



HOLY CROSS HERALD

Fr. Anthony Ernst, Pastor
Fr. Ambrose Wanyoni, Parochial Vicar

**February
2018**

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Dear Friends,

Lent is almost upon us. That means spring is getting closer. We are all looking forward to that! Did you know that the word Lent actually comes from a word meaning “spring”? So, Lent is meant to be a new “Springtime” for all of us. We are called to intensify our prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent. These ancient practices help to prepare us for Easter and ultimately for the Kingdom of Heaven. We often talk about what we are giving up for Lent, but it is also important that we focus on “what we can do” during Lent to grow closer to our Lord.

We will have many opportunities for spiritual growth during Lent at our parishes. You could attend weekday Mass. There is nothing greater than the Mass! You could participate in the Stations of the Cross each week. This is a great way to remember what our Lord went through for us and how He calls us to take up our own cross and carry it with Him. You could also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will have many opportunities for this great sacrament.

A few other special opportunities during Lent for spiritual growth...

Parish Mission – Father Jim Sichko, a priest from the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, will lead our Parish Mission. Father Jim has offered missions at my home parish on several occasions and the people have really enjoyed his presentations. The mission will take place at Saints Peter and Paul Church on the evenings of February 18, 19 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. This will be the first full week of Lent, so it’s a great opportunity to begin Lent well. Our hope is to offer a parish mission each year at one of our linked parishes.

Mass with our new Bishop – Bishop Siegel is traveling around to each of the four deaneries in our diocese and he will be coming to our deanery on February 27th. We will have Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Church that evening at 6:30 pm followed by a reception at which time you will have an opportunity to meet our new bishop.

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) – This is a great opportunity to renew your faith and develop spiritual relationships with fellow parishioners. Many people have participated in CRHP over the years and will tell you how much of an impact it had on their faith life. The women’s weekend is March 3-4 and the men’s is March 10-11. There are sign up sheets at each of our churches.

Lenten presentation on the Holy Mass – We are offering a three-part series in which we will go through all the various parts of the Mass. I have done this in the past and people have found it very helpful. We all need a good refresher from time-to-time on why we do what we do. These presentations will take place at Saint James Church on the evenings of March 6, 13 and 20 at 6:30 p.m. Plan to come and consider inviting someone who would enjoy learning more about the Holy Mass.

Make this your best Lent ever and you will have your best Easter ever.

Yours in Christ,

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.

✠ Johnny & Emily Greemore. They have one son, Jacob, who was born in September.

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. The 2019 book will be available in March.

the season of LENT

A time for Prayer, Penance, & Alms Giving



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. Next class will be on March 12, May 14 and July 9. These will all be at 6:30 pm and at Holy Cross Parish Center. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Mann at bmann@evdio.org.



Prayer Chain—Please Pray for the Sick & Suffering

To add someone to the prayer chain, please contact Phyllis Schmits at 812-615-5141 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. Ambrose.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS

John Hollis, Principal

On January 4, 2018 at the Diocese of Evansville Catholic Center, The Koch Foundation announced that Holy Cross Catholic School was the recipient of a Culture of Excellence Grant. The grants are to provide an opportunity for the parish school to permanently raise the levels of excellence in the spiritual, academic, social, and physical education of their students to prepare them to assume leadership roles in their chosen fields based on Catholic values.



Holy Cross is in the process of hearing feedback from our stakeholders while also collaborating with other Catholic schools who received the grant. The grant is for a three-year period and will begin in July 2018.

Our Holy Cross Students at work and play!!



Update from the desk of Coordinator of Parish

It seems like we just started the New Year and here we are already in the month of February. I discussed in the first few articles, since I started in August, that the two main goals of this position is to work directly with Father Tony, our parish staffs, and parish committee's to create a more efficient and effective operation of our parishes, and free time up for Father Tony to spend on his pastoral ministries and less time on administration. When I look at all the information I've gathered through discussions, observations, meetings with parish staff, meetings with both individuals and councils/committees, it all breaks down into several major categories, and each category having multiple sub-categories within them that I'm in the process of prioritizing. Assigning each of these a priority level is important in order for us to better understand the impact on our current operations and what the benefit could be for Father Tony and our staffs at one or all three parishes. For an example the scheduling of our Liturgical/Ministries is currently being done at each parish using a different scheduling program, the staffs and I are currently looking at the potential for us to all use the same scheduling program within each parish that would increase efficiencies therefore saving them time while also be helpful to our many volunteers. Over the next several months I plan to explain what each of these major categories are and how we plan to address the area's that our parish operations could benefit from going forward. My door is always open if you have an idea or thought that you'd like to share or discuss with me, you can send me an email at chopf@evdio.org or call me at 812-768-6457.

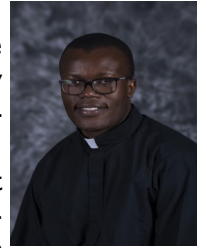
Thanks,
Joe

Father Ambrose's Thoughts

Catholics Schools

This week we have been praying for Catholic Schools. The Catholic schools play an irreplaceable role in passing on the faith. The duty of educating the young is the responsibility of the church shared by every member of the body of Christ. Catholic schools evangelize, they proclaim the Gospel to all nations(Matt 28:20).

Parents are the first educators of their children. Parents have the original, primary and inalienable right to educate their children in conformity with the family's moral and religious convictions. They are educators because they are parents. Elementary education is an extension of parental education; it is an extension of home schooling. In a sense then, schools are extensions of the home. Parents and not schools have the primary moral responsibility of educating children to adulthood.



Like a good mother, the church offers help to families by establishing Catholic schools that ensure complete formation of their children, this includes; Spiritual, intellectual and social skills.

I realize that some parents due to financial problems are unable to take their children to Catholic schools. Financial help is welcomed even from the government in helping struggling families, through public subsidies, these enables the parents to freely choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children. It is an injustice then if this help is not given to such families and they fail to educate their children in the manner that they desire.

One may wonder why the state is to step in and obliged to provide public subsidies. Why? Because of the enormous contribution that Catholic schools make to society by serving the common good. To advocate for some kind of government funding for catholic schools; as long as no unacceptable strings attached, is the responsibility not just of parents of school-aged children, but of all Catholics in pursuit of justice. Such assistance guarantees the fundamental right of parents to choose a school for their children.

All Catholic children, not just those whose families have the financial means, have a right to a Catholic education. The church's preferential option for the poor means that she offers her educational ministry also to those who are poor in the goods of this world. The basic question we need to ask ourselves is: Is the school for all? Do we pay special attention to those who are weakest?

Christ's Peace
Fr. Ambrose

Holy Cross News

Bereavement Committee ~ By Peg Hall

The mission of the Bereavement Committee at Holy Cross is to show support, love, and solidarity with a bereaved family. We do this by offering a post-funeral meal. After the difficult task of burying a loved one, these meals offer family members and guests a chance to spend time together and remember the person who has died in a more casual setting. For many people, these meals are a more comfortable environment for remembering the deceased.

For these meals, Holy Cross Parish provides a fried chicken meal with green beans, mashed potatoes and bread. To complement the meal, parishioners are called upon to help with supplying various salad and dessert dishes. The Bereavement Committee makes every effort to include all parishioners when calling for help with food items. When you are called, please be open to helping with this worthy cause. All life deserves the respect of help from our parish family. Providing food and meals are a thoughtful and heartfelt expression of compassion. Remember, we are not only providing emotional comfort, but physical support to the grieving family.



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 minimized.

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.

RCIA – Lent Is A Busy Time ~ By Gerald Weber

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

On January 27 our candidates and catechumens, Stevenson Anderson, Yelena Anderson, Emily Anderson, Katie Baker, Lisa Bloodworth, Halie Ellis, Ambia Garrett, Brittany Maurer, Sandra Robinson, and Bobbie Jo Seib, joined with other participants from Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. James, who are making the same faith journey, at Sts. Peter and Paul for a retreat. This gathering gave everyone a chance to slow down and take a good look at themselves and their spiritual lives. They were also encouraged by a powerful witness talk by Any Baughn who related her spiritual faith journey. Fr. Tony followed Amy's talk with a teaching and explanation on the Mass.

The retreat concluded with adoration, benediction, and rosary.

With the beginning of Lent begins the Scrutiny phase of the RCIA journey. During this phase candidates and catechumens, along with many others from the Evansville Diocese, will be presented to Bishop Siegal at St. Benedict's Cathedral at Evansville for the Rite of Election on February 18. Bishop Thompson, as the official representative of the Catholic Church in the Evansville Diocese, will welcome them and give them words of encouragement and bless them.

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 these candidates and catechumens will be filled with the Holy Spirit to guide them along their journey.

On Easter Vigil, March 31st, we will welcome Stevenson, Yelena, Emily, Katie, Lisa, Halie, Ambia, Brittany, Sandra, and Bobbie Jo, into our Catholic community. Emily, Katie, and Bobbie Jo will be baptized and along with Stevenson, Yelena, Lisa, Halie, Ambia, Brittany, and Sandra profess their belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church, be confirmed, and receive their first Holy Communion.

Please pray for Stevenson, Yelena, Emily, Katie, Lisa, Halie, Ambia, Brittany, Sandra, Bobbie Jo, and all those throughout the world who are continuing their faith journey in the Catholic faith. Pray that they will be faithful to the Church and pass their faith along to others.



HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

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):

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?

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8 - Holy Cross—3 pm—Service

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on April 8 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 8 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."

LENT / EASTER 2018

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 10 from 3:30 pm-4:30 pm

Thursday, March 22 6:00-8:00 pm

Divine Mercy Sunday Service

April 8 at 3:00 pm

St. James

Way of the Cross

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm followed by Mass

Individual Confessions

30 minutes before each Mass

Saturdays from 4:00-4:45 pm

Penance Service

March 21 after 7:00 pm Mass

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 from 5:30-6:10 pm during Lent

Fridays from 7:30-7:55 am

Saturdays 8:30-9:30 am & 5:15-5:50 pm;

Saturday, March 10 from 5:00-5:50 pm

Monday, March 12 - 5:30-6:10 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday, March 14 from 6:30-7:45 pm (*for Religious Ed only*)

Saturday, March 17 5:00-5:50 pm

Saturday, March 24 - 5:00-5:50 pm

Monday, March 26 - 5:30-6:10 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday, March 28 - 6:00-8:00 pm



40 DAYS

MASSES

Ash Wednesday – February 14

5:45 am - Sts. Peter & Paul

8:00 am - Sts. Peter & Paul

8:15 am – Holy Cross

8:30 am – St. James

6:30 pm - Sts. Peter & Paul

7:00 pm - Holy Cross

7:00 pm - St. James

Chrism Mass – Tuesday, March 27

5:30 pm - St. Benedict Cathedral

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper – March 29

7:00 pm - Holy Cross

7:00 pm - St. James

7:00 pm - Sts. Peter & Paul

Good Friday Service

Passion of the Lord – March 30

1:30 pm - Sts. Peter & Paul

6:00 pm - Holy Cross

7:00 pm - St. James

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) – March 31

7:00 pm - St. James

8:00 pm - Holy Cross

NO Mass - Sts. Peter & Paul

Easter Sunday – April 1

7:00 am – St. James

7:15 am – Sts. Peter & Paul

8:45 am – Holy Cross

9:00 am – St. James

10:30 am – Sts. Peter & Paul

*The
Season
of
Lent*



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



In the last couple months we've had 2 high school events that really stand out: the Christmas LockINN and Pilgrimage for Life.

Our 5th annual Christmas Lock-INN was on Dec. 15. We had 101 youth attend! As always, it was a night filled with faith, fellowship, and craziness. We went caroling around Ft. Branch and Haubstadt, had guest speakers, enjoyed multiple crazy contests & games, and spent some quality time adoring our newborn king in the Blessed Sacrament. One of the highlights to the night was our guest speaker, Mason Mockobee (pictured above). From Sts. Peter & Paul parish and a 2016

graduate of Gibson Southern, Mason is now a sophomore at Marian University. Mason (aka Mock / Maccabees 1, 2, 3, and to tha fo), engaged his younger peers on such a genuine level that most youth can relate to. He was open about his past failures and current struggles, yet showing the awesome grace of God



that continues to pull him in and tell him who he really is! He told them not to compare themselves to their peers, that the Lord wants YOU! Christ Jesus loves you for who you are and wants you to continue to grow deeper in love with Him. It was truly a living example of the Incarnation, that in our darkness the light of Christ shines brightest! In the next picture, Devon Bullock celebrates his victory in the "Best Santa" contest!

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 with all their hard work!



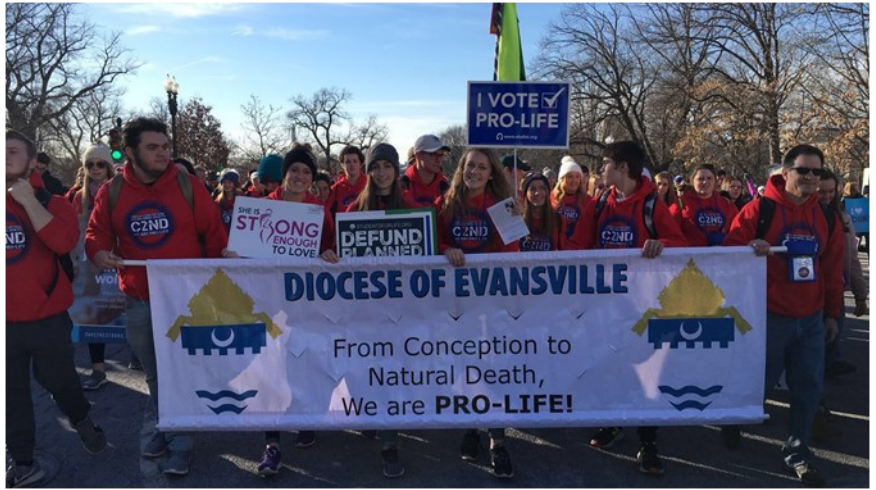
This year's Pilgrimage for Life to Washington DC was once again an awesome experience for our youth! There are many blessings and graces of God that come from this pilgrimage but instead of me trying to explain it all, let's hear directly from our youth:

"This trip has opened my eyes to see all the little miracles God gives us each and every day." - Sydney Goedde

"This was my second year attending the March and the experience was just as powerful. Marching for life is a humbling thing and even if it changes only one person's mind about an abortion, that's one life saved. I march because from conception to natural death, a life is a life and all lives deserve to be respected and loved." - Ellie Kiesel

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

"The Pilgrimage for Life is exactly what it sounds like. It is a march on our nation's capital in a peaceful effort to motivate our government to change the corrupt laws that allow continuous destruction of human life. We march for unborn babies, for prisoners awaiting execution, for the elderly forced into 'mercy killing', and for all others in life-demeaning circumstances. The march itself is a fantastic way to demonstrate that we pro-lifers are not alone. We gather, Republicans and Democrats and independents alike, to stand up for a cause larger than any political party. I have enjoyed the past three pilgrimages, and I hope to continue traveling to D.C. until the claimed 'unalienable right to life' is finally respected." - Dylan Stefanich



"The experience, rawness, history, knowledge, and the core beliefs of the Pro-Life movement that we were exposed to were incredibly powerful. Our entire journey to and through D.C. was an eye opener of what it means to be a true Catholic." - Jaden Fleetwood

"My favorite part about the Pilgrimage for Life is the sense of family you feel with every single person you encounter during the trip." - Jade Dewig

"The trip to D.C. strongly impacted me and improved my relationship with God. I am thankful I got to go and march for pro-life!" - Katie Rose

Bishop Siegel pilgrimaged with us! Grant Holzmeyer, Dylan Stefanich, and Kirk Odom chatted with him on the march and

got a sweet pic with him!

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.

All are welcome! Watch the bulletin for upcoming events or check out the following:
Join our Facebook group: "St. Maria Goretti Catholic Youth Ministry"
website: smgyouth.com



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ADULT FORMATION *By Laura Goedde*

Vacation Bible School

The parishes of St. Bernard, Holy Cross, St. James and Sts. Peter & Paul will come together to present: "Cool Kingdom Party "Mary Leads Me Closer to Jesus". This year's Vacation Bible school will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul June 25-29. Kids will learn how Mary leads us closer to Jesus and the importance of making Jesus King of our Lives through mini faith lessons, saint stories, action songs, games, crafts, skits and more! We are currently seeking adult volunteers to serve in the areas of Coordinators, Music, Craft, Snack and Activities. We also would like students grades 6 – 12 to help out during the week. We hope to have 2 Dominican Sisters helping with Music and the Faith Station again this year. If you would like to help, please call the Religious Ed office at 812-768-6457 or email lgoedde@evdio.org.



Haiti Project

The students of the Holy Cross/Sts. Peter & Paul Religious Ed classes will have a Haiti Fundraiser again this year. We are encouraging the students to collect dimes in a 20 oz. plastic water or soft drink bottle which when full is \$100.00. They can do this as a class or individually. A very generous Haiti supporter has agreed to match donations up to \$1,000! They may also choose to donate any of the following from the list of items that are needed for children in the two schools we support in Haiti. Supply List: Spiral notebooks (lots of these), pencils, rulers, scissors, chalk, backpacks/string bags (very important), erasers, chalkboard erasers, crayons, coloring books.

Sacramental News

Confirmation – The preparations are going well for the Confirmation Candidates. Confirmation will be held on May 12 at Sts. Peter & Paul at the 6:00 p.m. Mass. The retreat was held Feb. 11 at St. Bernard parish in Snake Run. Our seminarians, priests and confirmation team were all there to make this a special day for the students. Please keep praying for the candidates as they prepare to be confirmed

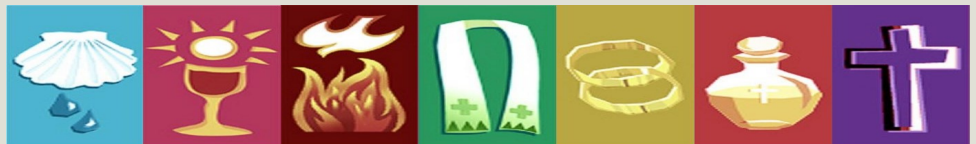
First Holy Communion – Our second grade teachers and religious education catechists are doing a great preparing the children to receive their First Holy Communion. Sts. Peter & Paul will have their Mass at 1 p.m. on April 29 and Holy Cross will be May 6 at 1 p.m. On April 12, Sts. Peter & Paul will host the First Communion Retreat for Holy Cross, St. Bernard, St. James, St. Joe – Princeton and Sts. Peter & Paul. If you would like to help in some way that day, please contact Becky Mann at 812-589-5568 or bmann@evdio.org. It is a wonderful day spent together preparing for the Sacrament of Holy First Communion. 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 12, May 14, July 9. All classes are held at the Holy Cross Parish Office at 6:30 pm.

RCIA

A Retreat was held for RCIA candidates and catechumens from Holy Cross, St. James and Sts. Peter & Paul in January. We had 60 people in attendance who enjoyed food and fellowship and learning more about the Catholic Faith. The day included lunch, a witness talk by Amy Baughn, Fr. Tony led a "Teaching Mass" followed by Adoration/Rosary and a session from Fr. Dave Pivonka of Wild Goose Ministries on the Holy Spirit.

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 Feb 18, 2018 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 Sacraments

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ADULT FORMATION Cont... *By Laura Goedde*

Attention Men: The pressures on men today are tremendous. How do you balance everything and still find fulfillment in the everyday grind of life? Journey with the men of our parishes through RISE: 30 Day Challenge. This powerful video series can be done on your own, and will give you the tools you need to take your life and relationships to the next level. It only takes about 5 minutes each day. But the investment in yourself and your family is priceless. Visit menriseup.org to find out more. We plan to join the challenge that begins on February 14.

Dynamic Catholic

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

Instead, take a 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself. Join our parish for Best Lent Ever, a free email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Every day you'll get...Inspirational Videos, Practical Tips, Encouraging Stories. Are you ready to have your best Lent ever? Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/Lent.



Catholic Community Mother's Group

The mission of the Catholic Community Mother's Group is to affirm and support women, primarily in their role as mother, but also as wives, daughters, and sisters, while strengthening our Catholic faith and family life. This ministry is designed for moms of all ages and seeks to generate and strengthen friendships so that we can lovingly accompany one another on the path of motherhood.



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 21, 9 a.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul and childcare is available! We also have meetings scheduled for March 21 and April 18, as well as some informal playgroups throughout the Spring semester that we will post on our Facebook page. Contact catholiccommunitymothers@gmail.com with any questions or for more information. You can also find us on Facebook by searching "Catholic Community Mother's Group."

Stewardship in Your Life

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all parishioners who were able to join us for our Spiritual Renewal event on January 20. We had an extraordinary turnout of 114 guests. It was such a wonderful evening to celebrate fellowship with all of you, and listen to the message on "Wholiness: The Unified Pursuit of Health, Harmony, Happiness and Heaven" presented by Dr. James Schroeder. Our committee feels blessed to serve our parishioners of Holy Cross, St. James and Sts. Peter and Paul. We look forward to providing more spiritual growth opportunities in the future. Please keep an eye out for all bulletin blurbs and newsletter articles posted throughout the coming year.

Also, God has called each one of us by name, yet called each of us to different paths in life. We often pray for the grace to be good stewards of what talents and resources we have been given. Stewardship is a way of life that can be lived out each day in many ways. The Stewardship Committee is currently working on our Stewardship Renewal Weekend taking place at each parish during Lent in the month of March. More information and details on our Stewardship Renewal will be mailed to your home and posted in future bulletins.

"Stewardship Is A Way Of Sharing God's Blessings"



TAX SMART STRATEGY: LEAVING IRA MONEY TO CHARITY

Many people today have a large percentage of their total assets in traditional or roll-over IRAs. A lot of these same people would like to leave a gift to their favorite charities in their estate. Consider a tax saving strategy by designating the charity as a beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRAs. Leave other assets to family members of other heirs.

HOW THIS WORKS

1. Your traditional or roll-over IRAs will be included in your estate after death and may be taxed federally if you have a large amount of assets.
2. The taxable part of the IRA balance (often the entire amount) is then counted as "income" for the heirs as withdrawals are taken.
3. State and county tax will be due as well for all withdrawals.

After payment of these taxes, the heir will receive a smaller fraction of the IRA money while the tax collectors take their share. The CURE – list a charity as the IRA beneficiary!

The tax smart solution is to leave some or all of the IRA monies to charitable beneficiaries while leaving other assets to your heirs. The net result will be more after-tax cash for them. You can then satisfy your charitable inclinations after your death. Under current tax law, this is the only way to leave IRA balances directly to the charities.

Leaving IRA money to charities as beneficiaries is very tax efficient. An IRA balance left to charity avoids federal estate tax (if this applies to your estate), since it is removed from the residual estate. Therefore, there is no federal tax due on the donated IRA money and no state or county tax either. Finally, no income taxes are due when the tax-exempt charities take withdrawals from the IRAs. You can avoid double or triple taxation in a simple way.

If you plan to make bequests to heirs, leave gifts of assets that are eligible for federal income tax basis "step up" to fair market value, as of the date of your death. These would include common stocks and mutual fund shares held in taxable investment accounts, ownership interest in your small business, real estate or anything else that qualifies as a capital gain when sold. Thanks to the basis step-up break, those assets can be sold by your heirs with little or no income tax. They will be included in your estate for federal estate tax purposes, if your estate is taxable.

This strategy will allow you to leave more to your favorite charities, more to your loved ones and less to the tax collector.

You can generally use the same approach to other types of tax-deferred retirement plans, including 401(k), corporate profit sharing, SEP and Keogh retirement accounts. If married, state laws may require you to obtain a spouse's permission to name charities as beneficiaries.

The above can be a tax smart maneuver to minimize federal, state and local taxes for your estate and heirs. Please contact your tax advisor if you have questions or want additional information.

Greg Kissel



PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By: Ann Minnis

- 1) **45th March for Life**, Washington, D.C: St. Maria Goretti youth and adults traveled to the March! Hope you were able to see the fantastic coverage on EWTN. President Trump and VP Pence both addressed the March from the White House. The administration returned to the states the ability to direct federal funds away from family planning providers who do abortions. And the House of Representatives passed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.
- 2) K of C "One Rose-One Life" campaign – Thanks to the Knights & all of you for your support & donations.
- 3) Christmas Crib money - has been sent to Life Choices Maternity & Youth Home and is very much appreciated.

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

NOW – BABY SHOWER – benefits Life Choices Maternity & Youth Home in Evansville. See display and gift box near Sts. Peter & Paul cafeteria doors. If you wish to write a check or make a monetary donation, there will be envelopes addressed to the Home for your use. Or to donate on-line go to Lcevv.org.

March 21 (Wed) --“40 DAYS FOR LIFE”: This is Sts. Peter & Paul’s date to join this peaceful prayer vigil.

Call Mary Jane Thompson 812-453-9948 to sign up for a shift or wait for the sign-up sheet in back of church.

Feb. 14 (Ash Wed.)—Mar. 28 (day before Holy Thurs): Volunteers are, also, needed 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. Nation-wide, “40 Days” has saved 14,000 unborn babies since 2007; 170 abortion workers have quit; and 94 abortion centers have closed!

Mar. 18: (Sun. at 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. 17/18 (Sat/Sun)

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:

Feb. 13, Mar.13, Apr 10, May 8, June 12, 7:30 PM

*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 2018 ~ 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 _____

IDEA: Liferunners.org for information about 5K races, walks, relays around the country and world. LIFE Runners is the world’s largest Pro-Life running/walking Team. *The formation of LIFE Runners was inspired by an encounter between St. Padre Pio and Dr. Pat Castle during the Pikes Peak Ascent race.

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

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AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC GIVING PROGRAM

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 complete the form below & return to the parish office. Please contact Lisa at 753-3548 or lmay@evdio.org with questions.

Direct Debit Authorization Form

I hereby authorize Holy Cross Church to initiate debit entries for tithing to my/our account as indicated below and the financial institution named below to debit the same to such account. I/We acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my/our account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

(Financial Institution Name)

Name(s) on the Account

Transfer Amount \$ _____ for Sunday collection

Type of Acct: ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

(Routing Number)

(Account Number)

Frequency of transfer: Weekly _____ on Friday or Monthly _____ on the 5th (or next business day)

This authority is to remain in effect until Holy Cross has received written notification from me/us of its termination in such time and manner as to allow Holy Cross and the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Spouse Name) (if joint acct)

(Spouse Signature) (if joint acct)

(E-mail Address)

(Date)

PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF VOIDED CHECK TO THIS FORM