

# ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

CLEVELAND, OHIO

## IN THIS ISSUE

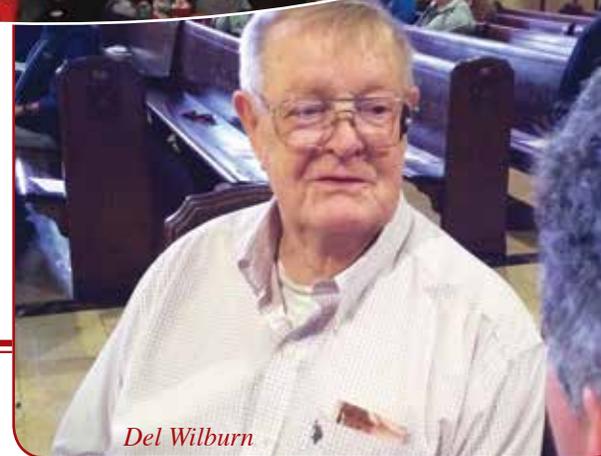
- 2 Got Talent? *Bring It to the Spotlight!*
- 3 A Time of Hope and Giving Thanks
- 4 St. Ignatius Music Ministry Members Share Talents to Praise God
- 6 The True Significance of Thanksgiving
- 7 “Believe and Commit to That Belief”  
Abby Staniszewski
- 8 Advent and Christmas Schedule

## “We Help Them Feel Close to the Church” *Ministers to the Sick*

The Ministers to the Sick at St. Ignatius visit parishioners and bring Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass regularly on their own due to advanced age or illness. These ministers are part of the Pastoral Care for the Sick Ministry, a beautiful ministry that blesses both the volunteers and the homebound parishioners they serve.

Sr. Dianne Piunno, our Pastoral Associate, notes how important this ministry is for those who are served.

“It’s the connection with the parish that is important,” Sr. Dianne says. “They want to know that the Church is thriving even though they aren’t able to be there themselves. The main purpose of this ministry is visiting parishioners, and one of the things that we do as a part of that is bring Communion. We want to make sure they are still connected to the Church. They are very involved in the sense that



*Del Wilburn*

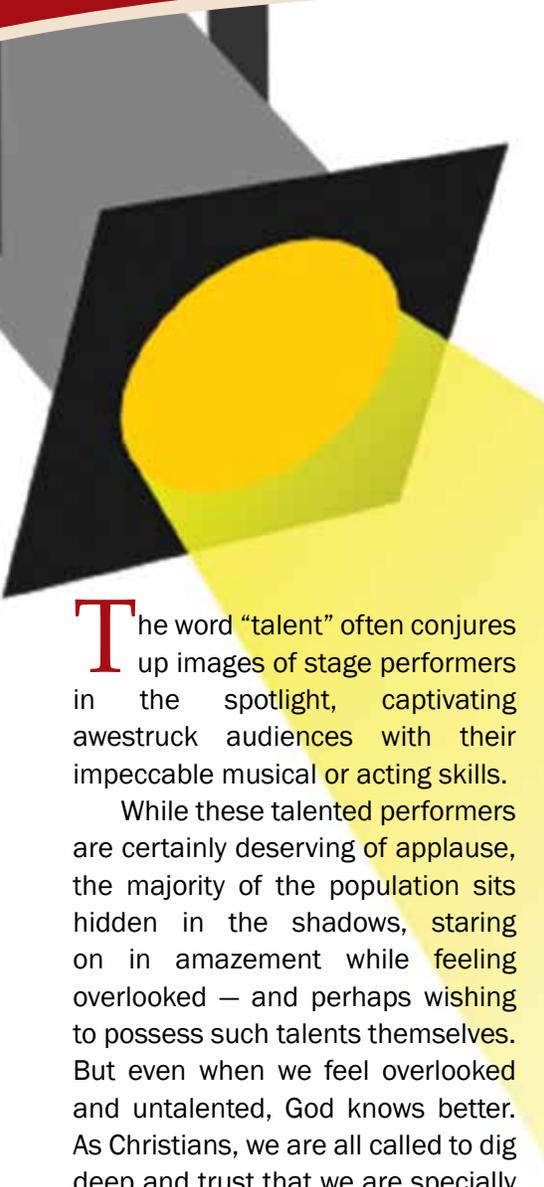
they want to know what is happening in the parish.”

Parishioner Del Wilburn brings Holy Communion to seven parishioners every Sunday. He says he really enjoys his time with the sick and homebound people he visits each week, and has built relationships with many of them.

Del feels that one of the most important parts of his ministry is creating a bridge between these parishioners and the Church.

