

## March for Life is a Wonderful Experience

By Fred Schoen

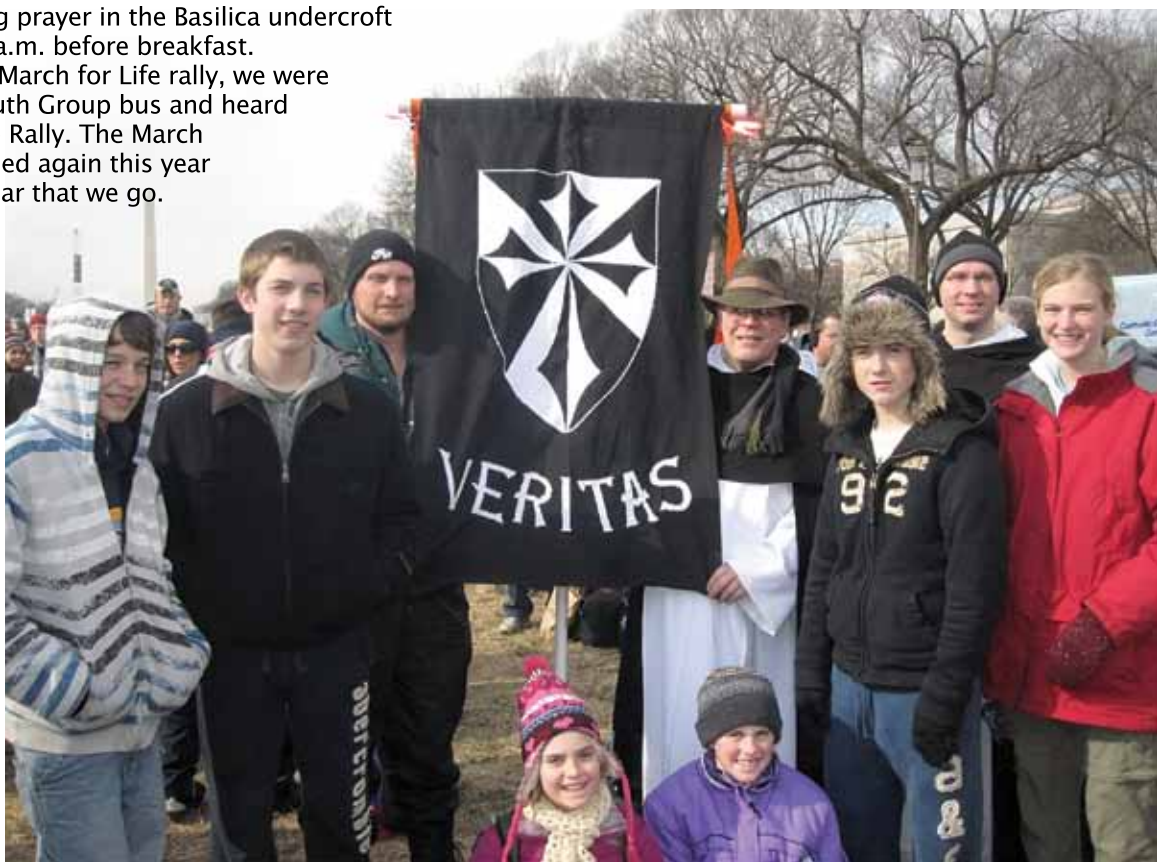
For the second consecutive year, St. Patrick Church sent two buses to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. However, we had a couple firsts for St. Patrick's this year. All three Dominican priests joined us (what a wonderful blessing!) and the Youth Group went on an extended stay trip. Our annual "red-eye" bus arrived in DC at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, as usual, around 5:30 a.m. We joined the Dominican Brothers from the House of Studies for chanted morning prayer in the Basilica undercroft Chapel and then Mass at 7 a.m. before breakfast.

When we arrived at the March for Life rally, we were eventually joined by the Youth Group bus and heard many of the speakers at the Rally. The March for Life was very well attended again this year and seems to grow every year that we go.

