MARCH 18, 2018

14040 PURITAS AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135
Phone: 216-671-5890
Fax: 216-938-9843
Email: office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Website: www.blessedtrinitycleveland.org
https://instagram.com/btp216
Facebook: facebook.btp216.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS
Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 am–8 pm
Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30–1:00 pm)
Saturday: 1:00–3:45 pm

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am
Children’s Liturgy of the Word: 11 am
Monday: see worship calendar
for time & location
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 3:00–3:30 pm
Other times by appointment

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Blessed Trinity Parish is an open
and welcoming Catholic community,
centered in the Eucharist and
celebrating God’s gift of Diversity. We
bring God’s love to one another and
support one another in responding to the
challenge of living the Gospel. We strive
to deepen participation and encourage
all parishioners to take ownership for the
everyday life of their church, especially
Spiritual Growth, Community Life, the
Building of a Just Society, and Service
to All God’s People.

71 Psalm 130: With the Lord There Is Mercy

Refrain

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Refrain translation@1969, ICEL. Music: Marty Haugen, @ 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.
Catholicism at the Crossroads

Michael Gerson wrote an essay in the Atlantic. Parts of it are quoted below: “I was raised in an evangelical home, went to an evangelical church and high school. As a policy adviser to President George W. Bush, I saw how evangelical leaders such as Rick and Kay Warren could be principled, tireless advocates.

‘Evangelical’ used to denote people who claimed the high moral ground; now, in popular usage, the word is nearly synonymous with ‘hypocrite.’

One of the most extraordinary things about our current politics is the loyal adherence of religious conservatives to Donald Trump. The president won four-fifths of the votes of white evangelical Christians.

Trump’s background and beliefs could hardly be more incompatible with traditional Christian models of life and leadership. This is a man who has cruelly publicized his infidelities, made disturbing sexual comments about his elder daughter, and boasted about the size of his hands on the debate stage. His lawyer reportedly arranged a $130,000 payment to a porn star to dissuade her from disclosing an alleged affair. Yet religious conservatives who once blanched at PG-13 public standards now yawn at such NC-17 maneuvers.

Trump supporters tend to dismiss moral scruples about his behavior as squeamishness over the president’s “style.” But the problem is the distinctly non-Christian substance of his values. Trump’s unapologetic materialism—his equation of financial and social success with human achievement and worth—is a negation of Christian teaching. His tribalism and hatred for “the other” stand in direct opposition to Jesus’ radical ethic of neighbor love.

According to Jerry Falwell Jr., evangelicals have “found their dream president,” which says something about the current quality of evangelical dreams.

It is remarkable to hear religious leaders defend profanity, ridicule, and cruelty as hallmarks of authenticity and dismiss decency as a dead language. Whatever Trump’s policy legacy ends up being, his presidency has been a disaster in the realm of norms. It has coarsened our culture, given permission for bullying, complicated the moral formation of children, undermined standards of public integrity, and encouraged cynicism about the political enterprise. Falwell, Graham, and others are providing religious cover for moral squalor—winking at trashy behavior and encouraging the unraveling of social restraints. Instead of defending their convictions, they are providing preemptive absolution for their political favorites.

Democracy is not merely a set of procedures. It has a moral structure. The values we celebrate or stigmatize eventually influence the character of our people and polity. Democracy does not insist on perfect virtue from its leaders. But there is a set of values that lends authority to power: empathy, honesty, integrity, and self-restraint. And the legitimation of cruelty, prejudice, falsehood, and corruption is the kind of thing, one would think, that religious people were born to oppose, not bless.

For some of Trump’s political allies, racist language and arguments are part of his appeal. For evangelical leaders, they should be sources of anguish.

If utilitarian calculations are to be applied, they need to be fully applied. For a package of political benefits, these evangelical leaders have associated the Christian faith with racism and nativism, with misogyny and the mocking of the disabled, with lawlessness, corruption, and routine deception, with moral confusion about the surpassing evils of white supremacy and neo-Nazism. The world is full of tragic choices and compromises. But for this?

It is not that secularization, abortion, and religious liberty are trivial issues; they are extremely important. Much of the secular public hears from Christians only on issues of sexuality—from contraceptive mandates to gay rights to transgender bathroom usage. More than a third of Millennials say they are unaffiliated with any faith, up 10 points since 2007. Count this as an ironic achievement of religious conservatives: an overall decline in identification with religion itself.

Catholics developed a coherent, comprehensive tradition of social and political reflection. Catholic social thought includes a commitment to solidarity, whereby justice in a society is measured by the treatment of its weakest and most vulnerable members. And it incorporates the principle of subsidiarity—the idea that human needs are best met by small and local institutions (though higher-order institutions have a moral responsibility to intervene when local ones fail).

