



HOLY CROSS HERALD

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

November 2016

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Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you doing well and that you have enjoyed the beautiful fall days. We are so blessed to live here and experience the changing of the seasons.

In the August newsletter, I shared a little information about the capital campaign in which every parish of our diocese will participate. This will be a shared campaign, which means that half of the funds will go towards diocesan needs and half of the funds will remain in local parishes for our own particular needs. The diocese has identified four particular areas to address in this campaign: Priestly Vocations, Social Outreach, Tuition Scholarship & Faith Formation and Diocesan Facilities. I have set up a committee at each of our three parishes to help identify the needs of our respective parishes. We will communicate those results to all of you as soon as possible and certainly ask for your feedback. This campaign offers us a good opportunity for our diocese and our parishes to plan for the future.

There will be four phases to the campaign, the first of which has already begun this fall. Our parishes are grouped into the second phase, which means our portion will begin next spring. Bishop Thompson is visiting every parish in the diocese to address the campaign and any questions or concerns parishioners might have. He will be coming to our parishes on the following dates:

January 9 at Sts. Peter & Paul cafeteria at 6:00 pm

January 10 at St. James Madden Hall at 6:00 pm

January 24 at Holy Cross cafeteria at 6:00 pm

Please plan to attend one of these meetings to learn more about the campaign.

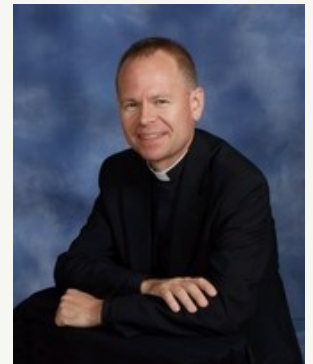
We will do our best to communicate updates as this process continues to unfold. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to strengthen the ministry of our diocese and parishes. With so many great families, the future is definitely bright in our parishes.

As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, please take note of our scheduled times for Mass and confessions. The Church gives us the Season of Advent to prepare for the Lord's coming, both at Christmas and for His coming at the end of time. We must always live in a state of preparedness for His coming. One great way to prepare our souls is by making a good confession. On the next page, you will find some guidelines that will help you make a good confession. Make a good examination of conscience and prepare your soul for the Lord's coming.

May God bless all of you with a peaceful Advent and a joyous Christmas.

Yours 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.

✠ Fred & Nancy Brokaw. They have a daughter, Cambria who attends Holy Cross School.

✠ Elaine Roth. Elaine presided in Ft. Branch.

✠ Dakota & Lory Ricker. They have 2 children Dallas and Henry.

✠ Gerald & Alice Wirth. They preside in Mt. Carmel, IL.

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.



2017 MASS INTENTIONS



The parish office is now scheduling 2017 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 2018 Masses will be available for scheduling in February.

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

Please prayerfully consider Automatic 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. Classes for 2017 will be January 9, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11 and November 13. If you need to schedule a class, please contact Liz Hirsch at lhirsch@evdio.org



Prayer Chain—Please Pray for the Sick & Suffering

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS

John Hollis, Principal

Once again, the school year is flying by. We have already finished the first grading period. We are placing a special focus on being good servants of God, as well as making good manners a habit. There are so many wonderful experiences taking place at Holy Cross on a daily basis that it would be impossible to mention them all here. Please visit our facebook page to see for yourself what I'm talking about. Our facebook page is updated daily, so please visit us often and be sure to "like" what you see. Please visit our page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Cross-Catholic-School-852142454919533/>.



Thank you for supporting Holy Cross Parish and School.

Mr. Hollis



The Holy Cross Staff dressed as scarecrows for Halloween.



The School Council welcomed 2 new members this fall: Katie Russler and Becky Mann. Both new members along with Ared Schnaus attended the School Council Workshop in September and found it to be a useful seminar. We are also working on our 2016-17 goal of increasing our enrollment for next year. We are brainstorming and discussing ways to keep our enrollment growing each year. The teachers and Mr. Hollis have created a Facebook page which is updated regularly and we are currently advertising our Open House which is being held on November 3, 2016. Our next meeting will be February 2, 2017.

