April 29, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mass Times
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am
Weekdays: Tues: 7:30 am & 6:45 pm
Thurs: 7:30 am
Wed, Fri, Sat: 9:00 am
Reconciliation
Saturday: 3:00-3:45 pm and by appt.

Inside:
General Info
Desk of Fr. Ken
Honoring Mary in May
Word in Your Heart
5th Sunday of Easter
Hoxworth Blood Drive

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+ Know Christ + Live Christ + Share Christ
2853 Erie Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45208

Staff Contact Info

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<td>School Principal</td>
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<td>Catechesis &amp; Education</td>
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<td>Sacristan</td>
<td>Ron Lamping</td>
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<td>Admin. &amp; Volunteer Asst.</td>
<td>Laura Nickol</td>
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<td>Business Associate &amp;</td>
<td>Orla Bowman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Minister</td>
<td>Ashley Gabriel</td>
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Church: 513-321-1207
School: 513-321-0703

NEW to St. Mary?
Welcome! You can register from our website or through the church office. We will contact you to answer any questions. We are glad you are here!

Sacraments
Baptism - Preparation class takes place on the First Thursday of the month. Sacrament takes place on the first and third Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Call the church office to begin this process. Godparent letters require 10 business days to process. Please email: mshank@smshp.com. Thank you!

First Eucharist & First Reconciliation - St. Mary School and Parish Religious Education Program students prepare in their second grade year. Call the church office for more information.

Confirmation - Confirmation - St. Mary School and Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) students prepare in their seventh-grade year. Please contact Michele Carle-Bosch with questions. mbosch@smshp.com. Adults, not yet confirmed, please call the church office for more information.

Reconciliation - Saturday: 3:00-3:45pm and by appt. Community Penance Services take place during Advent and Lent.

Anointing of the Sick - Call the church office

Marriage - Parishioners must contact the church office at least one year in advance. A marriage preparation program is required.

Please Pray For...
Parishioners Called to Military Service: If you know of a parishioner who is called into, or presently serving in, our country’s military forces please notify the church office (321-1207). In serving honorably, they contribute to the good of the nation and the preservation of peace (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2310). Please keep the following in your prayers: Sam Ande, Church Office (321-321-1207 ext. 5502). *To increase your electronic giving, log in to smchp.weshareonline.org and click “Giving.”

Circle of Care
Circle of Care is available to offer you support in difficult times. Meal assistance, housework, transportation etc. Please don’t hesitate to contact Emilie Kroner at kronerfamily@gmail.com or (513) 319-5028.

Gift of Treasure - Thank You!
Sunday, April 22……………………………………375 gifts……………..……$15,043.00
Projected Weekly Collection……………………………………….$17,844.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Want to write fewer checks? Sign up for Electronic Fund Transfer. To enroll go to our website www.smchp.com and click on "Giving" found at the top of the main page. Questions? Call Jeff Rinear 321-1207 ext. 5502.

Church Office Hours
M-F 9:00-Noon and 1:00-5:00pm

Child Care is available during 9:30am Mass in Robisch Hall.

Parish and School Space Reservations
Please reserve parish space with Connie: cerdmann@smshp.com or 321-1207

Bulletin Content Deadline: Monday at NOON to: cerdmann@smshp.com

Please keep the following in your prayers: Sam Ande, Church Office (321-1207 ext. 5502). *To increase your electronic giving, log in to smchp.weshareonline.org and click Payments/Schedules/Click Edit next to Sunday offerings.
**Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, May 1**
7:30 am Sp. Int. Burke Family - Cheryl Fast
6:45 Sp. Int. Sue & Bill Butler 50th Wedding Anniversary

**Wednesday, May 2**
9:00 am Dolores Spaeth - Rose & Paul Piening

**Thursday, May 3**
7:30 am Robert Hamilton - Liz & Frank Care’

**Friday, May 4**
9:00 am Gerald O’Neill - Laura Nickol

**Saturday, May 5**
9:00 am Rev. Joseph C. Allison - Fisk Family
4:00 pm Jerry Grayson - Tom & Rosemary Bosco

**Sunday, May 6**
8:00 am For the People of the Parish
9:30 am Dolores Spaeth - Joseph Perry Family
11:30 am Sp. Int. St. Mary High School “Class of 1958”

To request a mass intention please contact the rectory.

