



HOLY CROSS HERALD

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

November

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Dear Friends,

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has announced that, beginning December 8, 2015, there will be a Holy Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church. He said, "I am convinced that the whole Church, which has much need to receive mercy, because we are sinners, will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time."



Traditionally, every 25 years the Pope proclaims a holy year, which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially confession. An important emphasis in the Year of Mercy will be the availability and the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will be offering many opportunities in our parishes to receive this great sacrament throughout this special year. When was the last time you made a good confession and experienced the healing mercy of God? Don't miss out on these great graces!

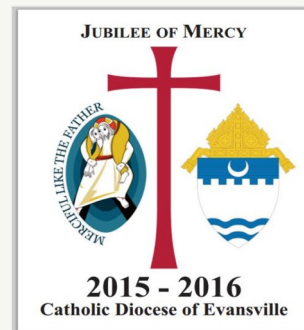
This Holy Year will also be a time for us to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Pope Francis writes, "Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead." We can all reflect on how well we are living out these works of mercy. Do people experience the love and mercy of God through us?

As we prepare to enter into this great Year of Mercy, pray about how you are in need of God's mercy and approach Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Feel that mercy deep within your soul so that you can share it with someone in need of that same mercy. And let us especially pray for all those who feel alienated from Christ and His Church, that they may experience His mercy and return to the Church. Maybe that is you or one of your loved ones. May this year be a time of great renewal in our lives and in the Church throughout the world.

On behalf of Father Betz and Father Sudhakar, we wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas Season. Know of our prayers for you and your families.

Love in Christ,

Fr. Tony



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.

✠ Michael and Nicole Stodghill. They have 4 children Abbigail, Brooke, Bentley and Noah.

✠ Ryan & Amanda Dunkel. They have two children, Presley and Jaxson.

✠ Edward & Tamrun Sokeland. They have three children, Avery, Eli and Oliver.

✠ Steven & Amanda Southworth.

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. If you would like to help with this fulfilling mission, please call the office at 812-753-3548!



2016/17 MASS INTENTIONS



The parish office is scheduling 2016 Mass Intentions and will start scheduling 2017 Masses in February. 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 next classes will be on January 11 and March 14. For more information, please email 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. Sudhakar. There are many wonderful people ready to pray for your intention, so please utilize this ministry!



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:

JOHN PFISTER



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

John is staying busy this fall with his formation program at St. Meinrad. He is participating in ministry work at St. Bernard in Rockport as well as preparing for his diaconate ordination in the spring. Please continue to pray for John as he continues his journey.

DEACON TYLER TENBARGE

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



Tyler is busy with his last year of formation at St. Meinrad. He has continued his ministry at the University of Southern Indiana (USI) and continues to prepare for this priesthood ordination. Please continue to pray for Tyler as he continues his journey.

NOVICE JON BLAIZE

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



Novice Jon reports that everything is still going very well for him during his novitiate year. He is staying busy with his fall classes and continues to work with the music program. Please continue to pray for Jon as he continues his journey.

NOVICE BRIAN WARD

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



Novice Brian was received by the Marians into the novice formation program on August 15, 2015. During his novitiate year, Brian will only have one day a week for his internet/phone day. Fr. Tony received an email recently which included a picture of Brian attending one of the Pope's sessions. Please continue to pray for Brian as he continues his journey.



Pictured: Brian Ward attending one of the Pope's session on his trip to the United States.

SAVE THE DATES

April 9, 2016—Diaconate Ordination (John Pfister)
June 11, 2016—Priesthood Ordination (Deacon Tyler Tenbarge)



Pictured: Brian Ward (far right front row) on August 15, 2015 when he was received by the Marians into the novice formation program.

Photo Credits: Marians of the Immaculate Conception

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS

John Hollis, Principal

The first grading period has come and gone. Congratulations to all those students who did their best. I'm sure the second grading period will pass just as quickly. Basketball season is upon us and I'm excited to see all the Holy Cross talent. I'm happy to announce that every student in grades 4 & 5 are participating on the school team or as a cheerleader. Good luck to the Crusaders!



The 2nd graders have been busy preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. I'm very proud of this group and their parents for keeping the love of Christ in their lives.

Mr. Winstead has begun practicing for this year's Advent program. The students have a lot of hard work ahead of them, but I'm sure they'll come through with flying colors.

Holy Cross School Honor Roll

First Grading Period 2015/16

Grade 5

Patton Adams
Kaleigh Baehl
Laila Fleetwood
Ruth Mercer
Mylie Rexing
Hailey Richter
Vann Rose
Jason Sexton

Grade 4

Gabby Baehl
Emilee Bullock
Laira Cloin
Lily Hirsch
Lucas Kissel
Halle Pohl
Jack Rose
Christopher Scheessele
Mason Scheller
Logan Tooley

Grade 3

Alyssa Baehl
Dylan Bolton
Ava Coy
Marci Fleetwood
Emily Holzmeyer
Cole Martin
Aleah Rexing
Jake Richter
Beau Rose



Holy Cross Teachers and Staff dressed like 70's Flower Children on Halloween

*We have been busy at Holy Cross
Check out all the activities the Pre-school through 5th grade have been up to!!*



Looking through the eyes of mercy Cecilia Hall

As a kickoff for the upcoming Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis, the body of Saint Maria Goretti has been on tour through various cities in the United States, and I was fortunate enough to travel with some of my fellow peers to visit these relics. For those unfamiliar with her story, Maria Goretti was eleven years old when fellow farmworker Alessandro Serenelli came upon her and threatened her, giving her the option of rape or death. After Maria chose the latter, Alessandro stabbed her 14 times, leaving her to die. Although Maria was found by her family and taken to the hospital for attempts to save her life through surgery, Maria died about twenty-four hours later after forgiving Alessandro and saying that she wished to see him in Heaven one day. Alessandro ended up repenting and becoming very good friends with Maria's mother.



While stories of other saints are also powerful, the story of Saint Maria Goretti especially speaks to me because of the limitless amount of mercy that she possessed. She forgave her killer without hesitation and even appeared to him after her death to help lead him to Christ. She was able to show him the grace of God through her actions, becoming a beacon of light to show the way to God.

As a person living in a world filled with distrust and people holding grudges, Saint Maria Goretti is an outstanding example of how I can learn to be more trusting in God and also learn to be more forgiving. The day that Alessandro was released from his prison sentence, he went to Maria's mother and asked her for her forgiveness. Maria's mother responded by telling him that both God and Maria had forgiven him, so there was no way that she could not forgive him, too. Maria's mother recognized the fact that the world became a better place when mercy and forgiveness was involved.

By looking at the world through the eyes of Saint Maria Goretti, or more specifically, looking with mercy towards all, we can all help to make the world a better place, to become beacons of light to lead the way to God for others. Saint Maria Goretti, Pray for us.



RCIA – Sharing Our Faith

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program is again in full swing at Holy Cross. Fred and Nancy Brokaw, Larry Michel, Ryan Bruner, and Pamela Hyndman were accepted into the program on October 4, during the Rite of Acceptance. Our candidates will meet almost every Sunday morning during the Mass to study our Catholic faith until the Easter Vigil. Their studies will consist of more than 30 lessons of various topics of our Catholic faith including the bible, faith and morals, and the sacraments. In addition to these lessons they will meet after Mass in group discussions of the Sunday readings.

Fred, Nancy, Larry, Ryan and Pamela need the help of everyone in the parish to help them learn what the Catholic Church is and what it teaches. It is the responsibility of the entire parish to help our Candidates on their faith journey. Each of us must find our own way of helping. A few things that all of us can do are: praying for our Candidates, speaking words of encouragement when we see them, participating in scripture study on Sunday mornings or offering to host the Sunday morning scripture study. These are only a few ways we can help. With a little imagination we can all help encourage those who are looking for meaning and purpose in their lives.

Faith Sharing is held after Mass most Sundays until Pentecost Sunday. This is an opportunity for everyone to join our Candidates to discuss the Sunday readings and help apply their teachings to our daily lives. Faith Sharing is held in the Parish Center and is open to the entire parish and is an excellent opportunity to show our Candidates what our faith means to us.

We pray that the Holy Spirit guide Fred, Nancy, Larry, Ryan and Pamela, and show us how we can assist them, on their journey.

**HOSPITALITY**

Hospitality hosted its Autumn Blood Drive and collected approximately 19 units of blood! The parish Picnic hosted by Hospitality on Sept. 20th was well attended.

Thanks to all who helped set up, cook and clean up. Thanks to the Journeymen for buying the chickens and all who helped make this a success!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**September 1, 2015—August 31 2016**

Jan Burger - Religious Ed Board (2014-16) SECY
 Mike Hirsch- At-Large (2015-17)
 Jim Schmitt - At-Large (2015-17)
 Margaret Scott- School Board (2015-17)
 Clint Fuhs - Finance (2015-17)
 Elaine Couch- Liturgy (2014-16)
 Lorinda Wallace – Alumni (2015-17)
 Brad Mayer-At-Large (2014-16)
 Randy Kiesel-Long Range Planning (2014-16)
 Youth Commission – No Rep

Becky Mann - Boosters (2015-17)
 Jason Baehl - Stewardship (2015-17)
 Gerald Weber-At-Large (2014-16) PRES
 Stephanie Hollis - Parish&SocAff. (2015-17)
 Greg Perkins- Hospitality (2014-16)
 Stan May – Building and Grounds
 Fr. Tony Ernst - Pastor
 Lisa May – Parish Manager
 Joe Siewers - Deacon
 Roger Johnson-Journeymen

SCHOOL BOARD

Courtney Kuester (2013-2016)Secretary
 Kendra Collins (2013-16) Nominating
 LeeAnn Holzmeyer (2014-17)Vice-President
 Deanna Bullock (2014-17)President
 Ared Schnaus (2015-2018)
 Margaret Scott (2015-18)
 John Hollis (Non-voting member)PRINCIPAL
 Jessica Anderson (St. Bernard's Rep)

FINANCE COMMISSION

Steve Hall (2013-16)President
 Darwin Neufelder (2013-16)Vice-President
 LeAnn Cooper (2014-17) Secretary
 Clint Fuhs (2014-17)Parish Council
 Dave King (2015-17)
 Alicia MacMunn (2015-17)

PARISH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIO

Lori Cardinal (2013-16)
 Jill Kruse (2013-16)
 Courtney Kuester (2013-16)
 Stephanie Hollis (2014-17)Parish Council
 Susan Jenkins (2014-17)
 Carolyn Johnson (2014-17)Vice-President
 Alicia MacMunn (2014-17)
 Deanna Bullock (2015-18)
 Debbie Lamey (2015-18)
 Sue Harrell (2015-18)President
 Carrie Martin (2015-18)

BOOSTERS

Amy Foster (2013-16) Secretary
 Kim Scheller (2013-16) Vice-President
 Julie Fuhs (2014-17) President
 Becky Mann (2014-17) Parish Council

HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

Marilyn Holzmeyer (2013-16)
 Jodie Paridaen (2013-16)
 Diane Bemis (2014-17) President
 Greg Perkins (2014-17) Parish Council
 Jo Odom (2015-18)
 Laurie Ziliak (2015-18)

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Jennifer Hopf (2014-17)
 Jennifer Schnaus President
 Jason Baehl Parish Council
 Jacob Hirsch
 Amanda Southworth
 Sam Reinhart

LITURGY COMMISSION

Paula Heldt (2013-16) President
 Amy Sellers (2013-16)
 Elaine Couch (2013-16) Parish Council
 Jana Mercer (2014-17)
 Monica Weber (2014-17) Vice-President
 Jamie Baehl (2015-18) Secretary
 Debbie Neufelder (2015-18)

JOURNEYMEN

Jacob Hirsch (2015-16) President
 Chris Cooper (2015-16) Vice-President
 Roger Johnson (2015-16) Parish Council
 Bryan Hirsch (2015-16) Secretary

EVANGELIZATION

Wanda Englert-President, Tommy Thompson, Linda Kissel, Jonette Wilzbacher-vp, Jeff Ziliak, Jerry Woehler

MAINTENANCE

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

ALUMNI - HCAAF

Sue Harrell – President, Dorothy Karaff – Secretary, Lorinda Wallace- PC, Glenda Barrett VP, Ann Georges, Treas

RELIGIOUS ED BOARD

Lisa Mayer-Secy, Paul Goedde, Jon Dilbeck-VP, Mary Maurer, Jan Burger-PC, Becky Siewers-Pres.

CASINO NIGHT COMMITTEE

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

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Dr. Mike Green, VP, Wanda Englert, Tom Wallace, Sec., Mike Hirsch, Pres., Randy Kiesel, PC

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are again blessed to have seminarians from St. Meinrad. Deacon Taryn Whittington will assist Fr. Tony and Fr. Sudhakar at the weekend masses. Deacon Taryn will be ordained a Priest this Spring. Dua Nguyen, a third year seminarian from the Diocese of Hanoi, South Vietnam is teaching and observing in our Religious Ed Program on Wednesday evenings. Please thank these gentlemen when you see them for helping us teach the faith to our children and parish family!

Sunday pre-school: Holy Cross – Sheila Robinson, Holly Brittingham, Jennifer Schnaus, Sue Boyd, Jodie Paridaen, Christie Menke & Lorinda Wallace

Sts. Peter & Paul – Doris Martin, Cassie Helfrich, Shyla Adler, Abby Dilger, & Justine Mayer

Kindergarten – Blake Goedde, Debbie Neufelder

First Grade – Dana Tenbarger, Doug Webb

Second Grade – Lisa Kern, Jordyn Hicks, Mandy Sefton

Third Grade – Mary May, Betty Jo Knapp

Fourth/Fifth Grade – Leah Simon, Tess Rumble

Sixth Grade – Kristy & Jason Kruger

Seventh Grade – Wanda Englert, Lisa Bittner

Eighth Grade – Brad Mayer, Aaron Scott, Bob Seib, & Brad Schmitt

Freshmen – Joe Kiesel, Keith Dewig, Andrea & Nick Michel

Sophomore – Bryan Hirsch, Joe Mraz, Heather Furniss, Kristin Brokaw

Junior – Karen Adams, Bill Goedde, Tammy Hayes, Mike Weaver

Senior – Tina & Wayne Murphy

Resource – Anna Finnerty, Sarah Riggs

Our volunteers are: Michelle Brown, Julie Burnor, Christie Menke, Delaine Preske, Marilyn Redding, Chrysanne Rogers, Kathy Seibert, & Ann Sobotka. Rosary Leaders on Wednesday evenings are: Jerry & Patty Woehler, Vernon & Hilda Schaefer, Tom & Ann Minnis, Joe & Janith Goedde, Larry & Shirley Haley, Tom Maurer & Deacon Joe & Becky Siewers.

RCIA Teachers: Holy Cross – Peg & Steve Hall, Kay & Randy Kiesel, Monica & Jim Weber, Betty Sue & Gerald Weber
Sts. Peter & Paul – Shelly Weiss, Ann Minnis, Alicia Brandle, & Gary Schmitt

SPRED Teachers: Ann Georges, Sue Harrell, Helen Wolf, Lora Tribble, and Connie Dewig

Catholic Scripture Study Leaders: Annlee Botzum, Jonette Wilson, Bill Goedde, Gary Goedde

Adult Religious Ed: Shelley Weiss & Kristin Brokaw

Thank you to everyone answering the call that the Holy Father asks of us to evangelize and teach! We are very blessed to have all of the above who give of their time and talent to share their faith with our children and adults.



Save the Date- Feb. 6, 2016

Praying As a Family Workshop

Would you like to strengthen your family through the powerful gift of prayer?

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia will present a workshop for Moms & Dads on February 6 at Sts. Peter & Paul. Topics will be: **Why Pray as a Family? ~ Obstacles to Family Prayer ~ The Love of Husband and Wife: Praying with Your Spouse ~ Sacred Time and Sacred Space ~ Drawing Your Family Together Through Prayer ~ Pitfalls, Pointers, and Practical Notes**

This Workshop is based on the book – **A Short Guide to Praying as a Family**. A copy of the book will be included for each couple with their registration fee. Don't miss this opportunity! We will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. and conclude shortly after lunch. Watch the bulletin for how to register for this workshop.

Catholic Adult Religious Education

Are you interested in refreshing your knowledge of your Catholic faith? Come join us and dig into a deeper understanding of your faith in a laid back setting. There is no cost, no materials, and no registration required! We will meet once a month on Wednesday nights in the Sts. Peter & Paul teacher's lounge from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All St. James, Holy Cross & Sts. Peter & Paul members are welcome! Come join us and bring a friend!

Dec. 2 – Eucharist: The Real Presence

Jan. 6 – The Sacrament of Confession

Feb. 3 – Mary: Our Blessed Mother

Mar. 2 – God's Plan of Salvation

Apr. 6 – The History of our Faith

May 11 – Scripture and Tradition

Laura Goedde, CRE

Stephanie Stoll, Asst. to CRE

Liz Hirsch, Sacramental Coordinator

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT.....

The Serra Club of Evansville hosted an essay contest on Vocations. The students were asked to write an essay, research paper, PowerPoint presentation, skit or poem describing their understanding of Vocations. The winners are **Holy Cross:**

Devon Bullock, son of John & Deanna Bullock

Devon interviewed 5 married couples married between 4 months & 54 years and questioned them about what it takes for a good marriage. He summarized the interview with 5 key things that are needed for a good marriage: Selflessness, Faith, Trust, Commitment, & Prayer. He also demonstrated the relationship between a husband and wife and God with a visual display.

Caleb Sellers, son of Jeff & Amy Sellers Caleb wrote about the Vocation of Marriage. He stated that God says marriage is dedication and mercy and that many people today don't understand the true meaning of marriage. He ended his paper with a billboard statement saying "GOD'S ON THE LINE."

DON'T HANG UP! Vocations Are Everybody's Business.

Fr. Tony & Fr. Sudhakar pictured with the Serra winners

Sts. Peter & Paul:

Maci Foster, daughter of Ryan & Sarah Foster

Maci wrote her essay on the Vocation of Marriage. She listed love, respect, trust, honesty and a strong bond with God as requirements for a healthy marriage. She said she has been blessed to grow up in a community and family full of healthy marriages. She summed up her paper by telling us that God has a plan for all of us, we just have to listen.

Sydney Goedde, daughter of Paul & Kelli Goedde

Sydney wrote her paper on the Vocation of Marriage. She talked about how society teaches the opposite of what God teaches us about marriage. She also talked about how a large percentage of marriages fail without God in them. She said that her parents have not only told her how important God is in a marriage, but have shown her by their example and how they've raised her and her sisters. The vocation talks were given by: Fr. Sudhakar Bhastati and Seminarian Dua Nguyen on Holy Orders/ Priesthood, Brian & Mandy Rose on the vocation of Marriage and a Video Presentation by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia on the vocation of Religious Life.



Best Advent Ever

Dynamic Catholic is once again offering an on-line resource. It is called: Bestadventever.com

Best Advent Ever Rediscover Mercy is an email program that will help you transform your life, relationships, work, and ability to genuinely embrace and experience life.

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, and continuing every day through Dec. 23, you will receive a short video, an inspirational quote, or spiritual coaching from Matthew Kelly, American's bestselling Catholic author, and other leading Catholic voices of our time. They will give you the tools - all you have to do is commit to living better each day this Advent.

Look for your first email on Sunday, Nov. 29, and get ready to encounter God's incredible mercy!

To get the Most out of your Best Advent Ever experience, Dynamic Catholic's new book Beautiful Mercy is a perfect companion for the program. If you would like to get a copy of the book go to Dynamiccatholic.com.

Symbolon – We will offer a new session on the Symbolon series for Adults beginning Dec. 16. This program breaks down the Catholic Faith and explains it in a way that everyone can understand. If you would like to attend, please contact the Religious Ed office at 812-768-6457.

CURSILLO

"Become a friend, make a friend, bring that friend to Christ"

To explain Cursillo to someone who has never experienced Cursillo is at best, difficult. Often, for those who have experienced Cursillo it is still somewhat mystifying. This is not because the Cursillo Movement is a "secret" organization. The reason behind the mystery is God. No one can fully explain how God touches each person in His special/unique way throughout the various elements of the Cursillo Movement.

The Cursillo Movement provides a method and a technique to provide each of us with the tools, the mentality, the strength, and the support to make this natural type of evangelization possible. The Cursillo Movement can assist each of us in developing a deeper understanding of what it means to be fully Catholic by being fully Christian.

If you'd like to make a Cursillo or be a sponsor, please contact Laura Goedde at 812-768-6457 or go to www.evansvillecursillo.com for more information.

Spring Dates: Men's Feb. 25-28

Women's March 31-Apr. 3



Distinguished Alumni Award

Since 1997, the Holy Cross Association of Alumni and Friends (HCAAF) have presented the “Distinguished Alumni Award” at the Sunday Mass closest to the Feast of the Holy Cross on Sept. 14. To qualify for the award, you must have attended Holy Cross School and have graduated from high school for at least 15 years. Nominees also must be living out the Catholic values and service that they received at Holy Cross School in their own current parish. Sue Harrell presented the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award at Mass to Dorothy Spindler Karaff. Dorothy has lived in Ft. Branch and has been a member of Holy Cross Parish all of her life except for a few years following her marriage to Ronald Karaff. She attended Holy Cross School from first grade through eighth grade. She graduated from Ft. Branch High School and worked for some companies in Evansville.

Her 2 daughters also attended Holy Cross School. Dorothy is now retired and working part time. She is busy attending the school and sports events, dance recitals, and military programs of her 8 grandchildren. Dorothy still makes time to be one of our dependable “behind the scenes” volunteers that help our Parish – whether it is stuffing church bulletins, stapling casino tickets, helping make turtles in the school cafeteria, or faithfully locking up our church every night!

She continues to be the secretary of the Alumni Board taking the minutes at meetings, updating all the mailing lists, and revamping our computer files using her secretarial and computer skills. Her most recent project was “spearheading” the collection of all 65 years of Holy Cross School First Communion pictures by calling people, scanning pictures, labeling and typing the names for the pictures. This collection is now on display in the hallway of the school.

Dorothy is also a tireless worker for our community being treasurer of Kappa Omega Sorority and participating in its area service projects. She lives her Catholic Faith through everyday activities and example. Quoting from her nomination form, “She does all this very quietly and unassuming! She is most deserving of this honor and is always there to lend help where she can.” *Pictured to the right Are Dorothy and her grandchildren*



Thoughts by Deacon Joe

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was ordained into the permanent diaconate of the diocese of Evansville on August 3, 2013 and serve the parishes of Holy Cross, Sts. Peter and Paul, and St James. The very beginnings of the ancient order can be found in Acts 6:1-6 with the focus then as it is today on service to the community of believers. The word “Deacon” is derived from the Greek word “diakonia” which means service. In my brief time that I have been serving the parishes I have encountered several people who are surprised at the many ways a Deacon can serve their communities so I would like to share with you the service of a Deacon.

The Deacon’s service extends far beyond his service at Mass. By the way of Holy Orders along with the laying on of hands by the Bishop and the faculties that are installed by him the Deacon can minister outside of Mass the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, as well as minister viaticum which is distribution of holy communion to those facing probable danger of death. It is much easier to let you know what a Deacon cannot do for the communities and must be done by a Priest. A Deacon cannot consecrate the gifts for Eucharist or minister in the sacrament of reconciliation and for this reason he cannot minister the last rites for the dying as it has reconciliation as part of the rite. Anything that is done within the Mass is ministered by the Priest.

I have found great joy in serving my parishes and have ministered a funeral, Baptized babies, and have blessed many religious articles and groups of people pouring out God’s graces when I am asked. And so it gives me great joy to give you this blessing : May the God of all that was; all that is; and all that will be bless you with peace, love and harmony.

Deacon Joe





NFP Article

This quarter we ask Joe & Jamie Kiesel from Sts. Peter & Paul to give a witness as to why they use NFP. Thank you Joe & Jamie for this beautiful witness!

We have had the benefit of growing up in a great Catholic community. Unfortunately, neither of us had been educated on Natural Family Planning (NFP) until we met with Fr. Tony Ernst in preparation for our marriage. Soon after meeting with him, we started our sessions with our sponsor couple. They are such a loving couple and so impactful to those around them that we quickly were drawn in and wanted to know what made their relationship so strong. This couple shared with us about NFP and educated us on the importance of it. They witnessed to us the wonderful things it had done in their marriage. The two of us left that session excited about NFP and talked about starting the practice.

Unfortunately, that is all we did is talk about it and remain uneducated for the next four years. After having our second son, we decided to set up a meeting and start the education process. We called Terri and she has been an amazing mentor through the whole process. NFP has been great for our marriage. Through it God has blessed us in many ways. It has helped us become more disciplined and mindful of each other. We communicate better and the bond we share is deeper than it has ever been. That bond is sacred. Because we both are involved in the process, there is a greater intimacy in our relationship.



We are strong advocates for NFP, especially after experiencing what it has done for our relationship. We are fortunate, as a sponsor couple, to mentor engaged couples about the blessings of NFP. Recently we had our third child, a daughter. We had prayed and talked about this decision. We utilized the NFP process and could pinpoint the optimal times for conception. Using NFP has been a blessing for us and we truly believe God will bless anyone who chooses to practice NFP. For more information contact Lori Spindler/Terri Ziliak 812-753-3548

Simon Brute' Award

*Congratulations to the Holy Cross Brute' Society Inductees for 2015
Mike & Beverly Hirsch*

The Brute' Society Mass and Induction Ceremony was held at St. Benedict Cathedral on Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. The Brute' Society of the Diocese of Evansville was formed in 1990 to honor those individuals or couples who have distinguished themselves through voluntary service and stewardship to their parishes.



Thank you Mike & Beverly for the many ways in which you serve our parish!



Pictured above are Mike and Beverly and their children and grandchild

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By: Ann Minnis

Did you Know? 15 out of 16 pregnancy services performed by Planned Parenthood were abortions! Yet they state that abortion is only 3 % of their services. This misleading 3% figure is based on counting a single visit as multiple services. For example, a woman coming in for an abortion will be counted as having received a pregnancy test, antibiotics, contraceptives, etc. No Planned Parenthood clinics perform mammograms. They provide primary health care to less than 1% of their clients. And undercover videos show Planned Parenthood employees aiding human sex traffickers, failing to report suspected sex crimes against minor girls, counseling women to have sex-selective abortions, and procurement and reselling of human body parts and organs. Actions: Let your Congressman and Senators know you demand that Planned Parenthood no longer receive our tax dollars. Share the truth about Planned Parenthood with friends and on social media. And pray!

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

March for Life in Washington, D.C.: **Jan. 21 -- 24**—Contact Parish Center before Nov. 23 if you are going with the “Pilgrimage for Life”! The Pilgrimage is oriented to HS youth and chaperones. See bulletin or applications in back of church for more information. Right to Life of Southwestern Indiana will also be taking a bus, Jan. 20—24, more oriented to adults and individual families. But HS and college youth can go—See rtlswin.org or 812-474-3195. Both trips are very inexpensive, but priceless in their effect. Perhaps this is your year to go – or to send a child or grandchild! Wonderful activities are planned in addition to the March for Life.