Yet, not a few Catholic bishops and any number of Catholic priests preached that it was a mortal sin to vote for Obama or Clinton, but remain silent to this day about sleeping with the enemy. Let us pray that Catholicism does not go the way of Evangelicals.

To read Gerson’s entire article google Michael Gerson, The Last Temptation.
PASTORAL TEAM 216-671-5890
Rev. Mr. Dick Beercheck, Deacon
dbeercheck@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Mrs. Katie Corbett BS Ed., Youth and Family Minister
kcorbett@blessedtrinitycleveland.org ..........Ext 20
Ms. Sonia Hu, Music Minister
music@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Fr. Doug Koesel, Pastor ......................Ext 21
dkoesel@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Rev. Mr. Bill Staab, Deacon
bstaab@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
OFFICE STAFF
Mrs. Linda Wilson, Office Manager ..............Ext 10
linda@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
Ms. Ginger Needham, Bulletin Editor ..........Ext 10
bulletin@blessedtrinitycleveland.org
E-MAIL BULLETIN NOTICES TO:
bulletin@blessedtrinitycleveland.org or deliver them to the rectory office. Notices MUST be in by Monday of the week before the bulletin is distributed.
E-MAIL PRAYER LINE REQUESTS TO:
gracesamarin@att.net

Thank you for your generous support!

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Haiti fund raiser tickets will be sold after each Mass in the church entrance: A $25 pre-paid ticket includes a catered meal from Stancato’s and 2 beer or wine tickets. Plan on coming Friday, April 13, 2018 from 6pm—10pm. American Legion Hall at 22001 Brookpark Rd. Chinese auction, 50/50 sideboards and entertainment, too! Tickets at the door are $30. Save $5 and buy your tickets today!

Men’s Prayer Breakfast: Saturday, March 24th, 8:30am-10:30am in Fogarty Hall. Please join us for this opportunity to enjoy a delicious breakfast while hearing an interesting speaker and socializing. Cost is $3.00 per person or $5.00 for two. Sounds like you should bring a friend!

Holy Week: Come To The Quiet Mini-Retreat. We gather for a morning of quiet and reflection on Saturday, March 24 from 9am-12:30pm in the Joseph Center. Descriptive flyers and a sign-up sheet are available on the back information table. The program is facilitated by parish member Mike Reiling.

Please pray for:

Please pray for all who are serving in the military, especially the men and women connected to our parish:
- Robert A. Fago (Army), son of Tony & Shirley
- Gunny Raymond Gustavo Hazelton (US Marine Corps), brother of Cristina Snodgrass
- Brook Robinson (Navy), son of David & Michelle and grandson of Dolores Coleman
- Kyle A. Riley (Air Force), nephew of Robert Hollowell
- Greg Koch (Air Force), nephew of Nancy Koch
- James Ashenhurst (Navy), stepson of Stephen Flynn and son of Jenny Simons
- Nicholas Parente (Army), grandson of Linda Parente

THINKING ABOUT STEPHEN MINISTRY How many people in our community are experiencing a difficult time in life? Grief... Divorce... Cancer... Job loss... Chronic illness... Financial struggles... Loneliness... Long-term disability... Caring for a family member... Imagine the difference we could make in people’s lives with a team of well-trained lay caregivers ready to walk alongside people who are hurting. Would you be interested in learning more about such a caring ministry? Contact Katie Corbett.

Another reason to buy CPO gift cards -- protection against identity theft. Local TV stations have broadcast several stories about how gas station pumps can be rigged to copy your credit card info. One way around that is to pay for the gas with a $25 CPO card, which will cover most fill-ups. Giant Eagle cards can be used to buy the Get Go gas and we get 4% return from them = $1 per $25 card! Sunoco only gives us .5% return, BP only 1%; Shell = 2%; Marathon, Sheetz and Speedway give us 3% return (75 cents per $25 card). You can pick up Giant Eagle, Marathon, Speedway and Shell cards today. We have them in stock! BUY, BUY, BUY!!
This Week at Blessed Trinity

**Sunday, March 18**
- 9:00am—10:45am: CGS Level 1 (Atrium)
- 9:00am—10:45am: PSR Grs 1-3 (Atrium)
- 10am—1:00pm: Donuts and Coffee (Fogarty Hall)
- 11:00am—12:00pm: Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- 12:00pm—1:15pm: Children of Light meeting (Atrium)

**Monday, March 19**
- 9:30am—10:30am: Legion of Mary (Church)
- 7:00pm—8:00pm: SVDP Society (Rectory Library)
- 7:00pm—8:30pm: Peace & Justice (Joseph Center)
- 8:30pm—9:30pm: AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)

**Tuesday, March 20**
- 9:30am—12:00pm: Bountiful Basement (BB)
- 10:30am—12:00pm: AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)
- 7:00pm—9:00pm: Praying with St. Ignatius (Rec. Bsmnt)
- 7:30pm—10:00pm: Holy Name/Men’s Ministry (Jos. Ctr.)