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**The Week Ahead**

**Monday, April 30**
† 6:00 pm - Bear Scouts

**Tuesday, May 1**
† 9:00 am, Momnipotent Bible Study - Seton Center
† **May Crowning at 10:00 am in Church**
† Crafty Ladies, 10:30 am, Seton Center
† 6:45 pm Mass
† KofC Officers Meeting - 7:30 pm
† 7:45 pm - Voyagers (Young Adult Group) Membership Drive - info: voyager.stmary@gmail.com

**Wednesday, May 2**
† 9:00am-8:00pm - Hoxworth Blood Drive - Robisch
† 7:00 pm - Bible Study - Philippians - Seton Center
† 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts - Scout Room in Seton Center

**Thursday, May 3**
† 7:00 pm - Confirmation Mass - Reception follows in Robisch Hall - **May God Bless our Confirmandi**
† 6:30 pm - Daisy Meeting
† 7:00 pm - Baptism Preparation Class

**Friday, May 4**
† 6:45 am - FATHERS’ TEAM - Seton Center

**Sunday, May 6**
† 1:00 pm - Baptism in Church
† Rosary, 8:00 pm in Church

*During May - Rosary in the Grotto at 6:30 pm - Mon.-Sat. and in Church at 8:00 pm on Sunday*

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**From the Desk of Fr. Ken**

**From St. Mary School Office**

**From the Desk of Fr. Ken**

A few weeks ago I was back in Washington DC with a priest friend. One of the museum's we visited was the one dedicated to the Bible. I must say both of us were impressed. It has five floors and has well done sections on both Old and New Testaments. It is definitely worth a visit. We also stopped at St. Matthew's Cathedral and if you’re my age and older you know it was the Church where JFK had his Funeral Mass. Washington DC is our nation's capital and I always find something new.

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**May He Rest In Peace**
Thomas Thamann
**Brother of Deacon John Thamann**

**Next Sunday’s Readings**
Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 6, 2018
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

**From St. Mary School Office**

St. Mary School Students are also busy this week in the pre-sale of Raffle Drive tickets in support of FunFest. FunFest is scheduled August 17-19, 2018. **Thank you in advance for your support of SMS student raffle ticket sellers!**

We are accepting registration for our Kindergarten Fall 2018 Class. If you would like a personal tour, please call the school office at 321-0703. Visit us at [www.smshp.com](http://www.smshp.com) to learn more and to view photos of SMS Life!

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View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)
FAITH FORMATION

Honoring Mary in May Rosaries in the Grotto
During May, the rosary will be prayed daily.
† Monday thru Saturday at 6:30 pm at the Grotto
† And every Sunday @ 8:00 pm in the Church. Please join us.

May Crowning
St. Mary School Students will lead a May Crowning on Tuesday, May 1 at 10:00 am in Church. Please join us!

FORMED - “Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist”
Brought to you by FORMED...You are invited to attend a free webinar on: Wednesday, May 2 at 3:00 pm EST

“Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist” – with Lucas Pollice who will explore the truth and beauty of Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and its members. The webinar ink is available at www.smchp.com under the front page News section/Readings & Links to Online Resources...where you can also access the free link to sign-up with FORMED - an online treasure chest of Catholic documentaries and films!

Around St. Mary
HELP WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS
Extend a warm welcome to new parishioners through a personal contact to let them know how glad we are that they are here! For details and to let us know you’re interested; email Orla Bowman at obowman@smchp.com or access the online interest form from the front page News of smchp.com. Thank you!

Assist the Circle of Care Ministry
Circle of Care ministry supports people in times of illness, surgery recovery, and more and is powered by amazing volunteers who sign up to bring a meal or two when there is a need. Join this low time commitment, but big impact ministry and make a difference in our parish community.
If you are interested in being a part of the list of volunteers, contact Emilie Kroner at k kronerfamily@gmail.com or sign up at smchp.com Search: Circle of Care
In need of support? Reach out to the parish office (513) 321-1207 at any time or contact Emilie at (513) 319-5028. Blessings!

Easter Flowers Thank You!
A heartfelt thank you to all the people who generously donated so that there can be flowers throughout the Easter Season and into Pentecost. The 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, April 15 was offered for the intentions of these donors:

Dr. & Mrs. David Babbitt Nathan & Anne Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Brian More
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McMahon
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore O’Reilly
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Panarelli
Mr. John Peckskamp
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Dorr
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Dorr
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Gertz II
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Gockerman
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Grossman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Habel
Ms. Katherine Dolwig
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Donlan
Mr. & Mrs. Donald W. Hampton
Ms. Margaret Hessling
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tincher
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Trauth
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Wander
Mrs. Margaret Wimberg
Mrs. Rose Wingert
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ziegler
Mr. Steve Kucia
Mr. Ronald Lamping
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Steines
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tincher
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Trauth
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Wander
Mrs. Margaret Wimberg
Mrs. Rose Wingert
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ziegler

Gifts made in In Loving Honor of/In Memory of:
Margaret & Elmer Arnsperger
James F. Britt
Pauline Brown & Norvel Brown
Anne Cusick
Domoracki & Panarelli Families
Dorr & DeLong Family
Frank & Anna Dolwig
Blanche & Howard Duennes
Arnold & Priscilla Fischer
Patrick Gannon
Ann & Clarence Goekke
Leonard Grossman
Beatrice & Bernard Hickert
Joseph G. Hitzelberger
Kucia Family
Thad Kulik
Lamping Family
C. Lee McMahon
Mercurio Family
Robert Ober
Joan Ryan Peckskamp
Dan Raleigh
Mary & Luke Peckskamp
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Kucia

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com
The Word In Your Heart

Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 15:1-2. I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

Happy First Communion Sunday! This Sunday, members of our community receive the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. What a joy!

It’s hard to believe that thirty years have passed since I first received the Eucharist with my classmates from St. Ursula Villa. It was the spring of 1988, in the beautiful chapel at St. Ursula Academy. It is a day I will never forget for many reasons. One of the less important reasons is the fact that mother dressed me in Kelly green pants. To this day I am probably the only person in the history of the Villa to receive the sacrament of First Communion while wearing green pants.

It is only at this vantage point thirty years hence that I can begin to appreciate just how much our Heavenly Vine Grower has had to prune this particular vine. So much has happened! I traveled the world, experienced many things, formed and lost (and re-formed!) many relationships. My faith waxed and waned. God was never far, waiting patiently with his pruning shears to take the fallow branches. The pruning was painful. Heartbreak, failure, shame. But each sheared stump scarred over, allowing the vine of my life to grow in new and more fruitful ways.

Although I was mortified at the time, today I’m thankful my mom dressed me in those green pants. Green is the color of life, growth, and fresh fruit. It represents all the hope of today’s gospel: That each of us will bear good fruit, with the guidance of the great vintner.

Mom knew all along...

Mike Keefe

Mike Keefe is a supporter of FC St. Mary Little Cougars. He lives in North Avondale with his wife, Barbara, and their litter of Little Cougars. He is a proud member of the St. Ursula Villa First Communion Fashion Hall of Fame.

The Word In Your Heart welcomes new contributors of all ages—no writing experience required. Share your response to the Word of the Lord! Contact Janet Buening at 513-871-9294 or janetrehlingbuening@gmail.com.

Easter vs. Earth Day

Earth Day was celebrated April 22

Catholic spirituality has always emphasized the moral duty to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us. Environmentalists are concerned that human irresponsibility in using natural resources could compromise the very existence of those resources in the future. Recent popes like St. John Paul II, Benedicts XVI and Francis have all echoed that concern. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being reflects in its own way a ray of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness. May must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature to avoid any disordered us of things which would be in contempt of the creator and would bring disastrous consequence for human beans and their environment.”

