



HOLY CROSS HERALD

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

November 2017

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Dear Parishioners,

I hope this finds you doing well. I want to update you on our Capital Campaign. Parish Council formed a committee to follow-up with our Capital Campaign expenditures. This committee consists of a representative from Parish Council, Finance, Maintenance, Boosters and our staff. On behalf of that committee, I want to share an update on our plans for the Stewards of God's Grace Capital Campaign funds our parish will receive. We anticipate receiving approximately \$293,000 over the next three years. Our committee has identified several items to consider at this time. There are certainly other things that could be considered in the future. Right now, we are focusing on these three areas:

Replacing windows and other improvements to our Parish Center Building.
Cleaning and Tuck-pointing of our buildings.
Updating the Air Conditioning system in our Church Building.

Just a reminder, our current parish center has not had any improvements since it was built in 1956. The windows are a particular concern at this time, as they are extremely inefficient. We also need to replace some flooring that has weathered over the years.

Regarding the cleaning and tuck-pointing of our buildings, after having a professional company look at our buildings, it is clear that we need to clean the sandstone and make improvements to some of the mortar joints. This will restore our beautiful buildings for many years to come.

We currently have one chiller that is cooling both the church and the school building. This makes it very difficult to cool both buildings on hot days. Our new system will provide a separate system for each building. This will allow us to maintain ideal temperatures in both buildings.

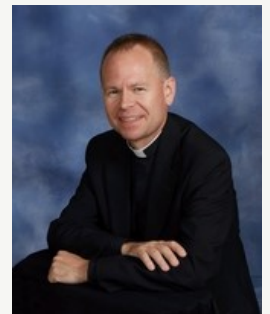
Our committee is gathering approximate costs for these improvements. After we have a better idea of the costs associated with these improvements, we will make recommendations to the Finance and Parish Council for potential approval to move forward.

I know these items do not sound real exciting, but they are necessary for maintaining our parish campus. This is one of the great benefits of having a capital campaign occasionally. It allows us to make necessary improvements. Thank you to all who have contributed to the capital campaign. We could not do any of this without your generous support.

Father Ambrose, Father Betz and I all want to wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas Season. May we all experience the joy and peace that only our Lord can bring.

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.

✠ Tyler & Cynthia Owen. They have 2 children Ellis & Everett. They live in Ft. Branch.

✠ Roman & Alyssa Ricker. They were married on September 30 and live in Owensville.

✠ Joseph & Tracy Dewig. They have two children Jude and Trent. They live in Ft. Branch.

✠ Andrea Stodghill. She has two children, Anabelle and Carter. They live in Ft. Branch.

✠ Joshua & Chantel Arnett. They live in Ft. Branch and have 3 children Addison, Karliana and Jaydyn.

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 are January 8, March 12 and May 14 of 2018.

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.

HOME COMMUNION

Eucharistic Ministers take Communion to the homebound on Friday mornings. If you have had a recent surgery, a hospital stay, or are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office by Thursday afternoon.



2018 MASS INTENTIONS



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

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.



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



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 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 we all know, November is a time for giving thanks. There is so much to be thankful for here at Holy Cross. I want to thank all those who came before us and established our church and school. I am amazed at the intelligence and foresight these people possessed. I also want to thank all the wonderful families who have helped form Holy Cross into what it is today. We are still blessed to this day to be surrounded by wonderful school families and parish members who continue to make Holy Cross so special. Long live the tradition of Holy Cross! Please find the time to thank God for all our blessings. Mr. Hollis



Pictures from Preschool ~ 5 grades



Endowments

Faith for Generations

Since 1947, when the community banded together to form Holy Cross, the backbone of running our church and school has been our Sunday collections and tithes. Over time, we have prospered and the gifts of the faithful make us the stewards of our parish funds.

In 1996, the newly formed Holy Cross Association of Alumni & Friends, with the guidance of Father Charles Kaiser and Father Bernard Lutz, formed Holy Cross' first endowment, to benefit religious education.

An endowment is a savings account which generates income for the parish. Interest is returned to the church, while the gift remains with Holy Cross to grow and help sustain our future.

The endowments are managed by the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Indiana. Formed by Bishop Francis Shea in 1988, the Foundation manages funds for 70 parishes, serving 90,000 Catholics.

Food For Thought—Imagine that we received \$100 to buy apples for the school children. We buy the apples and once eaten, they are gone. However, if we were to buy apple trees we would have apples "forever". Having an endowment is a way of giving to the next generations and is a means of supporting the future and assuring parish financial stability long after we are gone.

The Endowments of Holy Cross

Holy Cross Parish Endowment
Holy Cross Religious Education Endowment
Dr. Michael & DeAnn Green Endowment
Fr. Tony Ernst Vocational Scholarship Fund
Holy Name Athletics Endowment
Jay Burger Memorial School Endowment
Karen Georges Memorial Trust
School Transportation Fund
Frederick L. & Barbara Jean Bender Endowment
Andrea K. Bullock Endowment

Holy Cross Parish Endowment

The purpose of this fund is to provide for the general needs of Holy Cross Catholic Church. Funds have been used in our annual budget.

Dr. Michael and DeAnn Green Endowment

The purpose of this fund provides for maintenance and improvement of the buildings, property, and grounds of Holy Cross Parish. As stewards of the Holy Cross legacy, this fund will maintain our parish into the future, as we worship and learn about Christ.

Holy Name Athletics Endowment

The purpose of the Fund is to provide funds to the athletic programs for students of the Holy Cross Catholic School. Interest is used for gym rental.



Karen Georges Memorial Trust

The purpose of the endowment is to provide financial assistance to Holy Cross School. Dedicated posthumously to a Holy Cross beloved teacher, the earnings last year were used to fund technology improvements to student learning.



Holy Cross Religious Education Endowment

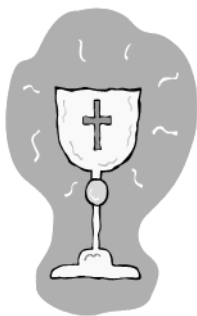
The purpose of the endowment is to provide tuition scholarships for families unable to afford all or part of the tuition at Holy Cross School. Last year three need-based scholarships using the earnings from this fund were awarded by the Alumni of Holy Cross.



Endowments

Father Tony Ernst Vocational Scholarship Fund

This fund provides a local Catholic with a scholarship for religious higher education. \$3,000 will be awarded this year.



School Transportation Endowment

The purpose of this endowment is to provide transportation for Catholic students living outside of the Holy Cross School boundaries. Gifts and earnings in this fund are reinvested until founder Father Bernie's vision is realized.

Jay Burger Memorial Endowment

Friends and Co-workers established this endowment in memory of Jay Burger, a Holy Cross Alumni & Parishioner, to benefit religious education. Fund interest this year was used to avoid a school tuition increase

Frederick L. & Barbara Jean Bender Endowment

To provide for the infrastructure needs of Holy Cross School or if Holy Cross School ceases to exist, then for the infrastructure needs of any Catholic elementary school in Ft. Branch, established by Holy Cross Church.

Andrea K. Bullock Endowment

The purpose of this endowment will be for the general support of Crusader Academy of Holy Cross School.

Update from the desk of Coordinator of Parish Operations.

Well the time has definitely flown by these past three months since I started in this position. During these past months, I've spent the majority of my time meeting, listening and learning from our staffs and our council and committee leaders and members from all three parishes. I've had fifty, one on one meetings with these individuals which helped me to not only understand the current operations of our parish and school, but also helped me get their thoughts, ideas and concerns as we move forward over the next several years. I've started the next step, taking all this information looking for efficiencies that we can benefit from by creating a more efficient and effective operations at all three of our parishes. Through this process and by attending councils, committees and other meetings at all three parishes, it's also helped me with my thoughts and ideas on how we can free Father Tony up for additional pastoral ministry and less time on administration. I'd like to thank the staffs and all the individuals that were willing to sit down with me and have a discussion it's been very helpful to me as I worked to get up to speed on our operations. The level of welcoming that I've received in this new position at all three parishes has been extremely gratifying, so thank you. If anyone has an idea or thought that they'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.



Wills & Estate Planning Seminar

Would you like to receive information on ways to create a Catholic Legacy through planned giving? Save the date on your calendar to attend a Wills & Estate Planning Seminar, hosted by Holy Cross Parish on Sunday, January 21, 2018, after the 8:45 am mass in the school cafeteria. Interested parishioners from all three parishes are invited to attend. Experts from The Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Indiana will be conducting the seminar. There will be additional details and information posted in the bulletin as the date draws near.

Thanks ~ Joe

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is a group of volunteers composed of parishioners from Holy Cross, St. James and Sts. Peter & Paul. We are dedicated to inspire our faith community to embrace stewardship as a way of life through prayer, study, generosity and evangelization. Stewardship is an active practice of our faith. Please look for updates from the Stewardship Committee through the bulletin, parish websites, newsletters and emails posted throughout the year. A list of our committee members can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.

Breana Taylor has taken the position as Stewardship Coordinator. She was born and raised in Haubstadt and is a parishioner of Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Breana is married to Jon Taylor and their three children attend Sts. Peter & Paul School.

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



Back to Matt & Amy Parmer's house for the second annual Fall Freshtivities with a "haunted" trail. With just around 100 middle & high school youth, the Parmer house was jammin'. We started off with some *All Saints Trivia* recalling the true meaning behind the holiday. We even had a few little Parmer and Schmitt kids dressed up as a Saints to give clues! After trivia, HS youth put on a haunted trail for the MS youth. It was a blast for everyone! The HS youth really enjoyed putting it on, while the MS youth got their adrenaline jacked up (as if they don't already on a daily basis)! The youth also enjoyed a pumpkin carving contest and various games throughout the night. Towards the end of the night, 3 HS youth (Katie Rose, Brendan Murphy, and Andrew Smith) gave brief talks to the large group of peers about their relationship with God. They did great! They talked about what really matters and the importance of having their identity in Christ, as well as staying surrounded with friends that have good values and morals. To wrap up the night, all the youth broke off into small groups to share what stuck out to them about the peer witness talks and how they can apply it to their life, as well as the scariest/least scariest part of the trail! Thank you so much Matt & Amy for making such a great time possible!

Here's a picture of the HS youth all dressed up for the trail!

Beginning in September, we kick-started HS Sunday evening *RockLife*. For *RockLife*, we typically 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, faith lesson, discussion, Sandy's Pizza, Scripture readings, videos, faith sharing talks, etc. This year's lessons are focused on the "Holy Spirit and You," seeking the Lord's will in your life and finding your true purpose and meaning.

There can be a lot of anxiety when thinking about who will I ask to Prom? or which college should I go to? or what will my life be all about? This year, we'll try to tackle some of these questions and give youth the tools to help them navigate their journey of life! *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."* - Proverbs 3:5-6 (RVSCE) It's 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.

Here's a pic from our first RockLife this year:



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. This year's activities include Christmas shopping for needy families, laser tag, and cupcake wars between the girls and boys, just to name a few.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION By: Larua Goedde

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 Deacon Gil Pierre and Tim Pick joining us at Religious Ed this year. Gil is from the Diocese of Mobile, Alabama and Tim is from the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa. Please welcome these gentlemen when you see them and thank them for helping us teach the faith to our children and parish family!

We introduced the Divine Mercy Chaplet to our Religious Ed Students as seminarian Tim Pick led the students in song. What a beautiful sight and sound to hear all of these young people praising together. Thank you to Tim and to everyone who participated that evening. You all are inspiring!

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 25. 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!

NEW MINISTRIES TO BEGIN SOON

Mary – A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother – This study will be offered beginning Tuesday, January 2, 2018 for 8 weeks at Holy Cross. In this study you will experience an extraordinary pilgrimage through Mary's life and see why she is an essential part of our Faith. Guided by Dr. Edward Sri, you will journey through the biblical narrative of Mary's life and visit the places where key events in salvation history occurred. You will be introduced to the Blessed Mother on a personal level and will see how Scripture, history, and Jewish culture reveal the sorrows, anxieties, and joys Mary would have felt in her heart. Registration forms are in the back of the churches and on the web-sites. Cost is \$30.00. Deadline to register is December 12.

A Grief Support Ministry is being formed at Sts. Peter & Paul on the first Tuesday of each month for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Whether you lost them this year or many years ago, this group will be there to share life and the hope that can come through God's love and the love of neighbor. Shawn Bender, a parishioner of Sts. Peter & Paul will facilitate these meetings. Shawn lost her husband Pat to cancer in 2007. She feels called to help bring healing to those like her who have suffered a loss and to create a place where others feel comfortable discussing struggles and finding strength to continue their lives without their loved one. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, call the parish office at 812-768-6457.

RCIA

Please pray for the Catechumens and RCIA Candidates who made their Rite of Acceptance this past month at Mass.

They are: **Holy Cross** – Stevenson Anderson, Yelena Anderson, Emily Anderson, Lisa Bloodworth, Halie Ellis, Ambria Garrett, Sandra Robinson, Bobbi Jo Seib, and Robert Beasley.

Sts. Peter & Paul – Sara Deger, Aaron Luttrell, Emily Dormeier, Kelsey Klusmeier, Renee Hirsch, Keeja Houchin, Kiana Tretter & Joe Stinson.

Please continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates as they now enter into a period of deeper formation in the RCIA process.

Best Advent Ever

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. Join our parish for Best Advent Ever, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a unique way. Each day you'll receive an email with...

Short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt

Practical tips for your everyday life

Real-life stories of hope

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 - Kevin Baehl, son of Kent & Doris Baehl and Ryan Holzmeyer, son of Jason and Leeann Holzmeyer

Sts. Peter & Paul – Chloe Field, daughter of Angie Field and Loren Stoll, daughter of Matt & Stephanie Stoll.

Congratulations to all students who participated in this contest. The winners and their parents were honored at a luncheon at the Catholic Center on Nov. 6. The vocation talks were given by: Fr. Ambrose and Seminarian Tim Pick 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.



Baptism: Congratulations to all expectant parents! If this is your first child or if you have not previously attended, you are required to attend an informational baptism class prior to your baby's baptism. The next class will be Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:30pm at the Holy Cross Parish Center. Godparents are welcome to attend also! Please call the parish office to register. Future classes will be held on March 12 and May 14, 2018. ****Please note the date of Confirmation has been CHANGED to Saturday, May 12, 2018, at 6:00pm at Sts. Peter & Paul.****

SEMINARIANS



Nicholas Sellers (Holy Cross)
Bishop Simon Brute College
Seminary
2500 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222
n.sellers.jp2@gmail.com

I am half way through the semester, and I am really enjoying my studies. I am continuing to grow each day into a better man, trying to prepare myself for my future vocation. I appreciate the prayers, especially as the class load begins to increase as we grow closer to the close of the semester. Please know of my prayers for you all!.....*Nicholas Sellers*

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

BROTHER JOEL BLAIZE



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

I am in school part time, and I am especially enjoying work in the music office, travelling to visit our oblate chapters, and work with our podcast "Echoes from the Bell Tower." I have also recently been given the responsibility for our "About the House Blog" which details both what the monks are up to and interesting things that are happening in the monastery.

I plan to visit Sts. Peter and Paul the Sunday after Thanksgiving when I am on my home visit.....

Br. Joel

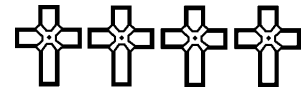
BROTHER BRIAN WARD

Brother Brian Ward
(Holy Cross)
Marianapolis Prep
26 Chase Road
Thompson, CT 06277
wardbrian_1980@yahoo.com



Br. Brian has moved to Connecticut and is settling into his new assignment at Marianapolis Prep. He is looking forward to being home at Christmas.