Many of us estimated the crowd at well over 250,000 people and possibly as high as 400,000.

After our journey home, both buses arrived at St. Patrick Church at about 2:30 a.m. We had a lot of first timers with us this year and many of them commented how refreshing it was to see so many young Catholics who believe in the sanctity of life like we hear and witness at St. Patrick's. If needed, we hope to take three buses next year, so please begin making plans to go with us and bring a friend. ♥

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## PARISH EVENTS

**Mondays: (as scheduled)** Corinthians Bible Study  
**Tuesdays:** Youth Ministry  
**Wednesdays:** RCIA  
**Thursdays:** 20s group (7-9 p.m.)  
**Thursdays: (as scheduled)** Catholicism 101  
**Fridays in Lent:** Fish Fry and Stations of the Cross

### MARCH

- 6 Families on Mission
- 8 Women's Club Meeting
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 13 Rite of Enrollment of Names and Election of Catechumens (at St. Andrew Church)
- 16 Parish Feast Mass & Celebration—St. Patrick
- 27 First Scrutinies; Red Cross Blood Drive

### APRIL

- 2 Confirmation retreat
- 3 2nd Scrutinies; Confirmation practice; Families on Mission
- 5–13 Bl. Margaret Novena
- 7 Confirmation
- 9 NaPro Intro Session
- 10 3rd Scrutinies; Women's Club Raffle ticket presale

## Lenten Mission

April 11, 12, 13 at 7 p.m.

Lenten Preacher: Fr. Darren Pierre, O.P.

### "Behold the Lamb of God"

The new translation of the Mass as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist

- 12 Women's Club meeting
- 16 First Communion retreat
- 16–17 Women's Club Bake sale; Palm Sunday
- 18–24 Holy Week; Triduum; Easter Sunday
- 23 Rite of Initiation at Easter Vigil

### MAY

- 1 Divine Mercy Sunday; Families on Mission
- 5 First Communion Practice and Confessions
- 7 First Communion
- 8 May Crowning
- 8–16 Mother's Day Novena
- 15 K of C Pancake Breakfast
- 22 Pizza Sale; St. Gerard Mother's Blessing ; Last day of CCD classes
- 29 Graduation Brunch

### JUNE

- 14 Women's Club end of the year lunch at TAT
- 19–27 Father's Day Novena
- 26 Corpus Christi Mass and Procession

## St Patrick's 20s Group

By Mary Parker

During my first year of college I would call my mom and ask, "Where are my people? Why do I feel like I'm wandering in the desert?" Of course I wasn't alone or without friends, but I hadn't found a group of people that shared my ideals and faith.

Thankfully St. Patrick's 20s group answered my prayers when it began this January. Finally there was a group for men and women in their twenties and early thirties dedicated to creating a strong Christian fellowship through prayer, acts of service, and having fun. I was also not alone in my search for likeminded people. At the first meeting, over twenty people attended, and the group has already gained over fifty members on its Facebook page.

St. Patrick's 20s Group only has room to grow with its high aspirations and exuberance. Already, the group has had speakers such as Annie Mitchell from the Son Rise Morning Show and a lecture from Fr. Thomas Blau, one of the local Dominican friars. The group has also scheduled a gospel study and bowling outing for this month. For the summer, there is the hope of pilgrimages across Ohio.



For more information on this vibrant, upcoming group please feel to visit St. Patrick Church's website [www.stpatrickcolumbus.com](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.com) or by searching St. Patrick's 20s Group on Facebook. ♥

## Invitation from the Women's Club

By Dena Hoover

The St. Patrick's Women's Club invites all women of the parish to join them at their meetings held the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 12, at 10:30 a.m. in Patrick Hall. The meetings last one hour and everyone is invited to attend 11:45 Mass afterwards followed by a brown-bag lunch for whoever wants to stay. The Women's Club is a vital group to St. Patrick's parish with contributions totaling over \$100,000 to benefit the parish. Most recently, these funds have helped pay for the canopies, improvements to the confessionals, fixing the bells and the organ, and providing the Rose Window in the gallery.

The Women's Club sponsors the bake sale held twice a year (Palm Sunday and the Sunday before Thanksgiving). This is their largest fundraiser. They also sponsor the sale of Honey-Baked Ham certificates and Giant Eagle and Kroger cards.

One hundred percent of the money raised by the Women's Club is given to St. Patrick's. First communicants receive a book of saints provided by the Women's Club and the remaining money is presented to the pastor at their bi-annual luncheon to be used for improvements to the parish. ♥

For more information call Mary Ann McCarrick, current president, at 614-258-6491.



# Candlemas

Reviving the ancient tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas, the Dominican Friars celebrated a festive Mass which included the rite for the blessing of candles. ♥



## Dinner with Nick Alexander

St. Patrick's Marriage and Family Life Committee sponsored a dinner and evening with Catholic comedian Nick Alexander, who takes popular songs and rearranges them with hilarious lyrics based on Catholic culture. ♥

Photos courtesy of Marian Hyden

# what freedom really costs

## The March for Life, Washington D.C., 2011

By Anna Higgins

Over the course of three days, some of the members of the St. Patrick's youth group embarked on a pilgrimage exploring many stages and parts of life. We saw the national monuments by night, learned about our nation's great history at the Smithsonian, and even visited the Holocaust museum for a haunting look into what true suffering is. We also experienced the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery, and finally, we marched through the streets of D.C. to defend the gift of life in all stages—from conception to natural death. I think I speak for many of the others as well as myself when I say how truly life-changing those activities ended up being.

Although it is hard to say which site was most influential, I would say my favorite would be visiting Arlington National Cemetery. There is a song by Trace Adkins called "Arlington." In the song, Trace is a hero coming home to rest in the peaceful grounds of Arlington. Walking up to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the words of the song were running through my head and heart. Hearing the song before, it didn't have much meaning to me but seeing it made it so much more real and helped me realize what freedom really costs. Words cannot describe how much I love going on this pilgrimage to the district every year with St. Patrick's parish and youth group. It is a wonderful chance to listen to God's voice, to see the pro-life community, and know that we are not alone in our war against abortion and for the sanctity of life. ♥



Photo courtesy of Anna Higgins



Photo courtesy of Fred Schoen



Photo courtesy of Marian Hyden



Photo courtesy of Dan DeMatte

# Twelfth Night at St. Patrick's

By Gina Switzer



Photo courtesy of Marian Hyden

Celebrating Christmas to the end, Fr. Michael finished the holiday with a festive gathering for parish volunteers... the best party of the season!

First, the tables were set beautifully with sumptuous salads. Then Fr. Michael and Fr. Thomas served delicious homemade sauerbraten, cabbage and potatoes, made by Fr. Michael himself. The meal was amazing, but the fun really started with after-dinner games. Fr. Thomas tried to "sell" a gift to the group without the benefit of knowing what was in the bag. Hilarity ensued as guests questioned Father about the gift, which turned out to be a roll of toilet tissue! The Friars serenaded the audience with a St. Patrick's rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and each table had a craft project adapting a popular Christmas carol to a theme related to the parish and illustrating it.

At the end, the Friars honored Marian Hyden as the volunteer of the year. In keeping with the silly spirit of the eve, Marian received a sash and tiara as her gift.

Throughout Advent and Christmas, we were taught how Christ humbled Himself to become man for us. In imitation of His gift, the greatest gift we can give is ourselves. That's what our priests did that night. They planned and cooked and served; they gave themselves. As good fathers do, they showed us by their actions what they teach us from the pulpit. ♥



We 3 Kings  
of St. Patrick's Are  
bearing gifts we  
travel so far  
Sermon  
Confessional  
Coffee & Donuts  
Following Yonder



Photo courtesy of Gina Switzer

## Volunteer of the Year—Marian Hyden



# Veritas Winter Mission Trip

*“we did it with love”*

By Luke Williams, Sophomore

On the Wednesday and Thursday before Christmas, a group of kids woke up bright and early at 7 a.m. to the sound of the Lion King’s “Circle of Life.” After doing as much as possible to clean ourselves up without the benefit of a shower, they prepared to go to Mass with varying Dominican Fathers inside Holy Family Church. Following Mass, breakfast was served, and they ate before beginning their respective missions for the day. Now nourished with both the Bread of Life and ordinary food, they were assigned to perform makeovers in bedrooms of different houses situated in the west side of Columbus.