It may be more then coincidence that Earth Day typically occurs during the Easter season. Our Lord’s resurrection from the dead which we celebrate every Sunday, but in a special way on Easter – is one of the mysteries of our faith that helps uncover the messages God has woven into his creation.

Even the colors of our liturgical vestments reflect this spiritual significance built into God’s gallery of natural wonders. The white and gold of Easter and other solemnities move us to think of the bright light of the sun, lifting our gaze up toward heaven and the purity of unmedicated communion with God. The green of Ordinary Time reflects the virtue of hope, which keeps us working in the fields of our souls to cultivate the virtues that make us more like Christ. It is a summer color – a color of warmth, growth and the promise of future harvests. The purple of Lent and Advent reflect the darkness of evening or even night and invite a pensive and penitential attitude preceding the bright and rejoice in celebration of each dawn.

Earth Day may remind us that we are called to be good stewards of the world around us. But (the) Easter (season) reminds us of something more important: that our pilgrimage through life in this passing world, though poignantly beautiful, is blessed by a God who calls us to something so much greater – to everlasting life with him in heaven.

Reprinted from Catholic Update: Discovering God’s Message in Creation by Fr. John Bartunek

What do YOU need to
+Know Christ + Live Christ + Share Christ +
Margaret: 513-533-5500 ext. 5521
When St. Paul first encountered the Christian community, he was not kind or receptive to their message. His heart was transformed when he finally encounters Christ on the road to Damascus. From that point on, he became a fervent preacher of the Gospel. Like the pruned vine in the Gospel, Paul opened his heart to the Good News and allowed the vine grower to prune away all that was dead and did not bear fruit. The Word, which called out to him in Damascus, broke open his heart and won him over. When has the proclaimed Word at Mass deepened your love for Christ and stirred you from your pew to share the Gospel?

After our Lenten journey, we, like Paul, have opened ourselves to God’s mercy; the dead branches have been pruned so that we might bear fruit. Paul and the other disciples went about preaching and building up the Kingdom. We have to ask ourselves, what does it look like in our time to be heralds of Good News? Through prayer, the celebration of the Eucharist, and good works, we remain connected to the Vine and grow in holiness. This holiness, this life in the Holy Spirit, helps us see the poor, assists us in reaching out to the places where the Gospel is silenced, and enables us to love. Peruse a hymnal at the parish and pray with a song in the discipleship or mission section that grabs your heart. What do you hear?

In the Vineyard

God, the giver of joy,
in Baptism you join us to Christ,
the true Vine,
and, through your Word,
we are sustained in holiness
and wisdom.
Send your Holy Spirit upon
your vineyard
so that, each branch may thrive
and reveal your glory by yielding love
and joy.
Sustain the Church in holiness
and help it bear much fruit for
your kingdom.
When our parched hearts begin
to wither,
draw us close to you and nurture us
with your grace.
And on that final day, may we be found
praising your holy name
in the assembly of your people.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Pruning

Today’s Readings: Acts of the Apostles 9:26–31; Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–32; 1 John 3:18–24; John 15:1–8. When St. Paul first encountered the Christian community, he was not kind or receptive to their message. His heart was transformed when he finally encounters Christ on the road to Damascus. From that point on, he became a fervent preacher of the Gospel. Like the pruned vine in the Gospel, Paul opened his heart to the Good News and allowed the vine grower to prune away all that was dead and did not bear fruit. The Word, which called out to him in Damascus, broke open his heart and won him over. When has the proclaimed Word at Mass deepened your love for Christ and stirred you from your pew to share the Gospel?
**Tuesday, May 1**

**Make Known**

As members of the Body of Christ, our lives proclaim the goodness of God’s mercy and compassion. Through our actions and words, we make known the splendor of God and teach others about Christ. The Psalm reminds us that we are God’s friends whose mouths must speak his praise. How do you offer praise to God, especially when the Good News is not welcomed? Think of a concrete way you might share the Gospel today. **Today’s Readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.**

**Wednesday, May 2**

**Memorial of St. Athanasius**

Today, the Church remembers St. Athanasius, who was bishop of Alexandria in the fourth century. He is an important figure and doctor of the Church because he staunchly fought against the Arian heresy, which denied Christ’s divinity. He was met with much opposition, but fervently taught the faith, especially the Incarnation. **Today’s Readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.**

**Thursday, May 3**

**Feast of Sts. Philip and James**

The two Apostles we commemorate today remind us that we are called to holiness. Both were members of the original Twelve who followed Jesus. Through their ministry, they led others to encounter Christ. Philip, as we see in today’s Gospel, took a long time to realize who Jesus was. There is not much known about James the Lesser, but tradition tells us that he is the author of the Letter of James and was the bishop of Jerusalem. Philip and James are the patrons of Uruguay. Honor these saints by praying for Uruguayans. **Today’s Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5; John 14:6–14.**

**Friday, May 4**

**Love One Another**

As we near the end of the Easter season, John’s Gospel account reminds us that Jesus’ death was the ultimate gift of love. Jesus commands his followers to love as he loves. This is not easy to do. Jesus was filled with compassion for the poor and marginalized. He revealed the undying and unbiased love God has for his children. Spend time meditating on Jesus’ words, “Love one another as I have loved you.” **Today’s Readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10 and 12; John 15:12–17.**

**Saturday, May 5**

**The World**

In the Gospel, Jesus states, “You do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world.” At Baptism, we were adopted as children of God and belong totally to God. We live in the world and our living helps make known the presence of Christ. As Christians, we are called to be radical witnesses of God’s truth and love. This message, especially when it contradicts worldly ideals, is not always welcome. Make notes of ways you might help foster love with those you encounter. **Today’s Readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.**

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**Idols**

It can be easy to get caught in the fame of a sports figure or celebrity and forget that Jesus is the true Savior. In the First Reading, Paul and Barnabas are misidentified as the gods Zeus and Hermes. Their words were so captivating that the people couldn’t hear the real message and began to honor them as gods. Quickly they admonished this action. How do we keep our eyes on the prize, especially when we hear so many “good” messages? Today, pray for all who are in positions of power that they might use their status for good and lead others to right living. **Today’s Readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.**

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Be the difference in the game.
Make a game-winning assist.

Give blood.
Save three lives.

Everyone who donates or attempts to donate will be placed in a drawing to win an 8”x10” photo autographed by FC Cincinnati player — Jimmy McLaughlin.

SEMI-ANNUAL KIS4KATE
PARISH BLOOD DRIVE

May 2, 2018 | 12:30 - 6:30 p.m.
St. Mary Hyde Park, Robish Hall

Register to donate and schedule your appointment online at www.hoxworth.org/groups/stmaryhydepark or by calling Hoxworth at (513) 451-0910.
COMING TO ST. MARY HYDE PARK SUMMER 2018....
an exciting program for children going into 1st Grade – 12th Grade:

**Totus Tuus**

*Totus Tuus comes from St. John Paul II’s own motto...he addressed these words to Mary and they mean “Totally Yours”*

- The program is facilitated by 4 college students (one seminarian, one young man and two women) who share faith, praise, music, liturgy, and fun.
- The week that these missionaries are here at St. Mary is **July 15-July 20**.
- **Grades 7-12** Students will meet in the evenings beginning on **July 15 at 6:45 pm**
- **Grades 1-6** Students attend from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm beginning on Monday, **July 16**

- Cost: $20 per child $50 per family of 3 or more
  Online registration will begin on May 1. Details and reminders will be in the bulletin.

*We will need 2 families to host these missionaries for the week. They arrive on Saturday, July 14 and leave Saturday, July 21. They only need a place to sleep and a simple breakfast in the morning. Please contact Michele Carle-Bosch if you can host these amazing young people. [mbosch@smshp.com](mailto:mbosch@smshp.com) 513-321-1207 x 5533*

**ST. MARY HYDE PARK**

TOTUS TUUS (Latin for Totally Yours) is a fun and energetic parish-based summer catechetical program for both grade school age children and middle and high school youth. TOTUS TUUS gathers together college students and seminarians from across the United States onto teaching teams of four in order to train them and send them out on the road to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in various participating parishes throughout the [Archdiocese of Cincinnati](https://www.archcincinnati.org/). The teachers’ youthfulness, energy, and ability to witness to the Faith make them particularly effective with children and young adults.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR STUDENT ATHLETES AND PLAY A ROLE IN KEEPING KEY SPORTS PROGRAMS RUNNING!

- **Soccer Co-Commissioner** – *UNFILLED* - This person will work with the other Soccer Co-Commissioner, Molly Bruegge, who knows the ropes.
- **Volleyball Commissioner** – *UNFILLED* – Current commissioner will help with transition.
- **Girls’ Basketball Commissioner** – *UNFILLED* - Current commissioner will help with transition.

**THIS FALL, VOLLEYBALL AND POSSIBLY SOCCER ARE IN JEOPARDY AND WINTER GIRLS’ BASKETBALL IS IN JEOPARDY IF WE CANNOT FILL THE OPEN COMMISSIONER ROLES.**

For information on responsibilities and time commitments involved please contact Cris Hamant at [crishamant@gmail.com](mailto:crishamant@gmail.com). You will have the assistance and support of SMAC and the guidance of the person who was most recently in that role. You will not be left to learn the position on your own and if you have 1 or 2 friends assist with uniforms, equipment, etc., the workload can be easily shared.

We are also seeking a **Concessions Coordinator** for the 2018-2019 basketball and volleyball seasons. This is a great opportunity for a partnership or team of people to work together. You don’t have to handle the volunteer setup, just the stocking of the stand and coordination of the gate and concession finances.

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Volunteering to be a part of SMAC is a great way to get to know people and join the excellent and dedicated group of volunteers we already have. Please contact any of our current members if you have any questions. The current President, Cris Hamant, can be reached at 513-383-7040 or [crishamant@gmail.com](mailto:crishamant@gmail.com)

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**JOIN US FOR OUR COUGAR INFORMATION NIGHT**

**Wednesday, May 9th**

7:00-8:30 PM

CARDINAL PACEI CAFETERIA

FOR CURRENT 6TH-8TH GRADERS | ENJOY PIZZA AND DRINKS

**LEARN ABOUT:**

- THE VALUE OF THE PROGRAM
- FOOTBALL SAFETY, AND WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE 2018-2019 SEASON

**SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

- TEAM MEMBERS, COACHES, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF
- CATHOLIC KIDS FOOTBALL COACH AND ALUMNI PLAYERS

**BE SURE TO TALK TO THE COACHES FOR PERSONALIZED COUGAR SPIRIT STUFF!**

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**For more detailed cougar football info and registration forms visit**

[smshp.com](http://smshp.com) or [smchp.com](http://smchp.com) and search *Cougar Football*

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**Strong and faithful God, as we come together for this contest, we ask you to bless these athletes. Keep them safe from injury and harm, instill in them respect for each other, and reward them for their perseverance. Lead us all to the rewards of your kingdom where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Church’s Official Prayer for Sports Events from the National Catholic Register
**Weekly Marriage Tip**

"Accepting one’s partner ‘as is’ Implies longing is a normal part of marriage. Marriage is not capable of fulfilling all of our longings, but it can give us a soul companion on the journey to God, the Perfect Lover for whom we all long.” --Kevin Anderson, *The 7 Spiritual Practices of Marriage*

**Weekly Parenting Pointer**

All of us procrastinate at times. Perhaps we are busy or want to avoid doing something. The Christian Family Movement has a saying that [can be helpful] to help decide if the procrastination is warranted or an escape. IF NOT NOW, WHEN? - IF NOT ME, WHO? - IF NOT HERE, WHERE?

Is there something you have been putting off until the kids are older or the house mortgage is paid for? Relationships don’t always wait for some day or one day.--www.susanvogt.net

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**FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN**

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Eucharist
You left us the outstanding manifestation of your limitless love for us.

Thank you for giving our children the opportunity to experience this love in receiving the Sacrament for the first time. May your Eucharist presence keep him/her ever free from sin, fortified in faith, pervaded by love for God and neighbor, and fruitful in virtue, that he/she may continue to receive You throughout life and attain final union with You at death. Amen –

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