

SOUNDS FROM THE Cenacle

News of the Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Toledo

MAR — APR. 2026

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MCCR, Diocese of Toledo, 1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo, OH 43604

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Diocese
of Toledo

Ministry to Catholic
Charismatic Renewal

Prepare the Way of the Lord



Brother and Sisters in Christ:

Lent is a time to prepare the way of the Lord. In the past, John the Baptist was sent to prepare the Way of the Lord. Today, Jesus calls us to prepare the way of the Lord by being the light of the world. We are to let our light shine before all, so that they can

see our good deeds and praise our Heavenly Father. We are to be so transformed that our lives shine so much, that the people we contact, can see in the darkness and be transformed too.

Scripture says we all sin, and so the Church gives us Lent, a time to be transformed, a time to receive the grace of God and turn from sin and turn back to God. We are called to prepare the way of the Lord. Just as John's life pointed to Jesus, The Lamb of God, so too should ours.

As I reflect on transformation, I recall a retreat with a group of high school and college girls and how the Holy Spirit enlightened and guided me. It was on the last night of the retreat when one of the college students asked me, "what should I do?" She said that the retreat was great to help her change her spiritual life, but she knew that when she went home, she would keep committing the same sin. Her sin was premarital sex. My answer was the same for her as for the whole group, "You have to start over again." For her specifically, I told her that, "You and your boyfriend have to talk about it, make a decision, and then start over. You have to take it one day at a time. Tonight we will not engage in sex. If you fail, don't give up, start over, until you overcome it." She called me six months later and thanked me for the wisdom of my words and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, **START OVER AGAIN** and the encouragement this provided. She said they failed, but that they also remembered the words of encouragement

(Continued inside)

From Fr. Jim

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

AH! The Season of Lent! And already we are well into the throws of the Season, the 'springtime' of the Church's liturgical calendar.

I remember as a kid looking into those long six weeks, the 40 days of Lent, fasting and giving up and the extra prayers, Stations of the Cross on Sunday afternoon instead of the movies. But now it hardly begins and it's Holy Week and Easter already.

One of my friends, Fr Bill Richter used to conclude the Ash Wednesday Mass with the admonition: "Have an excruciating Lent!" Perhaps, some may still consider it this severe with the challenge of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. But Lent actually is meant to be a sort of retreat to prepare us for Easter and beyond. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the original source of Lent. Along with the rituals for the catechumens and the candidates, the sponsors and the community prepare them for the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

We can attend Lent in a very serious manner, or very casually, or not at all. That is our choice. It can stay 'out there' or it can have the effect of changing our life. That is our choice. Let's say that this Lent you want to get serious about your spiritual life, your relationship with Jesus, with your family and friends, coworkers and even strangers. And with yourself as well. May I suggest a way, an opportunity to approach that will help you.

An article I read in a *Priest Magazine* by Patricia Sharbough, caught my imagination and I would like to share with you.

The Icon for this reflection is the Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent, Jesus in the Desert.

"At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the



(Continued inside)

Prepare the Way of the Lord (cont. from front page)

and wisdom, **START OVER AGAIN**. Eventually they became engaged, and although it wasn't easy, they stopped their premarital sexual relationship.

Our Lenten journey is not easy, but a time of struggle, failure, and growth. So when we fail, do we start over again, or just give up? Jesus invites us to a transformation of spirit, to become a new person, the person that he created us to be. Is there a sin or habit in your life that you are trying to overcome

that is stifling your spiritual growth and relationship with God? Lent is always a time of starting over again, and with God's grace we can all overcome sin. In the short term, it can seem better and easier to just give up, but this Lenten season, let us **START OVER AGAIN**. With prayer and His grace, we can overcome and renew our lights so they will bring a brighter light in this world of darkness. Have a blessed and glorious Easter. It's never too late to **START OVER AGAIN !!!!**

Deacon Leon

From Fr. Jim (cont. from front page)

desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights and afterwards was hungry...“ Matthew 4:1-11.

