

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR VOLUME iii

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JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2024



**REGULAR MEETING
AND HOLY HOUR**
Wednesday,
January 17, 2024

**PLEASE GATHER IN
FOUNDERS' ROOM
AT 10:00AM**

**HOLY HOUR WILL BEGIN
AT 10:30AM**

**Followed by Community
Mass with Seminarians,
Luncheon, and Speaker.**

SPEAKER:

**Sr. Mary Knuckles, OSST
Sisters of the
Most Holy Trinity
Euclid, Ohio**

As always, friends/guests are most welcome! Please contact Chris Ryan at 440-983-0805 or chrisryan78@myyahoo.com, no later than noon on Monday, January 15, if you cannot attend or to make additional reservations. Guest donation is \$13.00. Please remember to bring your Holy Hour Prayer Book. **Members:** Please leave your full name and phone number when calling to cancel reservation. Also, please note that **ALL Avila Members** have a standing reservation and need to call in cancellations when necessary. **Members who are unable to regularly attend meetings and cannot call to cancel luncheon reservations might consider becoming a sustaining member.** Thank you.

President's Corner

The Holy Name of Jesus

Happy and Blessed New Year to all!

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus which is celebrated on January 3. The Church celebrates the Optional Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. According to the previous liturgical calendar (1962), this feast was celebrated on January 2. In the liturgical revisions of Vatican II, the feast was removed, though a votive Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus had been retained for devotional use. With the release of the revised Roman Missal in March 2002, the feast was restored as an Optional Memorial on January 3.

*"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10).*

The Church reveals to us the wonders of the Incarnate Word by singing the glories of His name. The name of Jesus means Savior; it had been shown in a dream to Joseph together with its meaning and to Our Lady at the annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel. Devotion to the Holy Name is deeply rooted in the Sacred Scriptures, especially in the Acts of the Apostles. Let us remember to invoke the name of Jesus with love and reverence. The name of Jesus is powerful and saving.

*Blessings to All,
Marianne*

NOVEMBER 15th AVILA LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER: FATHER MICHAEL STALLA **"TODAY, LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE LORD"**

We were pleased to host Father Michael Stalla at our November 15th Avila Luncheon. After an introduction, Father told us that, even as a young priest, he felt God was asking him to be a missionary. He told the bishop that he was open to going to El Salvador. The bishop took it as a request and so he spent the next nine years in El Salvador. On his return he became pastor of SS. Cosmas and Damian Parish. He got used to being quite independent. During the course of a conference he was attending, he realized how apathetic people had become about their religion.

Then he backtracked a little and said that, before he went to El Salvador, his mother wanted to go on a trip and chose Venice, but Father wanted to go to Prague. While there, he went on a bus tour during which the tour guide pointed out the beautiful buildings. So when he mentioned it, the guide became irate and told him that it was a bunch of superstitions and who was he anyway? When Father told her he was a Catholic priest she got in his face and put them off the bus. He went to the Church of the Infant of Prague and cried. Then he looked around and found the Church was filled with young people. He found hope in that. Later he asked someone at the hotel where was the Benedictine monastery and was told there were ruins two blocks down the street. They weren't ruins and there were monks there. One of the monks was ready to give up, but Father encouraged him to stay so that he could bring the people back to Christ. *(continued)*

From there Father Stalla traveled all over giving talks on how much we needed Christ. When he returned to his parish, he felt he had come home. The bishop just this last July 1, brought him to Borromeo Seminary as Coordinator for Pastoral Formation at the Center for Pastoral Leadership. He is the Field Coordinator, and sends the seminarians to parishes where they put into practice what they learn in the classroom. He also works with the seminarians in giving homilies. Father Stalla is very appreciative of the Avilas' prayers, and we were very appreciative of his giving such an interesting talk.

Father Stalla was ordained on May 17, 2003. He has served at St. Mary Parish in Painesville, St. Francis Parish in Cleveland, and St. Raphael Parish in Cleveland. He also served as pastor at SS. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Twinsburg for eight years. In addition to the above responsibilities, he is also Presbyteral Moderator at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairport Harbor. His motto is "Today, listen to the voice of the Lord."

**Fr. Kevin Estabrook's talk at the Avila Day of Prayer
October 18, 2023 – ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH**

Pope Benedict XVI said, "No Church Father has expressed the longing for union with Christ and for life in Him with the intensity of St. Ignatius." St. Ignatius knew that union with God is first and foremost the prerogative of God.

Ignatius was consecrated Bishop by St. John the Apostle in AD 66. He inherited a deep love for Jesus, probably from St. John, along with a sound theology. He tended his flock for about 40 years, helping them to grow

in unity with God and with each other. Around 106 AD, the Emperor Trajan undertook a massive campaign against the Christian community in Asia Minor, specifically Antioch; it was there that Ignatius was arrested. According to eye witnesses, Trajan declared, "I command that he be bound by soldiers, be carried to the great Rome and there be devoured by the beasts to the gratification of the people of Rome. Get him out of here!"

"You will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." (Matthew 10:18-20)

After his arrest, Ignatius writes of how he was led in chains, but through his imprisonment he grew in sanctity. Just because we are facing difficulty, it does not mean we aren't growing in holiness. During times of trial, difficulty, and suffering, we need more prayer, not less, so we can grow in sanctity and not become discouraged by the cross. Ignatius wrote to the Church in Rome begging them not to interfere, saying, "May I have the good fortune to meet my fate without interference, but I fear your generosity may prove detrimental to me. Permit me to be an imitator of the passion of my God." He knew his suffering and martyrdom were his road to heaven and eternity with Christ. Where did he get that courage? No doubt from prayer.

When they finally arrived in Rome, Ignatius was brought to the Flavian Amphitheater just in time for a huge festival where he was thrown into the beasts' den and torn to pieces. Before he died, he increasingly invoked the name of Jesus, explaining to his tormentors that he was the God bearer and that Jesus' name was written on his heart. Legend says that, when his heart was cut open, all the pieces of his heart had the name of Jesus Christ written on them in gold letters. Pieces of Ignatius' body were collected, wrapped and taken back to Antioch. He had written about this. "I am writing to all the Churches to let it be known that I am ready to die for God if only you do not stand in my way. Let me be food for the wild beasts, for they are my way to God. I am God's wheat and should be ground by their teeth so that I might become Christ's pure bread. Pray to Christ for me that the animals will be the means of making me the sacrificial victim for God." Pray the Jesus Prayer: Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner. That should be our go-to prayer. We can lose ourselves in this beautiful ocean of prayer.



Jim Kondik

**Harrison McGinty
(great-grandson of Ellen Patton)**

Ruth Merriman

Jenny Natale

Mary Ann Trask

Arch Tunnell

Kathy Woodworth



**For prayer requests contact Joan Evans at
joanevans1130ad@gmail.com or
440-331-2383.**

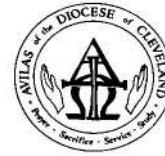


**Fr. Michael McCandless
on the death of his father,
Michael McCandless.**

**Colleen Czap
on the death of her brother,
Mike Palma.**

**The family of
Avila Member
Ann Marie Zelenka.**

**God Bless,
Susan Federico
Newsletter and Meditations**



“There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” *Saint Teresa of Avila*

January 2024

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups

January	7, 2024	Sisters of Notre Dame (SND)
January	14, 2024	Order of Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy (O de M)
January	21, 2024	Permanent Deacons of the Diocese of Cleveland
January	28, 2024	Poor Clare Collettine Nuns (PCC)
February	4, 2024	Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration (PCPA)

THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

As children, many of us were taught to bow our heads at the mention of the name of Jesus. The name should be treated with the greatest respect as the honor due the name which represents Our Lord Himself.

The Holy Name of Jesus alone is an all-powerful, healing and transforming prayer. “The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name’” (Luke 10:17). Jesus Himself promised that whatever we asked the Father in His name we would receive. “Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you (John 16:23). Therefore, when we say the name of Jesus, we should have absolute faith that we will be heard. Each time we say Jesus we give God infinite honor and glory. Saying the name of Jesus is an act of perfect love. The Holy Name of Jesus fills our hearts with peace and joy and gives us strength so that our sufferings seem light.

“The name ‘Jesus’ signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son, made man for the universal and definitive redemption from sins. It is the divine name that alone brings salvation, and henceforth all can invoke his name, for Jesus united himself to all men through his Incarnation, so that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #432).

The month of January is devoted to the Holy Name of Jesus. What a wonderful way to start the New Year! Consider deepening your devotion with special prayers, i.e. Litany to the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

Let us then rejoice in the fulness of this Name. Let us use it as the Name of virtue against devils, bad thoughts, evil men, the world, dangers and frights. It is our banner. – St. John Henry Newman

You are to
give him the name
JESUS, because
he **WILL SAVE**
HIS PEOPLE
from their sins.
MATTHEW 1:21, NIV



“There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” *Saint Teresa of Avila*

February 2024

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups in your Holy Hour this month:

February	4, 2024	Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration (PCPA)
February	11, 2024	Little Sisters of the Poor (LSP)
February	18, 2024	Sisters of the Precious Blood (CPPS)
February	25, 2024	Society of the Precious Blood (CPPS)
March	3, 2024	Sisters of Providence (SP)

ASH WEDNESDAY



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a day when many Catholics go to Mass in addition to hearing the Word of God, receiving the Eucharist and then receive ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. We receive them as a sign of the beginning of the season of Lent, the season of penance, preparation and reflection for Easter.

Ash Wednesday is the best way to begin a season which calls us to self-examination as well as self-denial, into deeper contemplation about the mystery and grace of God's mercy, and towards more radical giving towards those most in need of comfort and hope. The ashes are a symbol of penance and reconciliation.

The traditional formula for placing the ashes on the forehead is, “Remember, man, that you are dust and unto dust you shall return.” However, today you may also hear the words, “Turn away from sin and live the gospel.”

The ashes are a reminder to us that we will one day die, and that we must repent. When we receive the ashes, the words we hear either remind us that we will turn to dust or urge us to turn away from sin. By publicly wearing ashes, we are not trying to draw attention to our fasting, but we are reminding ourselves and the world around us of the importance of turning away from sin and of the fact that this life does not last forever. We cannot live as though we will never die. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation (II Corinthians 5:20-6:2). Lent is a great time to go to confession and turn away from sin especially any mortal sins you've committed.

Dear friends, on this Lenten journey let us be careful to accept Christ's invitation to follow him more decisively and consistently, renewing the grace and commitments of our Baptism, to cast off the former person within us and put on Christ, in order to arrive at Easter renewed and able to say, with St Paul: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20). I wish you all a good Lenten journey! – Pope Benedict XVI (March 9, 2011)