Report By Deanna Bullock

Holy Cross Crusaders at work and play



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS 2016-2017

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Faith Formation (2016-18)
 Mike Hirsch— At-Large (2015-17)
 Jim Schmitt - At-Large (2015-17)
 Margaret Scott- School Board (2015-17)
 Clint Fuhs - Finance (2015-17) VP
 Debbie Neufelder-- Liturgy (2016-18)
 Gerald Weber – Alumni (2015-17)
 Peg Hall-At-Large (2016-18) SECY
 Wanda Englert-Long Range Planning (2016-18)
 Youth Commission – No Rep

SCHOOL COUNCIL

LeeAnn Holzmeyer (2014-17) Vice-President
 Deanna Bullock (2014-17) President
 Ared Schnaus (2015-2018)
 Margaret Scott (2015-18) Parish Council
 Katie (Cale) Russler (2016-19) Secretary
 Becky (Jeremy) Mann (2016-19)
 John Hollis (Non-voting member) Principal
 Nick Ivy (St. Bernard's Rep)

FINANCE COMMISSION

LeAnn Cooper (2014-17) Secretary
 Clint Fuhs (2014-17) Parish Council
 Dave King (2015-18) President
 Alicia MacMunn (2015-18) Vice-President
 Bill Knapp (2016-19)
 Peggy Zenthoefer (2016-19)

PARISH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Stephanie Hollis (2014-17)
 Susan Jenkins (2014-17)
 Carolyn Johnson (2014-17)
 Alicia MacMunn (2014-17)
 Deanna Bullock (2015-18)
 Debbie Lamey (2015-18)
 Sue Harrell (2015-18) President
 Carrie Martin (2015-18) Parish Council
 Jill Kruse (2016-19)
 Courtney Kuester (2016-19)
 Kathy (Dan) Sollman (2016-19)

BOOSTERS

Julie Fuhs (2014-17) President
 Becky Mann (2014-17) Parish Council
 Jackie (Grant) Jones (2016-18)
 Amber (Shane) Sexton (2016-18)

HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

Diane Bemis (2014-17) President
 Greg Perkins (2014-17)
 Jo Odom (2015-18) Parish Council
 Laurie Ziliak (2015-18)
 Marilyn Holzmeyer (2016-19)
 Jodie Paridaen (2016-19) Nominating

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Jennifer Hopf (2014-17)
 Jacob Hirsch (2014-17)
 Amanda Southworth (2015-18)
 Sam Reinhart (2015-18)
 Jason Baehl (2016-19) PC Jennifer Schnaus (2016-19)

Becky Mann—Boosters (2015-17)
 Jason Baehl—Stewardship (2015-17) Pres
 Ann Georges—At-Large (2016-18)
 Carrie Martin-Parish & Social Affairs (2015-17)
 Jo Odom—Hospitality (2016-18)
 Stan May—Building and grounds
 Fr. Tony Ernst—Pastor
 Lisa May—Parish Manager
 Joe Siewers—Deacon
 Roger Johnson—Journey Men

LITURGY COMMISSION

Jana Mercer (2014-17)
 Monica Weber (2014-17) VP
 Jamie Baehl (2015-18) Pres.
 Debbie Neufelder (2015-18) PC
 Kyle Brasher (2016-18) Sec.
 Mary Helen Kiesel (2016-19)

JOURNEYMEN

Jacob Hirsch (105-16) Pres
 Chris Cooper (2015-16) VP
 Roger Johnson (2015-16) PC
 Bryan Hirsch (2015-16) Sec

MAINTENANCE

Stan May George Robinson
 Jim Schmitt Jim Oing Devon Kuester

Alumni-HCAAF

Sue Harrel President
 Glenda Barrett VP
 Dorothy Karaff Secretary
 Ann Georges Treasurer
 Gerald Weber PC

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Dr. Mike Green 753-3823
 Wanda Englert PC 779-6141
 Tom Wallace Secretary 753-4595
 Mike Hirsch President 457-0634
 Randy Kiesel VP 499-2430

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mike Emge Bryan Hirsch
 Gene Kiesel Darwin Neufelder
 Jim Rose

CASINO NIGHT COMMITTEE

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

FAITH FORMATION

Wanda Englert, Ann Luttrell, Becky Siewers, Jan Burger

NOTE: If you have any concerns or comments you would like taken to the Parish Council, please contact Ann Georges, Peg Hall, Mike Hirsch or Jim Schmitt.

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

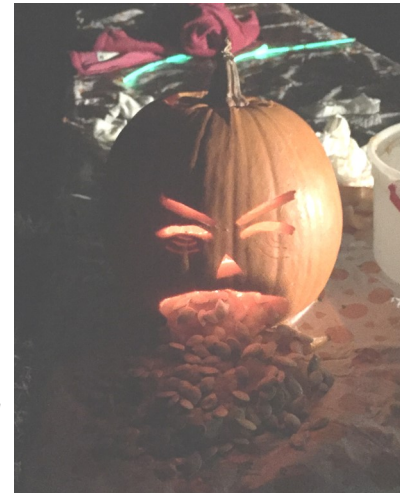


Isn't the fall season fresh! Leaves turning orange and red, campfires, Halloween, Thanksgiving, football, and sweatpants! We just had a great fall event at Matt & Amy Parmer's house. They recently moved into their new home and since they had ½ mile of trails in their backyard which we could use for games they offered to have a youth event. We decided on a fall event on Oct. 22 called Fall Freshtivities for both MS & HS. We had 75 youth attend! The HS youth put on a haunted trail for the MS youth. It was a blast! Although some MS youth said it wasn't scary, it could've been their brava-do talking. We also had a pumpkin carving contest, All Saints trivia game, and 3 HS youth (Hannah Rodgers, Tyler Goedde, and Kate Ziliak) that gave brief talks about their relationship with God. They did great! They talked about what really matters and the importance of having their identity in Christ. They touched on trusting God with their anxieties of their future, staying surrounded with friends that have good values and morals, and knowing deep down that God is always with them thru their trials. Thank you so much Matt & Amy for making such a great time possible!



Beginning in September, we kick-started HS Sunday evening *RockLife*. For *RockLife*, we meet every 1st and 3rd Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00 in the youth room at Sts. Peter & Paul. We try to keep a healthy balance of spiritual and social activities. Our average night includes a bit of everything: games (preferably of the nonsensical sort), faith lesson, discussion, Scripture readings, videos, faith sharing talks, etc. This year's lessons are mostly on the reality of spiritual warfare; the spiritual battles that are fought inside us and all around us. It ranges from small daily temptations to demonic possession. Although this topic can seem quite fearful and daunting, the ultimate reality that is reinforced at each session is that the victory is ours in Jesus Christ! It is our mission, hope and prayer that through this ministry, our teens will seek to build their lives on "the rock" of Christ and His Church. Please pray for our efforts and if you'd like to be involved, we'd love to have you.

Also on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month (Nov. thru March), we have Open Gyms for boys grades 8-12 and Girl Time for HS girls. The Open Gyms are held in Sts. Peter & Paul's Family Life Center from 4:00-5:30. We stop for a halftime "mantime" to discuss and share about growing as young Catholic men in today's world. The Girl Time is held during the same time in the youth room at Sts. Peter & Paul. This year's activities include Christmas shopping for needy families, movie night, and visit to Daughters of Isabella just to name a few. About the time you receive this newsletter - Sat., Nov. 12th, we are planning on renting out a whole theater room at Showplace East to watch the new movie *I'm Not Ashamed*. It's a Christian movie depicting the story of Rachel Joy Scott and the shooting at Columbine High School back in 1999. So far I've heard it's a very powerful and inspiring movie. Allison Goedde, family parishioner at Sts. Peter & Paul, worked on the movie's production. Part of our SMG mission statement is, "All of our events are to encourage the youth to use their individual talents in programs and ministries in order to nurture their growth as people of faith." I think going to see this movie knowing that Allison was a part of it connects in a bold way with this line. The youth need to know that they can make a difference for Christ and in the lives of people around them. And although working on such a powerful movie is a huge testament of one's faith, like St. Mother Teresa said, "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love." After watching this movie, it is my hope and prayer that the young people have a little bit more courage to walk with God in their school hallways and share the Good News!



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

Watch the bulletin for details on upcoming events. And as always, if you would like to be a part of any youth programs/events I would be very happy to chat and work with you! Contact Bryan at 664-7992 or bmacke@evdio.org.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 10 – MS Blacklight event

Dec. 16 - HS Christmas Lock-Inn

Jan. 25-29 – HS Pilgrimage for Life to D.C.

RCIA By: Gerald Weber

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program is again in full swing at Holy Cross. On October 4 Fr. Tony lead our parish in the Rite of Acceptance for those wishing to join our community of faith. We welcomed our candidate ,Allison Mounts, and our catechumens Greg Gomez, Chantel Huante, and Glenn Dickenson II into the RCIA program. Allison, Greg, Chantel and Glenn will be dismissed almost every Sunday morning during Mass to study our Catholic faith until the Easter Vigil. Their studies will consist 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. This combination of studying the teachings of the Church, and how the Gospels relate to their lives help to form their faith.



Allison, Greg, Chantel and Glenn also need the help of everyone in the parish to give them support and welcome them into our faith family. It is the responsibility of the entire parish to help our catechumens and candidate 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 catechumens and candidate, encouraging them 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 catechumens and candidate 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 catechumens and candidate what our faith means to us and to help them form a faith relationship with the parish.

We thank Kay and Randy Kiesel for several years of dedicated service as part of the RCIA team. Kay and Randy were dedicated catechists and their wealth of knowledge was priceless as they assisted RCIA members in their faith journeys. We pray for Kay and Randy as they continue on their own faith journeys.

We welcome Becky Siewers to our RCIA team. Becky has a rich history of guiding others on their faith journeys. She will be helped by her husband, Deacon Joe. We thank Becky and Deacon Joe for their willingness to be part of our team.

We are excited and look forward assisting others on the faith journeys as we continue on ours. Please pray for Allison, Greg, Chantel and Glenn for accepting God's invitation, and for the RCIA team.

Please keep the candidates of Sts. Peter & Paul in your prayers also. They are: Trudy Anderson, Jordan Hicks, Katie Miller, Amanda Salomon, and Will Tank.

Stewardship Newsletter Article

Have you ever noticed that if your day doesn't get off to a good start that it rarely finishes as a good day? How do your best days begin? Try beginning your day with prayer and observe how it impacts the rest of your day. Below is a Prayer Process to help you begin a routine of prayer. If you don't have a prayer routine start with one minute a day and focus on one aspect of the Prayer Process. Try to add one minute each week and another aspect of the Prayer Process until you reached 10 minutes a day. Nothing will change your life like establishing a solid routine of prayer.

The Prayer Process

1. Gratitude: Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue for whatever you are most grateful for today.
2. Awareness: Revisit the times in the past twenty-four hours when you were and were not the best version of yourself. Talk to God about these situations and what you learned from them.
3. Significant Moments: Identify something your experienced today and explore what God might be trying to say to you through that event (or person).
4. Peace: Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you have committed (against yourself, another person, or Him) and to fill you with a deep and abiding peace.
5. Freedom: Speak with God about how he is inviting you to change your life, so that can experience freedom to be the best version of yourself.
6. Others: lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them.
7. Finish by praying the Our Father

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

Simon Brute' Award

Congratulations to the Holy Cross Brute' Society Inductees for 2016

Ann Friedman

The Brute' Society Mass and Induction Ceremony was held at St. Benedict Cathedral on Sunday, October 30, 2016 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 Ann Friedman for the many ways in which you serve our parish!



2016 Holy Cross Distinguished Alumni Award

Richard Hasenour received the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award given by the Holy Cross Association of Alumni and Friends. He was presented the award at the Sunday Mass on Sept. 18 during Holy Cross Parish's annual celebration weekend, which is always closest to the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross on Sept. 14.

The award is presented to a Holy Cross graduate who has been recognized by their parishioners as a living exemplary Catholic. It has been presented since 1997 in an effort to provide inspiration to others, encourage current students and to give thanks to God for our Catholic faith.

To be considered, a person must have been graduated from high school for at least 15 years, actively involved in their church, support Catholic education, live according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, be a positive Catholic influence in the community and be nominated by another person.

During a speech presenting the award, Ann Georges, a member of the HCAAF, said this about Hasenour: "Our recipient this year attended Holy Cross School grades first through eight and graduated from Fort Branch High School. Served in the National Guard, is a certified diesel technologist, a farmer and has five children who also attended Holy Cross School."

He is a very familiar face around Holy Cross and is very active in our church. He currently serves as an Usher, Eucharistic minister, Chicken dinner worker, Rosary leader and a member of the Alumni Executive Board. He previously served on the Finance Commission and the Parish Council.

He consistently volunteers for numerous activities at Holy Cross. Nominating persons had this to say about Richard:

"when we think of stewardship, his name comes to mind immediately. For the past two years, he has gone on the youth mission trips, working side by side with the youth, teaching and leading by example while interjecting some humor. He is an excellent role model for our children in Religion classes."

He is very active in the community also. He serves as board member of the Knights of St. John Commander and was a past president with them. He is always willing to drop what he is doing to help a friend or neighbor.

Richard received a framed certificate and a special cross. His name was engraved on the Holy Cross Distinguished Alumni plaque displayed at the front entrance of Holy Cross School.

He was honored at a reception following the Mass. Congratulations Richard!!



Religious Education By: Larua Goedde

Religious Education News

Faith formation is a life-long activity. In Baptizing your child into the Catholic Faith, you accept the responsibility of bringing your child up in the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Our parishes' religious education program helps parents meet this commitment by offering religious education for children as young as 3 years old all the way through high school. Beyond high school we offer continuing education through Scripture Study, RCIA, CRHP, Cursillo, Marriage Enrichment and other short course studies on the Bible.

We are so blessed to have St. Meinrad seminarians Gil Pierre and Dua Nguyen joining us at Religious Ed this year. Gil is from the Diocese of Mobile, Alabama and Dua is from the Diocese of Hanoi, South Vietnam. Please welcome these gentlemen when you see them and thank them for helping us teach the faith to our children and parish family!

It was a beautiful October evening as our Religious Ed students celebrated the Month of Mary and the Rosary by praying a Living Rosary on the playground on October 26. Each bead was represented by a luminary that the students lit as they lead each prayer. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this a wonderful prayer experience!

Laura Goedde, CRE
Stephanie Stoll, Asst. to CRE
Liz Hirsch, Sacramental Coordinator

The Gospel of Luke – A study on the Gospel of Luke is being offered on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Gospel of Luke has long been known as the Gospel of Mercy. In its pages, we find a constant theme: God offers abundant forgiveness, reconciliation, and redemption to a lost and broken world. If you would like to join us, please contact the Religious Ed office at 812-768-6457.

Save the Date- Feb. 11, 2017

We will have a couples' event at Holy Cross on February 11 beginning with Mass at 4:30 p.m. followed by dinner and a presentation by Sr. Mary Michael Fox of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. Renewing The Family Amoris Laetitia "The Joy of Love! The Family As Icon of the Holy Trinity". Watch the bulletin for details on how to get your tickets for an unforgettable evening!

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 Old Parish Center from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All St. James, Holy Cross & Sts. Peter & Paul members are welcome! Come join us

Dec. 14: The Apparitions of Mary

Jan. 4: The Creed: What We Believe

Feb. 1: Salvation

Mar. 8: The 7 Deadly Sins and the Virtues

SERRA CLUB

Eighth Grade students have been listening to vocation talks throughout October. The Serra Club of Evansville hosts an essay contest on Vocations each year. Students were asked to write an essay, research paper, PowerPoint presentation, skit or poem describing their understanding of Vocations. This year's winners are:

Holy Cross - Daniel Hirsch, son of Bryan & Liz Hirsch

Daniel interviewed Fr. Tony Ernst about the vocation of Priesthood and what it takes to accept God's call and what his experience has been.

Sts. Peter & Paul - Tierney Maurer, daughter of Kent & Erin Maurer.

Tierney's essay focused on the vocation of Consecrated Vowed Religious Life. She spoke of how her witnessing the different charisms of the Sisters she has met has influenced her. Through community, work, prayer, hospitality, teaching, singing and the importance of silence, they were able to show their love of their faith.

Megan Potts, daughter of Brenda Potts

Megan wrote her essay on the vocation of a Consecrated Vowed Religious Life. She talked about the blessing that this vocation can bring to those who teach the faith to children and who dedicate their lives to becoming a sister or nun and growing closer to God.

Justin Bullock, son of John & Deanna Bullock

Justin represents St. James & Holy Cross. He wrote on the Priesthood and Holy Orders and how important this vocation is. He interviewed Fr. Tony, Fr. Emmick and Fr. Dilger.

Congratulations to all twenty-four students who participated in this contest. The winners and their parents were honored at a luncheon at the Catholic Center on Nov. 1. The vocation talks were given by: Fr. Biju and Seminarian Gil Pierre on Holy Orders/ Priesthood, Greg and Summer Kissel on the vocation of Marriage and Sr. Irma on the vocation of a Consecrated Vowed Religious Sister.



How To Go To Confession

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

Prayer Before Confession

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

Rite of Reconciliation

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

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

Priest: (gives you a penance)

Penitent: (Pray the Act of Contrition):

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

In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen

Priest: (gives you absolution for your sins)

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

Examination of Conscience for a Good Confession

1. **I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD: YOU SHALL NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.** Did I fail to love God, to make God first in my life, to thank Him, trust Him, love Him as He deserves? Did I fail to pray? Have I doubted or denied my faith? Was I careless in saying my prayers? Do I give God time everyday in prayer? Have I been involved in Ouija boards, Tarot cards, and the occult?
2. **YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN.** Did I curse or swear? Did I use God's Name in vain, lightly, carelessly, by blasphemy? Have I used foul language or jokes?
3. **REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH.** Have I deliberately missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation? Did I leave Mass early without a good reason? Did I receive Holy Communion in the state of serious sin? In any of my previous confessions, did I lie to or deliberately conceal something from the priest? Did I do unnecessary work on Sunday?
4. **HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.** Did I honor and obey my parents? Have I respected my brothers and sisters? Have I respected those with lawful authority, including teachers, bosses and civil authorities? Have I talked back? Did I fail to help at home or to spend time with my family?
5. **YOU SHALL NOT KILL.** Did I give in to feelings of anger or jealousy? Did I keep hatred in my heart? Did I fight, give a bad example or cause scandal? Have I abused alcohol or drugs? Have I had or in any way permitted or encouraged abortion? Have I thought about suicide? Do I avoid gluttony?
6. **YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.** Did I consent to impure glances? Sinful touches? Was I immodest in dress or behavior? Did I look at pornography, impure books, magazines, or videos? Am I guilty of masturbation? Have I engaged in premarital 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?

SEMINARIANS

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

Deacon John Pfister



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

Deacon John returned to St. Meinrad this fall for his final year of seminary. He is also continuing to prepare for his priesthood ordination on June 3, 2017. Please continue to pray for Deacon John as he continues his journey.

John will have his First Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, June 4 at 2 pm. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. Reservation will be taken at a later date for the reception.

Nick Sellers



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

Nick entered Marian University this fall as a College Freshman. Please continue to pray for Nick as he continues his journey.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

BROTHER BRIAN WARD

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



Congratulations to Br. Brian Ward who took his first vows with the Marian Fathers on August 15, 2016. Br. Brian gave a talk on his trip to Rome and Poland and what it is like to live in the Marian community while he was home this summer. This fall he has returned to his studies. Please continue to pray for Br. Brian as he continues his journey.



*Brother Brian taking his first vows.
Photo credit: Marian Helpers Facebook Page.*

BROTHER JOEL BLAIZE



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

Brother Joel Blaize is busy getting ready for the new podcasts of *Echoes from the Bell Tower*. Recently, Brother Joel was featured in *Meet the Monk* on the Saint Meinrad Vocations Facebook Page.

