



# *HOLY CROSS HERALD*

**February  
2014**

**Fr. Anthony Ernst  
Pastor**

**Fr. Brian Emmick  
Associate Pastor**

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Dear Friends,

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

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

During Advent, Fr. Brian and I offered some reflections on the Blessed Mother. Those who attended seemed to find the meditations helpful. We are going to offer three reflections during Lent on vocations. We will speak about the gift of each of our vocations and how we are called to live lives of virtue in fulfilling God's plan. For a little extra incentive, Fr. Betz is going to join us in the presentations! We will begin with Mass at Holy Cross Church at 6:30 pm immediately followed by a thirty-minute reflection. The dates will be March 11, 18 and 25. I hope you will plan to come.

I also want to remind everyone that Bishop Thompson will be coming to discuss the Strategic Plan for our parishes on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be at St. James' Madden Hall from 6:00-8:00 pm. The Bishop will share the results of the Strategic Plan and how this will impact the future of our parishes. Please plan to attend.

I pray that you have a blessed Lent and Easter.

Yours in Christ,



## PARISH OFFICE NEWS

### NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest Holy Cross members. If you get the chance to greet these people at church, use the opportunity to show them true Christian fellowship, and tell them how much we appreciate them coming into our church family.



Justin & Meaghan (Quinn) Brewer. Justin is a teacher and Meaghan is a Retail Manager. They live in Ft. Branch.

### HOME COMMUNION

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



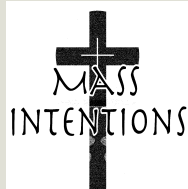
### WEBSITES

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@ieeee.org **Our website pages are:**

**Parish:** [www.holycrossparish.info](http://www.holycrossparish.info)

**School:** [www.holycrossparish.info/holy-cross-school](http://www.holycrossparish.info/holy-cross-school)



### 2015 MASS INTENTIONS

The parish office is now scheduling 2015 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](http://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](mailto:lmay@evdio.org) with questions.

### BAPTISM CLASS

All first time parents must attend a Baptismal Class. This is required before having your baby baptized. You are encouraged to attend before the baby is born. Next class will be on March 10 @ 6:30 pm. in the Parish Center.



### 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. Brian.

## *LENT & EASTER SCHEDULE*

### **Sts. Peter & Paul**

Way of the Cross – Mondays at 6:15 pm (except March 17)

Way of the Cross - led by school children – Thursdays at 2:30 pm

#### **Individual Confessions**

Monday evenings during Lent from 5:30 – 6:10 pm (except March 17)

Fridays from 7:30 – 7:55 am

Saturdays from 8:30 – 9:30 am & 5:15-5:45 pm

Wednesday, March 19 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm (The Light is ON for YOU)

Wednesday, April 2 from 6:30-7:45 (for Religious Ed students only)

Monday, April 14 – 5:30-6:10 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



### **Holy Cross**

Way of the Cross - Fridays at 7:00 pm

Way of the Cross - led by school children – Mondays at 2:30

Individual Confessions – Thursdays 7:40 – 8:00 am; Saturday from 3:30 - 4:15 pm;

Wednesday, March 19 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm (The Light is ON for YOU)

Tuesday, April 1 from 6:00-8:00 pm

### **St. Bernard**

Way of the Cross - led by Religious Ed classes - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Individual Confessions – Sundays 8:40 – 8:55 am

April 9 - 6:30 pm for parish & 7:00 pm for Religious Ed students

### **St. James**

Mass with Way of the Cross - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Individual Confessions - 30 minutes before each Mass

& Saturdays during Lent from 4:00-4:45 pm

### **Mass & Lenten Talks**

Mass followed by Lenten Talks at Holy Cross

Tuesday, March 11, 18, 25 @ 6:30 pm

**Communal Penance Service** — St. James - Sunday - March 9 at 6:30 pm

## *MASS SCHEDULE*

### **Ash Wednesday – March 5**

Holy Cross – 8:15 am & 6:00 pm

St. Bernard – 7:30 pm

Sts. Peter & Paul – 5:45 am, 8:00 am, 6:30 pm  
(Rel. Ed kids to attend Mass with their families)

St. James – 8:20 am & 7:00 pm

### **Seder Supper — April 13**

Sts. Peter & Paul Cafeteria - 5:00 pm

### **CHRISM MASS – April 15**

St. Benedict Cathedral - 5:30 p.m.

### **Holy Thursday** - Mass of the Lord's Supper **April 17**

Holy Cross 7:00 p.m.

St. James 7:00 p.m.

Sts. Peter & Paul 7:00 p.m.

St. Bernard 7:00 p.m.

### **Good Friday Service**

#### **Passion of the Lord – April 18**

Sts. Peter & Paul - 1:30 pm

St. Bernard - 4:30 pm

Holy Cross - 6:30 pm

St. James - 7:00 pm

#### **Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil – April 19**

Holy Cross - 8:00 pm

St. Bernard - 8:00 pm

St. James - 7:00 pm

Sts. Peter & Paul - No Mass

#### **Easter Sunday – April 20**

Holy Cross - 8:45 & 10:30 am

St. Bernard - 9:00 am

Sts. Peter & Paul - 7:15 am & 10:30 am

St. James - 7:00 am & 9:00 am

## *SCHOOL NEWS* By: John Hollis, Principal

The teachers and students have been trying to get back into a routine. It's been an unusual winter with all the cancellations and delays. Everyone is working hard and doing their best. The highlights of Catholic Schools Week were the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class being able to celebrate Mass with Bishop Thompson at St. Ben's, and Holy Cross hosting the Deanery Mass. We want to thank you parents for choosing a Catholic education for your children.

We're gearing up for a busy spring. ISTEP testing will take place in March and April. Second graders will make their First Communion in May. We'll host Dad's day and Mom's day along with many other activities. Many memories will be made during the school year, and I hope you find the time to share them all with your child.

Please pray for us that God is with us in our school. Pray that we treasure our gifts of life and that we treat one another with care.

### **Second Grading Period Honor Roll 2013-2014**

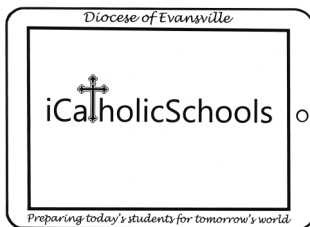
**Grade 3:** Kaleigh Baehl, Laila Fleetwood, Kaydence Hopster, Ruthie Mercer, Mylie Rexing, Hailey Richter, Vann Rose, Jason Sexton

**Grade 4:** Kevin Baehl, Alexis Coy, Alexa Dilbeck, Ryan Holzmeyer, Cale Martin, Griffin Mercer, Carley Mosby, Malorie Scheller, Kristen Spindler

**Grade 5:** Justin Bullock, Daniel Hirsch, Amelia Kissel, Carson Kruse, McKinzy Lockwood, Devin Murphy, Laney Neufelder, Maddie O'Neal, Preston Riggs, Keri Steckler

## *SCHOOL BOARD* By Deanna Bullock, President

The School Board is looking at website programs for our school. We are hoping each class will have their own webpage to post classroom information and help parents keep up with what is going on in their child's classroom.



School Board is looking forward to the voucher presentation Mr. Hollis has arranged and are hoping parents will take time to come listen to the speaker. The School Board's Marketing Committee put together and sent out a parent satisfaction survey. We want feedback from our parents so we can be the best school possible. We still have a window decal supply and would love for everyone to support the school by putting them on their vehicle. They can be bought at the Parish Office for \$4.00.

## *BOOSTERS* By Megan Baehl, President

Boosters would like to start off and thank everyone for their hard work and dedication on another successful year of turtle making! The figures are in and the Booster profit was \$24,000! In addition, the Holy Cross Church made a profit of \$10,856! Great Job to everyone involved in this project. A total of 4,357 pounds of turtles were made and we sold out before Christmas!!

As we are now in full swing of second semester activities., Boosters and the kids are busy with many different activities. The Spring Basket Raffle is quickly approaching so keep your eyes peeled for more information!



**The last Booster meeting will be held on Monday, April 14th. Babysitting will be available, so please make plans on attending!!!**



## *CRUSADER ACADEMY* By: Kara Hoke

The Crusader Academy is proud to say we are having a wonderful year full of learning and fun! We currently have 58 students enrolled in our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs! Miss Dani and Miss Reyna are so impressed at the progress of their fantastic Preschoolers! And Miss Kara is always amazed at our incredible Pre-K students! This year we have done several projects to help in our community! The students have made thank you cards for local veterans, Christmas cards for the children at St. Jude Children's Hospital, a blanket for Hailee Cunningham - a precious 5 year old girl in Fort Branch who is battling cancer, and a blanket for our Firefighter friend, Rob Houchins, who suffered a major heart attack. We ask you to join us in praying for all of these wonderful people, and give them the courage, strength, and faith to heal! Thank you to our wonderful parish family for your support of our program! Amazing things are happening every day in this little building - we have endless "Faith in their Future!"



Preschool/Pre-K registration will be held on Friday, March 7th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Crusader Academy. There is a \$30 registration fee. A child must be 3 years old by August 1, 2014. To learn more about Crusader Academy, visit our website: [www.holycrosscrusaderacademy.webs.com](http://www.holycrosscrusaderacademy.webs.com) For any questions, contact: Kara Hoke at 202-3967 or email: [evdio.org](mailto:evdio.org).

## *HOSPITALITY* By: Diane Bemis

Hospitality Commission fall quarterly meeting was held on November 11, 2013. The committee reviewed the calendar of events for the remainder of the 2013 year and the upcoming Spring events for 2014.

The Red Cross Blood Drive was held on November 12, 2013. We collected 24 units. Our quota for the future will need to be raised, as the need continues to rise.

The Bereavement Team served 28 people for the Ed Schmit funeral on December 13, 2013. The committee served a total of 4 funeral dinners in 2013. The Winter quarterly meeting was held on February 5, 2014.

## *PARISH COUNCIL* By: Ann Georges

The "Adopt-A-Highway" is the only outreach program that Holy Cross does as a parish and is a very important one. We are responsible for cleaning both sides of Highway 41 from 168 to the Toyota overpass. This is done twice a year, spring and fall. There are two commissions in charge each time the workers complete the project. The Parish Council is looking for an individual or couple to be in charge of this project. This would involve keeping the commissions informed of the schedule each year, setting dates for the spring and fall events, stay in touch with the president of the commissions in charge to be sure everything is going as needed, explain to the team how the work is to proceed and the steps for preparation, follow through with the president after the event to evaluate the event.

Please consider filling this position. If you are interested or need more information, contact the parish office.



## *PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS*

It's that time again to nominate new member to our commissions. We have listed the commissions below and their purposes. Please contact Ed Reinhart. 753-3460

**Parish Council At-Large Member** The At-Large member of the Parish Council does not represent a particular parish commission but represents the general parish body. The At-Large member has full voting rights and responsibilities, as do all the commission members on the Parish Council. Responsibilities include: to act as the representative governing body of the Church under which all other Church Organizations will function and to act as arbitrator in any disagreements between Commissions. There are four At-Large Members on the Parish Council. The term of the At-Large Member is for two year, and is expected to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings.

**Booster Club** The purpose of the Holy Cross Booster Club is to maintain a close relationship between home and school, to acquaint all parish families more fully with the operation of the school, and to promote involvement and support for Holy Cross and parishioners. All parish parents, school staff and interested persons are considered members of the Booster Club. The Booster's main fundraising event is the Bavarian Turtle sales. Boosters meet 4 times a year.

**Finance Commission** The Finance Commission consists of six members responsible for assisting the parish pastor in developing, monitoring and informing the parish of the annual budget. The commission coordinates the Holy Cross School Annual Fund Drive, the yearly Catholic Parishes Campaign, and monitors Holy Cross endowment funds. The commission is responsible for counting and depositing the weekly collection. In conjunction with the School Board, Finance is responsible in recommending the annual salary for parish employees, and setting the annual school tuition. The commission works to ensure the overall financial well being of the Parish.

**Hospitality Commission** The Hospitality Commission consists of six members responsible for involving Christians in working to answer the needs of our Church and Community. The commission coordinates funeral dinners, receptions, blood drives, parish parties and gatherings, and provides the welcoming activity needs of Holy Cross. The Hospitality Commission meets quarterly.

**Liturgy Commission** The Liturgy Commission consists of nine members responsible for enriching Holy Cross Church's liturgical worship, and to enhance and evaluate the Church's areas of spiritual concern. The commission is also responsible for the ministries needed for the celebration of good liturgy

**Parish and Social Affairs Commission** The Parish and Social Affairs Commission consists of ten members responsible for the development of social functions for the parish community, to organize, implement and foster fund raising activities that support the financial health of the parish. Present activities include chicken dinners and our annual card party.

**Religious Education Board** The Religious Education Board consists of six members, three of which are from Holy Cross, which is the governing body of all parish religious education programs at Holy Cross and Sts. Peter & Paul. This commission is responsible for designing, developing, advising and evaluating personnel and resources. The Religious Education Board provides leadership, which assists the parish community in building a solid foundation for religious education at all age levels, and implements the church's mission of religious education.

**Long Range Planning Commission** The Long Range Planning Commission consists of five members responsible for planning for our long range needs. This commission is appointed by the Pastor.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS

**Stewardship Commission** The Stewardship Commission consists of six members and is responsible for planning, development and implementation of a stewardship program for Holy Cross. The commission educates the parish in stewardship matters of time, talent and treasure and provides a vehicle by which total stewardship can be accomplished. Some of the ministries, which the Stewardship Commission sponsors are: visiting the sick and welcoming new parishioners. The commission also assists other commissions needing extra help with special projects.

**Building and Grounds** The Building and Grounds Commission is responsible for all parish property. The committee oversees the maintenance and/or repair, updates and additions to all buildings, grounds, or anything associated with the property of Holy Cross.

**Holy Cross Alumni & Friends** Holy Cross Alumni & Friends is an organization that includes all alumni of Holy Cross and friends of the parish. It was formed to be an on-going, growing association of people with a common interest: Our living spirit of the Holy Cross Catholic Community and the continuance of Catholic school education.

**School Board** The School Board consists of 6 members that provide and approve policy and offer guidance to the administration of Holy Cross School. The board is responsible for hiring a principal who in turn hires teachers and oversees the day-to-day operation of the school. The School Board, in combination with the Finance Commission, sets teacher salaries and student tuition rates. The School Board is the right commission for those who want to insure that we have a thriving Catholic School in our parish.

### LONG RANGE PLANNING *By: Mike Hirsch*

#### How to avoid Probate with having a will!

**70%**

of American Adults do not have a will

#### **PROBATE**

Is where your belongings go without a will

**2 YEARS**

Is the length of time to get through Probate

By putting Holy Cross in your will (any amount or %) or making a gift to an endowment during your lifetime, you will become a member of the **Holy Cross Stewards Society**.

Our annual banquet is February 25. It would be nice to add new members before next year's banquet. Please consider joining the "Stewards of Holy Cross".

### STEWARDSHIP *By: Darwin Neufelder*

Thanks to the generosity of Holy Cross parishioners we were able to sponsor 25 children (7 families) this year through Catholic Charities. "Thanks" to all who participated by buying gifts for these children and making their Christmas special. Thank You notes were received from all 7 families who received gifts. Your gift of stewardship is very much appreciated.

Plans are underway for Stewardship of Time with our friends and parishioners at River Oaks. We will be joining them for lunch, share social time, and attend the Mass on Feb 19. The celebrant will be Father Tony. Lunch fee is \$5. If you are interested in attending or would like to share a ride please contact Carolyn Neufelder at 753-3045. We will need to make reservations for lunch.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE *By: Steve Hall*



Last fall, Holy Cross Parish had a Stewardship Renewal and the focus was on Treasure. People often wonder if these renewal efforts make any difference, or how parishioners respond. First, it should be noted that the intended effect of these renewals is long-term; i.e. the general goal is for conversion over the long haul. But in this case, I am happy to report that we have seen three positive effects in the short term. In the Sunday collections, we have noticed that the average amount per envelope has increased. Second, several families who use the automatic tithing have raised the amount of their weekly withdrawal. And third, there have been several families that have recently enrolled in the automatic tithing program. We are grateful for all of you who took this time of Stewardship Renewal seriously.

Speaking of automatic tithing, we would like to ask you to consider this electronic giving program. This system allows you to have funds electronically transferred directly into the Parish's account for your Sunday giving. It is convenient and there is no cost to you, and you can make changes at any time. Call the Parish Office and you can begin using this program promptly.

One last item we wanted to mention. In the November Holy Cross Herald, Fr. Tony outlined some renovation/renewal work in the church. As these plans are being finalized, we want you to be looking for a fund drive to help with the cost of this work. More details will follow in the coming months.

## PARISH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS *By: Sue Harrell*

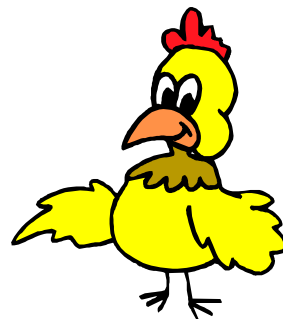
### **CARD PARTY**

The annual card party was December 5 with a new twist to the night....the threat of a big ice/snow storm that was to arrive after 9:00 p.m. that evening. So the cancellations began coming in by the time we were setting up. But the show must go on!! Everyone who braved the forecast had a great time. Lots of fun, food and prizes, and the weather held off until after 9:00 p.m.!!!

### **CHICKEN DINNER**

Our first chicken dinner of the year was a great success. Everyone is always ready for our "family style" dinner. We served 199 carry outs and filled the hall 2 times plus 1 1/2 rows. Of course, we have the best food and the best workers!! Thanks to all the workers for their hard work.

Our next dinner is planned for March 2nd. See you then!



### **CASINO NIGHT**

January 18th, 2014 was our 7th annual Casino Night. We have a little something for everyone on this adult night out. Great food is served all evening. There is Bingo, Paddle Wheel, 1/2 pots every hour, Texas Hold'em, Blackjack with Farther Tony, 5 Card Straight Up, and our famous Monkey Races with the notorious Jeff Sellers! Our Chinese and Silent Auctions are awesome and was attended by ACE the goat. On the raffle, we give cash prizes, as well as, a beautiful king size quilt made by our own Holy Cross quilters. It takes dedicated people to make this evening happen and be a success. Thanks to all of them! It also takes a lot people to participate to make this evening a success. Thanks to all of them as well!



Our next Casino Night is January 24, 2015. We can always use new people and new ideas on the committee and on the workers list. If you would like to be a part of this important event, call the parish office.



## *LITURGY* By: Rita Stone

We will have many prayerful worship opportunities available as we travel our faith journey through Lent to rejoice on Easter Sunday. Plan to attend as many as possible and check the bulletin for time of worship. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The Stations of the Cross allow us to follow Jesus to experience His Passion & appreciate how Jesus suffered torture & died for our sins. It also reminds us that Jesus asks us to "take up our cross daily and follow Him", knowing He walks with us in all our times of trouble & suffering. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday during Lent, beginning on March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

### **SEDER SUPPER**

Holy Cross & Sts. Peter & Paul parish members have a unique opportunity to experience dining the way the Jewish people celebrated Passover long ago & continue to this day. You will gain knowledge about the meaning behind the foods served for the Seder Supper and rituals observed. This is a joint venture by both liturgy commissions to be held at Sts. Peter & Paul cafeteria on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Check the bulletin for details on making reservations. It is a wonderful experience....please join us.

### **STUDY GROUP**

Ann Friedman will be leading a group studying "St. Paul : Apostle to the Gentiles". This group will meet May 6, 13, 20 and 27 in the the cafeteria from 6-7:30 pm.

### **HOLY THURSDAY**

This service is the Thursday before Easter (April 17<sup>th</sup>) and commemorates Jesus spending time with His apostles at the Last Supper the evening before He was to die on the cross on Good Friday. Jesus taught us to be servants to each other (washing of the feet) and the sacrament of Eucharist began at that very table.....bread & wine turning into the Body & Blood of Christ. There will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the cafeteria, beginning immediately after the mass & continuing until 11:00 pm.

**If you would like to volunteer to have your feet washed during the Holy Thursday mass, please call Rita Stone @ 753-4782.**

**There will be sign-up sheets at church doors for adoration times beginning April 5.**

### **HOLY SATURDAY**

Holy Saturday is the day Christians await the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. This is a joint celebration of Holy Cross & Sts. Peter & Paul as we welcome new members joining us in the Catholic faith. The Easter candle is lit & we take on the 'light of Christ' in our lives. Holy Cross will be the location for this event this year.

### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

The Divine Mercy is a Roman Catholic devotion to the merciful love of God and the desire to let that love & mercy flow through one's own heart toward those in need. Please join us in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at Holy Cross Church on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## *JOURNEYMEN* By: Jacob Hirsch

The Holy Cross Journey Men continue to build members and give back to the community, church, and school.

The group held a sold out 80's themed dance in November, and all proceeds were given to the Holy Cross general fund. The Journey Men have put on a very successful breakfast as well, and will continue to sponsor additional breakfasts in the future. We will also be attending an Evansville Ice-men game with the families of the group.

The Journey Men continue to ensure that lawn maintenance is done around the church and school grounds.

Beginning at the February meeting the group's Spiritual Director, Gerald Weber, started the "Be a Man" presentations by Fr. Larry Richards at each meeting moving forward.

Come join us on the first Monday of every month in the Holy Cross Cafeteria for our next meeting. We look forward to seeing all you men there!

**holy cross**   
journey men

## *PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE* By: Beverly Hirsch

There have been more than 56 million abortions in America since 1973, the year that the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said, "Over the past 41 years, the prolife movement has been written off as dying too many times to count. Yet here we are, again and again, disappointing our critics and refusing to die. And why is that? It's because the Word of God and the works of God do not pass away. No court decision, no law and no political lobby can ever change the truth about when human life begins and the sanctity that God attaches to each and every human life."

Mar. 5—Apr. 13: "40 DAYS FOR LIFE": Volunteers will be present between 7:00 am & 6:00 pm each day on one-hour shifts to pray outside the Evansville Planned Parenthood Clinic at 125 N. Weinbach Ave. This clinic refers clients for surgical abortions and dispenses abortifacients. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the U.S. Previous "40 Days for Life" vigils have resulted in the closing down of many abortion clinics throughout the country. Call Ann Minnis 768-6768 to sign up for a shift.

### **SPRING BANQUET**

The Right To Life of Southwest Indiana Spring Banquet is April 24<sup>th</sup>. Keynote Speaker is Lila Rose (who has exposed the horrible conditions in abortion clinics); and featured singer and emcee is Sandi Patty. Call Ann Minnis 768-6768 if you would like tickets & want to sit at our tables.

### **Baby Shower & Spiritual Adoptions**

Please leave items for the Life Choices in the box in back of church. Please continue to pray for your spiritually adopted baby until Christmas.



### **Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities**

Cemetery of the Innocents—On Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, we will need individuals and groups to remove the crosses at Hwy 41 and I-164. This takes about 1 hour. Please call Joe Goedde @ 768-6537 for details.

### **Troubled by a past abortion?**

Visit [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org),  
[www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org), or [www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org).

Or call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

There is forgiveness and healing!  
Your baby in heaven is praying for you.

### **Right of Life Meeting Dates:**

March 11   April 8   May 13   June 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!

### **ST. PATRICK FAMILY GAME & CARD PARTY**



Mar. 16: (Sun.--1:00 pm) The Respect-Life Committee of Sts. Peter & Paul Church will sponsor this annual fundraising event at Sts. Peter & Paul Cafeteria for the benefit of Right to Life of Gibson County. \$4/person/\$10 family (includes sandwiches, chips, and a drink). Call Carolyn Spindler at 768-6941 or Melba Pohl at 753-5048 for table reservations or to donate items for the Chinese Auction.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION *By: Larua Goedde*

Eighth graders participated in the Serra Club of Evansville's Vocation Awareness Contest. Students were asked to write a research paper, essay, audio/video presentation, play/skit or poem showing their understanding of Vocations. This is done to raise awareness of what God is calling each of us to do with our lives. Vocation talks were given by Fr. Brian Emmick and seminarian Hiep Nguyen on Holy Orders (Ordination as priests or deacons), Deacon Joe Siewers on the Diaconate, Wayne & Tina Murphy on the vocation of Marriage. Congratulations to this year's winners from Holy Cross – Alexis Lamey, daughter of Don & Kelly Jordan and Dylan Stefanich, son of Rick Stefanich and Gussie Stefanich. Sts. Peter & Paul winners are: Elizabeth Spindler, daughter of Kevin & Jennifer Spindler, and Brock Wilzbacher, son of Dan & Jan Wilzbacher. The winners were honored at a luncheon and awards presentation at the Catholic Center on January 31. Pictured left to right: Fr. Brian Emmick, Alexis Lamey, Brock Wilzbacher, Elizabeth Spindler, Fr. Tony Ernst. Not pictured, Dylan Stefanich.



Parents are always welcome to participate in our classes and are encouraged to volunteer! We need help in the office and with traffic after class. If everyone would volunteer just one time during the year, it would help out tremendously! Please consider donating a little bit of your time. Children learn by example. What a gift it would be for them if they could see you giving of your time and talent to help! How else will they learn to be good Stewarts when they are parents if they don't learn from you?

### **SENIOR MASS**

Graduating Senior Mass and Reception

We will have a celebration after the 8:45 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross and the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul for our High School Seniors on May 18. We would like to have a parent from the Junior Class from each parish to coordinate the breakfast at Holy Cross and the luncheon at Sts. Peter & Paul. Please call Stephanie or Laura at 812-768-6457.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 23-27. VBS will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul. Planning will begin soon. If you would like to help, please call the Religious Ed office at 812-768-6457.

**Baptism Class- ATTENTION ALL EXPECTING FAMILIES:** It is important for each family preparing for their first child's baptism to attend a Baptism Preparation Class. The class not only explains the basics of getting the child baptized, but also encourages parents to take their role as their child's first teacher seriously. Children learn by the example set by their parents. Use the time before the baby is born to prepare for his/her spiritual well being as much as his/her physical well being. The next classes are Monday, March 10 & Monday, June 9, 2014, and will be at the Holy Cross Parish Office. Both parents and God parents are encouraged to attend.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Thirty-nine students from Holy Cross and Sts. Peter & Paul are preparing for their Confirmation to be held May 17, 2014 at the Sts. Peter and Paul 6:00pm Mass. The candidates will be writing letters to Bishop Thompson to help him know them better. They will explain why they wish to be confirmed, what saint they chose and why, who their sponsor is and why, and what they learned from the hours of service they worked.

**First Holy Communion-** Our second grade students are preparing for their First Holy Communions this spring. Sts. Peter & Paul will hold their Mass at 1pm on April 27. Holy Cross will hold their Mass on May 4 at 1pm. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

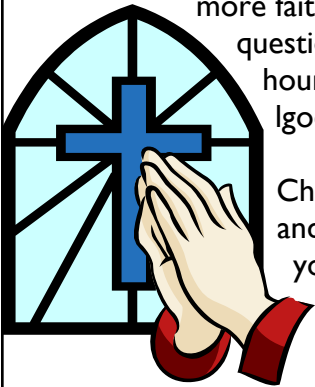
Sts. Peter and Paul will be hosting the Deanery First Holy Communion Retreat during the school day on April 3. We will be looking for volunteers to assist with the learning stations that day. If you would like to help, contact Liz Hirsch at 457-0567. If you are a parent, please mark your calendar and plan to attend with your child.

## RELIGIOUS ADULT FORMATION

**Oremus** – Latin for (Let us pray) is being offered on Wednesday evenings. This is a great way to expand your ways of praying. In fact, Fr. Mark Toups who leads this study describes it as an 8 week retreat! If you are interested in this or forming another study group, please call the Parish Office.

### Six Dates for Catholic Couples

We are now in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of offering Six Dates for Catholic Couples. It is a parish marriage-building program based on the wisdom of the Catholic Tradition. The six videos and handouts remind couples of the meaning of Christian marriage, and the blessing that marriage is to the Church and to society. It is based on the book: *Happy Together: The Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage* by John Bosio. Our second session began in January. This is an exciting adventure to challenge our marriages to become stronger and more faith filled. The “Date” will begin with all couples meeting for the short video and a few questions, then off you go on your “Date” while we provide babysitting for a couple of hours! We will offer another session this fall. Please contact Laura Goedde at [lgoedde@evdio.org](mailto:lgoedde@evdio.org) or 812-768-6457 if you would like to attend.



Challenge yourself to grow in your faith over the next year. Try one of the adult classes and see how much difference it can make. How will you every know your potential if you don't challenge yourself to change.

## SCRIPTURE STUDY—ST. PAUL

- \*Who was the person Paul (Saul of Tarsus)?
- \* How did Paul: a Jew, a Roman citizen, a Pharisee, a persecutor of Christians, a person educated in the ways of the Greek culture, and a Jewish theologian, become a Christian?
- \* What was the world like surrounding Paul? Was it suited to receiving the Good News of Christ?
- \*Above all what was Paul's message to the Gentiles?
- \* And how did Paul mesh his Jewish life into Christianity?

These are some of the questions our next Scripture study will answer. You will find it exciting as St. Paul was not an ordinary person.

We will begin setting the stage for Paul by studying:

1. What the world was like just before and during the life of Paul. In order to understand Paul one must first understand where he is coming from.
2. Paul's life before his conversion
3. His travels
4. Paul's call to be an Apostle to the Gentiles.

The Scripture writings we will cover in detail are: The Acts of the Apostles (Chapters 12-28) and the epistles written by Paul.

The study of a man named Saul of Tarsus is one of intrigue. Join the class and find out who Paul really was and discern his message. The classes will be held in the Holy Cross cafeteria starting May 6, 13, 20, and 27th from 6:00-7:30. All are welcome. There is no charge. If interested please call Ann Friedman (753-4387) or email [afriedman@twc.com](mailto:afriedman@twc.com) so that any handouts can be ready for you.



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

What a crazy winter!! So many days off school and 2-hour delays. It really affected our youth events as well. Although snow is an amazing sign of God's purity and beauty, man it's good to know Spring is about here!

On Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, we had our annual Leaf Raking Day. We had a great turnout of help from youth and adults! And it's a good thing because we had double the yards this year compared to last! Thank you all very much for helping. Your service truly blessed the lives of those you helped. We received multiple "Thank You" cards from folks expressing their gratitude.

As you might already know, SMG Youth Ministry has a group of youth that help plan and organize our events, called the Peer Leadership Team (PLT). We started the PLT about a year ago, and it's beginning to bear fruit. Early on in the school year they began to plan a Christmas event which they called the Christmas Lock-Inn" (reflecting the Nativity story of our newborn Savior). They're thinking was to have a Christmas party for the high school youth full of fun, sharing the joy of the season, and providing their peers with an opportunity to "make room" for Jesus in the "Inn" of their hearts. It was all set for December 6<sup>th</sup>.... then the snow came. Schools were closing so we had to follow suit. We didn't want all the PLT's hard work to go to waste, so we rescheduled it and had the event on December 20-21<sup>st</sup>. It turned out to be a pretty awesome night! About 50 youth broke off into groups and went caroling, bringing Christmas cheer around Haubstadt and Ft. Branch.

Throughout the night we played a basketball tournament, had a hot chocolate chugging contest, and some fresh



Ogre Tag! And it is our hope that every person there drew nearer to Jesus Christ through our spiritual enrichment activities (Adoration, Scripture readings, guest speaker, Q&A session with Fr.'s Tony & Brian, and the Rosary).

In between the holidays, on December 30<sup>th</sup> we had Black light Dodge ball & Volleyball for our middle school youth. This event is a ton of fun for the youth and helps them get rid of some of that cooped-up energy and sweat out those holiday sweets! About 60 youth showed up decked out in their neon gear ready for some Class V action! And as always, we are so very thankful for the generosity of Sandy's Pizza for feeding so many youth!! We took a break to show our gratitude for all they do for us in

this picture. (the signs say "Thank U Sandy's" under the black lights)

In January, we always prepare for the Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C. to pray for the dignity of all life, from conception to natural death. Our Kuchen fundraiser helps cover the cost of the trip for our youth. We had a smaller group go this year, but a great group nonetheless. Kristin Brokaw and Phil Brundage led our group this year since Bryan Macke's new baby was due during this time (how exciting and fitting to celebrate life!) Although inclement weather forced the group to head home before the actual march, the group got to experience some pretty neat things, including this picture at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Lastly, a quick word on 3 of our ongoing programs: the After School Hangouts, High School Bible Study and the Open Gym for young men. The After School Hangouts are going great (on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the youth room at Sts PP), with a steady attendance of mainly middle school youth. We would love to have more youth at the Bible Study sessions on Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month (thru April). The Open Gym has gone very well but will conclude for the season at the end of February. We plan on having the open gym again this fall.

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](mailto:bmacke@evdio.org)

### Upcoming Events:

All are welcome! Watch the bulletin for upcoming events or check out the following:

Join our Facebook group: "St. Maria Goretti Catholic Youth Ministry"

website: [smgyouth.com](http://smgyouth.com)

Twitter: @SMG\_YouthGroup





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## *RCIA* By: Gerald Weber

### **RCIA - 2014 IS FLYING BY**

It seems like it was just yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and now Lent is at our door step. We are getting into a very busy phase of the RCIA program that encourages our participants to mediate more deeply on why they chose to join our Catholic faith. On February 1st, Jennifer Schnaus joined with other participants from Sts. Peter and Paul, which are making the same journey, at St. Bernard's for a retreat. This gathering gave everyone a chance to slow down and take a good look at themselves and their spiritual lives.

With the beginning of Lent begins the Scrutiny phase of the RCIA journey. During this phase Jennifer, along with many others from the Evansville Diocese, will be presented to Bishop Thompson at St. Benedict's Cathedral at Evansville for the Rite of Election. Bishop Thompson will welcome them and give them words of encouragement.

During Lent our parish will be offering special prayers and encouragement at three occasions; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of Lent. We will pray that Jennifer and the other participants be filled with the Holy Spirit to guide them along their journey.

On Easter Vigil, April 19th, we will welcome Jennifer into our Catholic community. Jennifer will profess her belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church, be confirmed, and receive her first Holy Communion.

Please pray for Jennifer that she will be faithful to the Church and pass her faith along to others.