The temptations Jesus encounters in his 40 days in the desert: hunger, testing God, and idolatry reflect the very temptations that the people of Israel experienced in the wilderness. We see this pattern so often that we are compelled to ask what it has to teach us about our own faith journey. Perhaps this pattern is repeated so often and so consistently because there is only one way to move toward God from the tyranny of our own egos and from the tyranny of others, and that way involves walking through lonely places and encountering feelings of desolation and abandonment.

The Greek word for desert is Eremos – translated as wilderness, a place abandoned, empty and desolate. In the plural, the word means lonely places. The desert is empty and desolate. There is nothing there. It is in nothingness that we are stripped of distractions, self-importance and self-control. In the solitude of the desert, we come face to face with ourselves, our fears, anxieties, our fragility, our incompleteness, our wounds, and our hungers - all those things from which we want to flee. We become aware that we are not complete without God, and as St. Paul teaches us - our deepest identity is hidden with Christ in God (Col.3.3).

In her article, Patricia quotes Trappist Father Charles Cummings from his book, *“Spirituality and the Desert Experience.”* “The desert is there, inside us, to challenge our sense of belonging entirely to any place or any human person. We can belong to a place and a person but not entirely. We can put down roots but not permanently, because the desert within reminds us that this is not our permanent place.”

Loneliness is an important ingredient in many of our life experiences. We're born alone; we die alone and find many lonely places along the way. But loneliness can offer us many gifts if we are willing to listen. One important gift is awareness of the deep chasm of emptiness within us, the abyss we cannot fill, that urges us to reach beyond ourselves, to cry out to God

and to pray. Loneliness tells us the truth about our basic poverty inherent in the very human condition.

Many of the Psalms echo this cry for God.

Loneliness awakens in us the truth that we are not fully our own, that we come from God and will return to God. Lent begins with the Ashes placed on our forehead to remind us, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Jesus lived a desert spirituality, and like Jesus, we recognize that the purpose of our life does not lie in self-fulfillment or self-realization, but in utter dependence on God's self-emptying love.

The Lenten desert experience is designed to help us with our walk through everyday life. There are many unasked for desert experiences that visit us on any given day. Things like illnesses, accidents, sudden death of a loved one, unemployment. The loneliness of caring for little children, or the elderly parent. The loneliness that accompanies some professions. The wilderness of a long illness or hospital stay. Through these demands, though often lonely and empty, can offer the opportunity to deepen our prayer life.

Willing to enter the desert of Lent can help us nurture lifelong practices that draw us to God and sustain us when we encounter unchosen deserts in our lives. In the desert we journey to unknown places with trust that God will meet us there, give us all we need and lead us to gardens of hope. Then we can emerge at Easter with renewed appreciation and gratitude for the gift we are from God and for others.

May your journey through Lent be blessed and a blessing.

Your brother in Christ, Fr Jim Brown

*The article by Patricia Sharbaugh is entitled
OUR DESERT PATH –
Meeting God in trials, loneliness and uncertainty.
Patricia Sharbaugh PhD is associate professor of
theology at St Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.
She specializes in the field of biblical theology.
The article is found in the Priest Magazine,
Our Sunday Visitor, March 2025*

Coming Events 2026

Sign up for our email news on our website www.mccrholyspirit.org contact form or email us: mccrholyspirit@gmail.com
or follow our MCCR Facebook for updates <https://www.facebook.com/MCCR-297908527073164/>

Night of Healing

MAR 24 | APR 14 | MAY 12 | JUN 9
7:00 pm 4 LOCATIONS

WORSHIP WORD HEALING ADORATION WITNESS RECONCILIATION

TUESDAY **MAR. 24** Parish Mass at 6 pm 7:00 - 8:30 pm

St. Bernard, New Washington Fr. Eric Mueller
Fr. James Brown
422 W. Mansfield Street, New Washington, OH 44854

