

several times during the night, the pain in her eye shooting through her like an electric shock. "My right eye felt as if there were still a large chunk of pine bark in it, so I felt my way down-stairs and lay down in the bathtub, letting warm water run from the faucet straight into my eye. The pain got worse, not better. When the grandfather clock in the dining room tolled hour after hour, I prayed the kind of prayers I never thought I would pray. I began the kind of bargaining with God that I do not believe in, and when that did not work, I called God's honor into question. I begged God to do something. I dared God to do something. Finally, close to dawn, I found myself turning away from the God in charge of pain removal toward the God who stayed with me through the pain no matter what I said. By the time I saw an optometrist who told me I had a torn cornea, my midnight wrestling match was over. The pain had not only changed the way I prayed. It had also changed my ideas about the One to whom I prayed."

Pain, struggle, disappointment, and failure are crosses every one of us has borne and will bear in our lives. From these crosses, we learn what it means to be a complete, mature, fulfilled human being. Often the easiest, least demanding solution to a problem is neither the best nor the most effective course of action; that which demands the most from us, that which addresses the root of the problem, that which forces significant changes in our attitude and perspective is always the most effective and permanent way to confront a situation. That is the way of the cross. Christ calls us to transform our lives and the world we live in by embracing the vision of the cross --- courageously and soberly taking on the difficult and demanding "Good Fridays" that confront us in order to bring forth the lasting transformation of the Easter promise.

WEEKEND MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT

Saturday, Sept. 11 5:00 PM at I.C.
 Communion Dist: Linda Moore
 Lector: Bob Dean
 Usher: Tom Moore
 Server: Samuel Dean
 Alex Sanders

Sunday, Sept. 12 7:30 AM at St. T.
 Communion Dist: Denise Otte
 Lector: Jackie Swabb
 Usher: Glenn Monnin
 Doug Huelskamp
 Server: Danielle Swabb
 Asa Swabb

Sunday, Sept. 12 9:00 AM at I. C.
 Communion Dist: Connie Shafer
 Lector: Shirley Gerling
 Usher: Mark Drieling
 Server: Gabbie Fair
 Zach Hoelscher

Sunday, Sept. 12 10:30 AM at St. T.
 Communion Dist: Mary Crawford
 Tony Lyons
 Rawley Rearick
 Jim Hartzell
 Peggy Sweeney
 Lector: Vicki Blei
 Usher: Dave Tobias
 Joe Christian
 Server: Josselyn Tobias
 Trent Tobias

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2010
 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF
 ORDINARY TIME**

BAPTISMS: Contact pastor at 473-2970

WEDDINGS: Contact pastor at least six months in advance of wedding date.

RECONCILIATION:
 AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
 on 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday from 4:00-4:30 pm

AT SAINT TERESA PARISH
 on 1st & 3rd Saturday from 4:00-4:30 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
 Contact: Elaine Christian 473-2413
 Fr. Simons 473-2970

YOUTH MINISTRY:
 Contact: Alan Capasso 841-0031

R.C.I.A.: Normally done during the school year
Contact pastor for more information.

PASTOR: REV. JIM SIMONS

 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 448-6220
 ST. TERESA 473-2970

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:
 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
 PRES. Patches Trevino 448-2830
 SEC. Sue Vickroy 448-2844
 Pat Smith 448-0404
 Bob Dean 548-0628
 Jerry Paulus 526-4232

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:
 ST. TERESA OF THE INFANT JESUS
 PRES. Eric Vanderhorst 473-9839
 V.P. Paul Webb 570-0266
 SEC. Kathie Gengler 473-5757
 Marcia Lyle 473-5442
 Gerry Monnin 473-5482



Established: 1875

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
 200 CLAY STREET
 BRADFORD, OHIO 45308



Established: 1950

ST. TERESA OF THE INFANT JESUS
 6925 W US RT 36
 COVINGTON, OHIO 45318
 www.stteresacovington.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON 9/6 8:30 AM
Immaculate Conception
Dale Lawson

