



THEFEST

FEST 2018 HIGHLIGHTS & WINTER NEWSLETTER



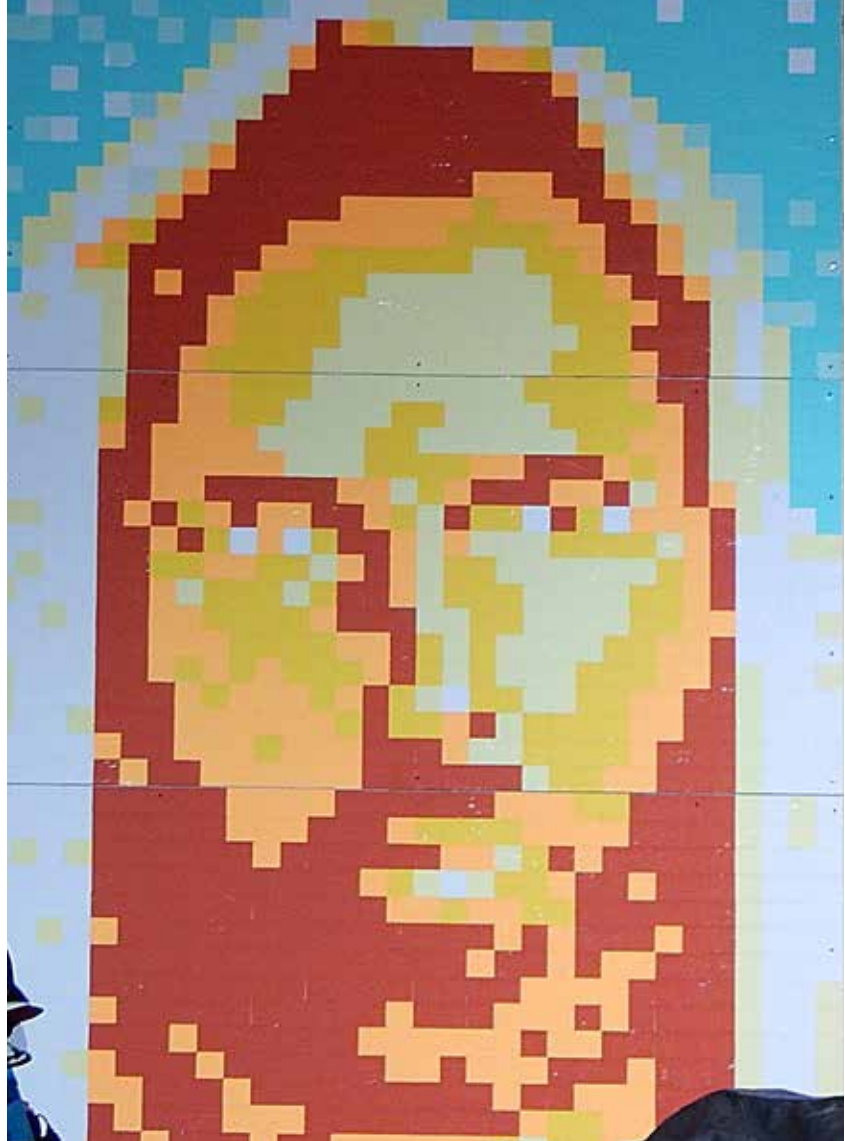
THE LIGHT WAS RADIANT AND BRIGHT ON FEST DAY!

Kurt, the post-it note artist, spent the entire day of The FEST creating an amazing piece of art. It was revealed right after Mass. Literally thousands of little post-it notes came together to create a beautiful mosaic – an inspiring image of Jesus. **You could hear the gasp of the crowd when they figured out what they – we – had created together.**

Kurt's efforts really followed the recipe of The FEST. Many of us coming together – giving, caring, helping, sharing, serving, and singing – created a glimpse – a picture – of Christ's presence and God's kingdom.

There are two words that I have used to express FEST 2018 – immense and intense. You could visibly see the immense crowd and feel the intense goodness and love of God present that filled the 56 acre campus of the Center for Pastoral Leadership. The FEST was truly an amazing day of faith, family and fun.

Many thanks for your continued support. Special thanks, too, to all of our sponsors, donors and raffle participants. Together we were able to keep The FEST FREE and open to everyone!!! Thank you so much. A very special word of thanks to our friends at MARC's for believing in and supporting The FEST.



Please save the date for FEST 2019 – Sunday, August 4th. It promises to be the highlight of the summer. Take some time to review the pictures and highlights of FEST 2018 in the following pages of this newsletter.

God bless you in these blessed days of Advent and Christmas.

Father Bob Stec
on behalf of the FEST team

*Special thanks
to Marc's!*



P.S. At The FEST we challenged everyone to Be the Light. **As you reflect on your end-of-year giving, The FEST depends on wonderful people like you to keep The FEST free and open to everyone.** If you can help, please consider a tax-deductible donation to The FEST (CPL-FEST, 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092). If you have any questions, or would like to discuss ways you can support The FEST, please contact Father Bob Stec (FrBob@theFEST.us) or Jake Bihari (Jake@theFEST.us). God bless you.

FEST BY THE NUMBERS!

Throughout this newsletter you will see popouts of numbers - it takes a lot to make this great day happen!

1,259
Volunteers



193
Choir Members

Watch the video at
www.TheFEST.us

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

95.5 The Fish presents a very special Christmas concert in Cleveland!
for KING & COUNTRY Little Drummer Boy

The Christmas Tour featuring Zach Williams

After the absolute viral response from their "Little Drummer Boy (LIVE)" music video last Christmas season, the GRAMMY award-winning duo for KING & COUNTRY will embark on their theatrical, dynamic, and moving Little Drummer Boy | The Christmas Tour featuring fellow GRAMMY-award winner, Zach Williams. The tour will feature original hits from both artists, as well as brand new songs from for KING & COUNTRY's album 'Burn the Ships', previous holiday recordings and Christmas classics.

Find ticket prices at 95.5 The Fish! www.955thefish.com



BE THE LIGHT!

BE THE LIGHT!!! Last year in our annual newsletter we put out an appeal to help us fill an over \$20,000 deficit that we incurred for FEST 2017. Thanks to so many being so responsive and generous, we were able to fill the gap, cover the deficit and keep the lights ON for FEST 2018. Many, many thanks to all who heard our urgent appeal for help.

Thanks to God...to you...and to NO rain this past August, FEST 2018 ended in 'the black' by about \$4,000. This is GREAT news. So while we are not sinking, we could still use your help as we plan for FEST 2019.



BE THE LIGHT!!! As you can read, and see in this newsletter, FEST 2018 was a great day for the thousands who joined us. Over the course of the day, in many different ways, everyone was challenged to 'be the light' and to share the Light of Christ with others....on FEST day and always. The stories have been soul-stirring and inspiring – glimpses of the impact The FEST makes in people's lives.

...A PSR classroom keeps a weekly scoreboard of 'acts of light' each student does during the course of the week.

... Many people 'paid it forward' for people in the drive thru lines.

... Others invited friends and family to join them at Church.

...Thousands of coats, jackets and winter gear donated for the Warmth Project

10,000

LIGHT-up Bracelets

These 'acts of light' are in addition to the important work The FEST is doing to raise awareness in our region over the heroin/fentanyl crisis, working to lift up neighbors and neighborhoods in the city, putting coats on kids backs, and working tirelessly to create a spirit of cooperation among the churches and pastors who serve in our region.

The FEST is working hard to bring the LIGHT and LOVE of Christ to our community – our region – on FEST day and throughout the year.

**Please send
your tax-deductible
contribution to:**

The FEST - CPL
28700 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092



DONATE ONLINE AT
www.TheFEST.us/Donate

In order to 'keep the lights ON' and continue this great day of faith, family and fun – all for FREE – we need your support. It takes all of us working together to keep The FEST strong and financially solid. Thanks to all who have supported The FEST raffle and free will offering. Special thanks to those who last year responded so generously to our 'end of the FEST year' appeal. Thanks to some wonderful and generous people, we raised \$20,000 which is needed to have 'start up' funds for FEST 2019.

May God bless you for your goodness and support. **Together we can keep the lights 'ON' for The FEST, and even more importantly, bring the LIGHT of Christ to our community --- to our world.**

If you have any questions or would like more information about supporting The FEST or joining as one of our wonderful sponsors/vendors, please contact Jake Bihari (Jake@TheFEST.us) or Father Bob Stec (frbob@TheFEST.us).

THE FEST... MORE THAN JUST A DAY GREATER THAN HEROIN

The opioid epidemic continues to affect individuals, families, and communities across our nation and right here in Ohio.

Greater Than Heroin, a continuing outreach of the FEST, is a group of churches, nonprofits, businesses, and other organizations seeking to bring understanding, awareness, and collaboration to the heroin and opioid drug epidemic in Northeast Ohio. The FEST and Greater Than Heroin have hosted community discussions and promoted bi-annual Drug Take-Back Days, encouraging individuals to clean out their cabinets and dispose of unused prescription drugs by taking them to local police departments.



To learn more or get involved, visit GreaterThanHeroin.com for resources and information.



ALPHA VILLAGE

Another ministry of The FEST is known as Alpha Village, an outreach in the Clark-Fulton and Ohio City areas of Cleveland. We've been working there over the past 5 years, providing food, coats and basic home repair services to the neighborhood. Over the past few weeks, we have been working to collect new and gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and boots to distribute to children and families in need.

Alpha Village is just one more extension of the good we do together through The FEST. To get involved and learn more, visit www.AlphaVillage.us



JOIN THE FEST TEAM!

Looking to do something extraordinary this summer?
Become a FEST intern!

The FEST (www.theFEST.us) is looking for marketing & communications, event planning, and logistics management interns to join the team that puts together our annual Diocesan Family Festival. Interns will be a part of a fast-paced team and will play a critical role in the marketing, planning and coordination of an annual event for 40,000+ people.

Interns will provide support and have responsibilities including public speaking, marketing, mailings, digital and social media, press releases, logistics, event planning, and more. Interns must have strong people skills, work ethic, critical thinking, organizational skills, and reliable transportation. For more information or to apply, please send your resume to Caitlin@theFEST.us.

STORIES OF LIGHT

A story of how you received, or shared, THE LIGHT! Submitted through www.TheFEST.us/Light

When in Denver, I had a lot of left over food that I didn't want to go to waste. I couldn't bring it on the plane back to Cleveland with me. I was decided that I would give it to a person on the street who was homeless and hungry. I included plastic silverware and a note in the full bag of left over food. The note said that God loves everyone, including those who are poor, and so do I. I got out of my car with a large bag of food and two liters of drinking water. I approached a lady sitting near a tree, with a bag of her belongings. I asked if she wanted food and water and she said "yes, but I'm sorry you have to see me like this." I didn't know what she meant until she turned her face toward me. She took down her hoodie and revealed a swollen, bruised face with dried blood on it. Some teeth appeared missing. I asked her if she was going to be ok and she said yes. I told her I would pray for her. We said the "our father" before I left her and the food. - MARY C.



WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THE FEST 2018:

I just wanted to express our family's deepest gratitude for all you do to sponsor The FEST. It is one of the highlights of our summer, and we are so grateful for all you pour into making it such a special event for the community. By providing affordable food, blessing moms with incredible bags of free items, and by helping underwrite the artists who come, you significantly impact the community and bless tens of thousands of people. Please know how much the Krueger family appreciates your sponsorship of The FEST!!!! - Ann-Morgan K.

2,549

Moms Who
Pre-Registered Online!
500 more than 2017!

"My kids and I had an absolute blast. Not only was the entertainment amazing, but the mass was

brehtaking. There was such beauty in seeing thousands participate at the Lord's table. And the outstanding fact that it was all free made this possible for us. Keep up the great job of bringing family and fun together in a faith filled environment!" - Britani N.

"My brother and I have attended The FEST the past 4 years. We love it and look forward to coming every year. Such a joyful, inspiring and fun day with great Christian music and good messages." - Gina L.

"AN AWESOME TIME at the FEST!!! Our family's first time (we're from Youngstown) but hopefully not our last! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen!" - Tony C.

"Thank you!!! My Family and I had an Amazing/Blessed day! All Glory to the Lord" - Tina H.

"I just wanted to thank everyone for yesterday. My dear friend just walked through and battled breast cancer, My hubby was diagnosed with Lyme disease last year and was doing really well...he was just reinfected over Memorial day and is struggling with terrible symptoms. Our 11 1/2 year old daughter Joelle was just diagnosed 5 weeks ago. It was an amazing day of relaxing, worshipping, and being in unity amongst thousands of people!! My 10 year old daughter was a joy to be with and we had a blast the three of us. Our new friend Morgan shared stage passes with us, too!! Thanks so much for doing this day...we can afford to come all day long which is a rare thing for our big ok family of 6!! May God bless you and this amazing outreach."

- Rachel S.

33,179

WWW

Unique visitors to The FEST website over FEST weekend

August 2018 was my first time going to The FEST it was awesome and amazing despite the heat I loved it I hope to be there next year. kudos to everyone who plans it out every year great job. - Sherry S.

18,000

Dole Kids Recipe Books

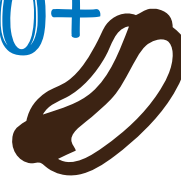
So much fun at the fest! I really loved the food and music! My favorite part of the FEST was getting so much free stuff at the tents! Especially things like water bottles, frisbees, koozies, rosaries, calanders, pens and pencils, balloons, and my personal favorite wristbands! - Steve S.

The FEST is a wonderful opportunity to experience corporate worship and headlining Christian musicians in a daylong family oriented setting. We try to go every year but I have been unable to for the last few years due to illness. August 2018 was my first visit since my heart transplant. I wasn't able to stay for more than an hour due to the heat and lack of physical stamina but I was still greatly blessed. Plus, I got to see TobyMac!! Thank you to everyone involved with The FEST and for bringing this to our community.

- Jan H.

6,000+

**BRATS,
BURGERS
& DOGS**



5,500

FEST Frisbees



11,653

**FACEBOOK
FRIENDS**

*Are you one of them?
Like The FEST today!*

FEST 2019 BAND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are excited to say we have our FEST 2019 bands all lined up to make the best FEST yet!

As always, we'll be announcing our bands during Advent. Make sure you sign up for our emails, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and check out our website... We'll be running contests for Meet & Greet Passes along with the announcements – you won't want to miss it!

*Sign up for emails at
www.TheFEST.us*



THE FEST 2019 THEME

Submit your ideas!

Every year we pick a theme that serves as our key messaging points, crafts, activities and giveaways throughout the day. This year, we're looking for your help to select the theme!

We're looking for a theme that is scripturally based, 1-3 words and can be integrated throughout the day. Submit your theme idea on the website: www.TheFEST.us/Theme.

When submitting the theme, include a thought for the logo as well!
Winner gets 4 VIP and Meet & Greet Passes to this year's headliner!

FEST THEMES

THROUGH THE YEARS:

- 2000: Home from Rome
- 2001: Jesus is the Best, He's the Reason for the FEST
- 2002: I want to be Holy, Just Like You
- 2003: Saints...Yesterday... Today...Forever
- 2004: Expect a Miracle
- 2005: Believe
- 2006: Signs of Hope
- 2007: One
- 2008: Forever
- 2009: Love Life
- 2010: Lead Me Home
- 2011: Hearts on Fire
- 2012: Joy to the World
- 2013: Strength in Numbers
- 2014: Chosen
- 2015: Together
- 2016: Everything
- 2017: A Full Life
- 2018: Be the Light



BE THE LIGHT

FEST2018

MAKE THE MOST OF THE WEEKS
LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS!

LET'S PLAY ADVENT BINGO!
CROSS OFF THE BOXES AS YOU
COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ACTS OF
GOODWILL DURING ADVENT.

A	D	V	E	N	T
Compliment a Stranger	Leave a Card or Treat in Your Mailbox for the Mail Carrier	Invite a Family Member or Friend to Church	Drive to See Christmas Lights with Family	Park Far Away So That Other Can Have the Close Spots	Give a Gift to God...Get Involved at Church
Give an Extra Generous Tip for a Server	Pay for Someone's Order at a Coffee Shop	Plan a Family Game Night at Home	Do a Digital Detox for 1 Day... no Technology	Visit an Elderly Neighbor or Friend	Give of Your Time... Volunteer!
Deliver a Holiday Treat to a Neighbor	Bake Christmas Cookies with Family	 <p>FREE SPACES!</p>		Attend the for King & Country Concert on 12/6 (www.theFEST.us)	Pray for Those Serving in our Military
Offer a Word of Forgiveness to Someone in Your Life	Make a Homemade Gift for Someone			Adopt a Needy Family for the Holidays	Send Holiday Cards to People Who Could Use Some Cheer
Give a Donation While Walking into a Store	Praise a Child to their Parents	Call Someone Instead of Sending a Text	Follow The FEST on Instagram @thefestteam	Hug Your Family Members	Pay It Forward at the Drive-thru
Spend 10 Minutes of Quiet to Read Scripture	Spread Cheer... Sing Christmas Carols	Let Someone Go Ahead of You in the Checkout Line	Mark The FEST on your 2019 Calendar ...August 4!	Buy a Special Ornament for Child or Family Member	Invite a Neighbor over for Coffee or Tea

The FEST
28700 Euclid Ave.
Wickliffe, Ohio 44092
www.theFEST.us

Save the Date
FEST 2019
Sunday, August 4, 2019
www.theFEST.us



SPONSORS AND VENDORS

It takes many companies and organizations to make The FEST possible. From tents to T-shirts, giveaways, food and display booths, there are many ways to get involved and be a vendor or sponsor. The FEST is looking for new sponsors and vendors to support a great cause and to be connected with over 40,000 potential customers! If you are a company owner or know an organization that could use the exposure, contact us for more information. Any lead is helpful. Contact Jake Bihari: Jake@theFEST.us

1,821

Raffle Tickets Sold

5,500

Moms' Relaxation
Station Giveaway Bags

