

Dear Parishioners,

+JMJ

Because I recently began marriage preparation with two couples, I thought it was necessary in the last bulletin to present the marriage preparation program that we will be using. Because that program includes Natural Family Planning, I want to explain NFP a little bit more fully in this bulletin letter. The diocesan brochure included in this bulletin explains quite nicely what natural family planning is. And you can see that there are quite a number of couples in the diocese who teach it. If anyone in our own parish wanted to become teachers, I would certainly welcome this and provide financially for the training. Most of the couples listed in the brochure teach the “sympto-thermal” method of the Couple to Couple League. One person on the list teaches what is known as the Creighton method, because it was developed at Creighton University in Omaha Nebraska by the Pope Paul VI Institute. The Institute also developed a very impressive NaProTechnology that can treat all kinds of fertility issues requiring medical attention, always respecting the full integrity of the marital embrace and the body-soul composite nature of the human person.

I think natural family planning is one of our greatest secrets. No doubt there is some struggle for couples learning the discipline and art of natural family planning. Nonetheless, it is something very wholesome, in that it is entirely natural; but moreso – from a faith perspective, morally and theologically speaking – it maintains the dignity and integrity of the marital embrace. Here are a few paragraphs I lifted from the NFP brochure of the Family Life office of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend:

NFP provides a healthy, highly effective method of family planning for a very low cost and with no harmful side effects. It can be used successfully at all stages in a woman’s life, including during breast-feeding and perimenopause. Couples who practice NFP often develop a deeper awe for one another’s bodies, for the gift of their joint fertility and for the privilege of parenthood. Many couples also find that the mutual respect, regular communication, shared responsibility and self-restraint required by the practice of NFP enrich their relationship and strengthen their marriage.

The Catholic Church promotes NFP because it is the only method of family planning that respects the link between the love-giving and the life-giving purposes that God has placed in sexual intercourse. Sexual intercourse is intended by God to be the most intimate sign of the complete gift of self that a man and a woman make to one another in marriage. This act which expresses their mutual gift of self, at the same time makes them capable of the greatest possible gift - cooperating with God in giving life to a new human person.

Natural family planning allows a couple to prayerfully discern on a periodic basis whether or not God is calling them to conceive a child and then to use their understanding of the wife’s fertility cycle to either achieve or avoid a pregnancy. It regards fertility as a gift which should not be suppressed or destroyed, but rather appreciated and respected. The Church believes that natural family planning is where being pro-life begins.

So there are the positives regarding natural family planning. But what is so wrong with contraception? I strongly encourage you to read and meditate upon the encyclical of Pope Paul VI, *Humanae vitae* (*On Human Life*). The encyclical's content is part of the Church's infallible ordinary magisterial teaching. Published in 1968, it became – to the detriment of our culture – the issue of greatest dissent in our time. Even many churchmen rejected its teaching, perhaps fearing the wrath they would incur for standing in opposition to contraception, in light of the modern world's apparent insistence on uninhibited sex. Yet the encyclical was prophetic; and the teaching contained therein is to be treasured as great wisdom. I also strongly recommend Pope Saint John Paul II's work, *Love and Responsibility*, written while he was still a cardinal in Poland. One could also refer to the website of Dr. Janet E. Smith, moral theology professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, [www.janetsmith.org](http://www.janetsmith.org). She is eloquent in the Church's teachings in the area of human sexuality. There are many resources for learning on her website. So what is wrong with contraception?

First of all, a major *caveat*: I am *not* addressing the situations where chemical/hormonal contraceptives are prescribed for medical purposes. The morality in such cases might differ, and each situation has to be analyzed individually. I am also not going to address how some contraceptives could be physically harmful to a woman. Although there is a moral aspect regarding harm to health, that is not my area of expertise, although it certainly is of great concern to me. I really mean here only to address the morality of contraception chosen by a married couple to prevent pregnancy.

