

ANOTHER ROCKTOBERFEST SUCCESS

by Therese Cloar

Rocktoberfest is welcoming and inviting! The three-day celebration mirrors the dynamics of the St. Barbara Parish Community.

Fr. John Sterling, pastor, St. Barbara, began his homily the weekend of Rocktoberfest by saying, "Faith, fun, and fellowship is what this weekend is all about. It's what the theme of Rocktoberfest has been since the beginning when we decided we never wanted this to be about making money. We wanted it to be about community, faith, fun, and fellowship, and that's why it's so successful."

Explaining the three parts of Rocktoberfest's theme, Fr. John said, "Jesus says if two of you agree on anything and pray on it, it will be granted. That's the faith part of faith, fun and fellowship."

Faith and prayer are an important part of the festival's planning process. In fact, each Rocktoberfest meeting begins with a special Rocktoberfest prayer seeking God's guidance, asking Him to build us up as a faith community and bless those who give their time, talent and treasure for the future of our parish. This year there was also an awe-inspiring addition to festival's opening ceremonies. Volunteers and guests gathered at Mary's grotto and prayed the rosary. "It was beautiful to begin the weekend in prayer," Joyce Levo, rosary leader, said. "Our parishioner's hearts are so big and filled with the Holy Spirit. It is no wonder the weekend was a success."

But what about the fun part? It may seem obvious with all the smiles and warm hugs being shared on the grounds, but it's more than that at St. Barbara. "Believe it or not, just last week we had a Mass for someone and one her nephews [in his twenties] after Mass said this place is actually fun! And it is." Fr. John shared during his weekend homily. "When you have faith and you believe that your praying together is going to create miracles, it's fun to watch those miracles happen. That's how the faith and fun come together, and this weekend was remarkable!"

And what about the fellowship part of the faith, fun, and fellowship? If you were here over the three-day weekend you were surrounded by fellowship. "I feel like a proud father whose family is coming home, Fr. John said. "I see many warm smiling faces. And hundreds and hundreds of people

volunteering. It's unbelievable! The age range of the people volunteering is incredible and seeing everyone getting along just puts a smile on my face."

"I thought, this is like a piece of heaven," continued Fr. John, "everyone getting along, the smell of delicious food, and a couple of cold drinks. It was like a piece of heaven. And that's because of the fellowship we have here."

Rocktoberfest brings out the community and fellowship mostly through its volunteers. From age one to 101, the parishioner volunteers make the festival welcoming and inviting.

Seven-month old Lily Jane Rust could be seen on her mom or dad's hip all weekend as they captained the prize redemption booth in the children's area. It's a family affair for the Rust family, who have managed this booth since the festival's inception. "Me, my husband, Ryan, and our four kids love the weekend," smiled Rebecca Rust. "Seeing all the smiles on the thousands of children and parents make the challenging work worth it. And we love getting our children involved in Rocktoberfest. It's important to us to teach them service to others."

If you bought a raffle ticket at the festival, chances are you purchased it from Jo Rapp. Rapp is 101 years old and has been selling tickets every year. "I love the atmosphere of our church community," Rapp said. "There's no discrimination here. There's just love! Everyone working together. It's a miracle in the making each day."

Parishioners Marianne and Richard Dammert had a blast volunteering at their third Rocktoberfest. "I've volunteered for other things in the past and wasn't always comfortable, but everyone here made us feel so welcomed," Marianne beamed. "It's amazing how nice everyone is at St. Barbara. We have found a home here. The people are so friendly, and we are overjoyed to be here. It's like we've been here forever."

Volunteers and the community experienced the best weather in Rocktoberfest's seven-year history – three days of beautiful sunshine! Record crowds came out in force helping the parish achieve record revenues. Actual net numbers won't be available until January 13 at the parish volunteer celebration.

Savethedates.Roctoberfest8isSeptember7,8,&9,2018.

U.C.M. OFF AND RUNNING THANK YOU JANET!

The United Catholic Movement was kicked off in our parish on Divine Mercy Sunday. In these brief six months, we have had at least 32 Catholics return to the faith in our parish alone. We are one of six parishes practicing the movement of inviting people back to the faith.

It is very interesting to hear comments such as, "I thank God for whoever started this movement. I haven't been to church in three years. When I came into St. Barbara, I felt like I had come back home." Or on the bottom of an application to become a parishioner, one person wrote, "Your parish brought me back to the faith!"

It is so simple. Simply invite someone to come and share Mass with you. You might be surprised at the response. I am so thankful for the dedicated team that meets at least twice a month to come up with new ways of inviting people back. Soon we will schedule a dinner and party for all those who have returned to the faith or joined our parish recently. Until then, continue to pray for those we are inviting and ask someone to join you to celebrate liturgy with us this weekend. God bless!

1 John
[Redacted]

P u m p k i n f e s t

by Cassidy DiVita

On Saturday night, October 21st the campus of St. Barbara was transformed into a Halloween playground we call Pumpkinfest. In the Sterling Event Center, where the children attended in their Halloween costumes, attendees were served an amazing meal of Skyline cheese coneys, goldfish crackers, cupcakes and cookies... yum! All while being entertained by magician Jason the Great and his son. They mesmerized the kids with their tricks and magical powers!

Following the show, John Scheben treated everyone to a hayride around the church grounds, stopping at the drive of Father John's house so the bravest of kids could tour the Haunted House which was in the basement of the parish offices. The Youth Group spent weeks putting together rooms of scary props, lights and costumes to entertain all who entered. They had a blast putting this on for all of the parishioners.

At the end of the night all the kids went home with goodie bags full of candy to start off their Halloween holiday. Pumpkinfest continues to be one of the favorite activities for the children of the parish!



by Elizabeth Penn

This year, as St. Barbara parish celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, few of our current parishioners can recall the Sunday Masses celebrated by Fr. Ruschman in the Levi-Strauss cafeteria. Janet Jehn is one of those few. Janet and her husband, Jim, are two of the many faithful people who helped to build the foundation of the present dynamic St. Barbara community.



For over forty years, the Jehn family has contributed time, talent and treasure to St. Barbara and the Diocese. For ten years, Janet and Jim served on the St. Vincent de Paul Service and Outreach Committee. They visited members of the community who requested financial assistance. Jim also served on the parish Finance Council. Janet volunteered at the Parish Kitchen for a decade. They both worked at parish festivals and attended retreats. Janet participated in the Crafty Ladies, a committee whose efforts raised funds for one of the stained glass windows and for sanctuary carpeting.

Janet and Jim celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with Mass at St. Barbara's. The celebration was truly a family affair, not only including their children and grandchildren, but also their nephew, Fr. Ronald Domhoff, who concelebrated Mass with Fr. Mick Greer.

Twelve years ago Jim Jehn died, but Janet has continued her service to the parish in a variety of ways. Most notably, she has been responsible for the Hospitality Ministers for the past five years. Janet believes that the welcoming atmosphere of St. Barbara's begins with that first greeting at the church door. Recently, Janet's health issues have dictated that she resign from this position. Her dedication and commitment to the Worship Committee will be missed by all who have worked with her. We thank Janet for helping St. Barbara Parish become a warm and welcoming community, and we look forward to seeing her at Mass with her family.



Things got mighty SPOOKY at Pumpkinfest

Women Making A Difference

by Pauline Baumann

Last month nine women from our parish and several others in our Diocese traveled to Jamaica with the Mustard Seed Community. This journey was a "Sampler Trip" that served as the first all-women's mission encounter. In the one week they spent visiting five different communities that serve the most vulnerable, they were able to witness to the fact that "God is here!" among those that society often rejects. Their object was not to change the world forever, but to learn and to brighten the lives of the children they encountered through love...if only for this visit.

They discovered that the Mustard Seed communities have done an amazing job of being the face of God for these people. These nine Kentucky women left their comfortable homes of hot showers and modern conveniences to witness the remarkable job that is being done to emphasize education and respect for these Jamaicans who are "differently abled." The "aunties" or caregivers focus all their efforts for these people not with pity, but with faith, hope and compassion.

Each woman returned, knowing she had had a true Mountain Top experience. It was an eye-opening opportunity to meet Jesus in each encounter with the residents. And, now in turn, they hope they will be inspired to care for the most vulnerable in their own families and communities. This may be done through further work with the Mustard Seed Communities or other opportunities here in our own area. But they are definitely inspired to continue God's work in *any* way their individual talents allow.



Sophie's Place with the Residents & Caretakers

Families for Life Baby Shower

by Karen Riegler

Thank you to all who provided diapers, wipes and onesies for our annual Baby Shower. The playpen in the Welcoming Center was abundantly full of these items that will be delivered to several agencies that provide help and hope to young mothers in need. These young mothers, so many who have courageously chosen life for their babies, often times without the support of the father or her parents. Your support with this Baby Shower means so much as they try to provide the basic items for their newborn, but also your generosity makes them aware that they are supported by a caring and compassionate community.

Please keep these young mothers in your prayers:
Most Gracious Heavenly Father, You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing. We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood. Watch over every mother who is with child; strengthen her faith in Your fatherly care and love for her, and for her unborn baby. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them.

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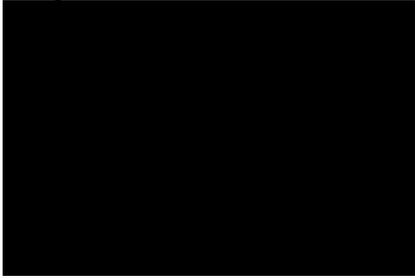
by Cassidy DiVita

On October 13th, St. Barbara's Youth Group was greeted at the doors of St. Henry District High School by groups of cheering leaders all wearing purple, holding signs to welcome us all into Youth 2000. The energy was contagious!

Youth 2000 encourages young adults ages 13-30 to grow closer to God and grow stronger in their faith. Every day of this three-day retreat, all of the participants would attend Mass in the school gym which was transformed into a massive place of worship. Following Mass, everyone spent an hour in meditation, focusing solely on Jesus' presence through the Eucharist and his sacrifices made for us. Everyone in attendance was also given the opportunity to attend confession.

Throughout the weekend we would sing songs of praise and celebrate Jesus in a fun, uplifting way. The retreat taught attendees that worshipping God doesn't just have to be done sitting quietly in church. Praise and worship can happen anywhere and can be enjoyable. I highly recommend all junior and high school students to attend this amazing weekend event!

**Happy Thanksgiving
and
Merry Christmas!**



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St. Henry Grade School News

by Julie Nelson

We were honored to have Bishop Foys visit our school and bless our new Makerspace room. Makerspace is part of STREAM and the STREAM program is consistent with the United States' development as a global leader, in large part, through the genius and hard work of its scientists, engineers, and innovators. In a world that's becoming increasingly complex, where success is driven not only by what you know, but by what you can do with what you know, it's more important than ever for our children to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, develop as Christian leaders, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information. These are the types of skills that students learn by studying science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math—subjects collectively known as STREAM.

Our new principal, Susan Pastor-Richard, has been *very* busy getting to know all the children and their families. Mrs. Pastor-Richard has spent time in all the classrooms and loves to see that the students and teachers are connected, confident, and contributing!

St. Henry High School News

by Sarah Banks

As we end the first quarter of the new school year, the students and staff have shown their Crusader spirit at the countless sports games and their reverence and dedication to the faith at our prayer services and school masses. Recent athletic updates include: the girls' volleyball team winning the All "A" State Championship and plan on winning many more. In addition, Jacey Blust and Zoe Epplen were named on the All "A" State Tournament Team, and Maria Tobergte was named MVP of tournament. Furthermore, the Men's Varsity Cross Country team won their third consecutive Conference Championship on Saturday, October 14 led by Ethan Snyder; both the Varsity and Junior Varsity girls placed second in their divisions. Our girls' soccer team won the District Championship and placed second in the regional All "A" Championship. Our boys' team won the All "A" Regional Tournament and District Finals, and placed second at the All "A" State Championships.

The excitement continued with the annual SHDHS Homecoming Dance with the theme of "Fall Into My Heart". Both the students and staff dressed to impress as they danced the night away with music by Billy Sarge. Additionally, SHDHS introduced many future Crusaders to the school at our annual Open House on October 29. In other news, the Crusader Golfathon raised over \$60,000 to benefit the SHDHS Athletic Department.

On the service and arts side, National Honors Society held its annual Shantytown on October 8 and 9. The event benefits a non-profit organization of the club's choosing and this year we collected over \$400. Also, the school held two collections for the victims of Hurricane Harvey led by NHS in association with Healthcare Careers Club to collect over 30 boxes full of cleaning supplies, personal care items, diapers and wipes, first aid items, and lots of bottled water. Several students then delivered the items to Matthew 25 Ministries and helped unload the boxes of donations.

Lastly, SHDHS invites you to come and support the Drama Cru at their fall production of "Deck the Halls" that will be shown November 17-19.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat/Sun	Nov 11/12	Bake Sale at all Masses
Sat	Nov 18	Confirmation Commitment Mass and
Tue	Nov 21	Ecumenical service
Thu	Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day Mass, 10:00 am
Fri	Dec 1	Holy Name Christmas Party, 6:00 pm
Fri	Dec 1	Holy Dames Christmas Party, 6:30 pm
Every Thu	Dec 7, 14,	Advent Mass, 7:00 pm
Fri	Dec 8	Immaculate Conception Masses, 10 am & 7
Sat/Sub	Dec 16/17	Retired Religious Collection, all Masses
Sun	Dec 24	Children's Christmas Mass, 4:00 pm
		Christmas Mass, 6:00 pm
		Christmas Vigil Mass, 10:00 pm
Mon	Dec 25	Christmas Day Mass, 10:00 am
Sun	Dec 31	New Year's Eve Mass, 4:30 pm
Mon	Jan 1	New Year's Day Mass, 10:00 am