



SPIRITUS WEEKLY UPDATE

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28TH, 2025

NEXT GATHERING THIS SUNDAY MARCH 2ND

SPIRITUS COMMUNITY GATHERING

SUNDAY 3/2

MEETING BEGINS AT 3:00PM

MADELEINE ROOM

PASSING OF BROTHER DON NEFF

Bro. Donald Neff, 94, died on Feb. 23, 2025, in Dayton, OH, with 74 years of religious profession. He was a very active member of Queen of Apostles during the last 20 years he lived here at Mt. St. John. I was fortunate to be the youth minister when he first moved back to Dayton. He volunteered to be a part of our Marianist LIFE Community. There, he played games, shared his faith and stories of his life. I was amazed at his energy and ability to connect with everyone even though he was in his late 70's. Although after several months he spoke to me earnestly about coming less often to meetings due the sole reason, that we just sat on the floor too much for him. We had a good laugh about the difficulty of getting up and down off the floor as we age. He always reached out in interest, care, and love whenever we saw him.

He will be missed.

The Funeral Mass is at Queen of Apostles Chapel Saturday March 8th.

Viewing 9-10:15 am

Mass 10:30 am

Interment and Reception following

[Click here](#) to see pictures from the Marianist of Bro. Don through the years.

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PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For all those in our community, those that we love, those who are alone, those who are grieving, those in war torn areas, those without anyone to pray for them and anyone else in need of loving support, prayer, or comfort.

Please send prayers for Mary Jo Pfander's sister -in-law. She has just been transferred to Hospice and is transitioning after being an Alzheimer patient for about 10 years. Please pray for her Mary Jo's brother and all their kids, family and loved ones.

For Katie Metzmaier's friend, Layla (11) who is facing several surgeries in the next few months to fix holes in her esophagus.

For all those who are facing uncertainty and do not have access to care and support.

A Pope's Prayer for Immigrants

Merciful God, we pray to you for all the men, women and children who have died after leaving their homelands in search of a better life.

Though many of their graves bear no name, to you each one is known, loved and cherished. May we never forget them, but honour their sacrifice with deeds more than words. We entrust to you all those who have made this journey, enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation, in order to reach a place of safety and hope.

Just as you never abandoned your Son as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph, so now be close to these, your sons and daughters, through our tenderness and protection.

In caring for them may we seek a world where none are forced to leave their home and where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.

Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference, open our eyes to their suffering, and free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness. Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters.

May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.

- by Pope Francis



COMMUNITY INFO

Spiritus Gathering Setup...Please Sign Up: A scheduling tool that allows us to plan for volunteers who can help with the setup and/or serving as greeters for our Spiritus gatherings has been in place for quite a while, but is not being utilized. Knowing in advance who can help with the setup, alleviates any concern that we won't have enough volunteers to help. By clicking the link below or using the QR code provided, you can easily sign up for a future gathering, which will also send a reminder to you in advance of that gathering. If you need any help with the scheduling, please contact Linda Skinner at scheduling@spiritus-mlc.org. Thank you so much for your help!



**Mark your calendars!
Spiritus will have a
community Mass
Easter Sunday at 10:30
am in the Queen of
Apostles Chapel.
April 20th, 2025**

**Don't forget to sign
up for the 2025 US-
COPAJU ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
March 26th - 28th at
the University of
Dayton.
Click HERE for more
information and to
register.**

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UPCOMING SPIRITUS EVENTS

- March 2nd – Spiritus Prayer Gathering, 3PM, Madeline Room.
- Live Stream: [March 2, Spiritus Gathering, Madeleine Room, 3:00 PM](#)
- March 16, Spiritus Gathering, Madeleine Room, 3:00 PM
- April 6, Spiritus Gathering, Madeleine Room, 3:00 PM
- April 20th, Easter Spiritus MLC Community Mass
 - Queen of Apostles Chapel, 10:30 AM
- March 12th – Full of Grace Ministries Game Day, Madonna Room at Our Lady of Grace Parish – Corpus Christi campus.
- March 16th – Spiritus Prayer Gathering, 3PM, Madeline Room.
- March 25th – Annunciation Mass with Dayton Family Council, 7PM, Queen of Apostles Chapel.
- March 26-28th – US Chapter of Committee of Pan American Judges for Social Justice (COPAJU) conference, University of Dayton
- April 6th – Spiritus Prayer Gathering, 3PM, Madeline Room.
- April 19th – Family Easter egg hunt – Mount St. John
- April 20th – Spiritus MLC Community Mass, 10:30AM, Queen of Apostles Chapel.