First of all, the hormonal contraceptives tend to have an abortifacient capacity to them, usually because of the hormone “progestin”. Part of the time pregnancy is avoided by preventing ovulation; part of the time by thickening mucus to prevent fertilization; but part of the time also by thinning the lining of the uterus, which prevents implantation of an embryo. This last means is essentially a chemical abortion.

But even if one were to choose a contraception without an abortifacient aspect, the marital embrace would still be morally compromised. The marital embrace is designed by God with a twofold purpose, a twofold end: procreation of children, and the mutual up-building of the couple in love. NFP brochures use the easily remembered language of “life-giving” and “love-giving” purposes of the marital embrace. Because the sexual embrace is designed to accomplish both of these goals, you cannot suppress one, without damaging the other as well. You cannot suppress the love-aspect of the embrace to achieve procreation alone (such as in in-vitro fertilization); nor can you suppress the procreative aspect, without compromising the full power of the love-giving/bonding character of the embrace (such as by using contraceptives of any sort). The full gift of self in the marital embrace by definition includes one's fertility.

One might consider the analogy of the key used to open the tabernacle at Sunday Mass. Imagine the key were split down the middle, one half made of silver, the other half bronze. I decide that, given my preference for the more expensive silver, I want to break off the bronze portion of the key, using only the silver. So I do that, maintaining only the silver half of the key. But when I apply the now-half-key to the tabernacle lock, I find that it does not fit. I no longer have access to the tabernacle. The tabernacle remains locked. A half-key cannot open it. Now I can still adore the Lord in prayer in front of the tabernacle; but I cannot expose the Host for adoration in the monstrance; nor can I receive Holy Communion from the tabernacle. All analogies “limp”, but there are many ways this analogy works. The marital embrace is significantly compromised – even in its love-giving – when its fertility is willfully suppressed. NFP respects the design of the fertility cycle and marital embrace, thus maintaining its full integrity and gift-power.

So there is, very briefly, the reason we have to ask couples approaching marriage to learn the art of natural family planning; so they do not feel compelled to rely upon contraception, if for serious reasons they decide they ought to avoid or postpone pregnancy. It would be negligent for me not to provide this teaching to couples approaching marriage.

On another note, we are only \$3,743 short of our goal for the air conditioning project at Paulding. Thank you very much to all those who contributed so far. We have quickly come so close to our goal. We will be right on schedule. We are still willing to take any donations to cover this last amount to reach the full goal.

Have a blessed week!  
In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,  
Fr. Poggemeyer

## **Divine Mercy Parish Offerings**

2014-2015 budget per week = \$ 9,540.00

Offertory - January 25, 2015 = \$ 8,571.34  
Children's Offertory – 13 envelopes = \$ 13.10  
2<sup>nd</sup> collection Maintenance Fund = \$ 366.52

Offertory – February 1, 2015 = \$ 8,770.02  
Children's Offertory – 12 envelopes = \$ 7.45  
2<sup>nd</sup> collection Maintenance Fund = \$ 340.69

*Electronic Offertory Contribution is  
an option to consider. For more information  
Call Dianne at the Parish Office.*

### Antwerp

Rosary Leader February 15: Denny Brinkman

Clean Church week of February 8:

Laura Bissell, Audrey Feasby, Joyce Parrish

Feb. Visitors to Shut-in: Volunteer Needed

Feb. Communion to Shut-ins: Denny & Rita Brinkman

February Ushers: Paul & Matt Adams

### Paulding

Church Cleaners February 2 – 15:

Amy Hammer & Jackie Koenn

Sacristan February 8-14: Nancy Wehrkamp

February Ushers: 5:30PM \*\*Tom Sinn, Toby Doster,

Corey & Stephen Walker, Nino Martinez, Bob Miller

10:30AM \*\*Rolland Taylor, Jason Thornell, Fritz

Koch, Justin Adams, Alex Stoller, Steve Foltz

### Payne

Rosary Leader February 14: John Molitor, Jr.

February 9 – 14 Church Cleaner: Kathy Cadwallader

### ATTENTION - - - CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at PAYNE AND PAULDING

Sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the back of church at Payne and in the Narthex at Paulding to clean the church. In Paulding you do **NOT** have to clean bathrooms, the basement or the Narthex, just the church. If you have any questions regarding the Payne location call Jeanette at 419-263-2655. Make a New Year's resolution and sign up for this "clean & shiny" ministry.

