



HOLY CROSS HERALD

Fr. Anthony Ernst, Pastor
Fr. Sudhakar Bhastati, Parochial Vicar

Feb. 2015

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Dear Friends,

Several weeks ago I was asked to do a “Walk through the Mass” for the RCIA candidates. They had learned about the theology of the Mass, but they wanted to know more about why we do all of the things we do at the Mass. Basically, we went through all of the specifics of the Mass. Why do we sit, stand and kneel at different times? Why do we sign ourselves with the Cross before the proclamation of the Gospel? Why do we genuflect? This was not only helpful to those who are interested in joining the Catholic Church, it was also good for those who have been Catholic all of their lives. Someone suggested that we do this for the parishes during Lent. We did this several years ago, but a refresher is always good. So, we will offer a “Walk through the Mass” on three consecutive Tuesdays at **St. Bernard Church– March 3, 10 and 17 at 6:30 p.m.** I hope you will consider coming to help renew your love for the Mass and the great gift we have been given. You might also consider inviting someone who no longer attends Mass regularly. This would be a great way to welcome someone back to the Church.

Traditionally, we have been encouraged to give something up for Lent. That is a good thing. But maybe it would be better to do something extra for Lent.

Ideas for Lent...

- Attend daily Mass.
- Come to the Lenten Presentations on the Holy Mass.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross.
- Pray the Rosary daily.
- Make a good Confession.
- Take time to reflect on the *Word Among Us* booklet, which each family will receive this Lent.
- Spend some time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Visit someone who is sick and/or lonely.

Oftentimes we think about what we can give up for Lent. That’s a good thing, but let’s also think about what we can do to show our love for the Lord and others. Make Lent what it should be – a time for renewal. If we do, we will have a glorious Easter.

Love in Christ,

Father Tony



PARISH OFFICE NEWS

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest Holy Cross members. If you get the chance to greet this new family at church, use the opportunity to show them true Christian fellowship. Let them know how much we appreciate them coming into our church family!

✠ William and Karen (Jost) Eubanks

WEBSITES

We are working hard to keep the Parish and School websites current and informative. If you have any information you want to see on the website, contact Peg Hall at hallfamily@ieee.org

Our website pages are:

Parish: www.holycrossparish.info

School: www.holycrossparish.info/holy-cross-school

Jan Burger has been posting pictures as the renovation takes place. Check out the pictures on the website too!



AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC GIVING

The electronic giving program allows you to electronically have funds transferred directly into the parish's account for your Sunday giving. It is convenient, no cost to you, & helps you stay current on your Sunday giving. You may increase, decrease, or suspend your transfer any time by calling the parish office. Please contact Lisa at 753-3548 or lmay@evdio.org with questions.

HOME COMMUNION

Eucharistic Ministers take Communion to the homebound on Friday mornings. If you have had a recent surgery, a hospital stay, or are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office by Thursday afternoon.



DINNER/DANCE/AUCTION

Do you enjoy getting out with your friends? Do you enjoy spending time with your significant other? Do you enjoy dancing? Do you enjoy watching and participating in a live auction of fabulous items? Then the upcoming **HOLY CROSS DINNER/DANCE/AUCTION** is the place to be! Scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2015. It will be held at Holy Cross's Kaiser Hall, with doors opening at 5 pm, dinner served at 6 pm and dancing/auction from 7-11 pm. Please watch the upcoming bulletin for more information. Call the parish office to purchase your tickets!



BULLETIN

Would you like to receive your bulletin online? Because of our printing agreement with Liturgical Publications, now you can! Simply log on to SeekAndFind.com and enter our church's zip code in the "NEAR" field and click the red "FIND" button. Select our church from the results and you'll see a listing of our bulletins. You can even sign up to receive an e-mail notification every time a new bulletin is posted to Seek And Find; just click the red envelope link above the bulletins.

BAPTISM PREP CLASS

All first time parents must attend a Baptismal Class prior to their baby being baptized. Godparents are welcome to attend also. You are encouraged to attend this class before the baby is born. **The next class is March 9, 2015.** Watch the bulletin for details.



Prayer Chain—Please Pray for the Sick & Suffering

To add someone to the prayer chain, please contact Phyllis Schmits at 753-3858 or call the parish Office at 753-3548. Please contact the parish office at 753-3548 if you or a family member is admitted to the hospital or nursing home, or if you would like to receive the anointing of the sick so that we may notify Fr. Tony or Fr. Sudhakar.

LENT & EASTER SCHEDULE

Sts. Peter & Paul

Way of the Cross – Mondays at 6:15 pm

Way of the Cross - led by school children – Thursdays at 2:30 pm

Individual Confessions – Monday evenings during Lent from 5:30 – 6:10 pm

Fridays from 7:30 – 7:55 am

Saturdays 8:30–9:30 am, 3:30-4:20 pm, & 5:30-5:50

Wednesday, March 4 from 6:30-7:45 (for Religious Ed students only)

Wednesday, March 18 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm (The Light is ON for YOU)

Monday, March 23 – 5:30-6:10 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm (spring break)

Monday, March 30 – 5:30-6:10 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm



Holy Cross

Way of the Cross - led by school children-Mondays at 2:15 pm in cafeteria

St. Bernard

Way of the Cross - led by Religious Ed classes - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Individual Confessions – Sundays 8:40 – 8:55 am