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



FR TYLER IN ROME

Fr. Tyler Tenbarger was assigned by the bishop to pursue further studies in Rome, and he has begun his degree in Canon Law. If you would like to send Fr. Tyler a letter, he can be reached at the address below. However, because of how the postal service operates, **he cannot receive any packages at this address; envelopes only.** He would appreciate hearing from people from back home.

PNAC / Casa Santa Maria
Rev. Tyler Tenbarger
Via dell'Umiltà, 30
00187 Roma, RM, Italia

Please keep Fr. Tyler in your prayers as he begins his studies in Rome.



Fr. Tyler's First Day of School in Rome

Parish Pastoral Council & Commissions 2017~2018

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Becky Siewers-Faith Formation (2016-18)
 Jeff Sellers– At-Large (2017-19)
 Ann Mercer - At-Large (2017-19)
 Becky Mann- School Board (2017-19)
 Bill Knapp - Finance (2017-19)
 Debbie Neufelder - Liturgy (2016-18) VP
 Gerald Weber – Alumni (2017-19)
 Peg Hall-At-Large (2016-18)
 Wanda Englert-Long Range Planning (2016-18) Secy
 Jason Baehl-Journey Men-Pres

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Ared Schnaus (2015-2018) President
 Margaret Scott (2015-18) Vice-President
 Katie (Cale) Russler (2016-19) Secretary
 Becky (Jeremy) Mann (2016-19) Parish Council
 Jay (Amy) Foster (2017-20)
 Melissa (Chris) Layman (2017-20)
 John Hollis (Non-voting member) Principal
 Nick Ivy (St. Bernard's Rep)

FINANCE COMMISSION

Dave King (2015-18) President
 Alicia MacMunn (2015-18)
 Bill Knapp (2016-19) Parish Council
 Peggy Zenthoefer (2016-19)
 LeAnn (Chris) Cooper Secretary
 Sheila Maikranz Vice-President

PARISH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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)
 Stephanie Hollis (2017-20)
 Susan Jenkins (2017-20)
 Carolyn Johnson (2017-20)
 Alicia MacMunn (2017-20)

BOOSTERS

Jackie (Grant) Jones (2016-18)
 Amber (Shane) Sexton (2016-18) President
 Jennifer Scales (2017-20)
 April Newlin (2017-20)

HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

Diane Bemis
 Greg Perkins Parish Council
 Jo Odom (2015-18) President
 Laurie Ziliak (2015-18)
 Marilyn Holzmeyer (2016-19)
 Jodie Paridaen (2016-19)
 Diane (Tracey) Kiesel (2017-20)

Boosters (2017-19)
 Adam Englert - Stewardship (2017-19)
 Ann Georges-At-Large (2016-18)
 Carrie Martin - Parish&SocAff. (2017-19)
 Greg Perkins-Hospitality (2016-18)
 Stan May – Building and Grounds
 Fr. Tony Ernst - Pastor
 Lisa May – Parish Manager
 Joe Siewers - Deacon
 Joe Hopf-Coord. Parish Operations

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Amanda Southworth (2015-18)
 Sam Reinhart (2015-18)
 Jason Baehl (2016-19)
 Jennifer Schnaus (2016-19)
 Adam Englert (2017-20) Parish Council

JOURNEYMEN

Chris Cooper President
 Brian Rexing Vice-President
 Jason Baehl Parish Council
 Brian Rose Secretary
 Bryan Hirsch Treasurer
 Gerald Weber Spiritual Director

MAINTENANCE

Stan May George Robinson
 Jim Schmitt Jim Oing
 Devon Kuester

ALUMNI - HCAAF

Sue Harrell- President
 Dorothy Karaff – Secretary
 Glenda Barrett - Vice President
 Ann Georges – Treasurer
 Gerald Weber- PC

LONG RANGE PLANNING

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

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, Lisa O'Neal, Carrie Martin

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mike Emge Bryan Hirsch
 Gene Kiesel Darwin Neufelder
 Jim Rose

FAITH FORMATION

Wanda Englert Ann Luttrell
 Becky Siewers Jan Burger

2017 Holy Cross Distinguished Alumni Award

The 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award given by the Holy Cross Association of Alumni and Friends (HCAAF) was awarded posthumously to Marlene Obert. The Award was awarded at the Sunday morning Mass on September 17 during Holy Cross Parish's annual Celebration Weekend which is always the closest weekend to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14.

The award is given to Holy Cross School graduates who have been recognized by their parishioners as living exemplary Catholic lives. It has been presented since 1997, in an effort to provide inspiration to others and to give thanks to God for the Catholic Faith as represented by the life of the individual.

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

Marlene Obert whole-heartedly dedicated her life to serving her parish, students, schools, and community. She tirelessly worked for her home parish of St. Bernard, Snake Run. Her leadership skills are still an inspiration to her St. Bernard Parish family.

She generously contributed to our Diocese by serving on the Diocesan Council and the Priest Retirement Board. She was a strong supporter of Holy Cross School, Ft. Branch High School, and Gibson Southern High School sponsoring many clubs and activities and worked hard for the South Gibson Dollars for Scholars Program.

She also contributed to the improvement and advancement of the Ft. Branch community as a past president of the Gibson County Community Foundation, Gibson County Tourist Club, and the Ft. Branch Gym Board.

Marlene was called home to our Heavenly Father at the beginning of her 50th year of teaching in 2013. Accepting the Award in her honor was her niece, Lori Obert Spindler.

Parishioners greeted her family at a reception following the Mass. Her name is also engraved on the Holy Cross Distinguished Alumni plaque displayed at the front entrance of Holy Cross School.



2017 Simon Brute' Award

Congratulations to the Holy Cross Brute' Society Inductees for 2017

Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Sandy Hasenour

The Brute' Society Mass and Induction Ceremony was held at St. Benedict Cathedral on Sunday, November 5 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 Richard & Sandy Hasenour for the many ways in which you serve our parish!



SOME THOUGHTS BY Fr. Ambrose

Let's Pray For Those Who Have Gone Before Us

It is not true to say that in the O.T nowhere exhibits a belief in the immortality of the soul. At least not true if we include the deuterocanonical literature of which the book of wisdom is part. Why deuterocanonical, they were considered to belong to the second canon, this are the books and passages of the Old Testament that are not part of the Hebrew bible, there are seven books: 1&2 Maccabees, Sirach, Wisdom, Baruch, Tobit and Judith.

We Catholics, are accused of adding books to the bible; actually no one has a right to add, or subtract books from the bible. People will quote (Rev 22:18) against the Catholic Church; which is ineffective; why, the next verse could be used against the critics, and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away a share in the tree of life in the holy city; but John is speaking only about the book of revelation, not the entire bible.

The list of the books was established in A.D 382, the writings were not collected into a single book until after the printing press came into existence. The Catholics did not add the books, Protestants took them out; in 382 at the council in Rome the church decided upon a canon of 46 Old Testament books and 27 in N.T, this decision was affirmed by the councils at Hippo (393, Carthage (397, 419), II Nicea (787, Florence (1442) and Trent 1546)

If it is true that Catholics added the deuterocanonical books in 1546, then why did Martin Luther include them in his first German translation, they can also be found in 1st King James version (1611) and in the first bible ever printed, the Guttenberg Bible (a century before Trent). In fact, these books were included in almost every bible until the Edinburgh committee of the British Foreign Bible Society excised them in 1825. They had been including them at least in the appendix of protestant Bibles. It is historically demonstrable that Catholics did not add the books, protestants took them out.

Martin Luther had a tendency to grade the bible according to his preferences.

In the book of Wisdom, the immortality of the righteous is being asserted rather than general immortality. The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them. They seemed in the view of the foolish to be dead and their passing away as an affliction, and going forth as utter destruction, but they are in peace.

Setting these readings in the context of the whole canon; we look at righteous to be those who have been washed by the blood of Christ, not by their own intrinsic merits. Only to them is true immortality offered as a gift; death has no power over them, it is just but a passage, the grave is a sign of hope.

St. Paul puts emphasis on this; we are saved by Christ, he is the one who justifies us, we are now reconciled to God; the word salvation to st. Paul refers to final consummation, accomplishment, finishing the race. Paul would never have asked the question: are you saved? Justification is being put right with God.

In the gospel (Jn 6:37-40) we read that the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy spirit that has been given to us. While we were still helpless, while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified (put right with God) by his blood, we are saved through him, from the wrath. We were reconciled by God through the death of his son.

We can say with confidence we are already justified and reconciled, this justification has done away with our state of alienation from God, we have hope for the future salvation. Only the justified sinner can face death with assured hope.

At mass, we acknowledge the fact that Christ shed his blood for "many" who rise for eternal. They acknowledged while they were still alive the complete victory over death brought by the resurrection of Christ. We are reminded that in this present life we have a choice to accept God or reject him.

In (2 Maccabees 12:41-45) we read ..."For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead...But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore, he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.

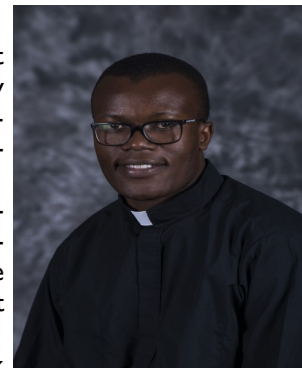
This month, we pray in a special way for the souls in purgatory. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that; all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation, but after death they undergo purification so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. It is a traditional time for us this month to visiting graves of loved ones, marking the anniversary of their death. Offering alms, doing works of penance on behalf of the dead is a good thing especially the month of November.

Jesus says; everything that the Father gives me will come to me, the will of my father is that everyone who sees the son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day. Believers are already given to the son, we come to him and see him and we are not cast out but we already have eternal life.

As we pray for those who have gone before us; I realize that we are in a state of tension here on earth; the present life we live, and the life that is yet to come. A Christian believer has the assurance that the experience of Christ in this life is not something that will be cast away at death but will be achieved beyond death.

Best Regards and Gods blessings:

Fr. Ambrose



PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By: Ann Minnis

THANKS: TO ALL WHO HELPED IN PRO-LIFE WORK THIS YEAR! Fall events included: Golden Heritage Fest; “40 Days for Life”; “Life Chain”; erecting “Cemetery of the Innocents” (We had 70 volunteers!); 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!

Hope you enjoyed the “Celebrating Life” bulletin fliers, created by Sarah Rigg, inviting you to support the “40 Days for Life” and “Cemetery of the Innocents.” These fliers were copied and donated to our parishes in Gibson County by Right to Life.

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

March for Life in Washington, D.C: **Jan. 17 -- 21**—Contact Parish Center by Nov. 20 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 Siegel. 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. 17—21, 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. Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr 10-7:30 PM

Look for Right to Life of Gibson County on facebook!

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 for 2018

January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10

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

RIGHT TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION –dues for 2018

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

(please print) **NEW** _____ **RENEWAL** _____

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AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC GIVING PROGRAM

The electronic giving program allows you to electronically have funds transferred directly into the parish's account for your Sunday giving. It is convenient, no cost to you, & helps you stay current on your Sunday giving. You may increase, decrease, or suspend your transfer any time by calling the parish office. Please complete the form below & return to the parish office. Please contact Lisa at 753-3548 or lmay@evdio.org with questions.

Direct Debit Authorization Form

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

(Financial Institution Name)

Name(s) on the Account

Transfer Amount \$ _____ for Sunday collection

Type of Acct: ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

(Routing Number)

(Account Number)

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

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

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Print Spouse Name) (if joint acct)

(Spouse Signature) (if joint acct)

(E-mail Address)

(Date)

PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF VOIDED CHECK TO THIS FORM