations may be directed to Parish Council members. Nomination forms will be available in the pews in the near future. Nomination Committee members will contact nominees to confirm willingness to serve.

HIGH SCHOOL TUITION MATCH - WE HAVE MET OUR GOAL!

Congratulations! Once again we have met our goal of collecting $5,000. This $1 for $1 match from an anonymous parishioner means $10,000 in aid is available for St. Clare high school students. Thank you for your support of Catholic high school education.
Our SERVE group (Students Engaged in Rewarding Volunteer Experiences) is collecting old eyeglasses for Lens-Crafters. The company will clean them up and donate them to people in both our country and in other countries who cannot afford proper eyeglasses. This is one way we can recycle an item for a better use. Please support this collection by dropping your old eyeglasses (readers or prescription) in the box located in the vestibule. Thanks for your support.

If you are interested in a Catholic education for your child, contact the school office 521-0860 to schedule a tour.

**Bread for the World’s 2016 Offering of Letters** aims to realize a world in which all of God’s children are fed. Our goal is to create political will by writing our policy makers and urging them to create pathways out of hunger and poverty. This weekend March 19/20 there will be a display table in the back of church with information, sample letters and self-addressed envelopes. Or you can add your own personal letter to the basket on the table. All letters will be gathered and presented at Mass on Holy Thursday. In the Gospels, Jesus was compassionate to all people but especially the most vulnerable in society. The Offering of Letters is one opportunity for Christians to live out this commitment.

**Join the Easter Egg Dyeing Fun!**
Everyone, young and young-at-heart, is welcome! **Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016** we will be dyeing Easter Eggs in the undercroft of the church after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. Just bring 2 or more dozen hard-boiled eggs and your creativity. Donate one dozen to Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly and take the rest home. We will provide the supplies, including donuts and juice. Have all the fun with none of the mess to clean up at home.

**ME25 Survey deadline is Monday, March 21st!**
If you have not had the chance to complete the parish Gallup ME25 survey yet, please look for the detailed instructions for completing an online survey on the cards available on the poster in the Cedar Avenue vestibule. If you’ve already completed a paper ME25 survey at Church, please do not submit an online survey! Look for more information about our results “reveal party” – also known as our Soup ‘n’ Savor event scheduled for Thursday evening, May 5th! Thank you for your participation.

**Does what you read help you to be fully alive, body, soul, mind, heart and spirit?**
Join us as we discuss **Spirituality of Fasting** by Charles Murphy on **Monday, April 4, 7-8:30pm, Church Conference Room**. Why do we fast during Lent? Monsignor Murphy uses old and new sources to guide the reader to a new understanding and intentional practice of fasting. You will need to get a copy and read it before April 4.

**“... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another.” Hebrews 10: 23-25**
Here’s a chance to encourage one another, promote good works and meet with other spirit-filled parishioners as we study **The Letter to the Hebrews**. With only four sessions (March 31, April 7, 14 and 21) might this study be the one you invest your time? Come to the Church Conference Room from 10am-11:30am as we delve into the text and ponder its meaning, together.

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**St. Clare’s Walk to Jerusalem**
So far we’ve totaled 3133 miles and are still over the Atlantic Ocean. Have you submitted your miles? We have 3059 miles to go in the home stretch.....help us get to Jerusalem by Easter. You can submit your "miles" via the collection basket, Walk to Jerusalem boxes at church doors, regular mail, email (dbooker@saintclareparish.org), phone (871-6616) or send to Donna in the office.

**911 Call**
**Can You Help St. Vincent de Paul?**
Our conference is experiencing a person-power shortage due to “snow birding.” We need a few folks to accompany our remaining members when we do our home visits on Wednesday or Saturday mornings at 9:00am. Or if you would like to help us with phone calls, perhaps on a trial basis, please call Tom Stark 522-9652 or Marita Hartel 542-0017. May God bless St. Clare Parish.

**Crocheters needed!!!**
Bags 2 Beds Ministry from St. Anthony Church, Taylor Mill, KY. Providing Sleeping Mats for the Homeless. Contact Annie Stark 513-604-2778 for more information.

**Lay Pastoral Ministry Program**
Classes forming for fall. Call 513-231-1200 for information or attend an Information Meeting April 16 10am at the main campus, 6616 Beechmont Ave.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**
**Superior Janitor Supply**
Our generous sponsors make this bulletin possible. Please thank them in person when you do business with them.

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**ST. CLARE’S BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**
**Superior Janitor Supply**
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**Bulletin article deadline is 8:00am Tuesday.**
Save the Date Events from the Peace & Justice Commission

Death Penalty: Should it be abolished? Thursday, April 14th 7pm in church undercroft. Hear from Voices of Experience—a man who oversaw more than 30 executions and one who was on death row for 22 years.