Wednesday, March 11 - 6:30 pm for parish & 7:00 pm for Religious Ed students

St. James

Mass with Way of the Cross - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm (Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25)

Mass - Monday, March 30 & Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 pm

Individual Confessions - 30 minutes before each Mass

Saturdays from 4:00-4:45 pm

Wednesday, March 18 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm (The Light is ON for YOU)

MASS SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday – February 18

Holy Cross – 8:15 am in cafeteria

St. Bernard - 7:00 pm

Sts. Peter & Paul – 5:45 am & 8:00 am,
5:30 pm & 7:00pm

(Rel. Ed kids to attend Mass with their families)

St. James – 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

Chrism Mass – March 31

St. Benedict Cathedral – 5:30 pm

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper – April 2

Holy Cross - 7:00 pm

Sts. Peter & Paul - 7:00 pm

St. James - 7:00 pm

St. Bernard – 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service

Passion of the Lord – April 3

Sts. Peter & Paul - 1:30 pm

St. Bernard - 4:30 pm

Holy Cross - 6:30 pm

St. James - 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) – April 4

Sts. Peter & Paul - 8:00 pm

St. Bernard – 7:00 pm

St. James - 7:00 pm

Holy Cross - No Mass

Easter Sunday – April 5

Holy Cross - 8:45 & 10:30 am

St. Bernard - 9:00 am

Sts. Peter & Paul - 7:15 am & 10:30 am

St. James - 7:00 am & 9:00 am

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS

With the renovation going on in church, Holy Cross students have been attending Mass in our school cafeteria. The children have adjusted very well. They have even followed Father Sudhakar's lead in calling our cafeteria "The Churchateria." The second semester has begun, and we have been busy. The children took part in a "Think First, Stay Safe" program sponsored by Holly's House. We also celebrated Catholic School's Week. The 5th graders attended Mass at St. Ben's with Bishop Thompson, and our entire school attended the Deanery Mass at St. Joe in Princeton. Just when you think things will slow down, we seem to be as busy as ever. We all realize that's a good thing, and how blessed we are to be at Holy Cross. God Bless!

Mr. Hollis



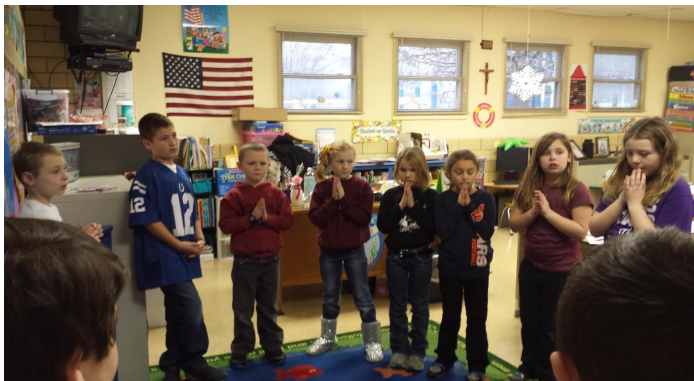
FIRST GRADE; by Mrs. Wallace

The First Graders are off to a terrific start to a busy New Year of 2015! On our first day back to school in 2015, we wrote our New Year promises and toasted the New Year with Hawaiian Punch and blowing our party horns! In mid-January we celebrated the 100th Day of School with several projects and activities. Everyone brought a collection of 100 items, and we compared the sizes and weights. We had chocolate chips, pennies, marshmallows, cereal pieces, ink pens, toy cars, etc. Then we graphed the colors of "Froot Loops". In our cereal box, we found that orange had the most. We celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day by writing our dreams for a better world. Some of our ideas included: no more fighting or wars, people being nice to each other, no more abortions, etc. We celebrated special theme days for Catholic Schools Week with many activities. We enjoyed partner reading with the fourth graders, going to the Deanery Mass at St. Joseph, going bowling in Princeton, and participating in a dance contest and Bible trivia game.

Even with all the celebrating, we are all busy reading our AR books. We are all "on target" to making our goals again this grading period! Some of our new skill lessons so far in 2015 are: prefixes, suffixes, adverbs, adjectives, open/closed syllables, synonyms, compound words, and writing numbers to 1,000.

SECOND GRADE NEWS: by Miss Weiss

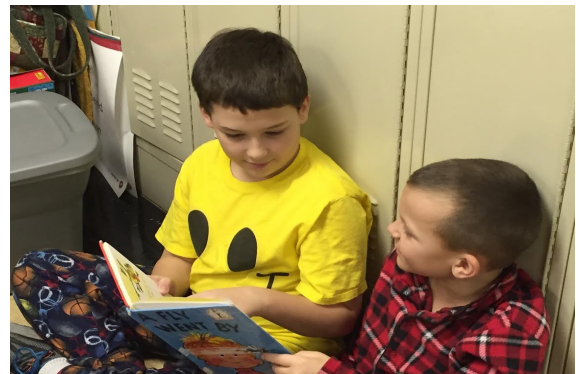
Holy Cross 2nd Graders recently celebrated the 100th day of



school on January 9th. They were very excited to have reached 100 days, and are ready for all the new excitement the next few months will bring.

They are learning how to count money using a variety of coins. In religion they are

learning how to have faith in God, and how to proclaim God's word to others. The students are also continuing to learn how to pray for others in their daily "Circle Prayer" time. Each day they lead the prayer by praying for all kinds of people and problems of the world. They are very focused on the importance of praying for others! The 2nd Graders had a blast celebrating Catholic Schools Week with the other Holy Cross students. They said the school bowling trip was one of their favorites of the week!