### WEEKDAY MASS - WEATHER POLICY

For Fr. Poggemeyer's safety and the safety of those who attend daily Mass, it has been decided when a weekday Mass is scheduled in a school district that has delayed or cancelled due to inclement weather, the Mass will be cancelled. For Wednesday Mass and Adoration in Paulding, we **will** have Mass and Adoration when there is a delay, but **not** when Paulding school has cancelled due to extreme weather, such as snow and ice. With foggy or snowy mornings, please don't take unnecessary chances, make wise and safe decisions.

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Saturday, February 7

Blood Pressures taken after 5:30PM Mass

Sunday, February 8

9AM Children's Choir Practice in Pldg.

9AM Church & Family in Paulding

10:30AM Mass – Liturgy of the Word

Blood Pressures taken after Mass

12:30PM Retreat Teem meeting in

Paulding church basement

Monday, February 9

4PM Totus Tuus Prayer Group in Pldg.

7PM RCIA in Paulding

7PM Medjugorje Prayer Group in Payne

Tuesday, February 10

Wednesday, February 11

8AM - 7PM Adoration in Paulding

7PM Benediction in Paulding

### PSR Schedule

4PM Gr. K-5 in Paulding

6:30PM Gr. K-5 in Antwerp

7PM Gr. 6-8 in Paulding

7PM Gr. 7-8 in Payne

7:45PM Gr. 6-8 in Antwerp

### High School Church & Family

7PM in Paulding

Thursday, February 12

Friday, February 13

11AM-1PM and 4-7PM Paulding

K of C Fish Fry at the Hall on US 127S

Saturday, February 14 – *Valentine's Day*

Sunday, February 15

*Engaged Couples in Paulding Educational Center*

10:30AM Mass – Liturgy of the Word

11:30AM Church & Family in Paulding

Noon Jr. High Youth Group at Center

12:30PM Retreat Teem meeting in

Paulding Educational Center

### LOOKING AHEAD

*All items for the March Calendar are due in the  
Parish Office by noon, Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>*

Thursday, February 19

7PM Pastoral Council meeting in Payne

### PAYNE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRYS

The Payne K of C will host 4 fish fries during Lent at the Parish Hall from 5-7PM. The dates are Friday, February 20 & 27 and March 13 & 27. Menu includes fish, scalloped potatoes, French fries, green beans, cole slaw, fruit, roll & drink - adults \$8.50.

## SCHOOL NEWS

Wednesday, February 18, is Ash Wednesday, and the school staff has 2 hour Professional Development delay. Since this is Ash Wednesday we will be going to Mass at noon. Congratulations to Kaden Sutton who represented Divine Mercy School as our champion speller. We are proud of you!

Divine Mercy School is currently taking registrations for the 2015-2016 school year. An incoming kindergarten student for next year must be 5 years of age on or before August 1, 2015. Come for a school visit or give us a call at 419-263-2114 for more information.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Our diocese is sponsoring weekend TEC (Teens Encountering Christ) Conferences now through April at Our Lady of Consolation Retreat House in Carey, Ohio. TEC is about getting in touch with God in a peaceful environment. It is about encountering Christ in a way that many have never experienced Christ before. It's about faith, but also about having fun and getting to know others from around our diocese. Sessions are February 21-23 (guys), February 28-March 2 (girls), March 21-23 (guys) and April 11-13 (girls). The cost for the 3 day retreat is \$120. Registration forms can be found at each location. Information sheets are also hanging on each bulletin board. Questions? More info? Contact Kayla Miller (419-587-3452) or Theresa (419-399-2576).

## FAMILY-LIFE QUOTE

*"A man and a woman collaborating with the Eternal God in creating a new human being is an awe-inspiring privilege not given to the angels – not even the highest of the seraphim. Every husband and wife should be filled with profound reverence at the fact that they can bring into being a unique creation of God who will live forever. The intimate sphere is a sacred one – one that should be treated with trembling awe."*

Alice von Hildebrand

## OF MUTUAL INTEREST

**\*\* Northwest Ohio Men's Breakfast** will be held Saturday, February 14 at St. John, Defiance. The breakfast is an ecumenical effort of men of our community to bring all faiths together to share fellowship and support one another. All men, their families and friends are invited. Coffee at 7:30AM & program at 8AM. Call George at 419-784-3975 or [grwestrick@embarqmail.com](mailto:grwestrick@embarqmail.com).

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The Payne Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Family Movie Night at the Antwerp Center on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. The featured movie is *Ice Age*. Free admission. Any donations you care to bring will be donated to the Food Bank. Everyone is welcome.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

**\*\* World Meeting of Families, 2015, in Philadelphia** - Join Bishop Daniel E. Thomas as he leads the Diocese of Toledo on a Pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September 2015! This year's theme is *"Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive"* emphasizing the impact of the love and life of families in our society. For news, and to learn more about the pilgrimage led by Bishop Daniel, contact Monica Martinez at [mmartinez@toledodiocese.org](mailto:mmartinez@toledodiocese.org) or 419-244-6711 ext. 715 or sign-up for updates at [toledodiocese.org/page/marriage-and-family](http://toledodiocese.org/page/marriage-and-family). If you are interested in helping Divine Mercy Parish plan a trip to this inspirational event, please call the parish office at 419-399-2576.

**A Workshop for Cantors** will be held on Saturday, March 7, 9:30AM-Noon, St. Mary, Defiance. Cost is \$10 person. Register by Monday, March 2 to Paul Monachino at 419-244-6711, ext. 716 or at [pmonachino@toledodiocese.org](mailto:pmonachino@toledodiocese.org).

**Toledo Diocese Fertility Seminar** - Saturday, February 28, St. Michael the Archangel, Findlay, 10AM-3PM. You will hear from leading authors, medical experts and clergy surrounding such topics as: fertility, infertility, miscarriage, polycystic ovary syndrome, PMS and other gynecological health issues and how to approach these practically, faithfully and pastorally. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Free for clergy and religious. Lunch included. Register at [tdfertilityseminar.eventbrite.com](http://tdfertilityseminar.eventbrite.com) or contact Monica at 419-244-6711 [mmartinez@toledodiocese.org](mailto:mmartinez@toledodiocese.org).

**"Joy-Filled Marriage" Engaged Couples Workshop.** If you are engaged to be married, you'll want to register for this interactive, enjoyable and comprehensive workshop for engaged couples. This workshop will delve into practical "life skills" as well as the sacramentality of marriage, guided by a dedicated team of married couples and individuals. This workshop fulfills the "marriage class" component, which is part of the requirements for marriage in the Catholic Church. Divine Mercy will host a workshop on April 25 & 26, 2015. To register or for further information contact Monica Martinez at 419-244-6711, email [mmartinez@toledodiocese.org](mailto:mmartinez@toledodiocese.org) or visit [www.jfmdtoledo.eventbrite.com](http://www.jfmdtoledo.eventbrite.com).

**Hands of Hope Announcement** – Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 7:30PM, Pam Tebow will be sharing her life experiences at the annual Hands of Hope Benefit at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert. Pam and Tim were featured in a Super Bowl commercial that celebrated family and life which resulted in 5.5 million people "having cause to rethink their stand on abortion". For tickets call 419-238-6722 or at <http://www.npacvw.org>.

