



HOLY CROSS HERALD

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

May 2018

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Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you doing well. Several Sundays back, we heard Jesus speak to us about the vine and the branches. He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." This got me thinking about life as a Catholic Christian.

We must stay connected to the vine to have life and bear fruit. We know this is true for a grape vine. If a branch becomes disconnected from the vine, it withers and dies. The same is true in our lives of faith. We can only bear fruit when we are connected to the vine.

Let's get back to a little Catholicism 101, the basics. How do we stay connected to the vine (Jesus)? We do this by receiving grace. There's that word we use a lot – GRACE. Do you know what it means? Grace literally means "God's LIFE." So, when we receive grace through the sacraments, the life of Christ flows through us and allows us to bear fruit. Of course, this begins in the Sacrament of Baptism when we are initiated into the life of grace. This continues on when we are nourished with the Holy Eucharist, and this grace is strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is how we stay connected to the vine and bear fruit. And when we get weak, like an injured branch on the vine, God has given us the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to reunite us with the vine. This allows the life of Christ to fully flow through us again. How fortunate we are to have these sacraments throughout our lives.

I share all of this because this is the reason why parishes exist. And that is why God has given us priests – to bring us the grace of the sacraments. True, we do a lot of other important things in our parishes, but we must realize the most important work that happens in a Catholic parish is the celebration of the sacraments – receiving the grace (God's life) to transform us and allow the Lord to do His work through us. This is how we "remain" in Jesus and produce good fruit.

We just celebrated First Holy Communion with our children and this reminds us how important it is that we make sure our children stay connected to Christ in the Holy Eucharist. If we want our children to grow in God's grace and please Him with their lives, we have to make sure they stay connected to the sacramental life of the Church. In my 20 years of the priesthood, I have observed one thing clearly – when people stay connected to the sacraments, especially Confession and Holy Communion, their lives are so much more peaceful and fruitful. This is particularly true when it comes to marriages. If people are staying close to the sacraments, the possibilities of them having successful marriages are incredibly high. However, when people fall away from the sacraments and God's grace, there are many more potential struggles. This goes back to what Jesus told us: "Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither." It's true. Everything in our life – here and now – and eternally – depends on our link with Christ. We must stay connected to the VINE to have life.

Jesus is the vine and we are His branches. Let us stay united with our Lord in His sacraments and He will work through us to produce much good fruit. Have a "fruitful" summer!

Love 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.

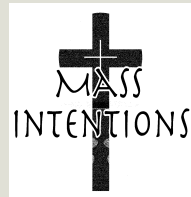
- ✠ Lisa Bloodworth. She is a senior at Vincennes University and is engaged to Adam Englert.
- ✠ Katie Baker married Chet Kiesel in October. She has a son Tanner. They reside in Fort Branch.
- ✠ Blake & Brittany Maurer. They reside in Fort Branch and have daughter Charlotte.
- ✠ Phyllis Mayberry. She resides in Owensville and is previously from Ohio.
- ✠ Jennifer Nix. She resides in Haubstadt.
- ✠ Randall & Cindy Fuhs. They reside in Fort Branch.

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.



2019 MASS INTENTIONS



The parish office is now scheduling 2019 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@ieee.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 upcoming Baptism Classes will be on July 9, September 10 and November 12 at 6:30 pm at Holy Cross.



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

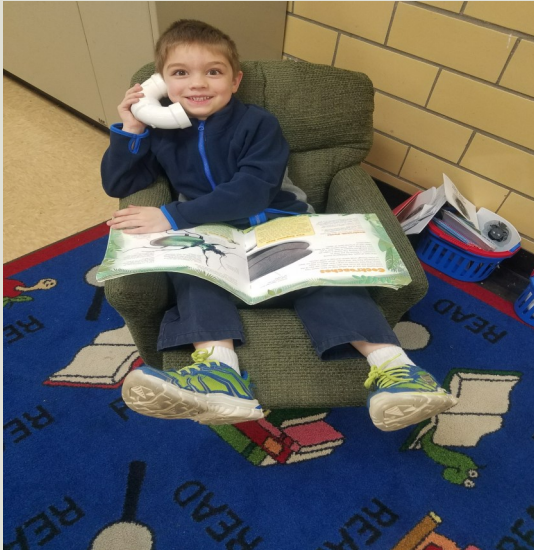
As another school year quickly comes to an end, it's very rewarding to take a second and look back upon all the wonderful blessings we experienced throughout the year. I'm proud to say that the area where I saw the most growth was in the children's faith. The children take a very special interest in the Mass by not only answering questions but also searching for answers to questions of their own. They respond loudly in prayer and enjoy praising God through song. If you have the opportunity, join us at our weekday Masses and experience the sound of their wonderful voices. Hope all of you have a great summer!



Mr. Hollis

KINDERKARTEN

The Kindergarten room has been booming with excitement! We have been learning about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. We received our very own caterpillars to observe this cycle **EVERDAY**. While sharpening our reading, math and religion skills, we have found time for some fun science experiments. We observed what



would happen when we added Mentos to a Coke bottle. The students were very excited to see a large volcano erupt before their eyes! While keeping busy, we have enjoyed every sunny day with some outside reading. We discussed the importance of taking care of the beautiful earth that God created and made an Earth Day craft to help remind us of all the blessings we have been given!



FIRST GRADE

Not much time left and so much to do! The First Graders are working like "Busy Bees". We are working to meet and double our AR Goals. In Religion, we are learning about the 7 Sacraments and working on our Baptism booklets. Next, we will talk about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. We learned about the parts and how to write friendly letters. We each wrote a letter to Mr. Hollis. He wrote letters back to each one of us the next day! We enjoyed celebrating Earth Day with special songs and making posters. We watched a video about recycling. While studying about natural resources, we brought rocks and soil samples from our yards, gardens and fields to examine and compare. In Math, these last weeks of school, we will talk about simple fractions, 2-D and 3-D shapes, and measuring with inches, feet and centimeters. We are enjoying having Mrs. Carrie Martin as our Junior Achievement presenter for 5 afternoon visits!



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS continued...

Third Grade

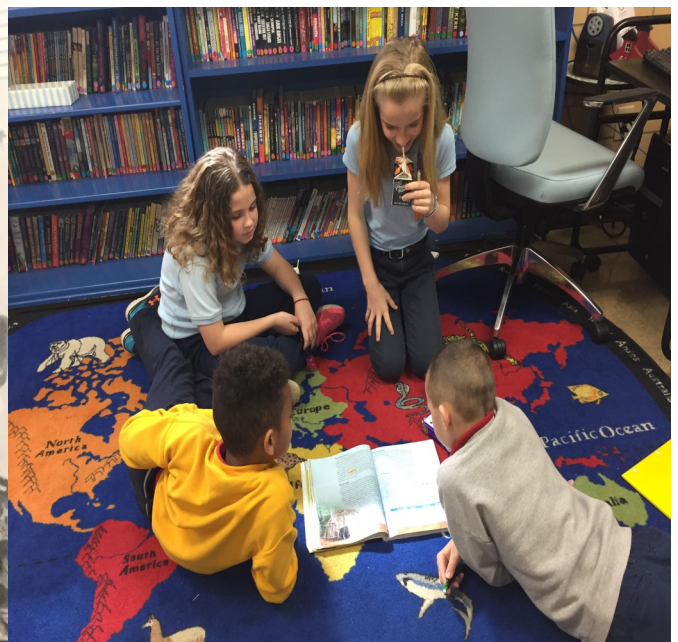
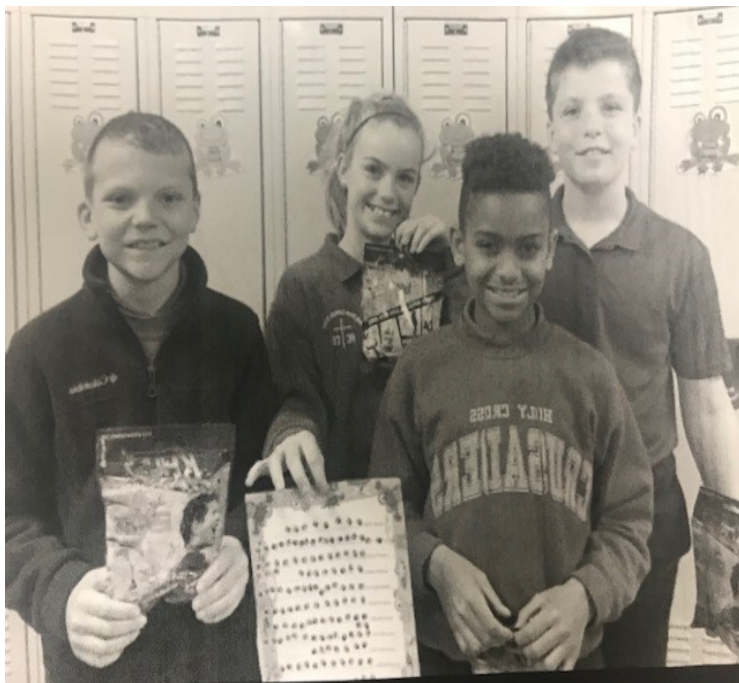
We can't believe that it is the end of the year! The Third Graders are very happy that ISTEP testing is over. They have already passed the IREAD test earlier this year. We are looking forward to going to Camp Carson for Earth Day sponsored by Toyota to learn about conservation of our natural resources. We are also looking forward to going to Vincennes to see the George Rogers Clark Memorial to learn about Indiana history. We are also going to St. Meinrad and Ferdinand to learn about religious life of priests and sisters. We have had a great year!



Fourth Grade

Owen Mercer, Lloyd Sellers, Lainey Cloin, and Zach Foster earned the most stickers during the third grading period for good behavior, being helpful to others, and winning games in class.

During the third grading period, the fourth grade class performed their annual Pioneer and Native American Day for our parents and special guests. In this picture, one group is working on a project that was displayed that day.

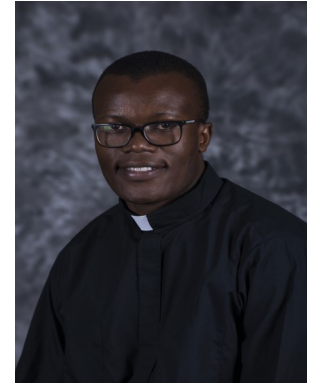


FATHER AMBROSE'S WORDS

On Caring for our Common Home

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is Earth day; the Catholic church has consistently spoken about the importance of pursuing environmental solutions that are beneficial to all people. Pope Francis indicates that the planet is beginning to look like a polluted wasteland, and now creatures and people often the poor are bearing the consequences.

In 2016, the global energy sector emitted 32.1 gigatonnes of Carbon dioxide. This number has been relatively stable with slight increase. Currently our technologies cannot provide the 7.5 billion people on the planet with carbon free-energy. So much of the world's population lives in poverty, and for carbon-free energy to supply the planet it must be affordable as its carbon alternatives.



As politics is divisive and partisan as it seems, it goes beyond a particular party or even a particular nation to realize that the power of the Paris agreement lies in the fact that it expresses a universal and united political desire to work together. It is an example of international solidarity, a symbol of global solidarity and unity towards the good.

I realize some people struggle with putting it as a priority taking care of our common home; some tend to think it is secondary to protecting the unborn. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis states that since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of the nature is not opposed in character as to be incapable of existing together with the justification for being pro-life. In fact, if one is truly pro-life, then one will find it easy to be a good steward of nature.

Showing Mercy to the earth as our common home and cherishing the world in which we live in as a place for sharing and communion, is a call and expectation of each Christian. Pope Francis declared that the care of our common home is itself to be recognized as a work of Mercy.

When one considers the traditional seven corporal and seven spiritual works of Mercy it becomes clear that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces. The care of our common home is an act of mercy toward the poor, the unborn, future generations and all of creation. Participation in his new work of mercy begins in and is strengthened by God's own mercy towards humankind. "We love because he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:19) and when this first love is rejected, humans are turning against God's own design for creation.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said that "to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God." We are to make it a habit through daily gestures, doing away with exploitation and selfishness. Viewing God's presence in the creation. Every effort must be made to address the structural causes of the deep scars that humanity continues to inflict on the earth and that contribute greatly to the suffering of the poor.

Energy in its many forms is a gift of God, made freely available to the whole humanity, and not for excessive use of a privileged few. It is good too to remember those who labor in the energy industries and technologies, especially those whose dignity is not upheld, that it may be respected.

Human beings play a critical role in caring for the environment as stewards, in his encyclical *Laudato si*, Pope Francis reminds us of the old testament mandate that tell us to till and keep the garden of the world (Gen 2:15) where keeping means caring, protecting overseeing and preserving. Taking appropriate actions to promote clean air and clean water for everyone.

It is true that Fossil fuel –fired power plants are the largest pollution emitting sector, they make up just under one third of US total greenhouse emissions. The clean power plan, which is a national program designed to reduce Carbon emissions for the power plants by 32%, thus striving to meet domestic and international mitigation standards is a good thing. Many states have already made progress towards Carbon mitigation goals under clean power plan. St. Francis of Assisi love and compassion for the poor and the creation is a model for all people of good will. Let us say yes to being good stewards.

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



It's been another fresh Spring (aka Winter) in the SMG. A few highlights in the last few months have been HS "Pal"entines, HS RockLife, MS Lent Nights, and Diocesan Goretti Distinction.

On Feb. 3, we had our annual HS "Pal"entines event (centered around Valentine's Day but with a fresh focus on the love of God!) We had some great couples (married, dating, and just pals) come and play the "Not-So-Newlywed game with our host Chuck Fabulous (seen in photo wearing green suit -- with Andrew Smith & Brendan Murphy). Chuck barely made it in time from his flight from France. He's got a tight schedule but always makes time for the fresh SMG youth!! We also had a veteran married couple come and share their story, Tom and Donna Maurer. They were honest and open about their life together, their many blessings as well as their challenges and struggles. Every married couple would attest to the fact that it's not easy molding a fruitful and peaceful life together (becoming "one flesh"). It truly takes work and personal sacrifice. But it can be frightening to share that with others! The youth were truly enlightened and encouraged from their witness. Thanks so much Tom & Donna for being open and willing to let the Holy Spirit work in you!



RockLife had some pretty cool stuff happen this year. First, we had some really good attendance. One night we had 50 youth (seen in photo)! Our theme this year was "The Holy Spirit & You." Using Mark Hart videos on the Acts of the Apostles and other resources we focused on how the Holy Spirit can help guide

us thru all the decisions in our lives, from the small everyday happenings to the big ones like our vocation, which college to attend, etc. We also had multiple guest speakers this year such as Gary Goedde on apologetics, Dan Deer's witness about his experience with the Holy Spirit, and some college young adults. One night we had 6 "old" SMG young folks come back for a "college panel" night (Raechel Kiesel, Jackie Goedde, Tyler Ziliak, Lauren Ziliak, Clint Johnson, and Kelsey Spindler). They shared a lot of good insights about continuing to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church when you're all on your own away from home!



During Lent, we had our MS Lent Night series on 3 different Fridays. They were filled with fun, faith, and fellowship! We always have some crazy fun games to amp up the energy (if it was even really needed) but we also dug deeper into the Pascal Mystery and the truly amazing grace that God rains down on us each and every day! Similar to what we did in RockLife, having college young people talk to high school youth, one of our MS Lent nights we had a handful of high school youth come and talk. Towards the end, we split girls and boys which was very beneficial for the youth in order to speak more candidly about challenges they currently face or will most likely be dealing with soon (here's a couple photos).

Lastly, the Diocesan Goretti Distinction. Every year, our bishop and the Diocese of Evansville present the St. Maria Goretti Youth Distinction to 2 youth from each parish. (Although the title shares our youth ministry's saint, this is a Diocesan award). The purpose of it is to recognize high school youth "for their outstanding contribution to the life, mission, and ministry provided to their family, parish, school, and community." We have a lot of awesome youth that truly live out their faith in relationship with God and others, making this difficult, but this year's recipients are Dylan Stefanichesz, Isaac Sellerys, Grantpa Holzmeyer, Tyler Goedde, Ellie Kiesel, Hannah Rodgers, Regan Happe, Kelsey Rexing.

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. And on behalf of Kirk "The Cap'n" Odom, "Hi." Contact Bryan at 664-7992 or bmacke@evdio.org. Join our Facebook page: "St. Maria Goretti Catholic Youth Ministry"

Update from the desk of Coordinator of Parish Operations.



Continued from my update in the February newsletter where I discussed taking all of the information I'd gathered since starting in this position in August and breaking it down into several major categories, with each category having multiple sub-categories within them. I've worked through each category and sub-category to better understand how we could make changes to improve in areas such as operations, scheduling systems, accounting/finance, process, committee bylaws to name a few and how that would either benefit Father Tony or our staffs at one or all three parishes. It could be something as simple as changing how a meeting is conducted that would save time by being more productive for everyone attending, which would be an efficiency, or something more involved such as installing Ministry Scheduler Pro software at all three parishes to run and schedule our Liturgical/Ministries, which is an efficiency for staff, while also being helpful to our many volunteers, but could take longer to implement. The four major categories in no particular order are: 1). Operations - overall running of our Parishes day to day, scheduling, 2): Finance/Accounting – budgeting, systems, account management, reporting, processes, 3). Audit/Compliance/Controls – committee bylaws, cash management, processes, 4). Strategic & Long Term Planning – three to five year plan looking forward. Over the next several newsletters I plan to explain what we'll be looking at in each of these major categories and working with parish committees, staffs, and Father Tony to develop a plan to implement changes that will be a benefit for Father Tony, our parish staffs and our parishes as a whole going forward. 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 Hopf

Stewardship in Your Life

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank our parishioners for your participation in our Lenten Spiritual Renewal that began in March. The tithing cards and pamphlets have been helpful in updating our various ministry volunteer lists.

We are also currently working on forwarding this information to the appropriate ministry leaders. These leaders will be in contact with new volunteers over the next couple of months.

Stewardship asks us to put God's priorities before our own. God does not judge us by how much time, talent or treasure we give, but by how faithful we are in making that gift.

Thank you for giving of your time, talents and treasures!!



QUILTERS FIND A NEW HOME

by Peg Hall

If you are looking for the quilters of Holy Cross, you will have to look in a new place. Recently moved from the basement of the Murphy Center, the quilters now meet every Thursday in the Parish Center in the room adjacent to the meeting room. Our usual day starts at 9am and goes until around 3pm.

Just who are the Holy Cross quilters and what is their mission you ask? The quilters are members of Holy Cross who enjoy getting together and sewing for a common purpose. The types of projects handled by the quilters are:

Create and donate quilts for our church fundraisers

Quilt tops that have been pieced by individual parties for a fee determined by club policy

At the cost of materials, make a quilt for interested Commissions of Holy Cross to be used as a fundraiser for their particular needs

Money generated from the sales of the quilters' services has gone to many projects within Holy Cross Parish. Some recent examples include: cleaning the carpets in the Parish Center; replacing the water heater in the Murphy Center; purchasing a load of rocks for the Murphy Center parking area; purchasing the dehumidifier used in the Murphy Center basement; and replacing main level carpet in the Parish Center with wood flooring. We have also reached out to our community by purchasing benches for the gazebo on the Public Library grounds.

If you have a pieced top that you are looking to have quilted, contact any current quilter to inquire on costs and time line. The parish office can also help in locating a current quilter.

If you are interested in joining the quilters, or just visiting them, please stop by on any Thursday. Having no stairs to negotiate makes the quilters more accessible. Come by and sit a spell. We would love to visit.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION By: Larua Goedde

Serra Club Youth Award Winners

Congratulations to this year's Serra Club Youth award recipients. They were selected for their commitment and leadership. They serve as role models to their peers. We thank them for their service, and we thank their parents for teaching them the importance of serving God and others.

Holy Cross

Alexis Coy, daughter of Bruce & Stephanie Coy
Beth Weber, daughter of Joseph & Susan Weber

Sts. Peter & Paul

Lilly Parmer, daughter of Matt & Amy Parmer
Madalynn Steckler, daughter of Phillip & Jessica Steckler

Bob Naas, from the Serra Club of Evansville presented the awards to these 8th grade students on April 25th at the final Religious Education class for the year.



Pictured above are: Bob Naas, Madalynn Steckler, Beth Weber, Alexis Coy, Lilly Parmer & Fr. Tony

Thank You to All Volunteers

Fr. Tony, Fr. Ambrose, Laura Goedde, Stephanie Stoll and Becky Mann would like to thank all of our dedicated catechists and helpers for another great year in Religious Ed. Enriching the lives of our youth by handing on the faith is a great service and what God calls each of us to do, to evangelize and spread the message of the gospel.

Thank You!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT...

Vacation Bible School

St. Bernard ~ Holy Cross ~ St. James ~ Sts. Peter and Paul present:

“Cool Kingdom Party—Mary Leads Me Closer to Jesus”

VBS will be held June 25-29 at Sts. Peter & Paul. Registration forms are available at the churches, parish centers and on-line at (www.holycrossparish.info and www.stsppchurch.com). Please complete a registration form and return with the fee to your parish office or in an envelope marked VBS in the collection basket. Checks can be made payable to Sts. Peter & Paul. Turn in paperwork by June 1. We need volunteers to help with registration, snacks, preparing craft kits, leading children to daily activities and a teaching. Watch the back of church for a sign-up sheet for snack donations. Cash donations will also be accepted also. Contact: Amie Hulfachor at ahulfachor@gmail.com or 812-480-2977 or Breana Taylor at btaylor@evdio.org.



Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia

We have a week-long list of events planned for June 25-30. The Sr. Joanna and Sr. Vincent Marie of St. Cecilia will join us to teach Vacation Bible School, Monday evening will be a Youth Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul at 6:30 p.m. followed by a High School Hangout with Q & A with the Sisters. Tuesday evening will be a class for Catechists and potential catechists with the Sisters, Wednesday evening will be a Middle School Hangout/Campfire at St. Bernard with the Sisters from 7-9. Watch the bulletins for more detail!

Religious Ed Registration

Please register now for Religious Ed for the 2018-19 school-year. Classes will begin on Sept. 5. New enrollees can find the forms on the parish websites or in the back of church. The cost is \$45.00 per student for 1-2 students, 3 or more students in the family is \$35.00/per student. Registration late fees of \$10.00 will begin on June 1. The Late fee increases to \$25.00 beginning July 1. Please make checks payable to your parish. Preschool Religious Ed cost is \$25.00/per student. Please contact Laura Goedde at 812-768-6457 with any questions.

We Need You

Each one of us through our Baptism and Confirmation have received gifts from the Holy Spirit and those gifts are for us to help others. Each of us have different gifts and sometimes it takes time and patience to discover what those gifts are. Have you been given the gift of teaching? The gift of administration? The gift of service/hospitality? There are so many things that go into helping with Faith Formation for the youth and for the adults of our parishes. Why not discover what you were made for! We have openings for catechists and catechist assistants for Religious Ed, RCIA, Scripture Study, office helpers, traffic helpers, Rosary leaders, reception helpers, childcare opportunities, etc. Contact me to learn more! Laura at 812-768-6457 or lgoedde@evdio.org.

Sacraments

Confirmation

We celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 12 with Bishop Siegel, Fr. Tony and Fr. Ambrose. Please keep these young adults in your prayers:

Holy Cross – Devon Bullock, Ally Fisher, Hallie Fleetwood, Mary Hall, Tommy Kautzman, Dylan Kidd, Zackery Roberts, Maggie Rose, Caleb Sellers, Colton Stefanich, Shayla Whitten

First Holy Communion was celebrated on May 6 at Holy Cross.

Be sure to welcome these children to the table as they share the Eucharist with us at Mass each week.

Holy Cross: Landon Case, Abbigail Coy, Gabe Foster, Nolan Fuhs, Emmy Hoke, Carson Jones, Jaycee Kramer, Merexx Kuester, Lily MacMunn, Isaac Neufelder, Caden Newlin, Isabella Schatz, Ayden Spindler, Tesfanesh Weber, Camille Weisheit, Anabelle Vincent

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION *CONT...*

High School Senior Celebration

On May 20 our high school senior class will celebrate Mass together at 8:45 at Holy Cross followed by a breakfast. Keep these seniors in your prayers as they continue on their journey and reassure them that they always have a community here supporting them.

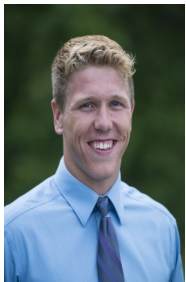


Jason Evert

Mark your calendars for Monday evening August 27 at Sts. Peter & Paul Church at 7 p.m. for Grades 7-12 and parents.

Jason Evert has traveled to six continents to bring the message of chastity to more than one million people over the past 15 years. He is a best-selling author of more than ten books, including Saint John Paul the Great, How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul, and the curriculum YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body. He and his wife Crystalina are frequent guests on radio programs throughout the country, and their television appearances include MSNBC, Fox News, the BBC, and EWTN. Together, they run chastityproject.com and lead an international alliance of young people who promote purity in more than 40 countries.

SEMINARIAN UPDATE

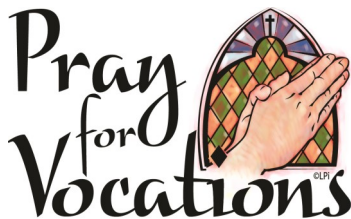


Nicholas Sellers (Holy Cross)
Bishop Simon Brute College
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2500 Cold Spring Road
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321 E 750 S, Fort Branch, IN 47648

It has been a wonderful spring semester, and classes are quickly coming to a close. I am very grateful for all of your prayers and support. It has been a very fruitful year, and I have continued to form myself as a man of God. I am excited to say that I will be heading back to Simon Brute next year for another year of seminary formation. This summer, I will be coming home to be working around the parishes. I am very excited to be able to have the opportunity to minister to our community this summer. From May 8th to 18th, I will be leading a group to Guatemala, and I would love your prayers for our safety and ability to bring the gospel to our brothers and sisters. Know of my prayers for all of you.....Nick Sellers

Please continue to pray for Nicholas as he continues his journey.



Jesus is Risen – The Joy of Easter by Gerald Weber RCIA

The Easter Vigil this year was celebrated at Holy Cross. It was a little wet and windy but it was still a time of great joy and celebration in our Catholic Church. We celebrate with great joy that Jesus has risen from the dead and he assures us that we will also rise to a new life in his heavenly presence. The Easter Vigil is filled with symbolism, prayer and praise as we celebrated our roots and dedicated ourselves to our almighty Father. We also celebrate with all those throughout the world and especially those from Holy Cross and Sts. Peter and Paul who became new members of the Catholic Church. Seeing the joy of the Holy Spirit magnified in these new members was enough to inspire us all in our faith.

Joining the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil from Holy Cross were Stevenson, Yelana and Emily Anderson, Katie Baker, Lisa Bloodworth, Halie Ellis, Ambria Garrett, Brittany Maurer, Sandra Robinson, and Bobbie Jo Seib. After Easter we also had the privilege of welcoming Robert Beasley into the Catholic Church. Robert is a resident of Nursing home in Owensville. Robert was filled with joy as he was baptized Transcendant, confirmed and received his first Holy Communion. We also want to welcome Jay and Lisa Bradshaw who came into the church this spring. We welcome each new member with great pride and attest to their sincerity and progress on their journey.

A big thank you to the sponsors of our new Catholics. The sponsors played a significant role in supporting the new members on their faith journey. Without sponsors the faith journey would be more difficult. Also, thanks to the RCIA team for their dedication and willingness to share their own faith journey with others. The Holy Cross RCIA team are Peg & Steve Hall, Becky and Deacon Joe Siewers, Monica & Jim Weber, and Betty Sue & Gerald Weber. A special thank you to Nancy Brokaw and Diane Beamis for coordinating the hostesses for faith sharing on Sundays. Thanks to all of our hostesses for presenting a welcoming atmosphere by providing goodies for us to munch on after Sunday Mass.

A new Inquiry period will begin in July for anyone having questions about the Catholic Church. Inquiry is a period of searching and reflection on the call of God. If you know anyone that may have an interest of learning more about the Catholic Church have them to call one of the RCIA team members: Peg & Steve Hall, Becky and Deacon Joe Siewers, Monica & Jin Weber, and Gerald & Betty Sue Weber.



PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By: Ann Minnis

REFLECTION:

(It is 1943 in Holland, occupied by the Nazis. The Christian ten Boom family has been hiding Jews. They ask a visiting pastor – “Would you be willing to take a Jewish mother and her baby into your home?”) – “Color drained from the man’s face. He took a step back from me. ‘Miss ten Boom! I do hope you’re not involved with any of this illegal concealment . . . It’s just not safe! Think of your father!’ I pulled the coverlet back from the baby’s face. The man bent forward, his hand in spite of himself reaching for the tiny fist curled round the blanket. For a moment I saw compassion and fear struggle in his face. Then he straightened. ‘No. Definitely not. We could lose our lives for that Jewish child!’ Unseen by either of us, Father had appeared in the doorway. ‘Give the child to me, Corrie,’ he said. Father held the baby close, his white beard brushing its cheek, looking into the little face with eyes as blue and innocent as the baby’s . . . ‘You say we could lose our lives for this child. I would consider that the greatest honor that could come to my family.’” The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom (paperback book available in any bookstore for about \$8)

You may not know until you stand before the Throne of God how your prayers, actions, words, donations, encouragement, and joy in LIFE make a difference, but keep on doing what is right!

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

HAUBSTADT SOMMERFEST (June 14, 15, & 16) – to help at the Right to Life booth, call Maureen Ruggles 768-6974.

BEAUTIFUL BABY CONTEST – To enter baby, 24 Months or younger, call Linda Kissel 812-677-0085.

GIBSON COUNTY FAIR (July 8-14) – to help at the Right to Life booth, call Janith Goedde 812-768-6537.

BEAUTIFUL BABY CONTEST – To enter baby, 24 Months or younger, call Linda Kissel 812-677-0085.

PARADES – The extended Jerry Schmitt family will again be pulling the Right to Life floats at the Sommerfest.

Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Ads: Watch for these in the South Gibson Star-Times & Princeton Clarion.

Pro-Life Information, see nrlc.org; lovethemboth.com; life-news.com; aui.org;
Gabriel Project -- Pregnant women needing an “angel” may call toll-free phone # 1-877-734-2444.
Troubled by a past abortion? Visit rachelsvineyard.org, silent-nomoreawareness.org, and 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:

June 12 (7:30 pm), July 10, and Aug. 14

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!

Special thanks to all who helped organize and support

“40 Days for Life” - Sts Peter & Paul walked Mar.21. Special thanks to Mary Jane Thompson for scheduling.

St. Patrick’s Family-Game and Card Party of Mar. 18: wonderful attendance, great fun, and near-best funds ever!

“Cemetery of the Innocents” Removed crosses on Mar.6; wrapped & stored Mar.24. Thanks to Chairman, Joe Goedde. A big salute to the Scouts, adults, and other senior citizens who helped!

Right to Life Banquet : Apr. 19 – Many attended from our Parish & surrounding Parishes, joining some 2,000 pro-life people. Our own Will and Tracy Tank’s triplets were featured in Right to Life of Gibson County’s ad in the Banquet Ad Book.

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.

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Name(s) on the Account

Transfer Amount \$ _____ for Sunday collection

Type of Acct: ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

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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.

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(Signature)

(Print Spouse Name) (if joint acct)

(Spouse Signature) (if joint acct)

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