FOURTH GRADE NEWS: by Ms. Grabert

The fourth grade class has started the second half of the year off with a bang! The students are working hard and learning all sorts of new things, but having fun too. They have been dividing large numbers and are now working on geometry in math. They are continuing their study of the 10 Commandments in religion class and are also studying the parts of the Mass. In reading, the students have been writing stories and reading biographies. We just finished Catholic Schools Week with fun activities. The students had a PJ day and the older students read to the younger ones. We also played games and danced with our school families, went bowling, and attended a Deanery Mass. We had a wonderful time celebrating how lucky we are to be a Catholic School and to be a part of a much larger Catholic family.



A FLAME OF HOPE By Fr. Sudhakar

In a room there were four candles burning. The ambiance was so soft you could hear them talking. The first one said, "I am **PEACE**, however I don't think that people need me because everywhere in world terrorism, violence and retaliation. It is very hard for people to keep me lit; I believe I will go out." Its flame rapidly diminishes and goes out completely. The second one says, "I am **FAITH**, however, I find these days many people falling away from the church by losing their faith. I am no longer indispensable, so it does not make any sense that I stay lit any longer." When it finished talking a



breeze softly blew on it putting it out. Sadly, the third candle spoke in its turn. "I am **LOVE**. I have not gotten the strength to stay lit. People put me aside and don't like me rather choose hatred; they even forget to love those who are nearest to them." And waiting no longer it goes out. Suddenly a child entered the room and saw three candles not burning. "**Why are you not burning you are supposed to stay lit till the end.**" Saying this, the child began to cry. Then the fourth candle said, "Don't be afraid, while I am still burning we can re-light the other candles, I am **HOPE**." With smiling and shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles. At once the room was filled with light and brightness, and child continues to smile.

Being a flame of hope is not a small thing; it means a lot. As humans, we *need* hope. We can't live without it. It is the lifeblood to our survival, and the only thing that pulls us out of the deep trenches of the pain and hurt in life. But from where should we get this hope? Our hope should be from the Lord, not from humans. Because God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? ([Num 23:19](#)). [That's why we find in Psalm 130:7](#) "O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem." The life of Christians is life of hope in God, that what God promised would be fulfilled. If we lose that hope we are lost. Our hope in God should make stronger in our lives that whatsoever the situation we are in should never be shaken and in turn we should become flames of hope to people around us with despair and hopelessness thereby lighting their lives. Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams in line with God. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do. While doing everything don't forget **Psalm 39:7** "And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you." **MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA**

ST. MARIA GORETTI YOUTH NEWS *By Bryan Macke*



In November, we had both our middle and high school youth go to Sky Zone on two separate nights. We had over 50 middle school youth and over 30 high school youth. They had a lot of good, clean fun! We had after parties for both events as well. The middle school youth came back to Sts. Peter & Paul for some dodgeball and a birthday celebration for the 4 girls in the picture! (from left: Katie Rose, Allie Sensmeier, Madelyn Spindler, and Maddie O'Neal) The high school group came back to St. Bernard for a bonfire, a youth witness talk (nice job Rachel Weiss!), and the infamous Ogre tag.



In December, we had our annual MS Blacklight dodgeball/volleyball event. About 60 youth attended. Seminarian Taryn Whittington came with a fellow seminarian to witness to the true "light in the darkness," the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ! For our high school youth, we had our 2nd annual Christmas Lock-INN on Dec. 19-20. There's no doubt this will continue to be an annual event. We had over 70 youth attend! We went caroling around Ft. Branch and Haubstadt (picture at Mel Greulich's house in Ft. Branch) and had a guest speaker – rising local talent spokeswoman Amy Parmer. Her faith witness truly connected with the youth, especially those from

other Christian denominations that were in attendance. For sure we broke out the Ogre/Grinch for some tag action, but since the papa ogre was out of town, his apprentice/son (Nick Sellers) stepped in to try and steal the spirit of Christmas...to no avail. We took time and "made room" in our "inns" (i.e. hearts) to adore the newborn King, Jesus Christ, in Eucharistic Adoration. Overnight, the 5 girls in the picture (from left: Regan Happe, Abby Goings, Drew Harpenau, Madeline Evans, and Hannah Reinbrecht) won the Nativity Scene building contest! They had to make a Nativity scene out of such things as a paper bag, a pool noodle, toilet paper, a paper plate, and so on and so forth. We won't even get into the Hot/Warm Chocolate Chugging contest...just ask Zach Brown how it went (love this kid...totes). Overall the event was awesome, deepening our youths' relationship with God and each other, and hopefully giving them a memory to last a lifetime! Special thanks to our high school Peer Leaders for truly making this a success.



In January, 32 youth and 4 brave adults (including Fr. Sudhakar) went with the diocese on the Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C. For those that have never gone, this is truly a "pilgrimage" in every sense of the word. The dictionary defines it as "a journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion." We journeyed 12 hours overnight on a bus.

