



HOLY CROSS HERALD

Fr. Anthony Ernst
Pastor

November 2013



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Dear Friends,

As many of you know, Holy Cross Church was built in 1956. That makes it 57 years old. Because it was so well built, we have had very few major maintenance costs. Having said that, there is a need for some renovation/renewal work in the church. To address these needs, the Parish Council has formed a committee to study these needs. The following are some of the items we are currently discussing:

- Refinishing the pews and kneelers
- Renovating the wall behind the altar
- Replacing the wooden doors
- Renovating the sacristy with new cabinets
- Thoroughly cleaning the terrazzo floor

We will keep everyone informed as we progress forward with this endeavor. Our goal is to have a fund drive in the Spring and begin the work soon thereafter.

I also wanted to mention a bit about the Diocesan Strategic Plan. You may have heard in the news that Bishop Thompson announced the first phase at the end of September. This first phase did not include any of our local parishes. We are not certain when Bishop Thompson will announce the changes in our parishes. However, he is scheduled to come on March 17th to meet with our parishes and discuss the future. Please plan to attend. We will share more details regarding the place and time of this meeting as it draws near.

I pray that you will find many blessings in the upcoming seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. We have so much for which to be grateful, especially the gift of our faith.

Know of my love and prayers,

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.

✠ Timothy Darrell Luigs. Tim is a Route Driver for Southern Indiana Tire. He has a daughter, Olivia Janee'.

✠ Trent & Kara (Epperson) Martin. Trent is a Railroad Conductor and Kara is a stay home mom. Kara is also the step-daughter to Holy Cross's new Deacon, Joe Siewers. Trent and Kara have two children, Jaxon is 2 and Keagan is 9 months.

✠ Joan Utley French. Joan is a Print Media Director and lives 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.



2014 MASS INTENTIONS



The parish office is now scheduling 2014 Mass Intentions. You may schedule up to 3 Mass Intentions per year for a person. Only 1 intention should be used for a weekend Mass, the other 2 for weekday Masses.

WEBSITES

We are working hard to keep the Parish and School websites current and informative. If you have any information you want to see on the website, contact Peg Hall at hallfamily@ieeee.org **Our website pages are:**

Parish: www.holycrossparish.info

School: www.holycrossparish.info/holy-cross-school

BULLETIN

Would you like to receive your bulletin online? Because of our printing agreement with Liturgical Publications, now you can! Simply log on to SeekAndFind.com and enter our church's zip code in the "NEAR" field and click the red "FIND" button. Select our church from the results and you'll see a listing of our bulletins. You can even sign up to receive an e-mail notification every time a new bulletin is posted to Seek And Find; just click the red envelope link above the bulletins.



AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC GIVING

The electronic giving program allows you to electronically have funds transferred directly into the parish's account for your Sunday giving. It is convenient, no cost to you, & helps you stay current on your Sunday giving. You may increase, decrease, or suspend your transfer any time by calling the parish office. A form is on page 10 of this newsletter. Please contact Lisa at 753-3548 or

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 November 23 @ 1:00 pm in the Parish Center and on December 9 @ 6:30 pm.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN TO MAKE ROSARIES?

Several people from our parish have been gathering at the Holy Cross Parish Office on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00am to make knotted rosaries. It is a simple thing to learn and can make a difference in the lives of others. As we gather more people and make more rosaries, we will discover how we want to share them with others. Some have been sent to the military and some to Moore, Oklahoma. We would love for you to join us. It is always a good group and enjoyable for everyone of any skill level. Supplies are provided for \$1. Contact Liz Hirsch at 753-3632.

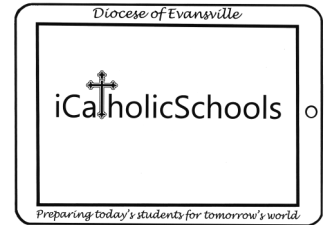


Prayer Chain—Please Pray for the Sick & Suffering

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.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Holy Cross! As usual, things are going very well, and we continue to hold steady. Our enrollment for grades K-5 is at 94. This includes 4 voucher students and 23 choice scholarship students. Our largest class is grade 5 which has 20 students enrolled. Preschool and pre-kindergarten has an enrollment of 58 students. Once again, our I-STEP scores were outstanding. The students scored 94.1% in Math and 96.1% in Language Arts. These accomplishments are not to be taken for granted. The hard work of our students, teachers, and parents continues to be a trademark here at Holy Cross. We have created and adopted a new mission statement here at school. We feel the statement is very powerful and provides all parties involved with a focus which enables Holy Cross to remain a special place.