## Weekly Schedule of Services

February 7 - 15, 2015  
St. Maximilian Kolbe Deanery

“The Pastor’s Daily Scripture Inspirations  
on Twitter: @frdivinemercy”

### **SATURDAY, February 7**

**4PM Mass in Payne** – Ron Gochenour and  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Baumle  
**5:30PM Mass in Paulding** – Betty DeLong and  
Karen Lothamer Feeney

### **SUNDAY, February 8**

**8:30AM Mass in Antwerp** – For the Parish  
**10:30AM Mass in Paulding** – Bob Thornell and  
Paul & Millie Heck

### **MONDAY, February 9**

**No Services Today**

### **TUESDAY, February 10** – St. Scholastica

**8AM Mass in Antwerp** – Sharon Ashbaugh

### **WEDNESDAY, February 11** – Our Lady of Lourdes

**8AM Mass in Paulding** – Joe Zigovits

### **THURSDAY, February 12**

**8AM Mass in Payne** – Alice Bruns

### **FRIDAY, February 13**

**9AM Mass in Payne** – Pauline Klinker

### **SATURDAY, February 14** - St. Cyril & Methodius

**4PM Mass in Payne** – John & Delores Baumle  
and the Intentions of Steve Hall  
**5:30PM Mass in Paulding** – For the Parish

### **SUNDAY, February 15**

**8:30AM Mass in Antwerp** – Jim Becker and  
Tom Marlin  
**10:30AM Mass in Paulding** – Mary Lou Mandly  
and Living & Deceased of Louis Savieo Family

### **DONUTS & DRINKS**

Coffee, juice and donuts are available after 8:30AM Mass at the Antwerp campus on Sundays. This is a free-will offering. Donuts and Drinks are provided by Payne K of C. All proceeds will be donated to the food pantry in Antwerp. Please join us!

Follow Bishop Thomas on Facebook at Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, on Twitter@BishopDEThomas and on Instagram at BishopDEThomas. The Diocese is on Facebook at Diocese of Toledo, on Twitter @DioceseToledo and Instagram at DioceseToledo.

### **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Due to the new bulletin publication process, the deadline for bulletin items submitted to the Parish Office is **Noon on Mondays**, effective immediately.

### **BULLETIN PUBLICATIONS**

Dave Roth representing Diocesan Publications (our Bulletin Publisher) is in the process of seeking new advertisements. If interested, please call the parish office, or you may contact Dave directly at 614-715-3215 or [droth@diocesan.com](mailto:droth@diocesan.com). We feel this is an excellent service and the sponsors get good coverage with their advertisements. Thanks to you and Diocesan Publications, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

### **Saints on the Eucharist**

*“He is The Bread sown in the virgin, leavened in the Flesh, molded in His Passion, baked in the furnace of the Sepulchre, placed in the Churches and set upon the Altars, which daily supplies Heavenly Food to the faithful.”*

From St. Therese’s Autobiography: Story of A Soul

### **MYSTERIUM CHRISTI SESSION**

Father Poggemeyer is presenting a diocesan Mysterium Christi program on *Morality*, Saturday, May 2, 9AM-2:30PM at the Educational Center in Paulding. Please join us as we learn about the foundational Truths of the Catholic Faith. The program is free to anyone who wishes to attend, so mark your calendar for this upcoming educational program.

### **Newly Baptized:**

Heath W. Carter - January 25, 2015

### **Condolences:**

Mary Laukhuf – January 4, 2015  
Margaret Rau – January 7, 2015  
Tom Reinhart – January 27, 2015  
Garrett Kever – January 30, 2015

### **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

The diocese has sent letters to all parishioners concerning the Annual Catholic Appeal. If you do not receive a letter by the end of the month, please contact the parish office at 419-399-2576. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

If you would like a copy of your annual contribution statement for tax purposes, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or bring it to the Parish Office.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

# Divine Mercy Catholic School

120 Arturus Street  
Payne, Ohio 45880  
(419) 263-2114

## Kindergarten Registration

Please complete the following form to register your child for kindergarten at Divine Mercy Catholic School. Your child must be 5 years old by August 1<sup>st</sup> to register for kindergarten. Ohio law makes kindergarten mandatory.

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (middle) (last)

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure to list the road number you live on and what the two closest corner numbers are. Be sure to give the correct road name - i.e. state route, township or county road. This will enable us to get the school bus to your house to transport your child.

Please check one of the following:

I belong to Divine Mercy Catholic Parish

Other

Please return this form as soon as possible to the school office. If you know of anyone else who needs a form, please let us know. Thank you.