In case you haven’t caught on yet, those kids were us. This Christmas, the members of Veritas Youth Group diverted from their usual mission trip to Cranks Creek, Kentucky, to cooperate with the Run the Race Foundation, founded and run by Ms. Rachel Muha, for the purpose of serving their less fortunate brethren in their own city. From the evening of December 21 to the morning of December 24, we disembarked from our normal, everyday lives in a successful attempt to better the lives of the citizens of downtown Columbus. We worked throughout the day, removing everything from bedrooms, repainting them, assembling cabinets and dressers, and furnishing the rooms with new items to complete the makeovers. At night the respective work groups reflected upon our work done that day, and then we all assembled (with eager anticipation) to eat dinner. After dinner, we had time for prayer and reflection and time to relax with friends.

During the evening of December 23, all of us hosted a party at the Run the Race Club. Members of the youth group performed a skit, another member gave a reflection upon the true reason and meaning of Christmas, and the youth group’s band performed. The younger Racers had the opportunity to visit “Santa” (an older Racer in disguise). Many kids and families came (nearly 300 total), and it was wonderful to see how much people were enjoying themselves and becoming more familiar with us.

In the midst of all this hustle and bustle of movement and work, however,

it was important for us to realize that what we were doing for these people was done in love for them. Our sacrifices for them were like a gentle hand stretching out to them amidst all the hopelessness and hardness they were encountering in their lives, a gesture which let them know that, indeed, they were loved, not only by Our Lord but also by their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on earth. In a reflection following the party at the Run the Race Club, a member of our youth group commented on the fact that, during the event, she had become frustrated. The reason for her frustration, she related, was that she

noticed several of the “guests” at the party who were not paying much attention to the skit and praise-and-worship songs, and instead were talking and being disruptive. However, after thought, she realized that the reaction of the people whom we were serving did not matter so much as the actions and love we were giving; their reception of our love did not, in any way, detract from the love we displayed for them by reaching out to and serving them. With this in mind, she was content. I believe that her way of thinking is a beautiful way to consider the whole mission trip. We did it with love. ♥

## Mission Accomplished:

- 13 Major Bedroom Makeovers
- 4 Mini Bedroom Makeovers
- 17 New Beds for kids who were sleeping on the floor or on a boxspring
- 43 people directly loved through the bedroom makeovers
- 52 bikes repaired and distributed
- Hundreds of Divine Mercy Pictures hung in business store windows on West Broad St.
- 300 plus people loved through the Christmas Party



Photos courtesy of Dan DeMatte

*“how to love unconditionally”*

By Seth Keller

The youth group of St. Patrick Church spent December 22 and 23 on the west side of Columbus helping needy families. Our winter mission trip this year hit very close to home. I have been on several of St. Patrick’s youth group mission trips, but this one had special significance for me. God truly spoke to me on this mission trip and He renewed my hope in him.

We spent the better part of two days doing room makeovers for as many needy kids as we could. This part of the trip was a special blessing because we had the opportunity to minister to those families within their own homes. Also, it was amazing to see the kindness and love of the families, despite their financial needs. We were also able to help host a Christmas party for the kids and their parents. We provided dinner, the kids had a chance to sit on Santa’s lap and then we were able to pray a little bit with the older kids. But the greatest blessing of the mission trip was the opportunity to love each and every child that we saw.

