

SAINT BARBARA CHURCH

CROSS TALK

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Caring50+, Not As Young As We Used To Be

by Lynne Schrott

Seniors? Elders? Older people? What is the preferred term for folks in midlife and beyond? Most people will enthusiastically embrace the term "senior" when it involves a discount at a store or restaurant. Otherwise, being included in this demographic isn't a big aspiration.

Merriam Webster lists synonyms of "older" as: "aged, ancient, elderly, over the hill, senescent." The Oxford dictionary, at first, seems a bit less offensive with "mature, getting on, up in years, past one's prime," but then it added "decrepit, doddering, long in the tooth." Yuck!

Okay, now allow me to submit my favorite definition: OLDER—"not as young as one used to be."

The Caring 50+ Club of St. Barbara's is a group of parishioners who are "not as young as they used to be." On the last Thursday of every month, they worship together at Mass, hold a short business meeting, and then enjoy great conversation at a lunch provided by some of its members.

Kathleen Terlau joined St. Barbara in 2015 because she found it to be such a friendly parish. She attends meetings of the Caring 50+ Club "because it's an opportunity to exchange small talk with people you know," and affords her the chance to "get out and away my day to day routine." She also adds, "There's nothing like a potluck lunch to enjoy some home cooking!"

Susie Curtis, Kathy Geiger, and Jo Ann Arlinghaus all feel that the biggest benefit of the club is the sense of comradery it offers.

Rita Steenken says that she enjoys "the one on one with people." She noted that older folks may often feel isolated, and used the following analogy as a bit of a remedy. "Oxen are yoked together to help each other. If you're not by yourself, the burden is less."

Studies have shown that staying connected and involved benefits both mental and physical health. (Hmmm... maybe that's why parishioner and club member, Jo Rapp, is 102 years old!)

So if you happen to be in the "not as young as you used to be" age bracket, the Caring 50+ Club members invite you to join them on the last Thursday of the month. Share some stories, some jokes, your joys, or even your sorrows, because the most important part of the group's moniker is not the 50+... it's the CARING.



Caring 50+ officers: Susie Curtis, Freddi Spears, Carole Behne, Vic Geiger and Pat Gripshover.

"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone" ...Andy Rooney

“STRAIGHT UP, MON”

Sounds crazy, but that is a line we hear often on our Mission Trip to Jamaica. Eleven of us went back down to build and paint houses for the orphanage there called “Jacob’s Ladder.” The age range of the orphans is probably from 5 to 50. Many are autistic. Most are disabled in one way or another. Six to twelve of them share a two bedroom house with one full bath. But somehow they are the happiest people you could ever meet. Jason is about 25 and starts the day swinging as high as he can in a swing while singing nursery rhymes. Lorenzo all week would not let go of a solar powered radio that Patti Taylor sent for him. Many join us for Mass and the rosary saying prayers in a language that we don’t understand. They have been abandoned but know God and love God. If only we could all be that happy. And when you ask how they are doing, they point to God in the sky and say: “Straight Up, Mon.”

Fr. John

NewStorageThankstoDPAA

by Jackie Koop

St. Barbara Parish has grown significantly in the past few years. As we all know, when we grow, we need more “stuff.” We have greatly outgrown our former storage facility, needing more space for Rocktoberfest materials, fish fry cookers, and the list goes on. Through prayer, patience, and the generosity of our parishioners, the DPAA 2017 Goal was surpassed, and the overage will cover the cost of a new storage building, whose façade will architecturally match the current campus structures. Construction will begin soon. Please be generous to the DPAA 2018 Campaign which benefits many worthy charities, and any surplus comes right back to St. Barbara to continue our mission.

ST. BARBARA YOUTH GROUP TRAVELS TO D.C.

by Logan Currin

Washington, D.C. is the core of our country, and going there at any time in your life as an American is special. I have been lucky enough to visit our nation’s capital three times now. Two of those times have been with the St. Barbara Youth Group for the Annual March for Life, and these have been some of the best times of my life.

The March is definitely the most moving part of the trip. The crowd is pretty intense, but seeing people from all across the country marching together for the same purpose is so cool. I love reading all the signs and chanting with the crowd, while knowing I am taking part in something historic.

After the March was over, we walked to the second most moving part of the trip, the Holocaust Museum. Because we had almost three hours to go through the museum, I was able to put things in perspective and come to realize there are so many people who were not as fortunate as I am.

On the last morning we went to Arlington National Cemetery and Mass at the National Basilica before heading back to the Bluegrass State. Once I was home, I realized how much I already missed it and how much closer to God that I felt. Our Washington trip is always an amazing experience... the perfect mix of friends, faith, and fellowship!



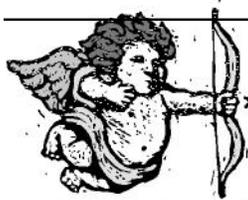
THERE GOES MY LIFE What Are You Doing for Lent?

This was written by a college student whose unmarried parents were facing an untimely pregnancy 20 years ago. Her parents chose life and she was born the day before the 25th Anniversary of Roe Vs Wade (we commemorated 45 years this year) She has attended the March for Life with the Diocese of Covington several times; last year with her father, and this year with her mother (and grandmother). She wrote this beautiful letter to her parents as she recently reflected about her 20th birthday.

"This is my favorite song," I say every time I change to the next song after only playing 30 seconds of the previous one. Well my favorite song, "There Goes My Life" by Kenny Chesney just happened to begin playing on my laptop as I was lying down after a long day at school. For me, this song has so much meaning behind it. A few days after celebrating my 20th birthday and attending the March for Life with my mother, I have a big THANK YOU to say to my parents.

At 19 having a baby seems like the worst thing that could have happened to them. I mean all their plans are "ruined" and it's seen as a huge mistake. But I'm sure that after these 20 years having a baby so young is far from that. I am so grateful for my parents being the amazing people they are who knew that this baby (me) wasn't a choice. This was a new plan for them given from God that would change their lives, and ultimately (at least I hope) they now know it was such a gift.

So thank you, mom and dad, for giving me a life where I am engulfed in you and God's love for me. Thank you for giving me what I need, but teaching me how to earn what I want. Thank you for teaching me if I don't stand for something, that I will fall for anything. Thank you for teaching me that God's plan is bigger than mine and to put my trust in Him instead of trying to figure it all out alone. Thank you for giving up "your life" for the baby that you would one day refer to as just that.



**The St. Barbara's Valentine Dance
was right on target.**



by Pauline Baumann

We are well into the season of Lent by the time you are reading this issue of Crosstalk. But the end (Easter) is not here yet so there is still time to reflect on what this Lent has meant to you. And... are you taking advantage of the many opportunities St. Barbara Parish has offered?

In the way of building community, the parish has its annual fish fries every Friday evening from 4:30-8:00. You can participate by volunteering your time to "work the line" or bring a delicious homemade dessert for the Holy Dames table of goodies. Or if none of those fits in your schedule, just come and enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners while savoring a great meal at a very affordable price.

If you had determined to increase your prayer life, the parish offers many opportunities to help you. Daily Mass is offered each day (Tuesday through Friday) at 10 A.M. with the Rosary to follow. But for those who are working or going to school during the day, every Wednesday evening there is a Mass with a speaker. Topics will likely include the Seder and the Eucharist, Franciscan Spirituality, a deeper look at the Gospels, and others to be determined. But each Mass and talk will only last 45 minutes. And, as always, Confessions are heard every Saturday before the 4:30 Mass (3:45 till Mass begins).

The Stations of the Cross will be reflected upon before each weekend Mass; this will take the place of the rosary that is said throughout the rest of the year. If you prefer private reflection, the Holy Spirit Chapel is available 24 hours a day to bring you the peace that only Christ can give.

The culmination of Lent, obviously, comes with Holy Week. Besides the religious services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, the parish celebrates community with its annual Soup and Bread Supper before the Holy Thursday Mass.

This is a time to reconnect with your fellow parishioners, enjoying many kinds of delicious soups and breads before going over to church for the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Lent is a mere 40 days to repent and convert our lives. Here's hoping you will take advantage of the many opportunities that our parish offers for an enriching journey to Easter Sunday.