What particular blessings have you encountered as a monk of Saint Meinrad?

"Life in community. Being a monk of Saint Meinrad is being a part of a large family with a lot of history, tradition and personality."

I love my brother monks, the work we do and the broader Saint Meinrad community, which includes our students, alumni, oblates, co-workers, guests and everyone that has a connection with this place. I love the liturgy, and the time we have for private prayer and reflection. I feel blessed to be a part of this community and to be able to live this beautiful way of life."

Please continue to pray for Brother Joel as he continues his journey.

SOME THOUGHTS BY FR. BIJU

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. The true peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:7) True joy is the fruit of the Spirit. You can't fall in love with Jesus and not be joyful!



Now the happiness and Joy is different. Happiness depends on the circumstances, situations, persons etc. Happiness is fleeting and temporary. But Joy is different. **Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, it is the confidence that ultimately everything works for our good if we love Jesus. I trust in him.** Rom 8:28 says "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Joy is a choice. Let joy outpour from you as the confidence in God and His spirit fill you up.

In the short book of Philippians — only four chapters long — Paul uses the word "joy" 16 times. The amazing thing is, Paul didn't write this book when he was on vacation or in a good time. He was in prison in Rome, waiting to be executed. In the darkest days of his life, he wrote the most positive book in the Bible and asked the Christians to rejoice always.

So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." (John 16:22). This passage in John says how no one can take away our joy. I want that! I want the kind of joy that is rooted so deeply in my heart that nothing can cause it to waver. That is joy. *Halleluia.*

Negative thinking is like a beacon that draws evil spirits toward us, like rotting meat draws flies. So, for those who are pre-disposed to being grumpy, negative, and pessimistic—watch out! You are attracting darkness, and darkness drives out the light, replacing it with bitterness and gloom. **Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness... and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive!** —POPE FRANCIS, Easter Vigil Homily, March 30th, 2013;

To be joyful does not ignore reality, sorrow, and suffering; it does not play-act. In fact, it is the joy of Jesus that enables us to comfort the mourning, to liberate the prisoner, to pour balm on the wounds of the wounded, *precisely* because we carry to them the joy and hope of the Resurrection that lies beyond the crosses of our suffering.

Make conscious choices to be positive, to hold your tongue, to keep silent in suffering, and trust in Jesus. One of the best ways to do this is to cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving in all things—**all things: In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess 5:18).**



This too is what it means when Pope Francis says, "not to look among the dead for the Living One." That is, for the Christian, we find hope in the Cross, life in the Valley of Death, and light in the tomb through a faith that believes *all things work to the good for those who love Him.* **Halleluia.**

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By: Ann Minnis

THANKS: TO ALL WHO HELPED IN PRO-LIFE WORK THIS YEAR! Fall events included: Sanding & painting nearly 1,800 crosses, Golden Heritage Fest; “40 Days for Life”; “Life Chain”; Diocesan “Respect Life Celebration”; erecting “Cemetery of the Innocents”; the “Soup Supper”; and several other important projects. All involved many hours of donated work. Most sincere thanks to all parishioners who prayed, donated, organized, scheduled, volunteered, and participated in any of these activities and events that help defend the most helpless little ones. May God bless you abundantly!

One of the best things you can do is JOIN RIGHT TO LIFE OF GIBSON COUNTY! See Membership form below!

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

***March for Life** in Washington, D.C.: **Jan. 25 -- 29**—Contact Parish Center by Nov. 21 if you are going with the “Pilgrimage for Life”! The Pilgrimage is oriented to HS youth and chaperones & begins with send-off Mass at Ferdinand with Bishop Thompson.. See Bryan Macke, bulletin or applications in back of church for more information. **Right to Life of Southwestern Indiana** will also be taking a bus, Jan. 25—29, 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.

Oratory, Art, and Video Contests – Feb. 23 – Contact Right to Life of Southwest Indiana, rtlswin.org, or 812-474-3195 for contest details soon. Oratory Contest is open to HS Juniors & Seniors; Art Contest is open to any HS student; & Video Contest is, also, open to any student. We have had several winners from Sts. Peter & Paul and other Gibson County Catholic Churches in the past!

“40 Days for Life” Spring campaign –Mar. 1—Apr. 13. Join us for an hour of walking and prayer. (Sts. P&P Day TBA)

Annual St. Patrick Family Game & Card Party – Sunday, **Mar. 19, 2017**, beginning at NOON – mark your new calendar!

“Cemetery of the Innocents” –Saturday, **Mar. 25, 2017**, at 9:00—tentative date for removal of crosses.

***Gabriel Project**—Help promote this wonderful way for our parish to help pregnant moms by prayer & friendship. *Pregnant women needing an “angel” may call 1-812-319-1832. You may speak with the counselor answering the phone & even be connected with the participating church nearest you, if that is your desire & need. **This is not just for women considering abortion! Any mom with pregnancy-related needs is invited to call for confidential help.*

Right of Life Meeting Dates:

Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14, April 11

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 2016
Mail to: **Right to Life of Gibson County, P.O. Box 324, Haubstadt, IN 47639**
(please print) **NEW** _____ **RENEWAL** _____

Name: _____ **Phone #** _____
Mailing address: _____ **e-mail** _____
Teen/\$2 _____ Single/\$5 _____ Family/\$10 _____ Contributing/\$25 _____ Sponsor/\$100 _____

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

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2016 Thanksgiving & Christmas Mass Schedule

Thanksgiving

Wed. Nov. 23 - 7:00 pm at Holy Cross
Thurs. Nov. 24 - 8:00 am at Sts. Peter & Paul
Thurs. Nov. 24 - 8:00 am at St. James

Immaculate Conception

Wed. Dec. 7 - 6:30 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Wed. Dec. 7 - 7:00 pm at St. James
Thurs. Dec. 8 - 5:45 & 8:00 am at Sts. Peter & Paul
Thurs. Dec. 8 - 8:15 am & 7:00 pm at Holy Cross
Thurs. Dec. 8 - 8:30 am & 7:00 pm at St. James

Christmas Eve

Sat. Dec. 24 - 4:00 & 10:00 pm at Holy Cross
Sat. Dec. 24 - 4:00 pm & Midnight at Sts. Peter & Paul
Sat. Dec. 24 - 5:00 pm at St. James

Christmas Day

Sun. Dec. 25 - 8:45 am at Holy Cross
Sun. Dec. 25 - 9:00 am at Sts. Peter & Paul
Sun. Dec. 25 - 7:00 & 9:00 am at St. James

New Year's Eve

Sat. Dec. 31 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross
Sat. Dec. 31 - 6:00 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Sat. Dec. 31 - 5:00 pm at St. James

New Year's Day

Sun. Jan. 1 - 8:45 am at Holy Cross
Sun. Jan. 1 - 7:15 & 10:30 am at Sts. Peter & Paul

Regular Confession Times

Sts. Peter & Paul - Mondays 6:00-6:25 pm,
Fridays 7:30-7:55 am, &
Saturdays 8:30-9:30 am & 5:15-5:50 pm
Holy Cross - Thursdays 7:45-8:10 am,
Saturdays 4:00-4:20 pm &
Sundays 8:15-8:35 am
St. James - 30 minutes before Masses;
Saturdays 4:00-4:55 pm

Additional Confession Times

Sat. Dec. 10 - 3:30-4:20 pm at Holy Cross
Sat. Dec. 10 - 5:00-5:50 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Wed. Dec. 14 - 6:30-7:45 pm Religious Ed classes at SPP
Sat. Dec. 17 - 3:30-4:20 pm at Holy Cross
Sat. Dec. 17 - 5:00-5:50 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Mon. Dec. 19 - 5:30-6:20 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Tues. Dec. 20 - 6:00-8:00 pm at Holy Cross
Thurs. Dec. 22 - 6:00-8:00 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul and Holy Cross
Mon. Dec. 19 thru Fri. Dec. 23 - 6:00-6:55 pm at St. James