

# SAINT BARBARA CHURCH

# CROSS TALK

ISSUE NUMBER 122 : MAY / JUNE 2018

## THE SPIRIT IS A MOVIN'



by Pauline Baumann

On Easter Saturday, the Holy Spirit proved His power and beauty as ten RCIA candidates, as well as four children, entered the Catholic Church. The night may have been blustery with winds and threatening rain, but the joy that filled our church could not be quenched. In a liturgy that was filled with Scriptures that traced our faith roots and beautiful music, these individuals committed to their new Church and received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

**Jeremy Armbruster**, married with two children who attend St. Henry Grade School, is a professional landscape engineer by day. He commented that attending Christ Renews His Parish with a friend really sparked his interest in the Catholic faith. He recalled attending Mass with his grandmother as a child, and posed the question to himself after these encounters with Christ... "If not now, when will it be time." All it took was Father John's nudging to get him involved in the parish to start the process.

**Joe Aylor** is also married and has a title girl and now a brand new baby boy. He is a software developer who has had an ongoing curiosity about the Catholic faith. Finally he too decided it was time to begin the journey to full commitment by receiving both Baptism and Confirmation.

**Jessica Bokelman**, a palliative care physician with St. Elizabeth HealthCare, brought the biggest group to those entering the church. Her four children were baptized on Easter Saturday with their mom. Jessica had been introduced to the faith when she attended Villa Madonna Academy from grades 7-12. While she truly respected being a part of Ft. Mitchell

Baptist, she found St. Barbara to be a place of true comfort and welcome.

**Randy Frickman** is a sales manager for Rustoleum who is married to his wife Kim, a Catholic. Although they raised their daughters as Catholic, he had never taken the step himself of joining the Church. While the 9 month RCIA preparation was difficult, he felt it was completely worth it.

**Dylan James** is single and a banker at 5/3 Bank. In his case it was the faith of his girl friend's family that drew him to become a Catholic.

**Todd Turner**, a married father of 3, is a manufacturing engineer who travels extensively for his job, but still found time to squeeze in the RCIA classes when he was in town. It was the inspiration of the priest who married him and his wife at St. Monica/St. George that planted the seed for his faith journey.

**Epic Wayts** works in the fund raising arm of the D.A.V. in Cold Spring. Her fiancé was raised Catholic, and together they have vowed to raise their children Catholic. Since their wedding will be celebrated here at St. Barbara in October, this was the perfect time to enter the Church.

Guided by the faith and constancy of Father Sterling, Deacon Melville, Joyce Levo, Willy Salyers, and Rita Steenken, this group are now grounded and committed to their new faith. We welcome them to our parish community and hope they find Christ's peace among us.

(**Matthew Gross**, **Shannon Morehead**, and **Alex Shumate** also entered the Church on Easter but could not be reached for comment.)

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## Thoughts From Deacon Chuck

It's Spring and all kinds of things are popping up. Early flowers have popped up out of the ground, fly balls are popping around the baseball diamonds and as we look around we see new life beginning everywhere.

On the morning of Holy Saturday the sun was popping out from the clouds as we prepared for the Easter Liturgy. That evening we baptized 9 persons, confirmed 10 and 14 received their First Communion. On Easter Sunday we baptized an additional three infants at the 9:30 Mass. Life, parish life, was popping out all over. New Christian lives were dedicated. Sometimes I have to wonder what's going on.

Just before Easter I was speaking with another parish's coordinator for the RCIA program. The discussion centered on *why* did some parishes always seem to have large numbers of candidates and catechumens and others had none. There are several theories but my guess is that first and foremost, the Holy Spirit has moved people to seek the Catholic Faith. But then the question, *why* here? What brings people to St Barbara? I believe it is because our parish has a habit of drawing people in, welcoming them into our midst, and making them feel that they belong. I hear comments along those lines time and again. We can point out specifics of what draws each of us here but ultimately we have found a God-Centered place to worship as a community. But, this family feeling doesn't just happen. It takes each of us to live our Faith, to share God's love and mercy, and to make room for "just one more soul" to enter into our lives.

That's what we are about: "St Barbara Church, where people are saints & sinners."

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## Congratulations and God bless our 2018 First Communicants.

## One View of CRHP

I had no idea what to expect when I agreed to attend the Christ Renews His Parish ("CRHP") retreat at St. Barbara's Parish. The last few years had been very difficult and I needed time for spiritual reflection. I am pleased to say that CRHP delivered that and much, much more. It was a beautiful journey with the Holy Spirit from beginning to end.

The program used individual witnesses, inspirational music, group discussions, quiet time for reflection, and other tools to demonstrate the beauty of God's love and mercy in our lives. As soon as I arrived I could tell something special was going on. Although I knew only 2 of the other women, I felt an immediate sense of belonging and the atmosphere was one of joy and excitement. I quickly learned that the team of women organizing the program (the "giving" team) had gone through CRHP the prior year. They were ready for the 27 new CRHP women and all we were about to experience. The program used a series of personal witnesses, Scripture, inspirational music, group discussions and, of course, reflection and prayer, to demonstrate the love God has for each of us and the beauty of our Catholic faith. We shared our human experiences and instances of God's saving grace in our lives in a caring and confidential environment. Emotions went from joy and laughter to sadness and tears, and back again, as the Holy Spirit guided our renewal.

The CRHP experience was just what I needed, when I needed it. It was a wonderful reminder that I'm not alone and I'm not that different from others trying to live our Catholic faith. I am part of a much wider Catholic community filled with supportive, loving, faith-filled disciples. My new CRHP "sisters" are among those disciples. I look forward to living out my renewal experience with them as we prayerfully transition into a "giving" team for next year's CRHP group.



# Another View of CRHP FAMILIES FOR LIFE

## DIAMONDS

"Oh, the joy of the Lord, it will be my strength. When the pressure is on, He's making diamonds." - Hawk Nelson

As a teenager, I worked in my father's shop to earn spending money. My father was a jeweler so I was daily surrounded by gold, silver, colored gemstones and diamonds, lots of beautiful, broken, glittering diamonds. I remember Dad explaining that although diamonds are one of the strongest minerals on earth, he saw broken diamonds every day.

So perhaps it was not surprising that this year the Holy Spirit finally inspired me to commit to the Christ Renews His Parish weekend at St. Barbara's. This year the theme was "Diamonds," from the song by Hawk Nelson. The CRHP weekend was an oasis, unplugged from the television, the smart phone, the computer, and free from the push and pull of ordinary life. It was a time of serenity and silence, of tears and laughter, of reflection and meditation, of song and scripture. CRHP was a time for community and connection with the women of our faith family.

We shared our stories and our strength. We supported one another and marveled at the power of God to heal our flaws and imperfections, "making diamonds out of us." Thanks to all the "gems" on the giving team who polished and prepared us to continue the renewal process. They were, "brilliant!"

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*These two women participated in the recent Christ Renews His Parish weekend here at St. Barbara. If you missed attending this year, mark your 2019 calendar for the last weekend in February so you too can be lifted up in the peace of the Holy Spirit.*

by Karen Reigler

### Cross the Bridge for Life 2018

Plans are in underway for the 13th anniversary of Cross the Bridge for Life! For the past 13 years, over 35,000 people have participated in this event. Cross the Bridge for Life has become a wonderful opportunity for the public and their families to stand up for the sanctity of human life in a peaceful, prayerful, family-friendly event, filling the Purple People Bridge with the joy of life!

The gathering for this event will take place at the festival grounds on the river next to the Purple People Bridge in Newport on Sunday, June 3rd beginning at 1:00. As in past years, there will be free t-shirts, face painting and balloon clowns for the children, music by the band Easter Rising and much more!

This event is a collaboration sponsored by 25 life-affirming organizations and agencies in the Greater Cincinnati area, including the Diocese of Covington and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Please mark your calendars now and join St. Barbara's parishioners to Cross the Bridge for Life!!!

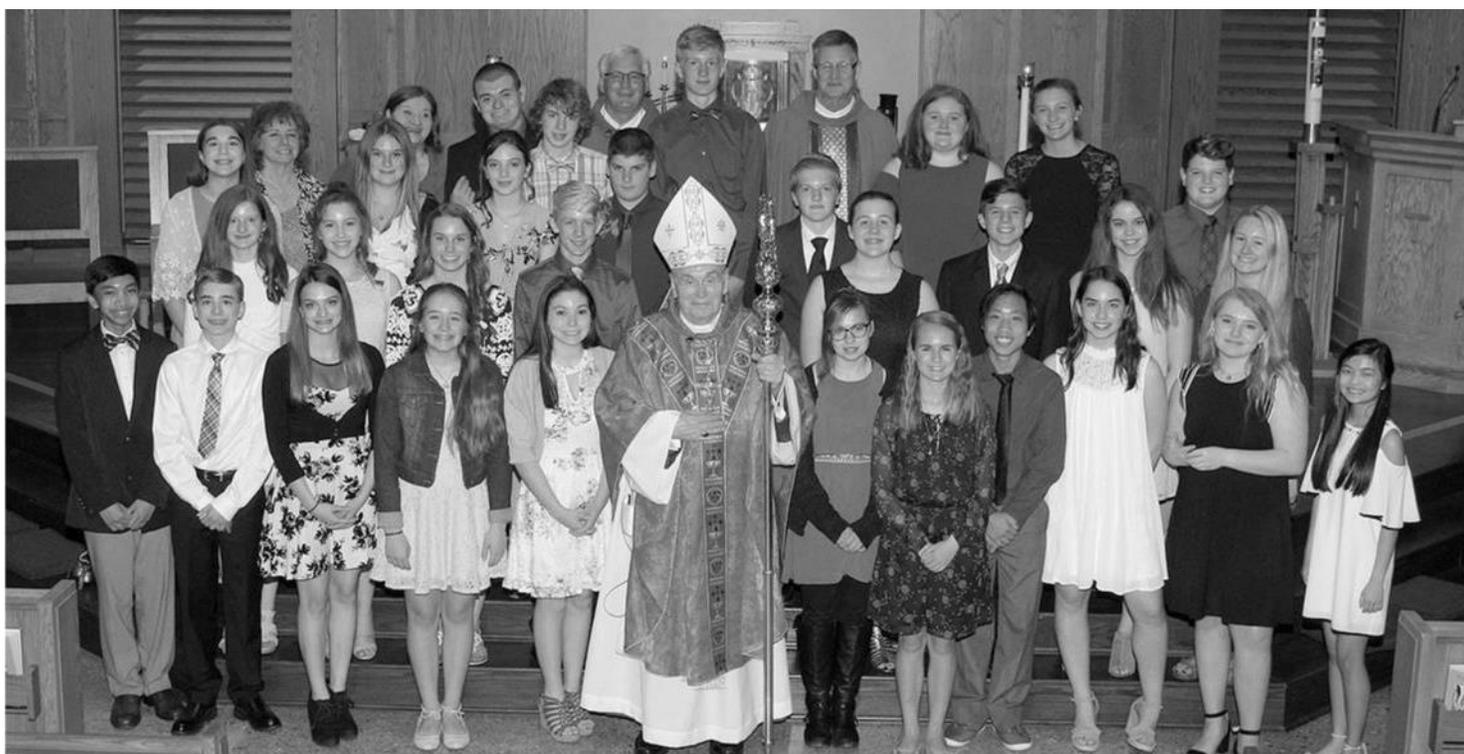
For more information, please call Karen Riegler at 859-393-7304 or visit [www.crossthebridgeforlife.com](http://www.crossthebridgeforlife.com)