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St. Henry Grade School News

By Julie Nelson

Congratulations!!! Saint Henry took **FIRST PLACE** in Quick Recall (QR)! The Governor's Cup QR team members are Matthew Bier, Charlie Bihl, Nathan Francis, Will Hammond, Connor McKinley, and Jake Montgomery. Saint Henry's elementary Future Problem Solvers (FPS) took **FIRST PLACE** as well! The FPS team includes Lizzie Casey, Nathan Francis, Avery Pleiman, Charlotte Wagstaff, and Roman Robles. Congratulations also to individual Written Assessment winners... 2nd Place in Social Studies - Nathan Francis, 3rd Place in Mathematics - Matthew Bier, 4th Place in Composition - Connor McKinley, 5th Place in Science - Jake Montgomery.

Saint Henry placed **THIRD OVERALL** in the District Governor's Cup Competition! All medal winners and the QR and FPS teams will advance to Regionals. Kindergarten teacher, Kristin Durholz, coaches the Academic Team for the elementary division, and Suzi McClure Francis and Melinda Gould coach FPS. Congrats again and good luck at Regionals!

If you are interested in registering your child for the 2018/2019 school year, please contact the office as soon as possible because classes are filling up! Don't forget, as a St. Barbara parishioner, you are eligible for the "Participating Tuition," which is a rate less than Standard Tuition.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon	Mar 12	TGIF Fundraiser
Sat	Mar 24	Parish Spring Clean-up
Sun	Mar 25	Knights of Columbus Candy Hunt
Tue	Mar 27	Chrism Mass at Cathedral, 7:00 pm
Thu	Mar 29	Soup & Bread Supper 5:30 Holy Thursday Mass, 7:00 pm
Fri	Mar 30	Passion of the Lord, 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross, 7:00 pm
Sat	Mar 31	Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm
Sun	Apr 1	Easter Sunday
Thu-Sun	Apr 5-8	Women's Cursillo Weekend
Fri	Apr 20	Keeneland Bus Trip

St. Henry High School News

by Sarah Banks

Our second semester started off strong in sports, academics, and service. First off our Quick Recall team placed third in the JV challenge with top scorers being Jake Cherry, Aaron Ihrig and James Carroll. Additionally, the Future Problem Solving team placed first in the District's Governor's Cup with leaders Nate Walker, Kai Chen, and Adam Fischer who will all participate in Regionals. Furthermore, our Aqua Cru took on Regionals earlier this month and it was a spectacular meet ending with a few of our athletes qualifying for state! Aiden Stigall will compete at the state tournament for diving and swimmers Anna Freihofer, Kasey Hill, Brooke Reis, Olivia Staverman and many more qualified to compete in 7 different events. In addition, both our girls' and boys' Cru Bowling teams ended their seasons with a record of 5 wins and 3 losses. Also, St. Henry recently hosted its second Regional Archery Tournament and placed 5th out of 27 teams.

The excitement continues as SHDHS plans to host its second annual Dragonfly Foundation Fundraiser on March 16. This event is held to benefit the Dragonfly Foundation which raises both awareness and funds for pediatric cancer. In addition to funds, Dragonfly also provides opportunities for the kids such as baseball game tickets and gift cards to the movies. There will soon be a section in your bulletin with directions on how to donate to this wonderful cause!

Furthermore, several St. Henry students recently participated in the annual Night for the Fight event held at Xavier's Cintas Center. This is a 12-hour long event and in order to attend, each member of your given team must raise \$100 or more. These funds go towards pediatric cancer research, which receives the smallest amount funds out of all the types of cancer for research. Overall, SHDHS students raised more than \$15,000 between our 5 teams with one of our students, Evan Strasburger, raising more than \$7,000! He was the highest fundraiser out of 1,300 students from the area.

Lastly, Spanish Honors Society recently held a bake sale for the victims of the hurricanes in Puerto Rico. Thanks to the Crusader Community, the group was able to raise a substantial amount of money and collect school supplies.