**Wednesday, March 21**
- 5:00pm—6:45pm: Bountiful Basement (BB)
- 7:00pm—8:30pm: Choir rehearsal (Church)
- 8:00 pm—9:00 pm: AA Meeting (Joseph Center)

**Thursday, March 22**
- 9:30am—12:00pm: Bountiful Basement (BB)
- 11:00am—12:00pm: AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)
- 6:00pm—7:30pm: Bell Choir (Church)
- 7:00pm—8:30pm: Book Club (Rectory Living Room)

**Friday, March 23**
- 5:30pm—7:30pm: Fish Fry (Fogarty Hall)
- 8:00pm—10:00pm: AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)

**Saturday, March 24**
- 8:30am—10:30am: Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Fogarty Hall)
- 9:00am—12:30pm: Mini Retreat (Joseph Center)

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**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK: Greenbrier Healthcare Center**

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**BLESSDE TRINITY GUIDEBOOK (INFORMATION AND ADDRESS BOOK) includes your name, address, phone, and household members unless you indicate any changes below. If your information is up to date and you wish it to remain in the guidebook, you need not do anything. Otherwise, see below and return by April 16. This helpful book is printed every year at no cost to our parish.**

**NAME**

____ I prefer to opt out entirely
____ My info on file is NOT accurate (see changes below)
____ Please omit the information listed below

Name________________________
Address______________________
Phone_______________________
Household Members

Place in the collection basket. Or simply email the office at office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org.

Are you a parishioner with a business to advertise in the directory? E-mail the office at the address above.
WORSHIP

Saturday, March 17 (Jer 11: 18-20; Jn 7: 40-53)
4:00pm Gregorio & Constancia Samonte (Family)

Sunday, March 18 (Jer 31: 31-34; Heb 5: 7-9; Jn 12: 20-33)
9:00am Blessed Trinity
11:00am Jack Koch (Koch Family)

Monday, March 19
11:00am Virginia Johnson (Mary Brennan)
@ WestPark Neuro & Rehab Center
4401 W. 150th St.

Tuesday, March 20
8:30am Helen & Andrew Somorjai (Family)

Wednesday, March 21
8:30am Special Intention (Tom & Marion Geiger)

Thursday, March 22
No Mass

Friday, March 23
8:30am H. Neil Caldwell & Mark Greene (Family)

Saturday, March 24 (Ex 37: 21-28; Jn 11: 45-56)
4:00pm Blessed Trinity

Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday (Mk 11: 1-10; Is 50: 4-7; 
Mk 14: 1-15)
9:00am James Soltis (Sr. Frances Woznicki)
11:00am Rita Warmuth (Larry & Laura Branchick)

Councilman Brian Kazy will be the guest speaker at our
Holy Name Meeting on Tuesday, March 20th at 8pm in
the Joseph Center. All Women and Men are Welcome.

Peace and Justice News: Suggestions for the Criminal
Justice System, by Brad Lazroff, Director of the Human
Kindness Foundation. 1. Learn to recognize the symp-
toms of socially sanctioned hatred. “People who break the
law are not all alike. They are an enormously diverse
group of human beings”. 2. Make drugs (like alcohol and
alcoholism) a public health problem and not a criminal
activity. 3. Separate violent and non-violent offenders
right from the start. 4. Regain compassion and respect for
those who wrong us. 5. Allow for transformation, not just
rehabilitation. 6. Take the issue of crime and punish-
ment personally. 7. Join and support the restorative justice
movement. 8. Learn some facts, such as: To date, 354
alleged criminals in the United States have been exonerat-
ed by DNA testing, including 20 who served time on death
row. These people served an average of 14 years in prison
before exoneration and release.

Take a stand ~ Make a difference ~ Change a life
~ Get Involved Today! CASA of Cuyahoga County,
a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuya-
hoga County, is searching for volunteers to advocate
for kids who have been neglected and abused. For
more information on becoming a CASA, vis-
it www.cfadvocates.org or call 216.443.3377.

5 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT