

SAINT BARBARA CHURCH

CROSSTALK

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TRANSFIGURATION

by Therese Cloar

During the second Sunday of Lent, Fr. John Sterling's homily talked about transfigurations, the ultimate peak experiences in life. He spoke about a couple in a nursing home that had been married for 66 years. He was visiting them, giving the husband the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. He spoke of the wonderful conversations he had with them. The husband in bed, the wife in her wheel chair. When Fr. John went to leave, the wife started shaking and went into tears. He asked her what was wrong. She said, "St. Barbara's! We just joined a month ago. The youth come to visit us, volunteers bring us Communion and within two hours of our call to the parish office you are here."

"That couple had been transfigured by this parish," Fr. John said. "All of a sudden they had hope and they were feeling love in their lives again because of the people in a parish they had joined one month ago. "That's transfiguration!" Fr. John proclaimed. "Changing someone else's life through the love and the hope you give them."

St. Barbara is transfiguring in many ways. The parish is blessed with so many opportunities and facilities to help parishioners with individual transfiguration and our parish's continual transformation.

"I love the calm, peaceful feeling I receive when in the presence of Christ," explained Cheri Griffin, a frequent visitor to the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. "This peacefulness and joy stays with me throughout my day regardless of what the day holds for me."

"The chapel is important to me because it has allowed me to answer some questions I've always pondered in my heart," Griffin continues. "What are my priorities? Am I more like Mary, listening at Jesus' feet or am I more like Martha, hustling and bustling around? While I truly identify with Martha and her busy schedule, the chapel has allowed me to be like 'Mary' for at least an hour of my day. Next to the Mass, there is nothing better than being in the True Presence of Our Lord."

Another area of spiritual growth at St. Barbara's is Christ Renews His Parish. Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP, pronounced "Chirp") is a spiritual renewal weekend designed to help individuals grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and with others in their faith community. It is

an excellent opportunity for Catholics to renew their understanding of the basic beliefs and traditions of their faith.

"I realize now that everyone has stories to tell and life experiences. Even the people whom you think have had a perfect life, have not," said Rose Kreidler, a recent CRHP attendee. "They (presenters) learn to live with their circumstances and let God lead the way. "I learned how to live with whatever is going on in my life. I learned to look at things in a different perspective," Kreidler continued. "I also learned a lot from the Bible verses that we discussed. I now open my Bible, read and meditate on how my life can be made better by reflecting on the word of God."

And the newest avenue for parishioner's transformation is happening every Wednesday night at 7 pm in the Sterling Event Center during the adult education program, "Growing Together: Mind, Body, and Spirit." Topics have included Building a Culture of Love, Forgiveness in the Family, God's Forgiving Us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Understanding Heroin Addiction, Forgiveness: Learning Compassion for All Mankind, and Forgiveness in the Family.

"Stan Heck's presentation of the Bible from the historical point of view as well as Scriptural was inspiring," said Joyce Levo. "He related the Old Testament "Year of Jubilee" when debts were forgiven and slaves were freed to the current celebration of the Year of Mercy. We are challenged to forgive ourselves and to show others mercy and forgiveness."

Matthew (Lageman) reminded us during one session that just as Jesus was the beloved of the Father, so we are God's beloved also, identified as such by our Baptism," Levo continued. "God has called us as his own, and we should recognize our special relationship to him. What greater feeling of being loved could we want? God has given us the power to forgive ourselves and others as He has forgiven us." That's transfiguration!

"Through programs and facilities at St. Barbara, I have grown in my trust and dependency on God for all things. Bit by bit, I'm abandoning my will, releasing my fears, and walking away feeling much lighter in mind and spirit than ever before," Griffin happily concluded. "My relationship with God seems deeper and more personal. He's my God, my Father, but He's also my best friend."

The Body of Christ in Blocks

by Deacon Chuck

A few weeks ago, my wife and I had the opportunity to take our grandson to see the Lego exhibit, "The Art of the Brick" by Nathan Sawaya, at the Museum Center. The exhibit is a collection of art works made entirely of Lego blocks. There were reproductions of classic works as well as some original pieces by the artist.

