



HOLY CROSS HERALD

Fr. Anthony Ernst, Pastor
Fr. Biju Thomas, Parochial Vicar

February 2017

Dear Friends,

The kickoff weekend for the “Stewards of God’s Grace” capital campaign will be in early March. Each parishioner will be receiving a packet in the mail and will be asked to prayerfully consider a gift to the campaign.

- Our goal for Holy Cross is \$440,000, which will be shared between the Parish & Diocese.
- Funds from the Parish portion will be used to add on to our existing air-conditioning system. Currently we cannot use the AC in the church and the school at the same time. This becomes a real issue when both are needed in the warmer weather; the Parish Center needs new windows, flooring, and the deteriorating canopy attached to the church needs desperate repair/replacement; update signage on our campus to help with communications and marketing of our Catholic faith; and future funding of our parish endowments.
- Funds from the Diocese’s portion will be used to serve the people of the entire Diocese and the responsibilities for maintaining our Diocesan structures.
- All Catholic Christians are asked to give sacrificially 10% of our gross income (1% to Diocese, 5-7% to the Parish and 2-4% to other charities). If you are already fully tithing, THANK YOU! You are not expected to tithe more than 10%, but you may prayerfully pledge more to support our Parish needs. This capital campaign is not intended to take away from your regular Sunday offerings, CPC contributions or other charitable donations that are important to you. If you are not able to give at this time, we ask for your prayers for a successful campaign.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we asked to give to the Catholic Parishes Campaign (CPC) and the Capital Campaign?

- The CPC are funds used for the ordinary annual operations of the Diocese - just like our Sunday collections are used for our ordinary Parish operations.
- Capital Campaigns are for extraordinary needs to better serve the people and to maintain our Diocesan Structures.

Why do we support the Diocese?

- As members of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville, it is our responsibility – our parish would not exist without a diocese. It is also a privilege to be a part of building a stronger community of faith for our entire Diocese. A stronger Diocese makes for stronger parishes and vice versa.

Will our Parish benefit from any of the Diocesan campaign funds?

- This campaign will strengthen the future Diocesan financial support for seminarians’ education. We have been blessed with many great priests over the years. We have also been able to support many from our community discerning the priesthood – Fr. Christopher Droste, Fr. Tyler Tenbarger, Deacon John Pfister & seminarian Nick Sellers. The Diocese’s future is bright!
- This campaign will also provide funding for counseling services & ministries for our parishioners who might be struggling with life stresses & family crises. Also, Catholic Charities Social Outreach services will be available to parishioners struggling to re-enter community life and the workforce.

We have been so blessed in our parishes because of your continued generosity. With God’s grace, this campaign will be a great success and offer us the opportunity to continue passing on the gift of our Catholic faith to many more generations.

Yours in Christ,
 Fr. Tony

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PARISH OFFICE NEWS

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest Holy Cross members. If you get the chance to greet these people at church, use the opportunity to show them true Christian fellowship, and tell them how much we appreciate them coming into our church family.

✠ Joshua & Mallory Hoefling of Haubstadt.

✠ Brad & Casi Anders. They have 3 children, Leigha, Brooke and Ayden. Ayden attends Holy Cross School.

✠ Mark Stone of Owensville.



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.



2018 MASS INTENTIONS



The parish office is now scheduling 2018 Mass Intentions. You may schedule up to 3 Mass Intentions per year for a person. Only 1 intention should be used for a weekend Mass, the other 2 for weekday Masses.

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@iee.org

Our website pages are:

Parish: www.holycrossparish.info

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

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.



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.

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 classes will be on March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11 and November 13. If you need to schedule a class, please contact Liz Hirsch at lhirsch@evdio.org



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. Biju.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS

John Hollis, Principal

At Holy Cross Catholic School, we just completed celebrating School Choice Week and Catholic Schools Week. The 5th grade class attended a Mass at St. Ben's celebrated by Bishop Thompson. Our entire school visited Sts. Peter & Paul and celebrated Mass with all students from St. Joe, Sts. Peter & Paul, and St. James. The students and teachers dressed in all sorts of "wacky" ways this week and took part in special activities to further celebrate.

Thank you to all who have provided, and to all who continue to provide for our children to experience a Catholic education.



Pictures from the Pre school and Pre K classes at work and at play!



School Council

Our marketing committee sent out letters from Mr. Hollis to all the Pre-K students at the Crusader Academy as well students at the Methodist Church and Toyota Daycare inviting them to consider our school as their choice for Kindergarten.

We also sent all of our old basketball uniforms with a mission group that went to Guatemala over the Christmas break. They were very appreciative to receive them and sent a very nice letter thanking us for our gratitude. She was very excited because they said Holy Cross on them to reiterate the lessons they teach when they are there.

The Marketing Committee is also planning to send letters from the 5th graders to 3 year olds and their parents of our parish encouraging them to consider Holy Cross School when they get older and are ready for kindergarten.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2017.

Deanna Bullock, President

HOLY CROSS STUDENTS AT WORK & PLAY

First Grade enjoy checkers and puzzles at recess.

Toast the New Year with Hawaiian Punch.

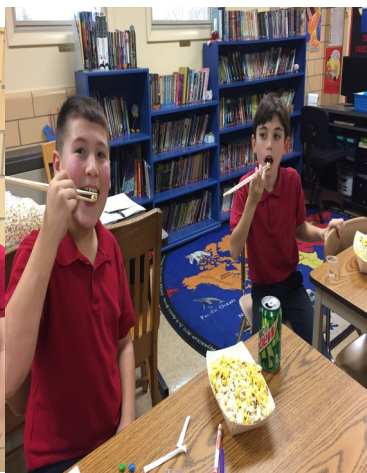
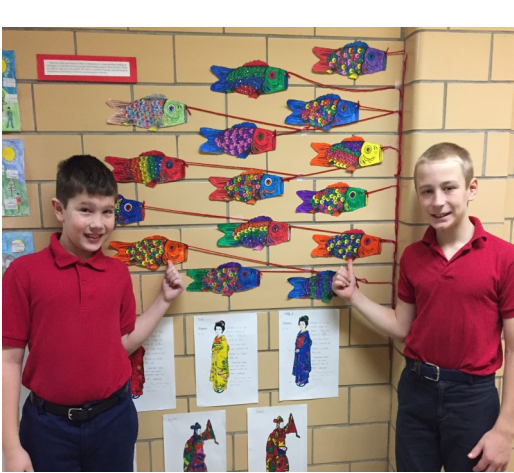
Celebrated the 100th Day of school recently with many activities!



The Third graders are enjoying time together at the movies and while showing off their art work displayed in the hallway with Kenna and Lisa!



The fourth grade class had fun learning about Japan as part of their reading class in January. The students learned about the history and traditions of the Japanese people while also doing fun activities. They learned how to say some Japanese words, use chopsticks, and even sang a song in Japanese!



RCIA By Gerald Weber

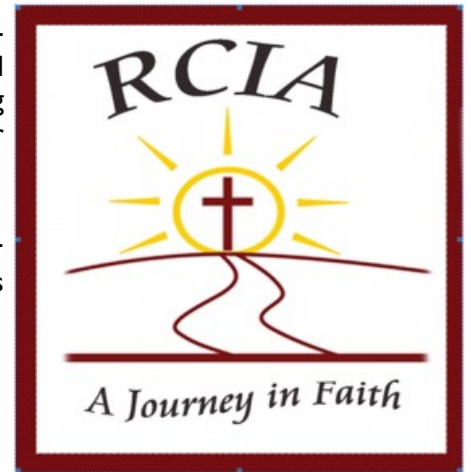
We are getting into the phase of the RCIA program that encourages our catechumens and candidates to meditate more deeply on why they chose to join our Catholic faith. On January 28th the catechumens and candidates joined with others at Sts. Peter and Paul and St. James who are making the same journey for a morning of reflection. We viewed a couple of thought provoking CD's by Mathew Kelly that helped us examine how we are living our lives. We also listened to an inspiring talk by Jack Field that helped us realize the importance of our faith in our every day lives.

On the first Sunday of Lent, March 5th our catechumens and candidates along with the 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 encourage them to continue on their journey.

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 they be filled with the Holy Spirit to guide them along their journey.

On Easter Vigil, April 15, we will welcome Greg Gomez, Chantel Huante, Allison Mounts, and Glenn Dickenson II into our Catholic community. They will profess their desire and belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Along with Josh Arnett, they will be confirmed and take their rightful members of our Catholic community.

Please pray for each of our catechumens and candidates, that they will be faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and pass their faith along to others as they continue with us on our journey to God's heavenly kingdom.



Deanery Rogation Day Mass

In the past, the Diocese offered only one Rogation Day Mass for the entire Diocese each year. Since this was such a well attended event, Bishop Thompson suggested that we offer a Rogation Day Mass in each deanery each year. Saint James Church will be hosting the 2017 Deanery Rogation Day Mass. This will take place at 6:30 p.m. on March 23. Everyone is welcome to come and pray for the safety and prosperity of our farmers and community. You are also invited to bring some seed along for a special blessing, which will take place within the celebration. Please plan to join us!

What is Rogation Days

As the Catholic Encyclopedia notes, Rogation Days are "Days of prayer instituted by the Church to appease God's



anger at man's transgressions, to ask protection in calamities, and to obtain a good and bountiful harvest." *Rogation* is simply an English form of the Latin *rogatio*, which comes from the verb *rogare*, which means "to ask." The primary purpose of the Rogation Days is to ask God to bless the fields and the parish (the geographic area) that they fall in. The Major Rogation likely replaced the Roman feast of [Robigalia](#), on which (the Catholic Encyclopedia notes) "the heathens held processions and supplications to their gods." While the Romans directed their prayers for good weather and an abundant harvest to a variety of gods, the Christians made the tradition their own, by replacing Roman polytheism with monotheism, and directing their prayers to God.

ST. MARIA GORETTI YOUTH NEWS *By: Bryan Macke*



For this Newsletter edition, I'd like to focus just on the Pilgrimage for Life to Washington DC.

Beginning the afternoon of Wednesday, January 25th 32 high school youth and 7 brave adults embarked with the diocese on the Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C. We began with Mass with Bishop Thompson in Ferdinand and then journeyed 12 hours overnight on a bus. The next day, we arrived at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish (aka SEAS) in Washington DC. They would be our "home" parish for the next few days. SEAS is such a blessing to us. About 100 of their parishioners join together to make 3 full course dinners for our group of over 200 people, provide us with sack lunches to take with us during the day, and feed us spiritually with daily Mass. Not to mention, they also provide charging stations around their facilities for our phones. Basically they "charge" us up in every way possible. SEAS has been hosting us for about the last 6 years. One of our youth said if it wasn't for SEAS generosity they would have been grumpy and hungry all day! Honestly, words can't express what SEAS does, you might just have to go next year and experience it!



The first full day in DC (Thursday) we did some sightseeing throughout the day to various sites such as Arlington National Cemetery, Holocaust Museum, Washington Monument, etc. At night our diocese attended the *Life is Very Good Rally* at George Mason University with about 20,000 people. The youth loved this! The Afters performed an amazing concert full of the Spirit and LIFE! Mark Hart, a renowned Catholic speaker, spoke to the crowd. He had a way of being hilarious and engaging, while connecting deeply to one's mind and heart. He told every person in the building that their lives had God-given meaning and purpose. He reminded us why we march for life. We were ready for the next day.

Friday was the day of the march. It would begin on Constitution Ave. at 1:00pm. The night before, it was announced that Vice President Mike Pence would be speaking just before the march on the National Mall. Wow! Never in the history of the March for Life did a president or vice president speak. (It is our hope and prayer that his visit helps *change* history and that we never have to march in DC again.) The march is an awesome experience for the youth. Practicing their 1st Amendment rights to freely speak, assemble, and practice their faith for the dignity of all human life is a very powerful action on multiple levels.

Saturday, we went to The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Gettysburg National Military Park (picture at Gettysburg). Both of these sites witness to the dignity of all human life.

The Sisters of Charity, which was started by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (first American born Saint), tended the wounded soldiers on both sides during the battle at Gettysburg. The battle of Gettysburg was a major turning point in the Civil War, a war that arose from divisions in our country over the dignity of human life. (Warning: about to get deep...perhaps slightly in left field) It's inspiring and quite sobering at the same time, to look out at the fields at Gettysburg while the tour guide is recalling what took place there. I couldn't imagine our country in a civil war today. But sometimes the way people talk to each other on TV make me think it's possible. How far have we truly come? How divided is our country today? Although the circumstances were significantly different, I think Abraham Lincoln's words during his second inaugural address speak to us and our current political and social climate of today, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with nations."

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!



Here's a picture of our whole SMG group that attended the Pilgrimage for Life on the steps of the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

all

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.

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.

Hospitality Commission

The Hospitality Commission consists of six members responsible for involving Christians in working to answer the needs of our Church and Community. The commission works with Sts. Peter & Paul to coordinate the Confirmation and Easter Vigil receptions. We also host the spring and fall blood drives, various parish receptions and gatherings including the parish picnic.