“If they want, I will stay and visit after giving Communion,” Del says. “Sometimes they want you to do your business and leave, and sometimes they don’t want you to leave at all. I will stay and do a little favor for them if they need something. One time, a lady’s furnace was out and I

## Got Talent? *Bring It to the Spotlight!*



The word “talent” often conjures up images of stage performers in the spotlight, captivating awestruck audiences with their impeccable musical or acting skills.

While these talented performers are certainly deserving of applause, the majority of the population sits hidden in the shadows, staring on in amazement while feeling overlooked – and perhaps wishing to possess such talents themselves. But even when we feel overlooked and untalented, God knows better. As Christians, we are all called to dig deep and trust that we are specially blessed with valuable talents and abilities, even if our talents aren’t so obvious or don’t garner applause and accolades.

Along with “time” and “treasure,” “talent” is one of the “three Ts” of stewardship. Exploring our natural inclinations and preferences, especially when guided

by the intricacies of our unique personalities, can unearth God-given talents.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit,” writes St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians, “there are different forms of service, but the same Lord.”

Some people have the gift of working peacefully with children. Equipped with patience and gentleness, they are able to guide young souls to the Lord. Yet, others shudder at the thought of a classroom full of 5-year-olds, and instead seek the quiet solace of behind-the-scenes tasks – cleaning the church, sewing altar cloths or stuffing envelopes.

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*, once said, “Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There’s



plenty of movement, but you never know if it is going to be forwards, backwards, or sideways.”

If our gifts of talent are not guided by the discipline of prayer, just like an octopus on roller skates, we will get nowhere fast! Yet, if we keep our eyes on the goal of heaven and serve the Lord with joyfulness, our efforts will produce a bountiful harvest. In the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

The next time you sit quietly in the shadow of a glaring stage spotlight, rest assured that your talents are no less impressive in the eyes of God, and will always be “applauded” when directed to the service of His people.

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*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# A Time of Hope and Giving Thanks

Dear Parishioners,

**I**n so many ways, November is special to us as Catholics, and also to us as Americans. It begins with All Saints Day on Nov. 1 and closes with the First Sunday of Advent on Nov. 30. Of course, the fourth Thursday of the month is Thanksgiving Day.

When it comes to the Solemnity of All Saints, we have always recognized the connection with those who have died and joined the Lord in heaven. All Saints Day was instituted to “honor all saints, known and unknown.” The “unknown” has always left me enthralled. How many saints have each of us known among our friends and family, in our parish and our neighborhoods? To me, a “saint” might be someone who has provided an example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Thus, we begin the month by paying tribute and recollecting all those in our lives who showed us what it meant to be a good Christian.

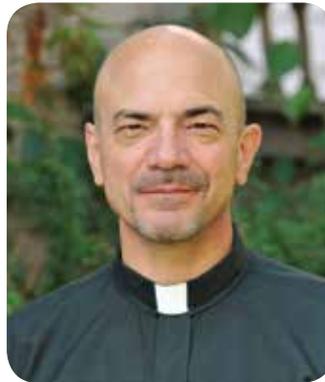
Thanksgiving Day also gives me time to remember. It is a day to reflect on the ways in which God has so richly blessed us. Every day and every week should be a time of thanksgiving for us as good stewards. Appreciating that God is the source of all our blessings is at the heart of stewardship. Just a few days after Thanksgiving, our Church launches our new year with Advent – a time of expectation of the coming of Christ, and a time when we begin the whole process of thanking God for the blessings we have received.

As part of his Advent message last year, Pope Francis said, “For the great human family, it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope!” This month should renew our hope, from honoring the saints we have known to our expectation of the coming of Christ. We join the Holy Father in recognizing the journey – may God continue to bless you and keep you on your own journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Michael Troha



*Every day  
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stewards.  
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## St. Ignatius Music Ministry Members Share Talents to P

**I**t has often been said that singing at Mass is like praying twice. Here at St. Ignatius, music is an important part of each liturgical celebration. If you are musically talented, consider sharing your gift through the parish's Music Ministry – it is a wonderful way to meet others who share your faith, and to praise God through music.

A longtime parish staple, St. Ignatius' Vocal Choir is made up of about 22 singers, accompanied by an organ. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings and sings each week at the 11 a.m. Mass.

"We try to be eclectic – we'll do some songs in Latin, we'll do contemporary music, and we'll do the more standard hymns as well," says Director David Dettloff.

For Church holidays, the choir will usually work with visiting musicians – such as a string quartet or wind instruments – to put together a special repertoire of songs. For example, for the Christmas Midnight Mass, the choir sings an extended presentation before the Mass begins. Since they rehearse specifically for these Masses, interested parishioners are

welcome to join the choir to rehearse and perform for Christmas.

St. Ignatius also features a Bell Choir, which involves parishioners of all ages.