*Have A Wonderful  
Summer*

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**Congratulations and God bless our  
2018 Confirmandi.**





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## St. Henry Grade School News

by Julie Nelson

It is hard to believe the school year is coming to an end! Congratulations to Noah Francis who placed 8th at State in "Individual" Future Problem Solving this year! Students from all over the state competed in this two hour competition. Noah competed against high school Freshmen who were also in his division. What an accomplishment!

Congratulations to Charlie Bihl, Griffin Eilers, Zach Arlinghaus, Nathan Francis, Maddox Nelson, Will Hammond, Sean Surber, and Jack Stich on winning the St. Joe 5th/6th Grade Volleyball League Tournament!

Please keep all of our students who will be making their First Communion and Confirmation in your prayers. God bless them in their faith journey.

As a reminder, 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 the same rate as St. Henry parishioners.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon	May 14	TGIFridays Fundraiser
Fri	May 18	Roctoerfest Spaghetti Dinner, 6:30 pm
Sat	May 19	Moms CPR class, 9:00 am
Mon	May 28	Memorial Day Mass, 10:00 am
Sun	Jun 3	Blood Pressure screening, after all Masses
Mon-Fri	Jun 25-29	Vacation Bible School, 9:30 am - Noon
Sun	Jul 1	Blood Pressure screening, after all Masses
Mon	Jul 9	TGIFridays Fundraiser
Sat	Jul 28	Parish Picnic, 5:00
Sun	Aug 5	Blood Pressure screening, after all Masses
Fri	Aug 10	Women's Pink Party, 6:30 pm
Fri	Aug 10	Men's Holy Name Cookout, 6:30 pm
Wed	Aug 15	Assumption Mass, 10:00 am and 7:00 pm
Sat/Sun	Aug 18, 19, 25, 26	Rocktoberfest Sign-ups
Mon	Aug 20	Vascular Screening & Mammograms, 7:00

## St. Henry High School News

by Sarah Banks:

Our fourth quarter started off strong in a multitude of areas: service, academics, arts, and sports. In service, St. Henry recently hosted our second annual DanceCru event that benefits the Dragonfly Foundation. This foundation raises funds and awareness for pediatric cancer and they give the young patients opportunities such as Kings Island days and baseball tickets. In addition, St. Henry is *very* excited to host yet another Senior Senior Prom. This is an event where students dress their best and visit a senior citizen living community. There the students bring snacks and desserts to give to the residents. St. Henry also funds a DJ to play music as the students have an opportunity to dance with the residents who are able or sit and talk with others.

In academics, our Science Olympiad team competed for the first time in a wide variety of events. In some our students placed third or second place. However, our crowning achievement was winning first place in the Tower project led by Garret Manahan and Christian Matthews. Overall, the team placed 4th in the competition and plans to return next year and vie for a place in the state competition. On another note, the Governor's Scholars Program is a prestige 5 week program during the summer in which students from around the state of Kentucky take classes that relate to a specific topic. The following students were recently accepted into the program: Paul Deis, Nyah Hollman, Kameron Kraus, Natalie Pope, and Maggie Tagher. In fine arts, our school recently performed our take on "Godspell" for our spring musical.

Lastly, for the sports update. A majority of our spring sports have begun including track, baseball, softball, and tennis. However, the archery team recently finished up their season. They participated in several competitions from October until March, and was able to place forty-eighth in the state of Kentucky out of one hundred and fifty teams. In addition, Brennan Eilers qualified for the KHSAA state tournament. The archers recently competed in the NASP state tournament in Louisville with over 400 archers shooting per hour. The team scored 3257 points and landed them in fifty-second place out of the one hundred and six teams.