One piece was titled "Hands." It is a kneeling human figure reaching out with its arms. However, there are no hands at the end of the arms. Only a pile of Legos on the ground. The artist describes this as his worst nightmare - that he had no way to create his art. For some reason that image has haunted me.

As coincidences go it was at that same weekend that we were hearing St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians describing the Church as the Body, and Christ as its head. We heard that every part of the body is important, and necessary. We heard that when one part suffered, the entire body suffered. As a member of the body of Christ, am I His hands? Am I reaching out to those in need of God's Mercy and His love with strong support or am I acting like a small pile of plastic bricks unfeeling and helpless?

Matthew Kelly, in his book, *Beautiful Mercy*, tells us that "serving others is at the core of the mission God has for his children." Serving others is a sign of our willingness to share God's gift of Mercy to others. During this Year of Mercy we are assured of receiving God's mercy just by asking for it.

But there is another side of Mercy. If we are really the Body of Christ, are we His arms reaching out to others? Are we His hands healing, either physically or spiritually, and are we His mouth teaching and reassuring others of His love and mercy? We can not expect to solve all the problems in our society but we can each do a small part that may contribute to helping the bigger problem. One way to reach out is to participate in the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal. The DPAA will enable us to continue to sustain the healing, teaching and redemptive presence of Jesus Christ throughout our Diocese.

St. Barbara has been blessed with a parish of loving, active parishioners. As we continue this year of mercy we need to reach with mercy, to those outside our parish with the love and gentle kindness that Christ has given us.

D.P.A.A. Calls Us To Be Generous

by Pauline Baumann, Chairperson for 2016 D.P.A.A.

"Yes, Lord, You know that I love you" is the theme chosen for the 2016 D.P.A.A. (Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal). While most of us would readily agree that, yes, we do love our God, we have to ask ourselves an honest question. How can we say this to our God if we do not show it by our actions?

Our all-loving God has given us just two basic commandments to live our lives by... "Love God with your whole heart" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." If we truly abide by these guidelines for our lives, we cannot say we love God unless we actively put the second command into our daily lives as well.

The D.P.A.A. gives us the perfect way to do this with very little effort on our part. The appeal is **Diocesan** wide, meaning that every parish in the Diocese participates in this fund. And, more importantly, the needs that the fund answers are Diocesan-wide... social concerns, educational, administrative, and pastoral. It is a **Parish** based fund, meaning that each parish is given a monetary goal that it must contribute; St. Barbara's goal this year is \$79,500. This goal is established by the Diocesan Finance Council, based on set criteria. The D.P.A.A. is collected **Annually** from March of the current year through the beginning of the next year. And last, it is an **Appeal**. While, yes, it is a tax meaning each parish must reach the established goal, the Diocese does "appeal" to your goodness. The "bonus," if it can be called that, is that every parish dollar collected over the goal is returned to the parish tax-free!

So while our heart strings may be tugged in many directions by legitimate causes, our time and wallets know we cannot answer every call. The DPAA gives us a very effective way to answer God's call to "love our neighbor." The people and programs that are helped are right here in our Diocese...truly our neighbors. Remember too those tax free dollars that come back to us after we reach our goal. Those extra dollars will certainly help with the many expenses that come with running our large parish.

Once again Jackie and Jim Koop will organize this effort in our parish, as they have done for over 25 years now. Please consider carefully how you can be part of this way of caring for God's people right in our back yard.

SAVE THE DATE



Soup and Bread Supper on Holy Thursday at 5:30, followed by the Holy Thursday Mass and liturgy after at 7:00



Have
A
Happy
Easter

I Can Suck My Thumb Now

by Karen Riegler

We are in Month 2 of our Spiritual Adoption Program. Please stop by with your family and view Month 2 of our Little One Poster display in the Narthex. You can view the progress up close of our developing spiritually adopted baby, as well as read a "thank you for praying for me note" from our Little One.

The developing baby is now called a 'fetus', which is Latin for 'Little One.' She is making rapid progress developing all her external and internal organs. During the second month baby teeth form; fingers and toes are developing. Ears, nose, lips and tongue can now be clearly seen. Brain waves can be recorded. The skeleton changes from cartilage to bone. Forty muscle sets begin their first exercises. By eight weeks all body systems are present. This Little One can now suck her thumb!



The New Generation of Our Youth Group

by John Kidwell

During the past 15 years, the Youth Group has been doing most of their activities with just young parishioners from St. Barbara. Now other churches are seeing how our program has made a difference with St. Pius and St. Timothy youth groups wanting to join in our activities. This new group will become what I call the "Tri-Church Group."

As a start, this group will be participating in snow tubing, top-flight gymnastics, a dodgeball tournament, rock climbing, and an ice skating party. At the first event, the tri-church group participated in a snow tubing evening, and over 100 kids attended! During the dodgeball tournament, the group will be collecting canned goods. This donation will enable them to get into the tournament free and receive a t-shirt saying, "Feeding God's Children." This food program is one run by the Catholic Order of the Foresters.

I believe this new combined effort will be a great resource to help others make a difference to the kids and our society. This is a great opportunity to bring both the churches and the youth together to work for the greater good.

Under the guidance of the St. Barbara leadership team of: John Kidwell, Jake Vogt, Meredith Mueller, Courtney Mueller, Ben Nestler, Tom Schell, and Erin Schell, this group will, hopefully, continue to grow in numbers and have a positive effect on our community.

Treasure Under The Pews

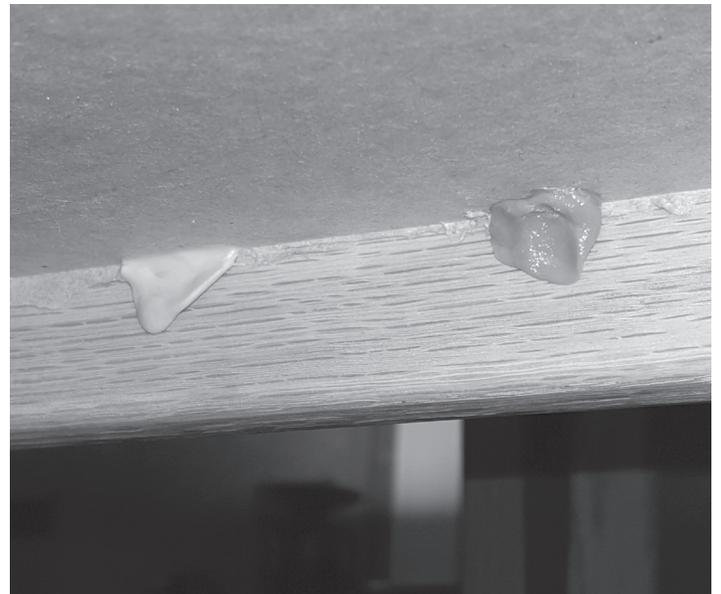
by Debbi Vogt

The following story may or may not be based on actual events, but it doesn't change the message contained herein.

We have such a beautiful church at St. Barbara. From the ceiling to the floor, pews, kneelers and stained glass windows, I am in awe every time I walk through the doors. So many people have sacrificed time, talent and treasure to make St. Barbara the amazingly beautiful place we see today. And this is where my story starts.

St. Barbara, Sunday morning, a few weeks back in Bank C, row two, sinner side. We had the pleasure of bringing our two-year-old grandson to church with us. As Mass began, we noticed he was chewing something. He loves putting things in his mouth (except vegetables, which he won't touch). So we were a little curious as to what he could have picked up. With a cupped hand, we asked him to reveal what he was chewing (you know, spit it out). We were a tad confused, when out popped a piece of white chewing gum. We sort of figured our daughter must have slipped him a piece on the way to church.