REMOTE VIEWING

Check the website (link at bottom of each page) for link to remote viewing for Sunday.

Sunday March 2nd https://www.youtube.com/live/7TMx19t_W5w

Viewing of all past meetings are available on the Spiritus website. Just click the banner at the bottom of the page for access.

If you are interested in being trained to stream meetings, please see Kevin Skinner or send inquiries to contact@spiritus-mlc.org

To rewatch all past meetings click on the link for our website at the bottom of the page.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Cooking Ministry for Family Promise of Greene County. Especially all who provided meals this week of February 17 - 21. You are doing great work!

ST. VINCENT'S

Our Dayton-area St Vincent Needs:

FOOD: Cereal, items for sack lunches, and #10 cans of food
CLOTHING: As always they need new underwear and socks, hygiene items, and gently used clothing, shoes, and linens.

Look for Chris and Sarah at the gatherings to deliver them.

Thank you!

At our Spiritus gatherings on 3/16 and 4/6, we will be collecting Lenten donations for **Family Promise and Brigid's Path**. A third organization will likely be added, but we are still waiting to hear back about their needs.

FAMILY PROMISE- diapers (size 5,6,7), "any and all cleaning supplies", napkins, bleach/Lysol, Kool-Aid, hair brushes/combs, plastic cutlery, aluminum foil

BRIGID'S PATH - 4 Oz Dr Brown bottles, hand sanitizer, scent-free detergent (Dreft), Pampers Swaddlers Sensitive -1 and NB, paper towels, baby wipes, copy paper, toilet paper, Desitin (purple box), Clorox or Lysol disinfectant wipes, single serve coffee pods, dry snacks (granola bars, chips, etc), sturdy paper plates, baby teethingers, postage stamps, hand soap refill bottles.

We are also encouraging tax deductible financial donations to Miami Valley Immigration Coalition (via their website or mail c/o LEAD 505 Riverside Dr., Dayton, OH 45405) or to Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement (via website or mail to 922 W Riverview Ave, Dayton, OH 45402). Both are in desperate need of funding at this time.

Thanks and peace, Chris



SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

Urban Solidarity Initiatives: Many Opportunities to Get Involved!

Support Full of Grace Ministries in the Five Oaks Neighborhood

- Saturday March 1, 9:00 am. – 11:00 am: Join the Five Oaks Neighborhood Association and Full of Grace Ministries to help clean up the streets, sidewalks, and Park surrounding DECA and Our Lady of Grace – Corpus Christi in preparation for the Fish Fry later that evening. Coffee, donuts and bagels will be provided. Click the link to learn more and sign-up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448AEAA23A7FF2-54406127-five>
- Wednesday, March 12, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Refreshments and Bingo. Our goal is to give those who attend the Food for the Journey Project Tuesday meal an added social experience during the week. This program will be hosted at the Holy Spirit Family of Parishes – Corpus Christi Campus (527 Forest Avenue, Dayton) in the Madonna Room. We are aiming to do this on the second Wednesday of the month. Volunteers are needed to help set-up tables and chairs and prepare simple refreshments from 3:30-4:30 pm; serve refreshments to neighborhood guests from 4:30-5:00pm and facilitate play Free BINGO from 5:00-5:30. If you are interested in helping, please contact Donna O'Neill at djtoneill@aol.com or Nancy Woeste at nancywoeste19@gmail.com
- Respite Bag Sign-up Dates Are Still Available: Please consider signing up for one of the following upcoming dates to deliver Respite Bags to Food for the Journey Project (FJP): April 15, April 29, June 3, July 15, July 29, August 5 and additional dates in the fall. In addition to filling bags with shelf stable snacks, please consider adding a few of these items during the winter months, either in the same bag as the snacks, or in a separate Ziploc bag that can be given out separately. Suggested items include: lip balm, throat lozenges, travel size hand lotion, band aids, masks, toothbrush, travel size toothpaste, or hand warmers.