"They practice on Tuesday nights," David says. "They play some standalone pieces, especially for Christmas, and also do a lot of accompanying of the Vocal Choir. They play on the hymns and the acclamations, and they really add a lot to the music of the Mass."

Through the Music Ministry, members of the Vocal and Bell Choirs are able to enhance their worship as well as that of their fellow parishioners.

"We try to have quality music to enhance the worship," David says. "It's like the art or the building that surrounds you – it can be different styles, but it's still quality art or architecture. The music is really a part of the liturgy. The hymns and psalms are all chosen to go with the liturgy of the day – whether it's a simple chant or the opening hymn, it's all meant to be there."

"Participating fully in the Mass means participating in the music, as well," he continues. "I think that people with a predilection for music can enjoy the worship and the experience even more when they can express themselves through music."

The Vocal and Bell Choirs are also a great way to grow in fellowship with other members of the St. Ignatius community.



*"Participating fully in the Mass means participating in the music, as well. I think that people with a predilection for music can enjoy the worship and the experience even more when they can express themselves through music." – David Dettloff, Director*

# Praise God

“A lot of these folks in the choirs make friendships that go beyond just rehearsal,” David says. “It keeps you in touch with everything, and you’re at a level where you’re really in tune with what is going on in the parish.”

Parishioners who are interested in joining the Music Ministry are welcome to contact David Dettloff at 216-251-0300, or can attend rehearsal for either choir. The Vocal Choir meets at 6:45 p.m. on Thursdays, and the Bell Choir meets at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays. Hope to see you there!



## Ministers to the Sick *continued from front cover*

lit the furnace for her. Another lady who lives in a rest home and has been there for many years knew that I raised tomatoes and wanted some, so I brought her tomatoes. This one lady always wants me to bring her holy water, so I will have Father bless water for her. I try to be a go-between between them and the Church, and I try to make them as comfortable as possible in regards to the Church. “

Sr. Dianne is always on the look out for people willing to help with this wonderful ministry. Part of our baptismal calling to stewardship is to use our time and talents to strengthen the pillar of hospitality at our own parish. The Pastoral Care for the Sick Ministry works hard

to extend a sense of hospitality to those parishioners who are unable to experience the welcoming spirit of our parish in person.

“When our Ministers to the Sick go to parishioners’ homes and pray with them, they take a bulletin, and share a bit about what’s going on at the parish,” Sr. Dianne says. “Even though they can’t make it to Mass, they want to be included and are interested in knowing what’s happening. We ask if they need to go to confession, so we can make arrangements for a priest to visit them. It’s all about making them feel welcome and comfortable, and we try to form some type of a relationship with them to help them feel close to the Church.”



*Sr. Dianne Piunno*

For more information on the Pastoral Care for the Sick Ministry, to volunteer or to let Sr. Dianne know about a parishioner in need of Communion, please contact the parish office at 216-251-0300.

# *The True Significance of* **Thanksgiving**

**W**hen we look back on our childhood, we recall how the events of our country's first Thanksgiving were imprinted upon our minds.

Our school teachers taught us about the proceedings of that joyous Thursday in the 17th century. Many of us dressed up as Pilgrims, donning black and white Puritan gowns and large hats with shiny tinfoil belt buckles.

We learned about the symbolic significance of Thanksgiving. And just as the original Pilgrims did, we should also open our homes and hearts to neighbors and family during the Thanksgiving season. The first Thanksgiving united the Pilgrims and natives together in celebration.

Likewise, every Thanksgiving celebration thereafter has been geared toward those same feelings of love, joy and satisfaction.

The actual historical events that transpired on the first Thanksgiving are disputed, and sometimes even forgotten. But several elements have been agreed upon as fact. The first Thanksgiving took place sometime during the early 1620s. It was not given the status of "holiday," but was instead a simple harvest festival that signified the lasting presence and perseverance of the Pilgrims in a harsh new land. The first Thanksgiving was, if anything, a sign of success and praise, where the 50 or so surviving Pilgrims gave thanks to God, sharing the abundance of their first harvest with each other and the neighboring natives. The celebration was also designed to boost the morale of the settlers, many of whom lost family and friends to disease and hunger during the early stages of civilized development.

The first "national day of Thanksgiving" was held in 1789, when President George Washington proclaimed



Thursday, Nov. 26, to be "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer." However, Thanksgiving did not officially become an annual celebration until 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November to be a day of "thanksgiving and praise." Under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1941, Thanksgiving became an official national holiday under federal law.

The significance of Thanksgiving has never strayed far from our country's heart. Several past presidents have preserved its presence in our yearly calendars as a day of public observance, thanks and prayer.