Mission Statement

Holy Cross Catholic School is dedicated to ensuring students experience the loving presence of Jesus Christ in a safe environment. Teaming with parents, the faculty and staff assist each child in the development of academic skills and provide a foundation for life-long learning in an ever-changing world. The students receive the guidance needed to gain a healthy respect for themselves and others, which enables them to become successful, faith-filled servants of God.

Please continue to keep Holy Cross Catholic School in your prayers.

John Hollis, Principal

First Grading Period Honor Roll

Grade 3: Kaleigh Baehl, Laila Fleetwood, Kaydence Hopster, Ruthie Mercer, Mylie REXING, Hailey Richter, Vann Rose, Jason Sexton, Adam Spindler

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

Grade 5: Daniel Hirsch, Amelia Kissel, Carson Kruse, McKinzy Lockwood, Devin Murphy, Laney Neufelder, Maddie O'Neal, Blair REXING, Preston Riggs, Madelyn Spindler, Keri Steckler

SCHOOL BOARD By Deanna Bullock, President

We have 3 new school board members this year. Courtney Kuester, LeeAnn Holzmeyer, and Kendra Collins. We attended the workshop at the Catholic Center on September 24th and everyone found it helpful to kick off the new school year.



School Board, along with Religious Education Board, was in charge of the Adopt-A-Highway program this fall and it was a success. Thank you to everyone that came out to help clean up the highway. It was cold, but with everyone's help it didn't take too long! You are great stewards of God.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL The marketing committee is working hard on promoting our school to the community and hoping to promote our school website. There are some HCCS logo decals for your vehicle in the parish office if anyone is interested in purchasing one. They are \$4.00 each. We also took more orders for the alumni t-shirts at the Alumni picnic. Anyone still wanting to order an alumni t-shirt should let the office know ASAP!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS 2013-2014

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tina Murphy - Religious Ed Board (2012-14)
 Ann Georges - At-Large (2013-15) - President
 Wayne Murphy - Finance (2013-2015)
 Lorinda Wallace - Alumni
 Randy Kiesel - Long Range Planning (2012-14) VP
 Ralph Hillyard - Stewardship (2013-15)
 Ann Mercer - Parish & Soc. Aff. (2013-15)
 Stan May - Building and Grounds
 Lisa May - Parish Manager

Jan Burger - At-Large (2013-15) - SECY
 Courtney Kuester - School Board (2013-15)
 Ann Friedman - Liturgy (2012-14)
 Ed Reinhart - At-Large (2012-2014)
 Janesse Cloin-Boosters (2013-15)
 Christopher Cooper-At-Large (2012-14)
 Pat Reinhart - Hospitality (2012-14)
 Fr. Tony Ernst - Pastor
 Youth Board - Vacancy

SCHOOL BOARD

Deanna Bullock (2012-15) President
 Summer Kissel (2011-14) Vice-President
 LeeAnn Holzmeyer (2011-14) Secretary
 Scott Scheller (2012-15)
 Courtney Kuester (2013-2016) Parish Council
 Kendra Collins (2013-16)
 John Hollis (Non-voting member) Principal
 Jessica Anderson (St. Bernard's Rep)

FINANCE COMMISSION

Chris Collins (2011-14) Vice-President
 Jim Rose (2011-14)
 Diane Kiesel (2012-15) Secretary
 Sheila Maikranz (2012-15)
 Steve Hall (2013-16) President