ST. MARIA GORETTI YOUTH NEWS *Continued*

You can hardly sleep sitting in the seats; you're lucky if you get a spot on the dirty floor to stretch your legs out in order to sleep. And there were strange smells emitting from the back of the bus. But the next day, we all remembered why we were there, how important it is, and how thankful we are to have such a precious God-given gift....LIFE! Marching on Constitution Avenue in our nation's capital to give witness to the dignity of life, with over 500,000 other people, helps you to look past the struggles of the night before and whatever else might be burdening you at home, and see that you have a purpose...because you were created in the image and likeness of the God of the universe. "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope" - Jeremiah 29:11.

Here's a picture of our whole SMG group that attended the Pilgrimage for Life. We are all packed together in a corner inside the top of the Washington Monument.

We would love to have interested adults to help with these events and share their gifts and talents with the youth. We truly NEED you! And so do our youth!

Watch the bulletin for details on upcoming events. And as always, if you would like to be a part of any youth programs/events

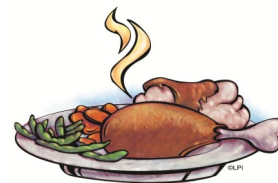
I would be very happy to chat and work with you! Contact Bryan at 664-7992 or bmacke@evdio.org.



BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE *By Peg Hall*

The Bereavement Committee handles the preparation and serving of meals for families during the difficult time of burial of a loved one. After the difficult task of burying a loved one, the family and community can gather for food and fellowship. In 2014 the committee provided bereavement meals for twelve funerals.

The Committee has recently changed its format on preparations for these meals. To make the meals with a more consistent menu, Holy Cross Parish will be providing chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, and rolls. Parishioners will be called upon to help with supplying various salads and desserts to complement the meal.



A phone listing of current church members is used to contact parishioners for help with the salads and desserts. If you are called, please be open to helping with this worthy cause. If you feel that your family is not being asked to help, it may be that you have recently dropped your land line, changed your phone number, or failed to supply a phone number to the parish office. Please check with the parish office to make sure that we have your current phone number.

Currently there are two teams set in place to plan and serve the bereavement meals. The teams alternate meals, so the work load is minimal.

The Bereavement Committee is always open to the addition of more helpers. If you are interested in becoming a part of this program, whether as a member of a team, or as a substitute helper, please contact the parish office.

Bereavement Ministry

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS 2014-2015

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

(meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month)
 - Religious Ed Board (2014-16)
 Janesse Cloin - Boosters (2013-15)
 Jan Burger – At-Large (2013-15) SECY
 Ralph Hillyard - Stewardship (2013-15)
 Gerald Weber - At-Large (2014-16) VP
 Courtney Kuester - School Board (2013-15)
 Stephanie Hollis – Parish & Soc Affairs (13-15)
 Ann Georges – At-Large (2013-2015) PRES
 Sheila Maikranz – Finance (201-15)
 Greg Perkins – Hospitality (2014-16)
 Elaine Couch - Liturgy (2014-16)
 Stan May – Building and Grounds
 Lorinda Wallace – Alumni (2013-15)
 Fr. Tony Ernst - Pastor
 Brad Mayer -At-Large (2014-2016)
 Lisa May – Parish Manager
 Randy Kiesel -Long Range Planning (2014-16)
 Youth Board-Vacancy

SCHOOL BOARD

(meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month)
 Courtney Kuester (2013-15) PARISH COUNCIL
 Kendra Collins (2013-15)
 Deanna Bullock (2012-15) PRESIDENT
 Scott Scheller (2012-15)
 LeeAnn Holzmeyer (2014-17) VICE PRESIDENT
 Mike MacMunn (2014-17)
 John Hollis (Non-voting member) PRINCIPAL
 Jessica Anderson (St. Bernard's Rep)

FINANCE COMMISSION

(meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month)
 Diane Kiesel (2012-15) SECRETARY
 Sheila Maikranz (2012-15) PARISH COUNCIL
 Steve Hall (2013-16) PRESIDENT
 Darwin Neufelder (2013-16)
 LeAnn Cooper (2014-17)
 Clint Fuhs (2014-17) VICE PRESIDENT

PARISH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Sue Boyd (2012-15)
 Sue Harrell (2012-15) PRESIDENT
 Carrie Martin (2012-15)
 Ann Mercer (2012-15)
 Lori Cardinal (2013-16)
 Jill Kruse (2013-16)
 Courtney Kuester (2013-16)
 Stephanie Hollis (2014-17) PARISH COUNCIL
 Susan Jenkins (2014-17)
 Carolyn Johnson (2014-17) VICE PRESIDENT
 Alicia MacMunn ((2014-17)

HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

Pat Reinhart (2012-15)
 Sandy Roberts (2012-15)
 Marilyn Holzmeyer (2013-16) SECRETARY
 Jodie Paridaen (2013-16) VICE-PRES/NOMINATING
 Diane Bemis (2014-17) PRESIDENT
 Greg Perkins (2014-17) PARISH COUNCIL

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Ralph Hillyard (2012-15) PARISH COUNCIL
 Jennifer Hopf (2014-17)
 Jennifer Schnaus
 Jason Baehl

LITURGY COMMISSION

Ann Friedman (2012-15) PRESIDENT
 Emily Hirsch (2012-15)
 Sam Reinhart (2012-15)
 Paula Heldt (2013-16) V. PRESIDENT
 Amy Sellers (2013-16)
 Elaine Couch (013-16) PARISH COUNCIL
 Jana Mercer (2014-17)
 Monica Weber (2014-17) Calling

EVANGELIZATION

Wanda Englert PRESIDENT
 Jonette Wilzbacher VICE-PRESIDENT
 Tommy Thompson, Jeff Ziliak, Linda Kissel, Jerry Woehler

MAINTENANCE

Stan May, Harvey Hirsch, George Robinson, Joe Bathon, Jim Oing

ALUMNI - HCAAF

Sue Harrell – PRESIDENT
 Glenda Barrett – VICE PRESIDENT
 Dorothy Karaff -SECRETARY
 Ann Georges – TREASURER

RELIGIOUS ED BOARD

Lisa Mayer, Christy Kruger, Paul Goedde, Tina Murphy
 Jon Dilbeck, Jan Burger

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Mike Hirsch PRESIDENT
 Dr. Mike Green VICE PRESIDENT
 Tom Wallace SECRETARY
 Randy Kiesel PARISH COUNCIL
 Wanda Englert

CASINO NIGHT COMMITTEE

Sue Harrell, Jim & Sylvia Rose, Stan & Lisa May, George Robinson,
 Greg Perkins, Jerry Wilzbacher, Jan Burger, Peg Hall, Alicia MacMunn,
 Carolyn Johnson, Jeanne Watkins, Brian & Ranell Rexing, Lisa O'Neal

BOOSTERS

Janesse Cloin (2012-15) PC REP.
 Brittany Hopster (2012-15) PRES.
 Amy Foster (2013-16) TREAS.
 Kim Scheller (2013-16)
 Julie Fuhs (2014-17) V.PRES.
 Shannon MacMunn (2014-17)

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mike Emge, Bryan Hirsch, Gene Kiesel, Darwin Neufelder, Jim Rose

RCIA By Gerald Weber

Time Before Easter

It seems like it was just yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and now Lent is at our door step. We are coming to a very busy phase of the RCIA program that encourages our participants to mediate more deeply on why they chose to join our Catholic faith.

On February 22 our catechumens (Taylor Brittingham, and Shawn Sunderland), and candidates (Todd Riggs, Kyle Brasher, and Dani Shelton) along with many others from the Evansville Diocese will be presented to Bishop Thompson at St. Benedict's Cathedral at Evansville for the Rite of Election. Bishop Thompson will welcome them and recognize them for their progress and encourage them to continue their this journey throughout their lives.

During Lent our parish will be offering special prayers and encouragement at three occasions; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays of Lent. We will pray that Taylor, Shawn, Todd Kyle, and Dani be filled with the Holy Spirit to guide them along their journey.

On Easter Vigil, April 4th, we will welcome Taylor, Shawn, Todd, Kyle, and Dani into our Catholic community. Taylor and Shawn will be baptized into the Catholic Church, and along with Todd, Kyle, and Dani profess their belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church, be confirmed, and receive their first Holy Communion.

Please pray for Taylor, Shawn, Todd, Kyle, and Dani that they will be faithful to the Church and pass their faith along to others.

PRINCETON DEANERY SEMINARIANS & RELIGIOUS LIFE

As our seminarians continue to discern a religious vocation, they would certainly welcome your prayers and notes of encouragement during this Lenten Season. Notes of encouragement can be sent to:



John Pfister (Holy Cross)
St. Meinrad School of Theology
200 Hill Drive Street
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
jpfister@evdio.org



Tyler Tenbarge (Sts. Peter & Paul)
St. Meinrad School of Theology
200 Hill Drive Street
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
trtenbarge@evdio.org

Diaconal Promises

The Diaconal Promises for Tyler and his classmates will be held during Vespers on March 5, 2015 at St. Meinrad. The diaconal promises are a really powerful moment for a seminarian. Each of the Third Theology seminarians will stand and recite his letter that he has written to the bishop, requesting ordination and stating that he understands what a request for orders entails. The seminarians will make three promises: to remain celibate for the service of the Church; to pray for the Church and the whole world and to deepen their personal prayer; and to respect and obey the bishop and his successors.

DIACONATE EVENTS: March 5, 2015—Diaconal Promises at St. Meinrad. May 30, 2015-Diaconate Ordination at 10 am at Sts. Peter & Paul



As our religious life novice and candidate continue to discern a religious vocation, they would certainly welcome your prayers and notes of encouragement during this Lenten Season. Notes of encouragement can be sent to:



Brian Ward (Holy Cross)
515 Belview Blvd.
Steubenville, OH 43952
wardbrian_1980@yahoo.com



Jon Blaize (Sts. Peter & Paul)
St. Meinrad Archabbey
100 Hill Drive Street
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
jblaize@saintmeinrad.edu



St. Meinrad Novice Ceremony

In a brief ceremony at the monastery entrance, Jon Blaize and four other novices were clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, on January 19, 2015. They now begin a year of monastic formation.

As novices, they take a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk. At the end of this year, a novice may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and ADULT FORMATION

By Larua Goedde

Religious Education Classes

The Serra Club of Evansville sponsors a Vocation Awareness Contest each year. Our 8th grade students were asked to write a research paper, essay, audio/video presentation, play/skit or poem showing their understanding of Vocations. This is done to raise awareness of what God is calling each of us to do with our lives. Vocation talks were given by Fr. Sudhakar, Deacon Hiep Nguyen and seminarian Taryn Whittington on Holy Orders (Ordination as priests or deacons), and Brian & Mandy Rose on the vocation of Marriage. Congratulations to this year's winners from Holy Cross – Brendan Murphy, son of Wayne & Tina Murphy and Katie Rose, daughter of Brian & Mandy Rose. Sts. Peter & Paul winners are: Lindsey Field, daughter of Angie Field, and Alison Kissel, daughter of Don & Julie Kissel. St. James school also participated in this contest. Their winners were: Katie Rose of Holy Cross and Alex Hofman, son of Kye and Sheri Hofman of Sts. Peter & Paul. The winners were honored at a luncheon and awards presentation at the Catholic Center on January 16.



Pictured are: Brendan Murphy, Andrew Smith Lindsey Field, Alison Kissel, Fr. Sudhakar, Katie Rose and Alex Hofman

Katrina Martin and Briyan Macke presented the Theology of the Body for Middle School and In God's Image series to the Eighth grade students in January. This is an excellent program that introduces students to the church's teaching on sexuality, self respect and respect for others. Theology of the Body is based on Pope John Paul II's teachings.

Graduating Senior Mass and Reception

We will have a celebration after the 8:45 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross and the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul for our High School Seniors on May 17. We would like to have a parent from the Junior Class from each parish to coordinate the breakfast at Holy Cross and the luncheon at Sts. Peter & Paul. Please call Stephanie or Laura at 812-768-6457 if you'd like to help.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 22-26. VBS will be held at the Sts. Peter & Paul Campus. The Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, TN will join us for our weeklong event. VBS includes: St. Bernard, St. James, Holy Cross and Sts. Peter & Paul. If you would like to help, please call the Religious Ed office at 812-768-6457.

Sacramental News

Our Confirmation class is continuing preparation for the April 18 Confirmation Mass. Thirty three students will be confirmed at the 4:30pm Mass at Holy Cross. Please pray for our candidates and their families during this very important time.

Our children preparing for First Holy Communion are blessed to have such wonderful teachers: Shelley Weiss at Holy Cross, Lauren Grabert at Sts. Peter and Paul, and Jill Heuring, Jonette Wilson, and Megan Howington at Religious Education. Each of them are great at helping our parents prepare their children for this beautiful sacrament. Remember to pray for these children and their parents as the dates for the Masses draws nearer.

RELIGIOUS ADULT FORMATION continued

The next baptism class is March 9, 2015 at 6:30pm at Holy Cross Parish Office. All first time parents are required to attend this important class. It is so important for our parishes to love and support all young families as they raise their children. When you see young families at Mass, please take the time to speak to them and get to know them. Babies are a sign of our growing church family. They also remind us of our responsibility to pass on our amazing Catholic faith.

Adult Formation

RCIA – A retreat was held for the candidates and catechumen of Holy Cross & Sts. Peter & Paul RCIA classes on Jan. 31. Please remember to keep them in your prayers as they approach their Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul on April 4. Holy Cross: Kyle Brasher, Taylor Brittingham, Todd Riggs, Dani Shelton, Shawn Sunderland Sts. Peter & Paul: Eric Bradshaw, Linda Hisch, Amie Hulfachor, Michael Hulfachor, Kaitlyn Jochim, Jason Kruger, Kaci Lutz, Kendra Michel, Whitney Murphy, Adam Pohl and Brittany Weinzapfel.

Dynamic Catholic presents: Ordinary Lives Extraordinary Mission featuring John Wood

There is no question that we are living in difficult times. Too many people are looking for answers only to find empty promises. How can you bring purpose into your everyday life? How can you have lasting and sustainable happiness? Discover your mission in life at the Ordinary Lives Extraordinary Mission event. Take your personal clarity and life-direction to a whole new level. This talk is based on the book that we gave out at Christmas. It is also available at Dynamic Catholic. The talk will be held at Holy Redeemer on Saturday, March 14 – 9 am to 1:30 pm

Tickets are \$20.00 each and available at www.DynamicCatholic.com

Upcoming Events

- February 18 – No Religious Ed Class – Ash Wednesday
- March 4 – Religious Ed Penance Service – 6:30 p.m.
- March 9 – Baptism Class at Holy Cross at 6:30 p.m.
- March 10 – First Communion Parent Meeting at HC at 6:30 p.m.
- March 11 – Confirmation Parent Meeting Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.
- March 18 – The Light is On For You – Confessions 6 – 8 p.m.
- April 10 – First Communion Retreat at St. Joe –Princeton 8am-3pm
- April 10, 11, & 12 Source & Summit at Memorial High School
- April 15 – Confirmation practice at Holy Cross at 6:30 p.m.
- April 18 – Confirmation at HC at 4:30 p.m.
- April 26 - Sts. Peter & Paul First Holy Communion at 1:00 p.m.
- May 3 – First Holy Communion at Holy Cross – 1 p.m.
- May 17 - Senior Mass and Celebration 8:45 a.m. at HC & 10:30 am @STPP
- June 8 – Baptism Class at Holy Cross at 6:30 p.m.

***Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple,
who recognizes and receives God's gifts and
shares those gifts in love of God and neighbor.***

By Stephanie Stoll

I bet you skimmed the definition just then. Sometimes we know something so well we don't even hear it anymore. Since faith is a journey, we have to challenge ourselves and others to continue to grow and learn. Michelangelo at age 87, in 1562 referred to himself saying, "*Ancora imparo*", which means 'I am still learning'. Are we? "*Ancora imparo*"

Here are a few things to think about:

Stewardship of time – do we maintain a proper balance of time for God, family, church & work? Do we recognize God as the source of all blessings in our lives?