As Catholics, Thanksgiving has additional meaning and significance. Not only do we spend Thanksgiving Day praising God for His provision and our plentiful harvests, but as a season, Thanksgiving also calls us to remember Christ's ultimate sacrifice of love.

Thanksgiving is a harvest festival of supreme spiritual importance for Catholics. As the sacrificial lamb, Jesus became our harvest – a precious seed that grew into a soul-saving tree of righteousness and perfection. He gave His life for our benefit so that we could live in His death.

Much like the first harvest our ancestors joyfully experienced, Christ strengthens our souls and provides health to our bodies. Jesus is our harvest celebration, and we experience the life-giving results of His death each time we partake in His precious Body and sacred Blood.

As disciples of Christ, let us share Jesus with the world, just as the Pilgrims shared their spoils nearly 400 years ago. Jesus is the reason for every season, including Thanksgiving. As we lift our glasses in praise of God's many gifts, focus your thoughts on the abundant harvest of Christ.

**Why not begin your holiday this year by attending Mass? Even though Thanksgiving Day is not a holy day of obligation, we can express our thanks to God by spending an hour of our hectic morning at His table.**

# *“Believe and Commit to That Belief”*

## **Abby Staniszewski**

**Y**oung adults are juggling a myriad of responsibilities. With school, sports, friends, and family, they must continually balance the present while preparing for the future. Where does the faith fit in? One high school student is living the answer.

“I think it is important for young people to get involved in their faith because you need to believe and commit to that belief,” says Abby Staniszewski, a high school freshman. “You should know about your religion because it completes our lives. You shouldn’t walk around saying you’re a Catholic and act otherwise.”

This year, Abby began high school – one of the most challenging times for our young people – at Cleveland Central Catholic. She is currently enjoying her classes, especially English and Theology, and is taking her time to discern the various activities in which to get involved at school. Being at a Catholic school has helped Abby continue to learn about her faith.

“At Cleveland Central Catholic, we pray before we start every class, and we have a lot of discussions about religious topics in Theology class,” Abby says. “I actually enjoy going to my Theology class every day. Sometimes, you learn new things about the faith, and sometimes we review things we already know. One neat thing we talked about was how the arches in the middle of the church, like

the arches in ziggurats in Egypt, are a sign of entering a holy place.”

Like her education, Abby has also made participating in church a priority in her life. Abby began attending St. Ignatius because of her great-grandmother, June Terstage.

“She is a member of St. Ignatius, and we go to church together,” Abby says. “She started getting involved in Church because of her grandkids, and now she’s the reason I go.”

At St. Ignatius, Abby serves in liturgical ministries, as well as behind the scenes cleaning the church with her great-grandmother.

“Ever since I started going to church, I wanted to be an altar server,” Abby says. “I’ve been serving at Mass for about 10 years. It is awesome to be able to serve and to get to be part of the Mass.”

Abby also actively participates in the Mass in the Handbell Choir. Though she was nervous when she first started, she practiced to become comfortable and now enjoys playing with the group at Masses throughout the year.

“I don’t have any background in music, but I always wanted to be in the Handbell Choir because it sounded so beautiful,” Abby says. “I joined when I was in seventh grade, so this is my third year. We always have a beautiful concert before midnight Mass on Christmas.”



*Abby Staniszewski's eighth-grade graduation*

Each week, Abby also helps the Marthas, a group of volunteers who tidy up the church on Friday mornings after Mass. This gives her an opportunity to serve and to spend time in the church outside of Mass.

“We’re a small group, and we dust the pews and the pulpit and just do what needs to be done,” Abby says. “I like it because it gives me a chance to see the church and notice the little things like the stained glass windows. The stained glass tells stories, and some are about the life of Christ and others are about the saints.”

For our young people to maintain their faith through high school and college, June believes that it is imperative for them to create faith-filled habits at a young age. She is proud to witness Abby’s dedication in school and devotion to her faith as she begins her high school years.

“If you don’t start being involved now, how will you start later?” June asks. “I’m so pleased with Abby. Being involved is part of growing up, and it’s the natural process. We should all help our family and our neighbors and do what we can, when we can.”

*“I think it is important for young people to get involved in their faith because you need to believe and commit to that belief. You should know about your religion because it completes our lives. You shouldn’t walk around saying you’re a Catholic and act otherwise.” – Abby Staniszewski*

# ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

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## Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday December 24, 2014

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

*Candlelight Service*

11:30 p.m. Christmas Concert

Mass at Midnight

*Candlelight Service*

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday December 25, 2014

11:00 a.m. Mass

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday January 1, 2015

11:00 a.m. Mass

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GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS  
FOR CHRISTMAS AND  
PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR

*Reverend Michael Troha  
Sister Dianne Piunno  
Margaret Ricksecker  
David Dettloff*