PARISH & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Carolyn Johnson (2011-14)
 Alicia MacMunn (2011-14)
 Stephanie Hollis (2011-14) Vice-President
 Sue Boyd (2012-15)
 Sue Harrell (2012-15) President
 Carrie Martin (2012-15)
 Ann Mercer (2012-15) Parish Council
 Lori Cardinal (2013-16)
 Jill Kruse (2013-16)
 Courtney Kuester (2013-16) Secretary

MAINTENANCE

Stan May Harvey Hirsch Joe Bathon
 George Robinson Jim Oing

CEMENTERY COMMITTEE

Mike Emge Jim Rose
 Gene Kiesel Bryan Hirsch
 Darwin Neufelder

EVANGELIZATION

Wanda Englert - President
 Jonette Wilzbacher - Vice President
 Tommy Thompson Linda Kissel
 Brian Ward Jerry Woehler Jeff Ziliak

BOOSTERS

Megan Baehl (2011-14) President
 Cheryl Bolton (2011-14) Nominating
 Janesse Cloin (2012-15) Parish Council
 Brittany Hopster (2012-15) Vice-President
 Amy Foster (2013-16) Secretary
 Shawna Riggs (2013-16) Treasurer

HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

Diane Bemis (2011-14) President
 Pat Reinhart (2012-15) Parish Council
 Pauline Frobieter (2011-14) Phyllis Schmits (2011-14)
 Sandy Roberts (2012-15) Jodie Paridaen (2013-16)
 Marilyn Holzmeyer (2013-16)

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Carolyn Neufelder (2011-14) President
 Linda Bathon (2011-14) Secretary Jeff Sellers (2013-16)
 Christine Campbell (2012-15) Linda Bilderback (2013-16)
 Ralph Hillyard (2012-15) Parish Council

LITURGY COMMISSION

Rita Stone (2011-14) President
 Emily Hirsch (2012-15) Vice-President
 Paula Heldt (2013-16) Secretary
 Ann Friedman (2012-15) Parish Council
 Elaine Couch (2011-14) Roger Johnson (2011-14)
 Sam Reinhart (2012-15) Amy Sellers (2013-16)
 Erin Harpenau (2013-16)

RELIGIOUS ED BOARD

Mark Riedford - President Christy Scherer - Vice President
 Tina Murphy - Parish Council Jon Dilbeck Laci Potts Lisa Mayer

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Mike Hirsch - President Dr. Mike Green - Vice President
 Wanda Englert - Secretary Randy Kiesel - Parish Council Tom Wallace

CASINO NIGHT COMMITTEE

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

ALUMNI - HCAAF

Sue Harrell - President Glenda Barrett - Vice President Dorothy Karaff - Secretary Ann Georges - Treasurer

Liturgy By: Ann Friedman

The Sacred Altar of Sacrifice

An altar of sacrifice is always found in a prominent place in all of our Catholic churches. We see it as soon as we walk into a church. An altar of sacrifice has been in existence for thousands of years. What exactly is the significance of an altar of sacrifice?

To get a better grasp of what the altar of sacrifice truly is we must go back to our early roots which lie in our Judeo-Christian heritage. It is there that we begin looking in appreciation at Israel's notion of God. For the Israelites, God was unique, transcendent, all-powerful, supremely self-sufficient, and yet personal. Because God was personal, he called for a response on the part of his people. This response had to be correspondingly personal. Sacrifice, then, was the external expression of a personal response to a personal God. Thus, the altar came into use as a means of communication with God. It was a time when God and man personally came together.



Sacrifices in our early history were many and varied. Noah, for example, *built an altar to the Lord, and choosing from every clean animal ... he offered holocausts on the altar* (Gen. 8:20). Sacrifices were also, on occasion, requested by God. One such sacrifice is recorded in Exodus at which time God asks Moses to build an altar of sacrifice. *An altar of earth you shall make for me, and upon it you shall sacrifice your holocausts and peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In whatever place I choose for the remembrance of my name. I will come to you and bless you....* (Exodus 24) All through Israelite history, altars were built, consecrated, and sacrifices, usually that of a lamb, were offered upon them. The altar was always very sacred to the Israelites. When an altar became desecrated in any way, it was a most horrifying experience for the people, and the altar was always rededicated.

Today we have the ultimate of all sacrifices, the Eucharistic, called *the Last Supper or the Breaking of the Bread* in the New Testament. Jesus is now the Lamb of God, replacing the lamb offered in sacrifice in Old Testament times. It is a proclamation of Jesus' atoning death. In the Eucharist, we are personally integrated into the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

As in the past, the altar today is consecrated and is used only for sacrifice, the Eucharistic meal. In reverence to the altar, we bow when we pass before it. It is the table of the Lord. It is also out of respect for the sacredness of the altar that at no time, even when the Eucharistic celebration is taking place, nothing is placed on the altar other than that which is used specifically for the Eucharistic celebration.

In Revelations we read, *Here I stand knocking at the door. If anyone hears me calling and opens the door, I will enter his house and have supper with him, and he with me* (Rev. 3:20).

Stewardship By: Carolyn Neufelder

"Welcome and Thanks" to our two new members to the Stewardship Commission. They are Linda Bilderback and Jeff Sellers. We appreciate you sharing your time and talent by saying "yes" to the commission.

Our Commission sponsored an opportunity for Mass followed by refreshments at River Oaks on Oct. 16 with former parishioners from Holy Cross and Sts. Peter and Paul. Fr. Tony and Fr. Brian offered the Mass and Maria Weaver was the cantor and guitarist. Thanks also to those who donated sweet breads to serve after Mass.

Stewardship conducted a Stewardship Commitment of Treasury on Nov. 9 & 10 with witness talks. Commitment letter and pledge card were sent out on November 12.

Our angel tree will be in place once again to provide gifts to needy children through Catholic Charities. Watch the bulletin for details.

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE By: Wanda Englert

The Evangelization Committee purpose is to develop effective methods for inviting people to believe in Jesus Christ as Catholics, to help others become active again in the Catholic faith and to equip our parish family with the tools to help them reach out to others with this invitation.

We all want answers to why we are here and what we were made for. The Catholic Church has the answer. God made us to know, love, and serve Him in this world, so we can be with Him forever in heaven. The Catholic Church helps us to fulfill this purpose that God has for all of us. The only really good reason to believe something is because it is true, and Catholicism is true! The Catholic Church is the one Church established by Christ 2,000 years ago (Matt 16:18). It is the Church to which God calls all of His universal family to belong. The Catholic Church offers us a deep union with Christ through the Scripture, Sacraments, prayer, and community.

It is in the Catholic Church that you experience the fullness of the seven sacraments, which Christ bestows on His Church to help fill us with grace to draw us closer to God. As Catholics, we have the ultimate privilege of receiving Christ in the most personal way possible—in the Holy Eucharist. Countless Catholics have returned to or entered the Church because of their longing for Jesus in the Eucharist.

Families who live out their faith together are stronger and happier. If you want to give your children the greatest treasure in the world, give them the gift of faith. The Church also provides us with a community of faith-filled friends in which we can find support and strength for our life's journey.

Who are the unreached in faith? They are your neighbors, co-workers, friends and acquaintances. Sometimes they are people sitting in the pew next to you. They are inactive and disconnected Catholics, some who may feel alienated from the church, but many more who just lost connection with the faith, and may even still consider themselves Catholics. If someone would just reach out to them in a sincere, credible, and appealing way to invite them back to the faith.

How can you help? Most inactive Catholics are open to an invitation to return to Church if it is done in a kind, compassionate, nonjudgmental manner. All we need to do is to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. They are waiting for us to ask!

RCIA By: Gerald Weber

RCIA PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program is again in full swing at Holy Cross. Two adults, Jennifer Schnaus and Bryce Whitfield, were accepted into the program on October 13, during the Rite of Acceptance. Our catechumen and candidate will meet almost every Sunday morning during the Mass to study our Catholic faith until the Easter Vigil. Their studies will consist of more than 30 lessons of various topics 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.

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

Faith Sharing is an opportunity to discuss the Sunday readings and help figure out how they apply to us today. Faith Sharing is open to the entire parish and is an excellent opportunity to show the catechumen and candidates what our faith means to us.

We pray that the Holy Spirit guide Jennifer and Bryce along their faith journey.

PARISH & SOCIAL AFFAIRS *By: Sue Harrell*

Parish and Social Affairs 2013 year will end with several fundraisers. The October Chicken Dinner was a huge success. Everyone is ready for the best chicken dinner around after the last spring dinner. We have the only "all you can eat" family style dinner and a bargain at that!!

This year the Parish was responsible for a weekend of turtle making. Our weekend was November 9th & 10th. This is a very good fund raiser. Thanks to all of you who came out and helped make this a great success! Thanks also to all who brought food, snacks, and drinks for the weekend!

The annual "Card Party" is December 5. We always have a great turn out for this night. A lot of good food and prizes! So mark your calendars now!!!

WILL "ACE" BE CAUGHT AT CASINO NIGHT?



I have been watching the parish bulletin closely. I keep hearing about sightings of this mysterious goat named ACE in Southern Indiana and all over the Midwest. This goat has been showing up in all sorts of costumes, and seems to have a new adventure every week. Yet no one knows where it lives, or what this goat is after? Is this goat named ACE a friendly goat or is it a cranky goat? Does this goat named ACE have a favorite food? Most importantly, can we register the goat as a parishioner so that we can start sending it envelopes and mailings?

It's all so mysterious! Where is it going? What is it doing? What is this goat's purpose? What does the goat named ACE want from Holy Cross? No one knows.

One day while thumbing through names in a phonebook, I came across a number for "ACE the Goat" listed. I nervously dialed the number. To my shock, the phone clicked and picked up on the other end. There was silence. Then suddenly after a pause that seemed to last for an eternity, a scratchy animal voice slowly whispered, "I'm...coming." I slammed down the phone and my hand was shaking. So many questions and so few answers.

*Completely Confused,
Fr. Brian*

ALUMNI GOLF FOR DUMMIES



The 9th annual "Alumni Ladies Golf for Dummies" was held on Sunday, October 13, 2013 at Tee Time in Evansville. The Good Lord blessed us with the most beautiful day!!! We had 34 golfers and several watchers in the gallery. Lots of great door prizes were awarded. Special awards went to the following: 1/2 pot to Kathy Sollman. Closest to the pin to Joyce Dunkle. This year we had 6 golfers make the 9th hole putt blindfolded. After a wonderful and filling meal, the "blind fold putt off" was tied between Peg Hall and Glenda Barrett, who shared the title and the prize!! Amy Seller's team won the prize for the most balls in the water and Margaret Dickman's team won the Grand Prize in a random drawing. Our profit this year was \$1149 (the most ever) which goes to our Scholarship fund. A great big THANKS to all our supporters for a great day of fun and friendship!!

HOLY CROSS ALUMNI

Ed Reinhart Receives Distinguished Alumni Award!!

The 2013 recipient of the Holy Cross School distinguished Alumni Award is Edward Joseph Reinhart. He was honored at the Mass on September 15 during the Parish's annual celebration weekend for the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross.

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

Ed is the son of the late Edward W. and Mary (Fuhs) Reinhart and is married to Patricia (Adler) Reinhart. He is a lifetime member of Holy Cross Parish and attended Holy Cross School in grades 1 through 8, graduating for Holy Cross in 1962.

He was nominated for his many achievements and acts of service to Holy Cross and around Gibson county. He holds an Associate Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology, Journeyman Industrial maintenance Mechanic, Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Human Resource Development,. Ed graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 GPA from Indiana State University. He was selected as most outstanding senior by the Industrial Technology Dept. of ISU.

He serves as Eucharistic minister for shut-ins at Holy Cross and is member of the Parish Council. He has been secretary of South Gibson Scholarships, Inc. for 14 years and serves as vice-president of the Ft. Branch High School Alumni Association, becoming president in January 2014. He is the former president of the South Gibson School Corporation and the former president of Holy Cross Education commission.

Ed credits his accomplishments to the great foundation he received at Holy Cross School. "I received a good education at Holy Cross School, and so did my three children, Tim, Brian, and Amy." He continues to be a tireless supporter of Holy Cross School. Ed collected several thousand dollars for the Ft. Branch Gym Fund "Twig House," enabling Holy Cross students to continue athletic and school programs there. It is also used for "Fifth Quarter" activities for South Gibson students. He researched, recorded and annually updates a plaque denoting students of Holy Cross who attained Valedictorian or Salutatorian status while graduating from High School. This plaque hangs in Holy Cross School and represents the rich heritage, beaming pride and academic commitment of our valued Catholic education.

As this year's honoree, Ed was presented with a special cross and framed certificate. His name was also engraved on the Alumni plaque displayed at the front entrance of Holy Cross School.



JOURNEY MEN *By: Chris Cooper*

The Holy Cross Journey Men continue to build members and give back to the community, church, and school. The Journey Men hosted a dinner dance at Holy Cross Saturday November 16th. All proceeds are being given to the Holy Cross general fund. Fr. Brian Emmick was a special guest speaker at the August meeting. He spoke to 44 men from Holy Cross and Sts. Peter & Paul about his pilgrimage to Russia and his spiritual lessons he learned on the journey to and from Russia.

The Journey Men continue to ensure that lawn maintenance is done around the church and school grounds. The group will be having two breakfasts this winter at Holy Cross. The first breakfast will be held on December 15th. The group is planning on attending an Evansville Iceman game on January 24th where the men will be taking their families with them. The group is looking forward to a great evening with their families rooting on the Icemen.

The Journey Men are actively looking for children and families in need to help this holiday season. If you have a family or a child that is in need this holiday season please contact the parish office at 812-753-3548 and let us know!

holy cross 
journey men

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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.

Oremus (A Guide to Catholic Prayer) Over the course of eight weeks the Oremus study program teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. A class will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning in January. Please watch the bulletin for details.

Six Dates For Catholic Couples

This is a parish marriage-building program based on the wisdom of the Catholic Tradition. The six videos and hand-outs 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.

Dates will be held 2 times a month for 3 months. 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 this again after the 1st of the year. Registration will begin Dec. 1. Space is limited to six couples. Please contact Laura Goedde at lgoedde@evdio.org or 812-768-6457 for more information or watch the bulletin for details.

Confirmation

We have 39 students preparing for confirmation from Holy Cross and Sts. Peter & Paul. It is a wonderful class. Please pray for them and encourage them they prepare. You may see them at parish and community events volunteering their time. Their sponsors recently came with them to class to better understand our program and to get to know their candidates better.

First Reconciliation

The students were well prepared for their First Reconciliation thanks to our wonderful teachers. It was a blessing to see them receive the grace of this beautiful sacrament. Please pray for these students as they prepare for their First Holy Communion in the spring.

CURSILLO

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

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



In the Cursillo Movement, we approach evangelization as a very natural act of being Christ-like within each of our daily activities. We realize that while most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult. The Cursillo Movement provides a method and a technique to provide each of us with the tools, the mentality, the strength, and the support to make this natural type of evangelization possible. The Cursillo Movement can assist each of us in developing a deeper understanding of what it means to be fully Catholic by being fully Christian. If you'd like to make a Cursillo or be a sponsor, please contact Laura Goedde at 812-768-6457 or go to www.evansvillecursillo.com for more information.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Nov. 27 – No Religious Ed Classes (Fall Break)
Dec. 1 – No Sunday Pre-school classes (Fall Break)
Dec. 4 – Penance Service for Religious Ed students (Grades 3-12)

Dec. 9 - Baptism Class at HC Parish Center
Dec. 18 - Keith Dewig will give a talk on his trip to Rome at Sts. Peter & Paul at 6:30 pm.

SMG YOUTH: FALL NEWS *By: Bryan Macke*

Before the new school year gets going and schedules get busy with extracurricular, we like to take a Sunday and enjoy time with family and friends and celebrate the blessings of God with our yearly Mass on the Grass & Family Picnic. This year was again at St. James, a perfect setting for a cookout and games. We had a great turnout with about 200 people. Everybody chipped in with tasty dishes and helping hands to make this so enjoyable!



As the school year kicks off, the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team (DYLT) hosts the annual Diocesan Youth Rally at the Catholic Center in Evansville. This year was the best one yet! Not just because of the big crowd of young people, great food, games, guest speaker, and Mass with Bishop Thompson, but also because this year's DYLT mainly consisted of youth from our parishes in south Gibson County! What an awesome witness of discipleship!

In late September, we sold pumpkins after Masses to help raise much needed money for our ministry. I know some of you are thinking, "no you didn't!" because there weren't any left at some of the later Masses! I am sorry if you didn't get one. Next year we plan on getting a lot more. Thank you all for your support.

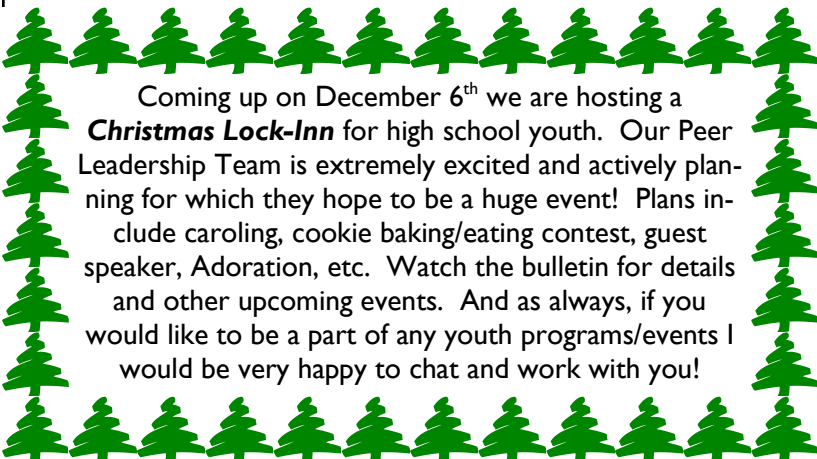


October is Respect Life Month. This year, at Sts. Peter & Paul and Holy Cross, we put up a display voicing the truth about abortion, along with the truth of Jesus Christ's amazing mercy and forgiveness. On October 25, we erected crosses at the Cemetery of the Innocents on Elper's farm. We were so thankful that so many youth came to help! It can really be a tough job driving all the stakes in the ground, but with so many youth volunteers it was such a relief. And more importantly, the youth bring so much joy! They are a testament to why we were there: that life is truly beautiful! A small group of us also went to pray at Planned Parenthood during the 40 Days for Life campaign on October 2.

October 13, we had a really nice turnout for our Family Breakfast fundraiser at Holy Cross. We had so many people volunteer to help! Although raising money is a big part of why we have fundraisers like the breakfast, it's really all about fellowship with each other and our faith community (...and sticky buns go a long way for bringing folks together!). Thanks so much to all who gave of their time and treasure! We brought in \$1,166 to help pay the expenses of our mini-bus and events throughout the year.



Also in October, we kick started two new programs for this year. On the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month (thru at least January) we have both Open Gym for boys in grades 8 thru 12 (2-4pm) and *Thy Kingdom Come* Bible study, based on Matthew's Gospel (6-8pm). The Open Gym includes a "halftime" to reflect on growing as young men! So far, it's off to a good start. We also want to invite any adult men that would like to run the floor with us! If interested please contact Bryan at 664-7992.



Coming up on December 6th we are hosting a **Christmas Lock-Inn** for high school youth. Our Peer Leadership Team is extremely excited and actively planning for which they hope to be a huge event! Plans include caroling, cookie baking/eating contest, guest speaker, Adoration, etc. Watch the bulletin for details and other 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!

Upcoming Events:

All Are Welcome!

Watch the bulletin for upcoming events or check out the following:

Join our Face book group: "St. maria goretti Catholic Youth Ministry"

Website: smgyouth.com

Twitter: @SMG_YouthGroup

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE

Recently anti-life reporters, bloggers and websites were using an interview Pope Francis had given to a journalist to incorrectly say that the Church was backing off its commitment to the pro-life cause. As Father Frank Pavone says, "Nothing could be further from the truth!"

Pope Francis has a deep commitment to the unborn and the pro-life movement.

The Holy Father preaches on pro-life in a very integral way. He gives strong and clear messages that derive from the very substance of the Faith and a very broad vision of the demands that Faith places upon us. The conclusions and applications for the pro-life movement are undeniable even if he does not use the specific words "pro-life movement" or "abortion" or "unborn."

For more information on the latest Pro-Life news, go to the following websites: lifenews.com; priestsforlife.org; lovethemboth.com; nrlc.org.

Gabriel Project

Pregnant women needing an "angel" may call toll-free 877-734-2444 to be connected with the participating church nearest them. Our volunteers need your help to spread the word that ANY woman may receive spiritual & practical friendship to help with her pregnancy and new baby. Call Amy 768-6394 or Joanie 664-4273

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

March For Life in Washington, D.C. will be January 19th-23rd. There will be two groups traveling to the march. One is for the High School youth and called "Pilgrimage for Life". The second group is oriented to adults and families, and is with right to Life of Southwestern Indiana.

Troubled by a past abortion?

Visit www.silentnomoreawareness.org,
www.rachelsvineyard.org, or
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:

January 14th

February 11

March 11

April 8

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 - 2013

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

(please print) NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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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HOLIDAY, ADVENT, CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

Thanksgiving

Wed. Nov. 27 - 7:00 pm at Holy Cross
Wed. Nov. 27 - 7:00 pm at St. Bernard
Thurs. Nov. 28 - 8:00 am at Sts. Peter & Paul
Thurs. Nov. 28—8:00 am at St. James
No Masses or Morning Confessions Fri., Nov. 29

Dec. 9 – 8:20 am & 6:00 pm at St. James

Christmas Eve

Tues. Dec. 24 – 4:00 & 10:00 pm at Holy Cross
Tues. Dec. 24 – 4:00 pm & Midnight at Sts. Peter & Paul
Tues. Dec. 24 – 10:00 pm at St. Bernard
Tues. Dec. 24 – 5:00 pm at St. James

Christmas Day

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

New Year's Eve

Tues. Dec. 31 – 4:30 pm at Holy Cross
Tues. Dec. 31 – 6:00 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Tues. Dec. 31 – 6:00 pm at St. Bernard
Tues. Dec. 31 – 5:00 pm at St. James

New Year's Day

Tues. Jan. 1 – 8:45 am at Holy Cross
Tues. Jan. 1 – 9:00 am at Sts. Peter & Paul
Tues. Jan. 1 – 8:20 am at St. James

Penance Services

Sun. Dec. 1 – St. James @ 6:30 pm
Sun. Dec. 15 – Holy Cross @ 4:30 pm
Tues. Dec. 3 – St. Joseph @ 6:30 pm

Additional Confession Times

Wed. Dec. 4 – 6:30-7:45 pm Religious Ed at SPP
Sat. Dec. 7 – 7:00-8:00 pm at St. James
Wed. Dec. 11 – 6-8:00 pm “The Light is On” at SPP & HC
Sat. Dec. 14 – 3:30-4:20 pm at Holy Cross
Sat. Dec. 14– 5:00-5:50 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Wed. Dec. 18 – 6:00-7:00 pm at St. Bernard
Wed. Dec. 18 – 7:00-8:00 pm Religious Ed at SB
Thurs. Dec. 19 – 6:00-8:00 pm at Holy Cross
Sat. Dec. 21 – 3:30-4:20 pm at Holy Cross
Sat. Dec. 21 – 5:00-5:50 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Sat. Dec. 21 – 7:00-8:00 pm at St. James
Mon. Dec. 23 – 5:30-6:20 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm at Sts. PP

Regular Confession Times

PP – Mon. 6:00-6:25 pm, Fri. 7:30-7:55 am, Sat. 8:30-9:30 am & 5:15-5:50 pm
Holy Cross – Thursdays 7:40-8:00 am & Sat. 4:00-4:25 pm
St. Bernard – Sundays 8:40-8:55 am
St. James – 15 minutes before Masses

Advent Talks with Fr. Brian

December 2, 9, 16 at 7:00 pm