Liturgy Commission

The Liturgy Commission consists of six 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 eleven 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.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation consists of four members from Holy Cross, which is the governing body of all parish religious education programs and evangelization at Holy Cross, Sts. Peter & Paul and St. James. This commission is responsible for overseeing all the different types of educational classes offered at the three parishes from religious education, Marriage Prep, Baptismal Prep, adult education, RCIA, scripture studies, Divorce Survival Group, Catholics Return Home to the Missions that might be held.

School Board

The School Board consists of six 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. The School Board is the right commission for those who want to insure that we have a thriving Catholic School in our parish.

Stewardship Commission

The Stewardship Commission consists of six members from Holy Cross and is responsible for planning, development and implementation of a stewardship program for Holy Cross, Sts. Peter and Paul and St. James. 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.

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Commission is responsible for all parish property. The committee oversees the maintenance and/or repair, updates and additions to all buildings, grounds, or anything associated with the property of Holy Cross. The commission meets as needed and makes a periodic walk-through of all buildings.

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.

Journey Men

The Journey Men consists of all male parishioners of Holy Cross Church. They are active in supporting the parish and the local community. They create meaningful and spiritual activities to increase fellowship for the parish community and help increase awareness of the man's role in spiritual guidance of others

_____Quilters

_____SCRIP workers

_____Casino Night

If you are interested in serving on any of these commissions or need more information, please contact the parish office at 812-753-3548.

EASTER & LENT 2017

MASS

Ash Wednesday – March 1

Sts. Peter & Paul – 5:45 am, 8:00 am & 6:30 pm
(Rel. Ed kids to attend Mass with their families)
Holy Cross – 8:15 am & 7:00 pm
St. James – 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

Chrism Mass – Tuesday, April 11

St. Benedict Cathedral – 5:30 pm

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper – April 13

Holy Cross - 7:00 pm
St. James - 7:00 pm
Sts. Peter & Paul - 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service

Passion of the Lord – April 14

Sts. Peter & Paul - 1:30 pm
Holy Cross - 6:00 pm
St. James - 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) – April 15

Sts. Peter & Paul – 8:00 pm
St. James - 7:00 pm
Holy Cross – NO Mass

Easter Sunday – April 16

St. James - 7:00 am & 9:00 am
Sts. Peter & Paul - 7:15 am & 10:30 am
Holy Cross - 8:45 am & 10:30 am



CONFESSION & WAY OF CROSS

Sts. Peter & Paul

Way of the Cross– Mondays at 6:15 pm **followed by Mass**

Thursdays at 2:30 pm - led by school children

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 & 5:15–5:50 pm;
Saturday, April 1 & 8 5:00–5:50 pm
Wednesday, March 15 from 6:30–7:45 pm
(for Religious Ed students only)
Saturday, March 25 from 4:00–6:00 pm The Light Is On For You
Monday, April 3 - 5:30–6:10 pm & 7:00–8:00 pm
Monday, April 10 - 5:30–6:10 pm & 7:00–8:00 pm
Wednesday, April 12 – 6:00–8:00 pm

Holy Cross

Way of the Cross– Mondays at 2:15 pm - led by school children
Fridays at 7:00 pm

Individual Confessions - Thursdays 7:45 - 8:10 am,
Saturdays 4:00 - 4:20 pm
Sundays 8:15 - 8:35 am
Saturday, March 25 from 2:30 pm–4:30 pm
The Light Is On For You
Thursday, April 6 6:00–8:00 pm

St. James

Way of the Cross - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm **followed by Mass**

Mass - Monday, April 10 at 7:00 pm & Wednesday, April 12 at 7 pm

Individual Confessions - 30 minutes before each Mass

Saturdays from 4:00–4:45 pm
Saturday, March 25 from 3:00–5:00 pm The Light Is On For You

Penance Service - Wednesday, April 5 from 6:00–7:00 pm

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23 - Holy Cross—3 pm—Service

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on April 23rd at 3:00 pm at Holy Cross. You may receive special graces when you take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy.

Divine Mercy was revealed through Christ to St. Faustina in 1935. Calling her the Apostle and Secretary of His mercy, He ordered her to begin writing a diary so others would learn to trust in Him. In a series of revelations, He taught her that His mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners, and He revealed special ways for people to respond to His mercy.

Urging St. Faustina to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet often, Jesus told her: “My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet. By saying the chaplet you are bringing humankind closer to me”.

Please join us at 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 23rd, for this beautiful service.

Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when “all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.”

HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

Prepare to make a good confession by examining your conscience. You may use the examination at the bottom of the page.

Prayer Before Confession

Come Holy Spirit into my soul. Enlighten my mind that I may know the sins I ought to confess, and grant me your grace to confess them fully, humbly, and with a contrite heart. Help me to firmly resolve not to commit them again. O Blessed Virgin, Mother of my Redeemer, intercede for me through the Passion of Your Son, that I may obtain the grace to make a good confession. Amen.

Rite of Reconciliation

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Penitent: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (how long?) since my last confession, and these are my sins: (confess your sins).

Priest: (gives you a penance)

Penitent: (Pray the Act of Contrition):

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly plan, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen

Priest: (gives you absolution for your sins)

Penitent: (recite or do your penance as soon as possible)



Examination of Conscience for a Good Confession

1. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD: YOU SHALL NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME. Did I fail to love God, to make God first in my life, to thank Him, trust Him, love Him as He deserves? Did I fail to pray? Have I doubted or denied my faith? Was I careless in saying my prayers? Do I give God time everyday in prayer? Have I been involved in Ouija boards, Tarot cards, and the occult?

2. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN. Did I curse or swear? Did I use God's Name in vain, lightly, carelessly, by blasphemy? Have I used foul language or jokes?

3. REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH. Have I deliberately missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation? Did I leave Mass early without a good reason? Did I receive Holy Communion in the state of serious sin? In any of my previous confessions, did I lie to or deliberately conceal something from the priest? Did I do unnecessary work on Sunday?

4. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER. Did I honor and obey my parents? Have I respected my brothers and sisters? Have I respected those with lawful authority, including teachers, bosses and civil authorities? Have I talked back? Did I fail to help at home or to spend time with my family?

5. YOU SHALL NOT KILL. Did I give in to feelings of anger or jealousy? Did I keep hatred in my heart? Did I fight, give a bad example or cause scandal? Have I abused alcohol or drugs? Have I had or in any way permitted or encouraged abortion? Have I thought about suicide? Do I avoid gluttony?

6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY. Did I consent to impure glances? Sinful touches? Was I immodest in dress or behavior? Did I look at pornography, impure books, magazines, or videos? Am I guilty of masturbation? Have I engaged in pre-marital sex, or adultery? Have I used artificial contraception such as pills or devices? Do I live chastely according to my state in life (married, single, religious and ordained)? Do I avoid occasions of impurity?

7. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL. Have I stolen what is not mine? What or how much? Did I return it or make up for what I have stolen? Have I cheated on tests, homework or taxes? Did I waste time at work? Have I avoided laziness, idleness?

8. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR. Have I lied or gossiped? Have I talked about another behind his back? Do I always tell the truth? Am I sincere? Did I reveal secrets that should have been kept confidential? Am I critical, negative or uncharitable in my talk?

9. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE. Have I consented to impure thoughts? Have I encouraged them by stares, curiosity or impure conversations? Did I neglect to control my imagination or desire other people?

10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS. Is my heart greedy? Am I jealous of what another has? Am I envious of others because I don't have what they have? Am I moody or gloomy? Do I work, study, and keep busy to counter idle thoughts? Am I critical, negative or uncharitable in my thoughts of others? Is my heart set on earthly possessions or on the treasures of Heaven?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ADULT FORMATION By Laura Goedde

Vacation Bible School

Planning for 2017 VBS is underway. This year's event will be held at Holy Cross on June 26 - 30. This year's program is called "Birthday Blast – A Celebration of Life!" This program instills an awareness of God's amazing creation and the beauty and dignity of the human person. Kids will receive life-giving lessons on what it means to be a child of God. We are currently seeking adult volunteers to serve in the areas of Coordinators, Music, Craft, Snack and Activities. We are awaiting word that we will have Dominican Sisters joining us again this year as Music & Lesson Leaders. 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 or email at lgoedde@evdio.org.

Dr. Schroeder, PhD HSPP, Pediatric Psychologist, will be the Key-note speaker at a Parent Retreat that will be held at Holy Cross cafeteria on March 19 from 1 – 4 p.m. He is a member of the Pediatric Psychology team at St. Mary's Center for Children, a member at Holy Redeemer Church in Evansville, husband and father of six children and 1 on the way. He has written 3 books available on Amazon, "Wholiness: The Unified Pursuit of Health, Harmony, Happiness, and Heaven," "Into the Rising Sun" and "Forty Days of Hopeful Prayer". His talk will be based on his book "Wholiness". His books and a print he has created entitled "The Fulfillment of Our Souls" will be available for sale at the event. All proceeds will benefit our linked parishes. Additional talks will be given by Fr. Tyler Tenbarger and Fr. Biju Thomas on the topics of Family Life and Family Prayer. Activities for school aged children (K-5) will be available. Please RSVP by March 3 to Laura Goedde or Stephanie Stoll at 812-768-6457 or lgoedde@evdio.org. If childcare is needed please submit their names, ages & grade levels. A link to many of Dr. Schroeder's articles can be found here: <http://www.stmarys.org/services/pediatrics/center-for-children/pediatric-psychology/just-thinking/> This is open to parents and grandparents of Holy Cross, St. James and Sts. Peter & Paul.

Student Advisory Board

We have started a Student Advisory Board in Religious Ed to bridge the gap between Catechists and students. We met for the first time last week following class to discuss how we can make their Religious Education experience a better one. The group had several ideas to share and ways to create a better environment in the classrooms. They are working on ideas for a Haiti fundraiser, ways to get parents involved and providing feedback to many of our current issues.

Haiti Project

Our new Student Advisory Board is working on an idea for Fund Raising for the Religious Ed and School students during Lent. Last year our students raised over \$1,200.00 for Haiti. We have scheduled a Parents' Night Out on Feb. 25 at Sts. Peter & Paul. The students will organize games, activities and dancing for students K-8. There may be a high school hang-out following this event. Watch the bulletin for upcoming details. It will be held from 7 p.m. (following Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul) until 10 p.m. for the K-8 event. All proceeds will go to Haiti.

A Retreat was held for RCIA candidates and catechumens from Holy Cross, St. James and Sts. Peter & Paul in January. We had over 40 who attended and enjoyed food and fellowship. The day included lunch, a witness talk by Jack Field, Fr. Tony led a "Teaching Mass" followed by Adoration/Rosary and a talk by Fr. Dave Pivonka of Wild Goose Ministries.

The Rite of Sending for RCIA will be held at Holy Cross at the 8:45 a.m. Mass and at 10:30 a.m. Mass on March 5, 2017 at Sts. Peter & Paul. The Rite of Election will be held at St. Benedict Cathedral that afternoon at 2 p.m. Please keep all of the Candidates, Catechumens and sponsors in your prayers as they enter into a deeper period of union with God and a deeper understanding of our rich Catholic Faith.

"The Joy of Love" Dinner & Presentation was held at Holy Cross cafeteria.

The Stewardship Committee of Holy Cross, St. James and Sts. Peter & Paul teamed again this year with Religious Ed to present this to our parishes. Sr. Mary Michael Fox and Sr. Perpetua, Dominican Sisters from St. Cecilia, Nashville, TN joined us on Saturday evening as Sr. Mary Michael gave a talk based on Pope Francis' "Amoris Laetitia". Thank you to everyone who attended and helped bring this message to our parishes to help strengthen marriages and family life.

Dynamic Catholic

Best Lent Ever - Don't Give Up Chocolate This Lent

Short Inspirational Videos, Practical Tips, Study Guide for groups or individuals. Based on Matthew Kelly's latest book, *Resisting Happiness*, this year's program will help you identify what stands between you and happiness...and what to do about it. Are you ready for your Best Lent Ever? Sign up at **BestLentEver.com**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ADULT FORMATION continued...

Sacramental News

Confirmation – The preparations are going well for the Confirmation Candidates. Confirmation will be held on May 13 at Holy Cross at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. The retreat was held Feb. 12 at St. Bernard parish in Snake Run. Our seminarians, priests and confirmation team will all be there to make this a special day for the students. Please keep praying for the candidates as they move closer to their confirmation.

First Holy Communion – Our second grade teachers and religious education catechists are doing a great job helping parents to prepare their children to receive their First Holy Communion. Sts. Peter & Paul will have their Mass at 1 p.m. on April 30 and Holy Cross will be May 7 at 1 p.m. On April 6, St. James will host the Deanery First Communion Retreat. If you would like to help in some way that day, please contact Liz Hirsch at lhirsch@evdio.org or 812-457-0567. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

Baptism – If you or someone you know is expecting their first child, please make plans to attend the baptism class. You will receive information about baptism as well as parenting and building a strong family. The upcoming classes are March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11 & November 13, 2017. All classes are held at the Holy Cross Parish Office at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Events

- March 1 – No Religious Ed Classes – Ash Wednesday, Please attend Mass with your families
- March 8 – Confirmation Parent Meeting in cafeteria during class – 6:30 p.m.
- March 8 – Dr. Bill Blanke & his wife Dana will present an NFP Talk for high school students – 6:30 p.m.
- March 13 – Baptism Class at Holy Cross – 6:30 p.m.
- March 15 – Religious Ed Penance Service – 6:30 p.m.
- March 16 – First Communion Parent Meeting at Holy Cross – 6:30 p.m.
- March 17, 18 & 19 Source & Summit at Memorial High School
- March 22 – Confirmation Discipleship Class, Sponsors attend - 6:30 p.m.
- March 29 – No Religious Ed Classes – Spring Break
- April 6 – First Communion Retreat at St. James 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- April 13 – Confirmation practice at Sts. Peter & Paul at 6:30 p.m.
- April 15 – Easter Vigil Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul - 8 p.m.
- April 16 – Confirmation at Sts. Peter & Paul at 6:00 p.m.
- April 30 - Sts. Peter & Paul First Holy Communion at 1:00 p.m.
- May 3 – Confirmation Practice at Holy Cross – 6:30 p.m.
- May 7 – First Holy Communion at Holy Cross – 1 p.m.
- May 8 – Baptism Class at Holy Cross – 6 p.m.
- May 13 – Confirmation at Holy Cross at 4:30 p.m. Mass (Combined HC & STPP)
- May 21 - Senior Mass and Celebration 8:45 a.m. at HC & 10:30 a.m. at STPP

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

We are all on a spiritual journey throughout life to strengthen our individual relationships with God. Join us for the upcoming CRHP Weekends and allow Him to work within you!

This weekend of spiritual renewal will serve parishioners from Sts. Peter & Paul, Holy Cross, St. Bernard & St. James and is hosted at Sts. Peter & Paul. Sign-up sheets are in the back of each parish now! Women's Weekend is March 4/5 and Men's Weekend is March 11/12, 2017.

If you have any questions, you can contact Stacy Elpers at 812-664-7236, Abby Schmitt at 812-350-7600, John Spindler at 812-449-6261 or Brett Wayman at 812-455-5515.



SEMINARIANS & RELIGIOUS LIFE

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

Deacon John Pfister



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

Deacon John is finishing his last semester at St. Meinrad and is preparing for his priesthood ordination. Please continue to pray for Deacon John as he continues his journey.

DEACON JOHN PFISTER'S PRIESTHOOD EVENTS

March 16, 2017-Priesthood Promises

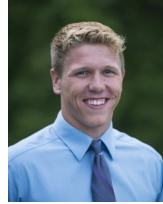
at St. Meinrad

May 13, 2017—St. Meinrad
Graduation

June 3, 2017—Priesthood Ordination at
St. Benedict Cathedral
with Deacon Jerry Pratt



Nicholas Sellers



Nicholas Sellers (Holy Cross)
Bishop Simon Brute College
Seminary
2500 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222
nsellers032@marian.edu

Nick is really enjoying his time in the seminary and enjoyed being home and seeing so many wonderful faces over break. He shared "I have grown a great deal spiritual, and I know that is due to all of your prayers! Please, keep the prayers coming, as I keep you in mine. Totus Tuus Maria." Please continue to pray for Nick as he continues his journey.

Priesthood Promises

The Priesthood Promises are held during Vespers at St. Meinrad. Each of the transitional deacons 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.

SAVE THE DATE

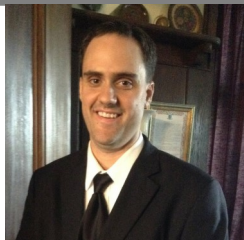
Deacon John Pfister will be celebrating his first Mass at Holy Cross on June 4 at 2 p.m. All parishioners are invited to attend. There will also be a reception and meal provided in the Cafeteria following the Mass. Reservations will need to be made.



RELIGIOUS LIFE

BROTHER BRIAN WARD

**Brother Brian Ward
(Holy Cross)**
Marian Scholasticate
3885 Harewood Rd NE
Washington, DC 20017.
wardbrian_1980@yahoo.com



Brother Brian is continuing his studies in his first years of his religious profession. Brother Brian attended the March for Life in Washington DC with his fellow Marians. Please continue to pray for Brother Brian as he continues his journey.

BROTHER JOEL BLAIZE



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

Brother Joel Blaize is continuing his studies in the seminary. He has been studying theology while finishing up his philosophy degree which he hopes to complete by the end of the semester. He continues his work in the music office and is working on Season 2 of podcasts which should start to be released later in the spring. Please continue to pray for Brother Joel as he continues his journey.

Visit www.marian.org to learn more about the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By: Ann Minnis

- 1) **March for Life**, Washington, D.C: Some 37 St. Maria Goretti youth and adults traveled to the March!
- 2) **K of C "One Rose-One Life" campaign** – Thanks to the Knights & all of you for your support & donations.
- 3) **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.
- 4) **Ultrasound fliers** – Thank you to Right to Life of Gibson County for the fliers. RTL delivered some 5,000 fliers to the Catholic and other Christian Churches in Gibson County in January.
- 5) **Letter to President Trump** --Respect-Life Committee helped with collecting of signatures and preparing the mailing to him and to other elected officials. And THANK YOU to all who signed!
Keep praying for our Country and for those serving us as elected officials.
**Hopefully, by the time you read this the White House will have issued an executive order respecting religious freedom, *including conscience protections regarding abortion.*
- 6) **Urge Senator Donnelly to vote to confirm Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.** (202)224-4814.

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

March 29 (Wed) --**"40 DAYS FOR LIFE"**: This is Sts. Peter & Paul's date to join this peaceful prayer vigil. Call Mary Jane Thompson 812-753-1152 to sign up for a shift or wait for the sign-up sheet in back of church.

St. James will walk on March 15; contact Linda Kissel 677-0085 to sign up for that date. (Volunteers are, also, needed between 7:00 am & 6:00 pm each day on one- hour shifts from Mar. 1 (Ash Wed.)—Apr. 13 (Holy Thurs.); to pray outside the Evansville Planned Parenthood Clinic at 125 N Weinbach Ave. This clinic refers clients for surgical abortions and dispenses abortifacients.

Mar. 19: (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/\$15 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. 18/19 (Sat/Sun)

?Mar. 25: (Sat. 9:00 am) CEMETERY OF THE INNOCENTS: We will need individuals and groups to remove the crosses from Syl Elpers' 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.

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. +As Spring nears, stop by the Meditation Garden in our cemetery to pray at the "In Memory of Unborn Babies" memorial stone for babies & grieving parents.

Apr. 20: (Thurs) SPRING BANQUET (Right To Life of Southwest Indiana): Keynote Speaker is Lou Holtz, former coach of Notre Dame. Call Ann Minnis 768-6768 if you would like tickets & want to sit at our tables!

Troubled by a past abortion?

Visit www.silentnomoreawareness.org,
www.rachelsvineyard.org, or www.priestsforlife.org.

Or call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

There is forgiveness and healing!
Your baby in heaven is praying for you.

Right of Life Meeting Dates:

March 14 April 4 May 9 June 13

All meetings start at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted) and are held at the home of Ann Minnis, 115 N. Vine St. Haubstadt. All members & prospective members are welcome!

RIGHT TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION dues for 2017 -- Please, we do need you!!

Mail to: Right to Life of Gibson County, P.O. Box 324, Haubstadt, IN 47639

(please print) NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ (If you have already paid, thank you!)

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Mailing address: _____ e-mail _____

Teen/\$2 _____ Single/\$5 _____ Family/\$10 _____ Contributing/\$25 _____ Sponsor/\$100 _____

Holy Cross Catholic Church
305 E. Walnut Street
Fort Branch, IN 47648

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STEWARDSHIP

Oftentimes people will say, "I'd like to have a better prayer life." Lent is always a good time to work on our spiritual life. Below is a Prayer Process designed by Matthew Kelly to help you begin a routine of prayer. Challenge yourself to spend each week of Lent focused on one aspect of the Prayer Process with the goal being to integrate all seven steps into your daily prayer.

The Prayer Process

Gratitude: Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue for whatever you are most grateful for today.

Awareness: Revisit the times in the past twenty-four hours when you were and were not the best version of yourself. Talk to God about these situations and what you learned from them.

Significant Moments: Identify something you experienced today and explore what God might be trying to say to you through that event (or person).

Peace: Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you have committed (against yourself, another person, or Him) and to fill you with a deep and abiding peace.

Freedom: Speak with God about how he is inviting you to change your life, so that can experience freedom to be the best version of yourself.

Others: lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them.

Finish by praying the Our Father

Taken from The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly