

# SAINT BARBARA CHURCH

# CROSS TALK

ISSUE NUMBER 113 : SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016

## Mary Ann Wilson Retires

by Elizabeth Penn

On June 11, 2016, Mary Ann Wilson completed almost a quarter of a century of service to St. Barbara Church. Mary Ann was hired twenty-four years ago by Father Ralph Hartman. Since then she has worked with pastors, Father Mick Greer and Father John Sterling. Mary Ann's personal warmth and unflinching good humor have served her well through both good times and bad. She persevered through the advent of computers and court dates for bouncing bingo checks. Mary Ann developed a reputation for stretching a dollar during difficult financial times and for her ready smile for visitors to the office.



Mary Ann continues to be very busy in retirement. She confesses to being a lifetime "collector" who hates to throw anything away. Now she is cleaning one room at a time, sorting paperwork and pitching everything not essential. However, her time with family is much more enjoyable than her cleaning chores. Mary Ann and her husband, Don, go out to dinner more often now and plan weekend trips throughout Kentucky. Last year they visited small towns and especially enjoyed the little churches throughout the state. More weekend trips are planned for the future.

They have nine adult grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, ages three, five, seven, eight, twelve (twins) and sixteen. Mary Ann's retirement allows her to spend more time babysitting for her great-grandchildren and her granddogs. A gifted seamstress, Mary Ann makes clothing for her great-grandchildren and their American Girl dolls. Her great-granddaughters wore their new skirts to Mary Ann's reception in the Sterling Event Center. For Christmas, she is making three "Little Mermaid" sleeping bags!

For the past fifteen years, while working at St. Barbara's, Mary Ann was also a volunteer at her own parish, St. Patrick's. She continues to serve as a volunteer there; the day of our interview she was preparing the program for an upcoming funeral. She also devotes time to reading mysteries for fun and reading spiritual books, including Matthew Kelly's, for inspiration.

Meeting parishioners and making friends were the highlights of Mary Ann's tenure at St. Barbara's. She plans to renew those friendships when she attends Rocktoberfest this year. We hope to see her there!

## Keep Calm and Rock On!

by Tina Bowen

We are in our 6th year for Rocktoberfest and each year gets more exciting and entertainment filled! A great time for fun, food and fellowship. Here is the rundown:

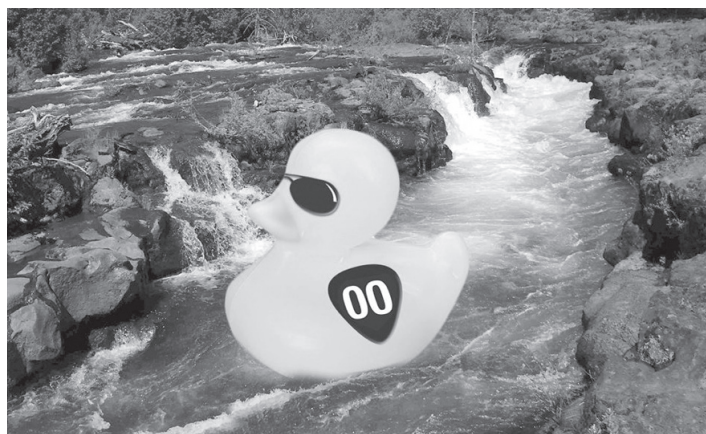
**DATES & TIMES:** The fun starts Friday, September 9th, from 6pm to 12. Saturday, the 10th, 5pm to 12 and Sunday September 11th from 12pm-7pm.

**FUN:** You can expect to be fully entertained during the festival. Friday night the band "Twentyfour7" will be playing for our musical enjoyment. Saturday night at 8 pm "Gee Your Band Smells Terrific" will be back by popular demand! Sunday we will have the Bengals games on for a tailgate party to watch them crush the Jets! We will have a whole host of games to entertain everyone in the family and have a few new games especially for teens. Think archery! And there will be more rides this year too.

**FOOD:** We can't have a festival without food and drinks. There will be a smorgasbord to choose from with burgers, pizza, goetta, Belgium waffles, apple fritters, beer, bourbon, soft drinks and those awesome donuts!

**FELLOWSHIP:** Sunday is family fun day! Bring the whole family and spend the day enjoying all the games, food and the big race! For one low price on Sunday kids can ride the rides all day. Our Family Sunday dinner is back and will be in the new Sterling Event Center. The grilled chicken dinner is still just \$7.50 and will be served family style with sides and dessert.

And with all this excitement we still will have our Grand Raffle with the \$5,000 top prize, the Holy Quacker Cup and Ducktona 500. The Bid N Buy crew will have a bigger tent this year to fit all kinds of items you can shop for! Come out and rock with your community and with your friends and family!



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# THOUGHTS from TRINITY

I'm amazed at how time flies. A little over two months have passed since I first arrived here at St. Barbara, but it seems as though I just moved in yesterday. I've been asked to write about my first impressions and experiences at our parish, so here are a few thoughts...

I've mentioned to some folks that before I was assigned to St. Barbara, I knew the parish was a very successful community. I had the opportunity to visit once in order to fill in for Fr. John while he was away for "beach ministry," and I was very impressed with my experience here. When I received notice that I was to be assigned here, I was very excited. I very much enjoyed my All Saints family, and I am still connected to some, but I looked forward to serving my new family at St. Barbara.

The greatest impression that I have of our parish so far is that we are a very close community who take hospitality and service to heart. The welcome you gave me upon my arrival was just good old southern hospitality. You made me feel at home right away, and I'm thankful to you for this. Now I know that getting a new priest in your parish can be scary and challenging at times, so I hope I haven't scared anyone. I realize that I do have my own way of doing some things, and we will eventually fully adjust to one another. But my overarching motivation is to be of complete service to everyone in my new St. Barbara family. I'm gradually making my way around to being introduced to all the specific groups and ministries of our parish and I'm looking forward to working with everyone in whatever capacity I am able. I had a great time being the guest chef for the Holy Name gathering, and I am excited about helping out with Rocktoberfest.

I also want to say a word of thanks for the love and concern you all have shown for my friends and family members in the state of Louisiana. The hospitality you gave to my grandparents during their visit in July was fantastic. When they concluded their visit, my grandmother left knowing I was in a good parish where people truly care for one another. I am also grateful for your concern during the recent flooding disaster in Louisiana. Many of you have asked about my family and offered prayers for those affected. Thank you all very much for this.

My first experiences of our parish tell me that St. Barbara is truly a model parish in many ways. I am getting more and more comfortable here each day, and I consider myself to be lucky to be assigned here. I'm even comfortable living in the rectory with Fr. John... I hope he can say the same about me ;). I am confident my first impressions will be lasting ones, and I look forward to celebrating our faith with everyone during my time here. May God's blessing be on our St. Barbara family!

Fr. Trinity



# Field of White Crosses

by Karen Riegler

St. Barbara's parish will be displaying the Field of White Crosses (also known as the Cemetery of the Innocents) from October 15th to October 29th. The 4000 tiny white crosses represent the number of abortions taking place in the United States everyday. The crosses have been displayed on the grounds of many churches and schools in our diocese and around the country, and have provided a very powerful visual statement that has helped raise the level of awareness about this national tragedy.

St. Barbara's Families for Life Committee is sponsoring the crosses, but we would like to make this a parish effort. The bulk of the crosses will be erected on Saturday morning, October 15th beginning at 9 a.m. However, we will reserve an area close to the entrance of the Church for the weekend Masses. Fr. John will bless a cross after each Mass and invite parishioners to place a cross per family in this reserved space.

The fact that the white crosses serve as a visual reminder that 4,000 abortions occur each and every day is almost mind boggling to many people. I once had a teacher come up to me as we were displaying the crosses at one of our high schools and said, "Now this represents 4000 abortions per year, right?" This teacher just never stopped to think about the toll that abortion on demand has had in our culture for the last 43 years. The fact is for every high school student in America today, a local abortion clinic (Planned Parenthood) has been a constant fixture in our cities. This normality is why these statistics are obscured from most of our good citizens. People do not like the fact that we have abortion, but the fact is the sun rises and sets as usual. And as usual, people get married and people die. In other words, the business of ordinary life blinds us to the fact that abortion takes place in such numbers. The little white crosses have a nudging way of reminding us of this toll.

Hopefully for many of us, the crosses might simply prod us not to look the other way, but leave our comfort zone and get involved in some way. The little white crosses are not meant to depress or make us angry. They are tiny and delicate to remind us that all life is so very precious. They are white to symbolize hope for the future when respect for all human life is valued no matter how young or old, frail or sick, or in whatever condition human life exists.

We may never know what effect these little white crosses will have at St. Barbara's Parish. We can only hope that a woman who is bearing the emotional scars of an abortion will see the little white crosses, and finally come forward to seek help and reconciliation. Or a young woman, who finds herself in a crisis pregnancy, alone and frightened, will seek the available help to choose life for her unborn child because of the little white crosses. Perhaps a young child, later in life when he or she or a close friend is faced with an untimely pregnancy will remember the little white crosses.

For the rest of us, we can heed what Mother Teresa said, "Any country that accepts abortion, is not teaching its people how to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants." Must we really destroy what we lack the courage to love? Perhaps we can discover the answer in the Field of White Crosses.

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# 9th Annual Turkeyfoot Trot

by Dennis Coyne

Get ready to cluck your feathers off at the Ninth Annual Turkeyfoot Trot! The annual 5K Run/Walk is set for Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. beginning and ending at St. Barbara. The event includes a 5k run/walk and a kids' fun run.

Pre-registration is available online at [www.sprunning.com](http://www.sprunning.com) through Monday, November 7, 2016. Pre-registration fees for the 5K are \$25.00 and include a shirt. Free gift for the first 100 registered! In-person registration at Tri-State Running Company during packet pick-up (includes shirt while supplies last). Additionally, race day registration will start at 7:30 a.m. in the Sterling Event Center. Race day registration fees are \$30.00 for the 5K (includes shirt while supplies last).

Sponsorship opportunities are available on the St. Vincent de Paul home page at [www.svdpnky.org](http://www.svdpnky.org). Last year over \$10,000 was raised for our neighbors in need. Donations are tax deductible and will have a major impact on the success of the event.

This family friendly race has continued to grow, and this year we are hoping for 500 runners and walkers. Bishop Roger Foys has confirmed his participation for this year's event and will be giving the blessing and some words of encouragement.

"We are so excited to again partner with the St. Vincent de Paul staff and other Northern Kentucky conferences for this year's race," said Karen Minzner, co-chair of the event. "All proceeds from the race directly benefit our neighbors in need through St. Vincent de Paul to help them with food, rental/utility assistance and more during the holidays."

"The St. Vincent DePaul, Northern Kentucky is enthusiastic to be part of this already established wonderful community event," commented Ralph Bradburn, Executive Director. "We hope to see everyone on the course this year, whether you're a competitive runner preparing for the Thanksgiving Day race or a casual walker, this is a fabulous run/walk!"

Not only does the Turkeyfoot Trot promote health and fitness, it gives back to the community. The race started as a reverse stewardship project to help buildout our church. After three years, the monies raised were donated to our St. Barbara Conference of St. Vincent DePaul. Now, with the assistance of St. Vincent DePaul, Northern Kentucky, the race continues to grow, possibly doubling in size with all proceeds from the race to benefit the Society of St. Vincent DePaul – Northern Kentucky to assist with its mission of helping our neighbors in need with food, rental/utility assistance, clothing, household furnishings and more.

For more information about the race or to be a sponsor contact, Lou Settle, Advancement Director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 2655 Crescent Springs Road, Covington, KY 41017, 859-446-7727 (direct) or email her at [lou.settle@svdpnky.org](mailto:lou.settle@svdpnky.org).



# THE LESSONS OF YOUTH

by Meredith and Courtney Mueller

Recently while at a Youth Group event, some of the girls in our group approached us and announced that we represent their "squad goals." What (we think) they meant was that after 15 years of hanging out with the Youth Group, we still can't stay away. We have grown older, but we refuse to grow up. We are even more active in the Youth Group now than we were as high school students.

All this is because, at the age of 11, our family joined St. Barbara's, and John Kidwell waved us over after Mass and invited us to Youth Group. Before we knew it, we were attending prayer groups, feeding the homeless, and going to praise and worship concerts. The youth group members embraced us without question. Youth Group became a place where we formed friendships that have lasted to this day and we continue to make friends with all of the kids who come to Youth Group every week.

Through our time as Youth Group members, we learned how to show gratitude, give back to our community, and take pride in our Catholic faith. Our Youth Group continues to grow each week, and it is so exciting to now see younger parishioners experience this same transformation.

When John approached us and asked us to go through Virtus training, we didn't even hesitate. Trying to imagine life without Youth Group is impossible. Our time as Youth Group members helped to shape us into the people we are today and continues to inspire us to set a good example to the current members.



Fr. Trinity tries his hand at cornhole during the Parish Picnic.



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## St. Henry Grade School News

by Julie Nelson

We are kicking off the 2016/2017 school year with our new theme which is "KEEP CALM AND PRAY ON". During each trimester we will focus on a different aspect of prayer. In the first trimester, students will learn the five finger method of prayer and will learn about why we pray. Let's all pray that our students of St. Henry have the best school year ever and that we can help our children be Connected, Confident, and Contributing!

Enrollment for the 2016/2017 year has gone up 10%; therefore we now have two classes for every grade, except for 3rd. Some of the classes will be small (only 15 students) – which makes a great learning environment for the students. Things are always changing with the school and recently a survey was sent out regarding parents and their needs/wants for a larger preschool program. If you have a son or daughter that you plan to put into preschool next year – stay tuned for further details! We had many preschoolers this year who were on a waiting list so I highly recommend getting in touch with the school sooner rather than later.

Stop by and see the workings of our new playground at St. Henry Elementary. Recently the old convent house was demolished, and the school is in the process of purchasing new playground equipment.

Lastly, I wanted to share a quote from a grandparent who has grandchildren attending St. Henry Elementary... "St. Henry is the most wonderful school with the best spirit. Everybody cooperates for the good of the kids, not just the principal, but the teachers and the parents all do it together."

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Rocktoberfest

Fri	Sep 9	6:00 pm - Midnight
Sat	Sep 10	5:00 pm - Midnight
Sun	Sep 11	12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

## St. Henry High School News

by Courtney Hoffer

Hello from St. Henry District High School! It's hard to believe school is back in session already. We pray you all had an enjoyable and safe summer.

The SHDHS campus is buzzing with excitement as the 2016/2017 school year gets underway. Between the freshmen class and new faculty and staff members, there are many new faces roaming the halls. And with a record enrollment of more than 560 students the halls are quite crowded, too! The new school year kicked off on Tuesday, August 16, and ended on a sweet note when Student Council treated everyone to popsicles and ice cream sandwiches. The students also took part in their first all school Mass to close out the first week of classes.

The new students and staff aren't the only difference inside the walls of SHDHS this year. The room formerly known as the library received a makeover over the summer and is now set up to accommodate collaborative learning. Collaborative learning, or peer learning, is a different approach to teaching and learning that brings together groups of students to problem-solve and work on projects.

And a huge congratulations to Senior, Seamus Sweeney, who was notified over the summer that he earned a perfect score on the ACT! He got the news just before he headed out to tour his potential colleges, including Harvard, Princeton, and MIT – which is his top pick.

This is certainly shaping up to be another exciting year at SHDHS. Please know you are in the prayers of the Crusader community, and we ask that you keep us in your prayers.

Thu	Sep 15	Reconciliation, Year of Mercy, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Sat/Sun	Sep 17/18	Catechetical Sunday
Thu-Sun	Oct 6-9	Men's Cursillo weekend, St. Ann Retreat Center
Sat	Oct 8	Confirmation Commitment Dinner
Mon	Oct 10	FGIF Fundraiser
Sat	Oct 15	Pumpkinfest, 5:30 pm
Sat-Sat	Oct 15-29	Families for Life, Field of White Crosses
Sat	Oct 29	All Souls Memorial Mass