Baby Shower & spiritual adoptions—Leave items for Life Choices in box in back of church or call Joanie Luttrell 664-4273. Pray for your **spiritually-adopted** baby until Christmas.

40 Days for Life” Spring campaign –Feb. 10-Mar. 24. Join us for an hour of walking and prayer. (Sts. PP Day to be announced).

Annual St. Patrick Family Game & Card Party – Sunday, Mar. 13, 2016, beginning at NOON – mark your new calendar!

Right of Life Meeting Dates:

Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, Apr 12.

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!

THANKS: TO ALL WHO HELPED IN PRO-LIFE WORK THIS YEAR! Fall events included: Golden Heritage Fest; “40 Days for Life”; “Life Chain”; Diocesan “Respect Life Celebration”; distribution of bulletin inserts to Gibson County Catholic Churches in Oct.; “Cemetery of the Innocents”; and the “Soup Supper.” Most sincere thanks to all parishioners who prayed, donated, organized, scheduled, volunteered, and participated in any of these activities and events that helped defend the most helpless little ones. May God bless you abundantly!

Stewardship Article for November 2015

Often when we speak about generosity at church we do so in the context of stewardship, and we talk about three categories: time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care. As Christians, we believe that our time, talent, and treasure are all on loan to us and that one day we will have to account for the way we managed them. Take a moment to ponder how stewardship plays a role in your life. Are you generous with all that God has entrusted to your care?

Generosity begins with gratitude. Begin every day, every situation with a thankful heart. Are we grateful for all the blessings God has poured out upon us? We are at our best when we are grateful. The world draws us into a conversation about all that we don’t have, but God invites us into a conversation about all that we do have. The more we are mindful of how much we have received, the more we are inclined to look for opportunities to give. When we are at our best, we are filled with an eagerness to do good, an eagerness to give generously, and an eagerness to help our brothers and sisters.

While God is inviting us to a joyful life of selfless generosity, the world is trying to seduce us into an all-encompassing selfishness. God invites us to a life of gratitude while the world fosters discontent. God proposes trust; the world arouses fear. God promotes giving; the world promotes getting. God invites us to co-operate with his providence while the world rallies behind self-determinism. God appoints us in stewardship while the world touts ownership. The world encourages entitlement when in reality everything is a gift from God. God invites us to look out for our neighbor; the world tells us to look out for ourselves. God operates from abundance; the world from a place of scarcity. God created us out of generosity to live generous lives; the world encourages us to live a small, selfish life.

Generosity is at the heart of the Christian life, just as it is at the heart of the Gospel. For it is often through our generosity that we are able to bring the love of God to life for others in very real and tangible ways. May God bless us all with an eagerness to live generously.

Taken from “The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic”

Stephanie Stoll

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Liturgy By Paula Heldt

A goal of the Liturgy Commission is to support and encourage good prayerful liturgical worship and celebration for Masses and other services. Many individuals serve in ministries in support of this goal. One of those ministries is the Music Ministry which plays a vital role in our liturgical worship.

Holy Cross has a rich music history with our choir providing music over many years. Many individuals share their talent and give of their time to inspire our prayerful worship. As a testament to their dedication, a good number of current members have participated in the choir for many years, some nearly fifty years. Not only the choir members but also cantors, organists, musicians, teachers, and students share their praise through song. Music is provided for weekend liturgies but also for Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Holy Days, Sacramental Services, and funerals.

Wanda Englert is the Music Director. The Music Director is primarily responsible for all aspects of music for liturgies including the recruitment of new members and coordinating the schedules for the various music ministers. New members are always welcomed and encouraged to join. If you are new to the parish or at a point in your life where you feel you would enjoy the comradery of being part of the choir, please consider joining. There are no auditions or try-outs. All that is required is the desire to praise God through song.

The next time you are taking part in Mass and a song touches you, stirs a fond memory, or you find yourself humming a hymn as you leave, thank the members of the Music Ministry.