TUESDAY **MAY 12** 7:00 - 8:30 pm

St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Fr. Mark Davis
Fr. James Brown
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614

TUESDAY **APR. 14** Parish Mass at 6 pm 7:00 - 8:30 pm

St. Jerome, Walbridge Fr. Scott Woods
Fr. James Brown
300 Warner St., Walbridge, OH 43465

TUESDAY **JUNE 9** 7:00 - 8:30 pm

St Peter, Mansfield Fr. John Miller
Fr. Kishore Kottana
Fr. James Brown
104 W. 1st St., Mansfield, OH 44902



MAY 25, 2026

COME HOLY SPIRIT

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

729 WHITE ST., TOLEDO, OH 43605

3:00 PM

CONCELEBRATING FR. JOHN PETER LAZAAR SAC, & FR. JAMES BROWN

MASS
PRAISE & WORSHIP
POTLUCK RECEPTION

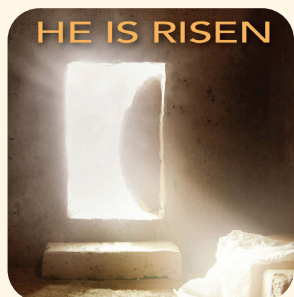
Before service, bring your crock
pot or cold dish to basement hall.

Life in the Spirit RETREAT WEEKEND

August 14-16, 2026

Maria Stein Retreat Center
2365 St. Johns Road
Maria Stein, Ohio 45860

Register Now:
Life in the Spirit Retreat
See the enclosed flyer.



Sat., April 25, Magnificat Breakfast

Our Lady of the Lake Chapter •
Starts 9:00AM-12:30PM.

• St. Peter Catholic Church, 430 Main St., Huron, OH

Speaker: Judy Good

Reservation must be received by APR. 15 (There is no registration at the door.) To register by mail, send \$20 to Hortensia Clevenger, 316 Wexford Dr., Huron, OH 44839. Checks should be made payable to "Magnificat."

For more information or online registration is \$22, see link: <https://huronmagnificat.weebly.com/next-magnificat-meal.html>

Diocese of Toledo Charismatic Prayer Meetings and Contacts

Call contacts with questions about prayer groups, growing in your gifts, or living a Charismatic life

MONDAY:

Assumption - Holy Trinity Prayer Group 7:00 p.m.
Judy Cole (419) 367-8385

Huron, St. Peter's, Chapel 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Women's Rosary & Shared Prayer
Diane Dudenhofer (419) 602-0627

Port Clinton 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Joan Nunnery (440) 390-0054

TUESDAY:

Toledo, Epiphany of the Lord, St. Thomas Aquinas chapel 1:30 p.m.
Emmaus Community *Enter in door at top of handicap ramp.*
Cancelled if the same day as a Night of Healing event.
David Bland (419) 322-8282

Ottawa Areawide (SS Peter & Paul in chapel) 7:30 p.m.
Sharon Rump (419) 615-3513

THURSDAY:

Defiance, Beacon of Love 7:00 p.m.
St John (Basement: Sts Mark & Matthew room)
Sandy Diehl (419) 770-0057

Toledo, SS. Peter/Paul 7:00 p.m.
Candy Cordova Hispanic (419) 377-8053

FRIDAY:

Defiance, St. Mary Hispanic 6:00 p.m.
Fela Trevino (419) 784-4508

SATURDAY:

Fremont, St. Jos. Hispanic 7:00 p.m.
Silvia Garza (567) 201-8686

AREA CONTACTS: call about living a Charismatic life

Fremont, Judy Good (419) 366-1025

Lima, St. Gerard, Jerry & Sharon Laurent (419) 331-1763

Norwalk, St. Paul's, Bev Reichert (419) 706-0464



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WORSHIP WORD HEALING

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