

Crosstalk

Winter 2020 Issue

The Good News From St. Barbara

Lent Already?

I don't know about you but I am not quite ready for Lent yet as I write this article. I just returned from the mission trip to Jamaica and feel like I am still letting that sink in.

But, come to think of it, isn't that what Lent is all about: Taking time to sit and let things sink in as we focus on what we need to change in our Spiritual Lives?

Sure, we also fast and give alms. But without quiet reflection and prayer, those can seem meaningless. Whether we give alms, pray, or fast, we are to do it in a quiet reflective way, not for people to see but to enter into closer communion with our loving God.



**Lent is a time for
returning whole-heartily to God
by asking ourselves
what has been lacking
in our relationship
with Him and His people.**

It is a time to confess how we keep looking for peace, love, and contentment in the many things that surround us without finding what we really deserve. Only our loving God can give us what we want and need.

So maybe it is a good time to look at spending less time on Facebook, our computer, our cell phone, and T.V. Saint Augustine said it well of God: *"Our hearts are restless till they rest in thee."*

May Lent be a time to once again return our hearts to God.

~ God Bless You All,
Father John

Fabulous Fish & Fellowship Fridays!

Enjoy fantastic fried cod, shrimp, baked tilapia, or our famous Bob Lee special dinners with sides, fish sandwiches, pizza, kids meals, and desserts. Beer, wine, & soft drinks available for an additional cost.



Feb 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3
Dine in the Sterling Event Center: 4:30 - 8pm
Drive-thru: 4:30 - 7:30pm

To volunteer, signup online at signup.com/go/qdaJrPu or contact Bob Kirkwood at 859-240-3038.

What's Inside

- ◆ March for Life
- ◆ Faith & Fellowship
- ◆ St. Vincent De Paul
- ◆ News from St. Henry Schools
- ◆ Behind the Scenes from Deacon Chuck
- ◆ Volunteer Appreciation Night

Join the Rocktoberfest Team!

We are always looking for a few good men and women to help out during Rocktoberfest in a few KEY positions! If you are interested in getting more involved or want a bigger role in making Rocktoberfest happen, PLEASE contact the people listed below!



Graphic Help: We are looking for an individual(s) with an eye for design and able to work with the Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop and Acrobat). This individual will be assisting our current Steering Marketing/Communications member with all the graphic needs for this year's festival. Eventually we are looking to turn over graphic control to

this individual with the hopes that he or she will continue the festival design legacy. If you are interested, please contact John Mikula at 859-468-0347 or jmikula@stbarbaraky.org.

Children's Games: Our Children's Game Chair Dawn DiVita is always looking for Booth Captains who love being around kids! Our Children's Game midway is second to none! If you are interested, please contact Dawn DiVita at ddivita@stbarbaraky.org.

Family Games: We are looking for a couple of captains to head up our Family Games. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Tuemler at ptuemler@twc.com.

Festival Admin: Have a passion for taking notes and communications? We need you! We're looking for an admin to help the festival steering committee keep information straight and the lines of communication open. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Tuemler at ptuemler@twc.com.

Bid N Buy: Want to be part of the best Bid N Buy Northern KY has ever seen!? We could use your help. If you are interested, please contact Tina Bowen at tinabowen1971@gmail.com.

Youth Group: March for Life Trip

By Ashton Gross

This year was my second year to have the opportunity to travel with the St. Barbara Youth Group to Washington D.C. for the March for Life. As a teenager, what better way to stand up for the rights of unborn children than go to our nation's capital and march with people from all over the world who share my beliefs.



This year marks the 47th anniversary of the March for Life. It's a bonding experience for everyone in Youth Group who share the same Catholic faith and beliefs and to stand up for what we know to be wrong. The trip begins early Thursday morning before an all-day bus ride and a rosary when we near Washington D.C.

Along with the March on Friday, we see a few of the sights in Washington, D.C. Every year, it varies where we stop. This year we went to two art museums and the Library of Congress — my personal favorite. We also made a stop at the Lincoln Memorial at night which was beautiful. We celebrated Mass at the National Shrine on Saturday afternoon before heading back to Kentucky.

I feel so blessed to be a part of the St. Barbara Youth Group; so much of this trip is about being with great people, singing, laughing, and praying on the bus to Washington D.C., then staying up too late and playing cards in the room. We are very lucky to have an energetic and enthusiastic leader in John. I look forward to many more trips with the Youth Group where I can grow in my faith and enjoy the friendships I've made.