It was a blessed week, but a tough week. It was such a blessing to have the opportunity to love so many people, but it was a great challenge to leave our pride and selfishness behind to be able to love. God taught me something amazing in those few days. He taught me how to love unconditionally. This is one area where I saw God working in many of the teens throughout the few days we were on the mission trip. It is only through exercising this unconditional love that hearts can be changed and the kingdom of God brought to this earth. ♥



Photos courtesy of Ohio Right to Life

# Truly A Night of Hope and Inspiration

Taken from the Ohio Right to Life Winter 2011 Newsletter



“They applauded for 14 minutes,” says a witness in the film *Nine Days that Changed the World*, about the people’s response to the late Pope John Paul II’s speech to the

millions gathered in Poland, seeking liberation from a communistic rule in June of 1979. He enlightened their hearts as he spoke to them of human freedom and dignity. In January of 2011, this story of inspiration stirred up a similar enthusiasm among the 1,400 people who stood in praise of the film after its screening in Columbus.

The beautifully renovated St. Charles High School’s Walter Pavilion served as the venue for A Night of Hope and Inspiration, where former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, and his wife, Callista, made a stop in their nation-wide screening tour on the 28th of January. The crowd of Ohioans gathered to witness their presentation and screening included Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, Representative Joe Uecker, Senator Jim Hughes, State Auditor Dave Yost and many other leaders from the pro-life and Catholic communities throughout the state.

Ohio Right to Life united with the Diocese of Columbus to ensure that this powerful message of hope communicated through the Gingrich’s movie would be available to all. The positive response from Columbus’ Catholics was apparent as groups from around the city came together to support the event by promoting it in diocesan parishes and schools. Groups and organizations such as St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, Living Bread Radio, Saint Paul’s Outreach and Face Forward set up information booths at the event in order to create an environment where pro-life individuals could connect with one another. Ohio Right to Life also highlighted St. Patrick Church for their outstanding pro-life witness through a special “Spotlight Video”, lending a glimpse into the parish’s many dynamic pro-life activities.

From the widespread support throughout Ohio’s pro-life community to the tireless efforts of Newt and Callista Gingrich and the powerfully anointed words of the late Pope John Paul II, all of the elements of the evening came together to result in an experience that left all who attended renewed by hope and recharged with inspiration to move forward in the pro-life movement.

To see photos and video from the event, visit our blog at [www.ohiolifewire.org](http://www.ohiolifewire.org). ♥



Visit the Ohio Right to Life web site at: <http://www.ohiolife.org>

Ohio Right to Life features St. Patrick Church pro-life activities in a video viewed at: <http://www.ohiolifewire.org/our-videos.html>



Photo courtesy of Ohio Right to Life

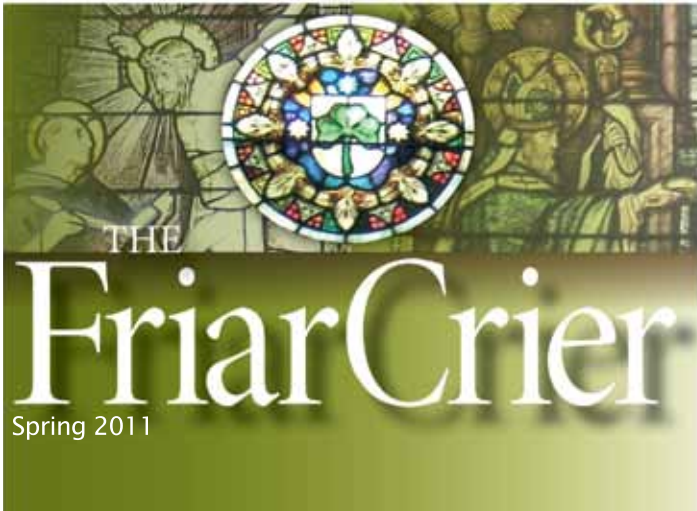


Photo courtesy of Ohio Right to Life

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Photo courtesy of Ohio Right to Life



View the Ohio Right to Life video featuring St. Patrick Church pro-life activities at:  
<http://www.ohiolifewire.org/our-videos.html>