Stewardship of talent - did you know that good stewards also cultivate the talents of others? Sometimes it takes a personal invitation – there is a difference between inviting and welcoming.

Stewardship of treasure – is a gift from the heart. It is out of our need to give not only giving to a need. Do we try to limit wasteful spending and live more simply?

From the Office of Stewardship-Catholic Diocese of Wichita

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME By: Gerald Weber

Every year, in September, a third of the members rotate off each commission. In May elections are held to replace those rotating off a commission. It is time for the commissions to fill their slates for the May elections. Between now and May the Election Committee will be filling their slate of candidates. Each of us has an obligation to give back to God a portion of the time He has given us. We must take this obligation seriously and take the time to reflect on it in prayer. If you are contacted by a commission member and asked to consider having your name put on a slate of candidates please take the time to seriously consider the request, don't automatically say no. Your name was not merely pulled out of a hat, but you were chosen because someone believes you have skills that will benefit that particular commission. You will find a short description of each commission at Holy Cross. Please take the time to read these descriptions and After reading call the parish center, 754-3548 if interested in serving .

HOLY CROSS COMMISSIONS

Below you will find descriptions of our parish commissions. We will be electing members for them in May. To be eligible you must be a Holy Cross parishioner, 18 years old, or have graduated from high school (age limit does not apply to the Youth Commission).

Parish Council At-Large Member

The At-Large member of the Parish Council does not represent a particular parish commission but represents the general parish body. The At-Large member has full voting rights and responsibilities, as do all the commission members on the Parish Council. Responsibilities include: to act as the representative governing body of the Church under which all other Church Organizations will function and to act as arbitrator in any disagreements between Commissions. There are four At-Large Members on the Parish Council. The term of the At-Large Member is for two year, and is expected to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings.

Booster Club

The purpose of the Holy Cross Booster Club is to maintain a close relationship between home and school, to acquaint all parish families more fully with the operation of the school, and to promote involvement and support for Holy Cross and parishioners. All parish parents, school staff and interested persons are considered members of the Booster Club. The Booster's main fundraising event is the Bavarian Turtle sales. Boosters meet 4 times a year.

Finance Commission

The Finance Commission consists of six members responsible for assisting the parish pastor in developing, monitoring and informing the parish of the annual budget. The commission coordinates the Holy Cross School Annual Fund Drive, the yearly Catholic Parishes Campaign, and monitors Holy Cross endowment funds. The commission is responsible for counting and depositing the weekly collection. In conjunction with the School Board, Finance is responsible in recommending the annual salary for parish employees, and setting the annual school tuition. The commission works to ensure the overall financial well being of the Parish.

Hospitality Commission

The Hospitality Commission consists of nine members responsible for involving Christians in working to answer the needs of our Church and Community. The commission coordinates funeral dinners, receptions, blood drives, parish parties and gatherings, and provides the welcoming activity needs of Holy Cross. The Hospitality Commission meets when the need arises.

Liturgy Commission

The Liturgy Commission consists of nine members responsible for enriching Holy Cross Church's liturgical worship, and to enhance and evaluate the Church's areas of spiritual concern. The commission is also responsible for the ministries needed for the celebration of good liturgy

Parish and Social Affairs Commission

The Parish and Social Affairs Commission consists of nine members responsible for the development of social functions for the parish community, to organize, implement and foster fund raising activities that support the financial health of the parish. Present activities include chicken dinners and our annual card party.

Religious Education Board

The Religious Education Board consists of six members, which is the governing body of all parish religious education programs at Holy Cross and Sts. Peter & Paul. This commission is responsible for designing, developing, advising and evaluating personnel and resources. The Religious Education Board provides leadership, which assists the parish community in building a solid foundation for religious education at all age levels, and implements the church's mission of religious education.

School Board

The School Board consists of nine members that provide and approve policy and offer guidance to the administration of Holy Cross School. The board is responsible for hiring a principal who in turn hires teachers and oversees the day-to-day operation of the school. The School Board, in combination with the Finance Commission, sets teacher salaries and student tuition rates.

Stewardship Commission

The Stewardship Commission consists of six members and is responsible for planning, development and implementation of a stewardship program for Holy Cross. The commission educates the parish in stewardship matters of time, talent and treasure and provides a vehicle by which total stewardship can be accomplished. Some of the ministries, which the Stewardship Commission sponsors are: visiting the sick and welcoming new parishioners. The commission also assists other commissions needing extra help with special projects.

Youth Commission

The Youth Commission is responsible for planning and promoting ministries, social functions, fund raising and community projects for the young adults, high school and middle school youth of Holy Cross. The 18-year-old limit does not apply to the Youth Commission.

Holy Cross Alumni & Friends

Holy Cross Alumni & Friends is an organization that includes all alumni of Holy Cross and friends of the parish. It was formed to be an on-going, growing association of people with a common interest: our living spirit of the Holy Cross Catholic Community and the continuance of Catholic school education.

Holy Cross Journey Men

The Journey Men includes all male parish members who are at least 21 years old. The Journey Men actively support the parish and local community by: helping to build an endowment to fund the gym rental for Holy Cross School and Your Group, assist in the maintenance of Holy Cross buildings and grounds, creating meaningful and spiritual activities to increase fellowship for the parish community, increase awareness of the man's role in spiritual guidance of others, and help promote and support Holy Cross School and Parish.