Fast forward to Communion, when we noticed him chewing again. Once again, we reached out our hands in a silent plea so he would show us what he had managed to find. Much to our surprise, out dropped another piece of gum, GREEN GUM. As we looked at each other, a light bulb went off in both our heads. Sure enough, the clever little tyke had done some "exploring" while we were praying, and on the underside of the pews, found a TREASURE... of CHEWED GUM. I don't want to sound grumpy, but SERIOUSLY?? Who does that? Who chews gum at church and then STICKS it under the pew? If you've ever done this, apparently you are not alone, but your secret is out. We know about it and most of the gum has been removed. However, in the future if you accidentally walk into church chewing gum, might I suggest you please spit it into a tissue, throw it in the garbage, or swallow it! I promise it won't grow into a gum tree in your belly! If you agree to do that, I promise to work on my grandson's refusal to eat veggies. THANKS!





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St. Henry Grade School News

by Julie Nelson

Congratulations to our Governor's Cup participants!!! St. Henry took second place overall.

Registration for the 2016-2017 School Year! Please contact the school office for information. Spots are filling up quickly so contact the school now to reserve a spot for your child!

Don't forget to purchase your tickets to attend the Crusader Royale on March 5th. The cost is \$50 per person and tickets can be purchased in the school. There are 234 Crusader Royale tickets sold. We will only sell 300. Thanks to all for supporting this great event!

St. Henry School is a place where we learn, grow, and become Disciples of Christ by embracing the Gospel message. We will work toward our full potential each day in order to demonstrate our respect for the sacrifices made by the entire St. Henry community to ensure our success. We will remain connected to God and others, gain confidence in our academic, social, and physical abilities, and contribute to the community through service and leadership.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fridays	Mar 11, 18	Fish Frys, 4:30 - 8:00 pm
Thu	Mar 10, 17	Lenten Mass, 7:00 pm
Thu-Sun	Mar 3-6	Men's Cursillo Weekend
Sat/Sun	Mar 5/6	International Needs Collection, All Masses
Sat	Mar 12	Confirmation Retreat, 9:00 am - 2:15 pm
Tue	Mar 22	Chrism Mass at Cathedral, 7:00 pm
Thu	Mar 24	Holy Thursday Soup & Bread Supper, 5:30 pm
Thu	Mar 24	Holy Thursday Mass 7:00 pm
Fri	Mar 25	Good Friday Passion of our Lord, 3:00 pm
Fri	Mar 25	Good Friday Way of the Cross, 7:00 pm
Sat	Mar 26	Holy Saturday Vigil, 8:30 pm
Sun	Mar 27	Easter Sunday, Masses at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Thu-Sun	Apr 7-10	Women's Cursillo Weekend
Thu	Apr 21	Reconciliation Year of Mercy, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

St. Henry High School News

by Chloe Voelker, SHDHS junior

When school resumed this semester, the Crusaders went right back to work in their academics and sports. January has been especially full of boys and girls basketball, cheerleading, swimming, and diving, and bowling. A special congratulations goes out to the Cheerleading squad for placing 1st in the NKCCA competition. There's still time to witness these talented teams representing Cru Nation and celebrate our graduating seniors.

Our campus ministry has also been busy as the first senior retreat of the year was successfully completed. Students were able to escape from the world for a weekend to focus on their relationships with each other and God. Please also keep the Junior class in your prayers during their upcoming retreat. We've been able to have prayer services and Masses for the feast of the Epiphany and Catholic Schools Week. Students were also able to participate in a family feud game during this week that reminds us of our blessings and education.

The Cru-botics, Model UN, and Governor's Cup teams have been representing St. Henry throughout the area demonstrating our commitment to excellence through real world academic situations. Future Crusaders were able to witness these opportunities at the priority registration day and open house. On February 3rd middle schoolers were also invited to our basketball game to feel what it's like to be a Crusader. We hope everyone at St. Barb's has a blessed Lenten season.

Sun	Apr 24	First Holy Communion, 11:00 am Mass
Wed	Apr 27	Last C.C.D. / May Crowning, 7:00 pm
Sun	May 1	First Communion Breakfast, 10:00 am
Tue	May 17	Confirmation
Thu	May 19	Reconciliation Year of Mercy, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Thu	Jun 16	Reconciliation Year of Mercy, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Sat/Sun	Jun 25/26	Peter's Pence Collection, all Masses
Mon-Fri	Jun 27- Jul 1	Vacation Bible School, 9:30 am - Noon