SMICS????? - Wednesday, April 20 7pm —SMICS—our annual Social Ministries Ice Cream Social and evening of reflection for all involved in the social ministries.

Sacred Heart Church Italian Dinner

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 3 at St. Bartholomew Church
Celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Bartholomew Church at 2:00pm with Guest Speaker, Fr. Cyril W. Whitaker, S.J. Speaker & Rosary at 2:00pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet begins at 3:00pm. Several priests will hear confessions followed by Benediction. Questions: call St. Bartholomew Office 522-4950 ext. 101.

One Opportunity to do Mercy in the Year of Mercy
The Archdiocese has designated Saturday, May 14 as a "Day of Doing Mercy", and has asked parishes to coordinate a service opportunity that will allow us to perform works of mercy. Our Peace & Justice Commission has arranged a field trip to volunteer at Matthew 25 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. There will be tasks suitable for young school age children through senior citizens. If you would like to join us, or have questions, please contact Monica Bonecutter at (513) 541-1972 or mbonecutter@fuse.net.

Celebrating the Year of Mercy: Who are the Champions of Mercy Among Us?
Acts of Mercy occur in our parishes, schools, health care facilities and communities every day. St. Clare has many, many parishioners involved in serving the poor, protecting the vulnerable, and welcoming the stranger. You have a chance to express your gratitude in a big way. Nominate an individual or group for Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio’s recognition of 100 Champions of Mercy. Nominations are due by May 21, 2016 and winners will be honored at their Centennial Celebration and Awards Ceremony on October 1, 2016. Nominate on-line at https://ccswoh.org/championofmercy/ or look for copies of the print nomination form at the doors of church.

DONATIONS NEEDED:
The Franciscan Peddler Thrift Shop, a ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, are in need of donations: Clothing in clean, wearable condition; Men & women’s shoes & accessories; Baby clothing and toy; and Small household goods like jewelry, purses, books, pictures, home décor, holiday items. The store is located at the St. Clare Convent (follow the Franciscan Peddler signs) 60 Compton Road. Your donation is entirely tax deductible. For more information call 513.761.9040 X112, Or email: sfpassociates@fuse.net

Electronic Funds Transfer or Credit Card
Your offerings can come straight from your checking account to St. Clare Parish. Or choose to use your Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card. You can choose to give weekly or monthly, and how much to give each time. This saves you and our parish money and you never have to worry about missing a Sunday donation. Click the Donate button on our website and select “Sunday Offering.” Donations to St. Vincent de Paul and the Celebrating the Past…Securing our Future Drive can be made this way too.

STAY IN THE KNOW
Just provide your email address to get monthly email updates and news from St. Clare Parish. Please note, even if the parish has your email for other purposes, you still must fill out a form available in the back of church to receive your email updates.

Keeping an Attitude of Gratitude Year-Round
Thanks to all who have posted their notes of thanks to the Wall of Gratitude (Cedar Ave Vestibule) – but it’s not over! As good stewards we are aware of all that our good God has done and is doing in our lives. Gratitude flows naturally and if you want to share your thoughts of “I am grateful for…” with the parish, please use the cutouts by the Wall of Gratitude and post your note! There are St. Clare thank-you cards available in the niche by the Wall of Gratitude if you would like to send a personal note of encouragement and gratitude to a fellow parishioner.

Holy Week Retreat
March 24 - 26, Thursday to Saturday Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ is a widely acclaimed retreat director, lecturer and author of books on prayer, the sacraments and spirituality. With a background in drama and storytelling, he brings retreatants a vivid experience of Jesus Christ's ministry of Salvation in preparation for Easter. This special Holy Week Retreat is open to all. It will begin with a Seder Passover Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Holy Thursday, March 24. The retreat will include celebration of the sacred liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, talks by Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ, and ample time for private prayer. The fee for the retreat is $250.

Bulletin article deadline is 8:00am Tuesday.
Celebrate a Seder Meal with your Family and Friends

Celebrate the Meal Jesus shared with his disciples at the Last Supper

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm

The Seder Plate

The Haggadah demands that each person see him or herself as personally being freed and come forth out of Egypt. The Seder is a sensory heavy ritual. During the Seder, we hear the story, we see the symbols, we smell, we feel, and we taste liberation. Many of the symbols of the ritual will be placed on a special plate called the Seder plate,

On or near the Seder plate we find:

Haroset – a mixture of fruits, wine and nuts - symbolizing the mortar the slaves used to construct buildings for the Pharoah.

Maror – a bitter herb symbolizing the bitterness of slavery

Hareret – a second bitter herb

Beitzah – egg – symbolizes sacrifice; also the roundness of the egg represents the cycle of life

Matzah- unleavened bread

Salt water

Water for washing

Wine glasses

The above was adapted from an article at www.myjewishlearning.com