Our Parish Family

New Parishioners

Deborah Drake
Marc & Rene Howard
Stephen & Mary Klare
Dennis & Donna Laake
Vilma Orsorio
Marcelino & Araceli Rodriguez
Gary & Traci Stegman
Abigail White

Newly Married

Adam Reynolds & Lauren Crawford
Tyler Geiman & Kelsey Morehead
Trevor Sorrell & Katherine Groneck

In Memoriam

Barbara Massman
Brooklyn Grace Terry
Nancy Clemons

Building a Culture of Life

By Karen Riegler

The March for Life 2020 is now history, but what a day! The massive crowds consisting of students, young families, adults, and senior citizens from every race and religion (mostly Catholic) marched down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court as we have done for the past 47 years. But this year marked a historic first. President Donald Trump made an appearance, the first president to ever attend the March for Life, and he personally delivered a rousing and beautiful speech about the sanctity of life. Here are a few of his remarks:

"All of us here today understand an eternal truth: Every child is a precious and sacred gift from God. Together, we must protect, cherish, and defend the dignity and sanctity of every human life. The life movement is led by strong women, amazing faith leaders, and brave students who carry on the legacy of pioneers before us who fought to raise the conscience of our nation and uphold the rights of our citizens. You embrace mothers with care and compassion. You are powered by prayer, and motivated by pure, unselfish love."

The crowd of several hundred thousand came away from this year's march more energized and determined than ever to bring about a change in our laws allowing abortion on demand for the entire nine months of gestation. We are resolute in building a Culture of Life where people recognize that every human life — born and unborn — is made in the holy image of Almighty God.

Ministry Spotlight: St. Vincent De Paul

By Courtney Mueller

It will come as a surprise to no one that the St. Barbara's chapter of St. Vincent De Paul is always looking to assist people from our community who are in need. In 2017 the Vincentians began serving members of our Northern Kentucky community who are most in need when they started serving dinner at the cold shelter in Covington each month.

On average, the Vincentians serve pizza (donated by Schwann's) to between 30 and 45 people at the shelter. The ministry will be expanding to about 50 people when the shelter moves to a bigger facility later this year.

Craig Rowekamp, who has been involved in serving dinner at the shelter for two years, said that he got involved because he just wanted to give back to his community. He said, "I've always had a soft spot in my heart for people who are homeless and I found this ministry very rewarding." Craig credits the generosity of the parishioners of St. Barbara with the success of this ministry.

For more information about getting involved, please contact the Front Office at 859-371-3100.

To learn about stewardship opportunities at our parish, please go to the Ministry tab on our parish website or app.

Who inspires you? Share the good news! Suggestions for the Stewardship and Ministry features are welcomed and can be sent to crosstalk@stbarbaraky.org.

Celebrating the Crusader Spirit

During Catholic Schools Week in January, St. Henry District High School celebrated several individuals in our Crusader community who have volunteered their time and talents to support the mission of SHDHS. This year, we presented Crusader Champion Awards to Charley ('56) and Crystal Fedders ('58), June Kohorst Kroger ('43), and Pete ('81) and Tracy Scheben.



Crusader Highlights

- The SHDHS Academic Team competed in the 2020 District Governor's Cup placing first in Future Problem Solving, second in Composition, second in Arts & Humanities, third in Science, and fourth and sixth in Social Studies.
 - The SHDHS Boys Basketball team won the 2020 All "A" State Basketball Tournament in Richmond, KY.
 - The SHDHS Swim & Dive Team, boys and girls combined, placed first in the All "A" State Invitational where they set 9 school records.
 - Students put their faith into action through a school-wide community service project on January 27. They worked together to assemble 500 lunch and toiletry bags, then wrote personal notes to include in each bag. Once the bags were assembled, the junior class delivered them to multiple local service agencies to help support those in need.
 - SHDHS hosted priority registration for incoming freshman in January and presented twelve merit-based scholarships and three Fine Arts scholarships. We are excited to welcome everyone to the Crusader family!
- SHDHS is currently accepting new student registrations for the 2020-2021 school year. Visit www.shdhs.org to learn more about the enrollment process. If you'd like to meet to discuss class options or schedule a shadow visit, please contact the enrollment office at 859-525-0255. Stay connected by visiting www.facebook.com/StHenryCRU.

Adult Learning and Growth

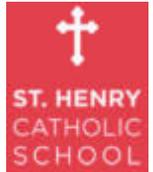
Join us to explore topics of our faith, spirituality, family life, and health. Held during Lent in conjunction with the 7pm Wednesday Mass in church.



- March 4** Seeing God's Blessings & Mercy this Lent – Heather Quast
- March 11** Being a Servant Leader – Stan Heck
- March 18** Obedience, Listening to the Lord – Jeff Jehn
- March 25** TBD – Matthew Lageman
- April 1** The Freedom of Discipleship – Don Brockmeier
- April 15** Envisioning Your Life's Work with God's Plan – Don Brockmeier

Connected, Confident and Contributing

We recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week. Several 8th-grade students, along with principal Dennis Wolff, spoke at Masses at St. Barbara in January to share why our parish school, St. Henry, is a great place to learn, lead and serve.



Below are excerpts from Maddox Nelson, Avery Collins and Molly Krallman's reflections.

- *St. Henry wouldn't have been nearly as enjoyable without the amazing staff, or students and opportunities to help me grow.*
 - *The education and influence I have received have shaped me as the person I am today. The school and the teachers have influenced me spiritually, academically, and athletically.*
 - *Through all the activities [at St. Henry] I have become confident, connected, and contributing. I am so glad that my parents made the decision to put me in this school.*
- Congratulations to Molly Krallman, who received a scholarship from SHDHS by achieving the highest overall score on the high school placement test among all test takers at SHDHS.

We're enrolling students in preschool through rising 8th-graders for 2020-2021.

Interested families can call SHCS: 859-342-2551. As your parish school, families receive participating rate tuition. More information on our website: www.sthenryschool.net. Connect with us at www.facebook.com/st.henryschool. You're invited to the Crusader Royale on March 7 at Receptions, Erlanger. Support our school, win prizes, have fun at our adult casino-themed social! For event or raffle tickets, contact the school office.

In Kentucky, school choice is not a reality for every family. HB350 is a bill that would allow donations for scholarships given to families across Kentucky to attend schools children may not otherwise be able to attend. Research HB350 and share your opinion with your representative: www.voterve.com/CCKY/Home.

Behind the Scenes

By Deacon Chuck Melville

This spring, I will be celebrating ten years as a deacon. In those ten years, you have become another family to me. Together, we have experienced baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We have welcomed new families and said goodbye to others. We have experienced an unprecedented growth of families and facilities.

The one foundation that has made St. Barbara a great parish is the faith-filled expression of welcome in everything that we do. I am amazed at the number of volunteers we get for every activity we plan, but behind the scene is the parish staff that many of you rely on but may never see. Our staff is comprised of part-time members who do a wide variety of jobs, essentially, whatever needs doing. We don't always recognize their efforts but we appreciate what they do.

In the time I have been here, we have had little change in the parish staff. But change must occur. Longtime business manager Tony Depenbrock has decided it is time to enjoy his retirement full time with his lovely wife Alga. He and Father John identified his replacement and we have brought Ted Lorenz onboard as our new business manager. Ted has been working with Tony for months and is ready to take on the challenge. He has been involved with Parish Council, Holy Name, and the Finance Council for many years. (He says that he is currently on his fifth pastor.) Ted is familiar with doing things the St. Barbara way. Another recent change is the management of the Sterling Event Center (SEC). Therese Cloar has been our Hall manager since we opened the SEC in 2016 and has made it a premier parish center of activity. We thank Therese, and her family, for the many hours she put into the Hall. In true St. Barbara fashion, parishioner Dawn DiVita has stepped up to fill the hall manager position. Dawn has been involved in our festival and many youth activities for many years, including Pumpkifest and Lunch with Santa. She is already working to keep our hall as a great asset for our parish families. In July, Lauren Senvisky left to pursue other opportunities and Lesley Duggan joined the staff as administrative assistant/bookkeeper. Lesley's past experiences in a parish office and church ministries are valuable assets in her new position. I find it remarkable that we are able to find willing and very capable replacements within our parish family.



Welcome Ted Lorenz, Dawn DiVita, and Lesley Duggan!

Father John and I appreciate the time and efforts of our departing staff and know that things are in good hands as we move into the future. More changes are coming but we are confident that St. Barbara will continue to be the faith-filled Body of Christ as we gather both sinners and saints to worship together.

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Our many volunteers make St. Barbara an amazing place. Each year, we take time to celebrate and recognize the loving sacrifice and giving of many parishioners at our Volunteer Appreciation Night.



SAVE THE DATE

See future bulletins for more details.

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| Parish Fish Fry..... | Fridays in Lent |
| Spring Grounds Clean-Up..... | March 28, 9am-1pm |
| Easter Candy Hunt..... | April 5, 2pm |
| Holy Thursday Supper..... | April 9, 5:30pm |
| Holy Thursday Mass..... | April 9, 7pm |
| Passion of the Lord..... | April 10, 3pm |
| Way of the Cross..... | April 10, 7pm |
| Easter Vigil..... | April 11, 8:30pm |
| Easter Sunday Masses..... | April 12, 9 & 11am |
| Keeneland Bus Trip..... | April 24 |
| First Communion..... | April 26, 11am |
| May Crowning..... | April 29, 7pm |
| Confirmation..... | May 14, 7pm |