TUES 9/7 8:30 AM
Immaculate Conception
Delrose Tscheiner

WED 9/8 8:30 AM
St. Teresa Parish
Dan Rindler

THU 9/9 8:30 AM
St. Teresa Parish
Stan Hindmarch

SAT 9/11 5:00 PM
Immaculate Conception
For the Parishes

SUN 9/12 7:30 AM
St. Teresa Parish
Veronica Kuether

9:00 AM
Immaculate Conception
Linda Caroll

10:30 AM
St. Teresa Parish
Stan Hindmarch

SUNDAY COLLECTION

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	
August 22, 2010	\$ 942.00
Bldg. Main. 8/29/10	\$ 15.00
ST. TERESA PARISH	
August 29, 2010	\$ 808.00

PARISH PRAYER CHAINS:

Immaculate Conception Parish - contact Shirley Richard at 448-2936 to activate the prayer chain.

St. Teresa Parish - contact Boots Speer at 473-2872 to activate the prayer chain.

I.C. PARISH COUNCIL

The Immaculate Conception Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7th at 7:00 pm.

ST. TERESA PARISH COUNCIL

The St. Teresa Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 13th at 7:00 pm.

ST. TERESA COMMUNITY LIFE

The St. Teresa Community Life Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00 pm.

2010-2011 CCD

A reminder to parents of both parishes - please register your children for the 2010-2011 CCD school year **as soon as possible!** Also, St. Teresa is in need of volunteer teachers for Grades 5 & 6 and Pre-school. Please call Elaine Christian at 473-2413 if you wish to help teach.

CONCESSION STAND

Please volunteer some time to work in the concession stand during co-ed softball games on Wednesday evenings and men's softball games on Sunday evenings. Please call Marcie Lyle at 473-5442 for more details. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Please pray for our Youth Group Leaders: Sam Christian, Hannah Pond, Jennifer Rindler, Ryan Dunlevy, Olivia McElDowney and Katelyn Gade. Our first meeting will be held on September 19th from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. **Both parishes' youth should attend.** The next meetings will be held on September 26th from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at St. Teresa Parish Hall and October 10th from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. Again, both parishes' youth can attend each meeting. Please note that there will be no meeting on October 3rd.

FORT ROWDY FESTIVAL

Sign up sheets are in the annex for volunteers to work the Fort Rowdy Festival on October 2nd and 3rd. We are also requesting donations of supplies for our booth. The supplies are listed on cards in the annex and each card should cost between \$10.00 and \$15.00. Please pick up a card and return the donated supplies to the church prior to September 20th. At that time, what has not been donated will have to be ordered. Thanks for your help!

ST. TERESA FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone in our parish for all your efforts to help make our parish festival a success again this year! Thanks to those who helped organize the events, those working shifts, those who helped set up and tear down, and those who donated desserts and crafts. Your efforts were very much appreciated!

Larry and Joyce Tebbe
Festival Chairs

CONNECTIONS:

The theology of 'a stick in the eye'

Imagine a graph of your life --- your birth-day written on the far left side of a sheet of paper and today's date on the far right, and in between, all the major events that have made you who you are. From that graph, you will see that the spikes in your life --- the pains and disappointments you have experienced --- bear some relationship to the leaps in your growth. It was when your family moved for the fourth time in five years that you learned to enjoy your own company in the months before you made new friends at school. It was when that relationship broke apart that you realized what you were meant to do with your life. It was when the doctor called about the spot on your lung that you finally made up with your sister. They might not have been the ways you would have chosen to learn and grow, but they worked.

Barbara Brown Taylor writes in her insightful book **An Altar in the World**: "Pain makes theologians of us all. If you have ever spent even one night in real physical pain, then you know what that can do to your faith in God, not to mention your faith in your own ability to manage your life."

Taylor recounts how a "stick in the eye" altered her own view of God. While pruning in her garden, she was accidentally struck in the eye by a sharp wood chip. In the emergency room, a physician's assistant put some numbing orange dye in her eye. An hour later, the numbness wore off. Taylor took aspirin and went to bed, hoping for relief. But she woke up