Support Dakota Center:

- The Dakota Center is seeking donations and volunteers for their Baby Shower on Saturday April 19th from 11-2 pm. They need 5-10 volunteers to help with the resource fair to direct moms to the organizations. Also please consider collaborating with your community to fill a laundry basket, diaper bag, or backpack with items for baby or mom! Suggestions for the baby bag include baby shampoo and lotion, onesies, sleepers, hats, and of course lots of diapers (size newborn-5) and wipes! Fill a mommy bag with deodorant, toothpaste, lotion, and nursing pads. Thanks for your help!



MARIANIST FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Check out the new edition of
Marianist Family Online!
<https://www.marianist.com/familyonline/>

STAY CONNECTED !

MARIANIST FAMILY - <https://www.marianist.com>

MARIANIST SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE - <https://marianistsjc.net>

MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY OF NORTH AMERICA - <https://www.mlcna.org>

MARIANIST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER - <https://meec.center>

NORTH AMERICAN CENTER FOR MARIANIST STUDIES - <https://www.nacms.org>

SPIRITUS CONTACT UPDATES

If there is anyone who is seriously ill or facing a significant surgery or procedure the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is available.

You can call the Spiritus office and leave a message if it is something that can be scheduled in advance, or if more time sensitive, you can reach out to Fr. Tom. His telephone number is 937-903-0943.

Also if anyone needs to receive Eucharist at home please notify Linda Folmar at Linda_folmar@sbcglobal.net.

If you need to change any contact information, please let us know by responding to this email or by writing any changes that you need to have made on the clipboard available by the nametags at each Spiritus gathering. We want to make sure that everyone is getting information in a way that is helpful and suits them.

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**JOIN US MARCH 8 FOR A CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
COME FOR THE MUSIC AND COMMUNITY....LEAVE ENERGIZED AND COMMITTED FROM
LISTENING TO THIS CHOIR THAT INSPIRES COMMUNITIES TO JUSTICE...AND PEACE.**

THE WORLD HOUSE CHOIR INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: "NEVER TURNING BACK" ON SATURDAY MARCH 8 AT 7:00PM IN THE FOUNDRY THEATER ON THE ANTIOCH COLLEGE CAMPUS, 920 CORRY ST., YELLOW SPRINGS.

Our International Women's Day celebration is a time to gather momentum as we build on women's victories of the past to face the struggles and victories to come in 2025.

Plans include performances by Haitian singer Harriet Joseph, and the Haitian dance ensemble, "Authentic" from Springfield. Also performing is the multi-faceted soprano, Vidita Kanniks, who specializes in cross-cultural work combining her background in Indian Classical music and her Western classical training.

The World House Choir will sing "Bread and Roses," the classic women's labor song, inspired by the Helen Todd. poem. The cry for "bread and roses," arose in 1912, demanded by striking immigrant women textiles workers in Lawrence Massachusetts as they pleaded for fair wages, shorter hours, more leisure time, justice and dignity....."yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses too."

Artist, writer, and poet Iden Crockett will present an original poetic introduction to Sincerely Yours: Pauli Murray. The World House Choir is currently in rehearsal for our 2025 fall performance of the above named oratorio that tells the story of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, a civil rights activist, lawyer, poet and ordained Episcopal priest. Pauli was born in 1910 and today would have likely identified as transgender or nonbinary. On March 8th, we will sing "You Think You Know," the introductory movement from this brilliant multi-part work by composer Steve Milloy (composer of "Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream").

There will be lots of community singing as the choir invites you to join us in songs that we can take to the streets. We will also be accompanied by our wonderful string band, Linda Lou Scutt, Mary Beth Burkholder, Bob Lucas, Chloe Manor and Chris Westhoff, for two rousing closing numbers.

We are ever mindful of the prescient words of Coretta Scott King, "Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won; you earn it and win it in every generation." Let's earn it and win it in 2025

Childcare is available, but you must reserve a spot by calling 937-207-1517 before March 1.

Admission is free. Donations always appreciated.