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By Ann Minnis

PRO-LIFE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb. 18 (Ash Wed.)--Mar.29 (Palm Sun.): "40 DAYS FOR LIFE": Volunteers will be present between **7:00 am & 6:00 pm** each day on one- hour shifts to pray outside the Evansville Planned Parenthood Clinic at 125 N Weinbach Ave. This clinic refers clients for surgical abortions and dispenses abortifacients. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the U.S. Previous "40 Days for Life" vigils have resulted in the closing down of many abortion clinics throughout the country. Call Ann Minnis 768-6768 to sign up for a shift or wait until the sign-up sheet is placed in back of church.

Mar. 15: (Sun.--NOON) ST. PATRICK FAMILY GAME & CARD PARTY: The Respect-Life Committee of Sts. Peter & Paul Church will sponsor this annual fundraising event at Sts. Peter & Paul Cafeteria for the benefit of Right to Life of Gibson County. \$5/person/\$10 family (includes sandwiches, chips, and a drink). Call Carolyn Spindler 768-6941 or Melba Pohl 753-5048 for table reservations or to donate items for the Chinese Auction. Chinese Auction tickets available at the party and after the Masses on Mar. 14/15 (Sat/Sun)

Mar. 25 -- Dec. 25 (9 months): "SPIRITUAL ADOPTION" PROGRAM: Pray for an unborn baby in danger of death by abortion. Begin on the Feast of the Annunciation.

Mar. 28: (Sat.--9:00 am) CEMETERY OF THE INNOCENTS: We will need individuals and groups to remove the crosses from SylElpers' field at Hwy 41 and I-64. Takes about 1 hour. Call Joe Goedde 768-6537 or Jim Helfrich 768-6313 for details. Watch the bulletin for date changes.

Apr. 7: (Tues. after Easter) SPRING BANQUET (Right To Life of Southwest Indiana): Keynote Speaker is Dr. Ben Carson. Call Ann Minnis 768-6768 if you would like tickets & want to sit at our tables!

**THANKS to all who helped with Respect Life work in any way this past year!

REPORTS:

- 1) **March for Life** in Washington, D.C.: Jan. 19--23—A large group of young people and adults (including Father Sudhakar) traveled with the Diocesan "Pilgrimage for Life" this year! Thanks to all who supported the **kuchen sales** to help fund the trip
- 3) **K of C "One Rose-One Life" campaign**— Thanks to the Knights & all of you for donating to help Right to Life!
- 4) **Baby Shower**— Thanks to all who donated items for Life Choices Maternity and Youth Home. These items, along with donations left at the **Christmas Crib**, have been delivered and were very much appreciated.

Right of Life Meeting Dates:

(2nd Tuesday of each month) Mar.10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9, 7:30 PM, at the home of Ann Minnis, 115 N. Vine St., Haubstadt. You are all welcome!

For general Pro-Life information: lifeneews.com.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities.

For pregnancy aid: 1-877-734-2444 (Gabriel Project) 1-800-848-LOVE (Nation-wide)

For HOPE after an abortion: silentnomoreawareness.org, priestsforlife.org, Hopeafterabortion.com (dfaraone@evdio.org)

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING By Lori Spindler & Terri Ziliak

QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCES

Aboard the Papal Plane recently – Pope Frances was quoted as firmly upholding the church's teaching banning contraception and saying we should be practicing "responsible parenting". Pope Francis gave his strongest defense yet of the 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which enshrined the church's opposition to artificial birth control. And he insisted that "openness to life is a condition of the sacrament of matrimony." At the same time, however, he said it's not true that to be a good Catholic "you have to breed like rabbits." On the contrary, he said "responsible parenthood" requires that couples regulate the births of their children, as church teaching allows. He cited the case of a woman he met who was pregnant with her eighth child after seven Cesarean sections. "That is irresponsible!" he said. The woman might argue that she should trust in God. "But God gives you methods to be responsible," he said. He said there are many "licit" ways of regulating births that are approved by the church, an apparent reference to the Natural Family Planning method of monitoring a woman's cycle to avoid intercourse when she is ovulating.

Associated Press, January 19, 2015

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CHURCH RENOVATION UPDATE By Steve Hall

On the weekend of November 22-23, 2014, we presented to the parish the Capital Campaign that would be undertaken to support the church renovation project. The stated goals were to raise \$300,000 to fund the complete project; and to have at least 80% (\$240,000) of this target in cash or pledges by December 31, 2014. This deadline was to allow the project to move forward in the proposed timeframe of mid-January. We were optimistic that the total goal could be met knowing the generosity of the Holy Cross parishioners. However, the six week time frame to complete this task was obviously challenging.

Well, the response from the Holy Cross parishioners has been outstanding. Before 2014 ended, pledges of around \$275,000 had been received. Since the \$240,000 threshold had been exceeded, the entire project was allowed to be started as planned. And the donations and pledges continued to come in through the month of January. We are happy to report that by the end of January, all expectations had been exceeded. A total of over \$306,000 in donations from 176 parishioners had been pledged. More than \$230,000 of these pledges had already been paid.



A huge THANK YOU to all parishioners who contributed to the success of this Campaign! Please remember that all pledges need to be paid by March 31, 2015.