

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

By Deacon Chuck Melville

Advent and the Christmas season is fast approaching. Where has this year gone? For many of us, especially me, the year 2021, cannot come soon enough. Crisis after crisis, made worse by the pandemic, civil unrest and political tension, has the current year leaving a bitter aftertaste whenever we even think about 2020. Perhaps that is why mere mention of the approaching Christmas season has an unusually inspirational ring to it; people are exhausted and desperately need a comforting silent night and simply be reminded that “God is not dead, He doesn’t sleep — that the wrong shall fail, the right prevail....”

Amid considering my thoughts for this article, I received an anonymous email warning about another virus. Let me share it here:

WARNING...WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- Tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences
- Unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment
- Loss of interest in judging other people
- Loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others
- Loss of interest in conflict
- Loss of the ability to worry (this is a very serious symptom)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature
- Frequent attacks of smiling
- Increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen
- Increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as an uncontrollable urge to extend it

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

This Advent Virus will probably not be as widespread as the COVID-19 or even the annual flu virus that hits around this time but I pray that the Advent Virus touches each of us to help to counter act the effects of 2020, to give us something to look forward to as we make ready for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas and also as we prepare for the Second coming of Our Lord. Ready or not, here it comes.

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Filled with the Gifts of the Spirit

By Jackie Koop

The Sacrament of Confirmation was finally celebrated here at St. Barbara on October 19, 2020, after being postponed from May. The celebration looked different this year, with social distancing, fewer guests, and no reception. Our 19 parishioners and two students from Blessed Sacrament and St. Henry were all joy-filled, more than ready to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and become fully initiated into their Catholic Faith. Congratulations to all of them, and their families. Thank you to Bishop Foy, the clergy, catechist Diane Blackwood, catechist (and photographer) Don Rohman, and all who helped to make this a blessed event.

2020 Confirmandi:

Millie Boerman, Sydney Bautista, Keira Egan, Avari Hall, Kenzington Holt, Matthew Ingle, Madison Kirst, Adam Kolar, Jack Longshore, Grace Metz, Kyle Moellering, Maddox Nelson, Ella Noyes, Connor Reese, Tobias Rice, Grace Rowekamp, Trisha Schlensker, Andrew Toler, Natalee Tracey, Ellie White, Ava Zimmerman



Patti Taylor Retires... Pastor Forced to Work!!!

We were so fortunate to have Patti Taylor come on as my Administrative Assistant in 2008. She put a sign on her desk that read: "Let's assume I'm right, it will save time." So, I lived by that message and somehow it worked.



I will miss her two-sided personality that could be an angel when she answered the phone or the door but became a bear when she hung up that phone or the person left the office.

Years ago, anyone who used foul language in the office was forced to put a quarter in the piggy bank on her desk. Patti may be broke now — I think that we could safely say that Patti built our new Church!! She certainly made this office interesting!

Patti did not want me to say anything in this article that was not humorous. Sorry, Patti — you will have to listen to me this time! Patti was truly the most efficient and dedicated person that we could have asked for. She was my right arm and made my life easier, and made this parish run smoother. She always was and still is, there in an instant when needed. After retiring in mid-September, Patti has been subbing when needed in the parish office. We wish Patti well in her retirement.



We have been so blessed to have long-time parishioner Penny Kramer step in and join the staff in May as an administrative assistant. Penny has already proven to be a perfect replacement. Her involvement at the parish includes serving as the Welcome coordinator, Eucharistic Minister, Rosary Leader, Walking with Purpose, Parish Council, and volunteer at parish events. Welcome Penny!



Please thank Patti and Penny for their dedication whenever you get a chance. God Bless them both!!
And God Bless all of you!!!
Father John

Inspiring Stewards Among Us

By Jeanette Bolin

A life-long Catholic and Northern Kentuckian, Karen Riegler and her husband Boone joined St. Barbara Parish in 2013. Both felt that ours was a parish where they not only felt welcomed, but also where they were being "spiritually fed." Karen has been involved in numerous diocesan and parish ministries over the years. At our parish, she currently serves the leadership committee for Walking with Purpose and ministers at Mass as a Lector.

A deep involvement in pro-life ministries is due to Karen's "regard for the Church's teaching on the sanctity of life and love for the dignity of all people regardless of the stage or circumstances of their life, but especially the unborn who have no voice." She was inspired by St. John Paul II's writing of the encyclical Evangelium Vitae - The Gospel of Life. "I have always considered my pro-life witness as a calling of the Holy Spirit." After serving on the original Pro-life Commission that was established by Bishop Hughes, Karen was hired by Bishop Muench as the first Pro-life Director for the Diocese of Covington. Her work in pro-life ministry continued under Bishop Foys; currently chairing the steering committee of the Cross the Bridge for Life, a local pro-life event and on the steering committee for Project Rachel, a post-abortion healing ministry. At the parish level, Karen has also been very active in promoting pro-life activities through the Families for Life ministry.



In recognition of her pro-life involvement, Bishop Foys recently awarded Karen the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice, a papal award in recognition of distinguished service given to the Church.

A strong supporter of Catholic schools, Karen serves on the committee for the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE). Karen and Boone co-chaired the Capital Campaign for the new Fine Arts Building at St. Henry District High School, which was completed earlier this year.

A devoted wife and mother, Karen has been married to Boone for over 48 years. The couple has been blessed with three children and seven grandchildren. Not surprisingly, Karen has no spare time; it is always purposely full — mainly planning activities that involve family, friends, and volunteer work.

We are very grateful for Karen's stewardship and contributions to our diocese and parish!

To learn about stewardship opportunities at our parish, please go to the Ministry tab on our parish website or app.

Who inspires you? Share the good news!
Suggestions for the Stewardship and Ministry features are welcomed and can be sent to crosstalk@stbarbaraky.org.

CCD: Spirit of Truth

By Jackie Koop

It is a semester of change for St. Barbara CCD classes. We began a new series, "Spirit of Truth" for Grades 1-7 and our Grade 8 Confirmation class is completing the Theology of the Body course. Students and families are completing lessons at home for now to keep everyone healthy and safe. CCD teachers and Jackie Koop are available to assist families at any time by email or phone messages. We look forward and pray that we will meet with our youngest parishioners very soon. Please check the parish website, stbarbaraky.org/ccd-registration, for registration and updates.

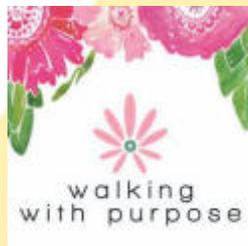
Keeping in Balance

By Liz Smith

During this unusual season, Walking with Purpose is looking a little bit different. Instead of gathering in the Sterling Event Center, more than 100 women log into Zoom each Monday night to grow in understanding of the scriptures and to strengthen their relationship with God and one another. Our leaders and participants have chosen to be "**fearlessly positive**" and have worked together to make our virtual meetings a success.

If the "unknowns" have you feeling frazzled and out of control, our current study **Keeping In Balance** provides the tools to find contentment by leaning into God. Are you interested in learning more but are concerned about committing to the full session? Join us for a coffee talk. You'll watch an inspirational video and connect in a small group. You won't regret spending an hour and a half on a Monday evening opening the door of your heart to Jesus. If you'd like to learn more about the next coffee talk, email Marybeth Bosko at marybethbosko@gmail.com or Laurie Munson at lauriemunson22@gmail.com.

Find out more about Walking with Purpose by visiting the website, walkingwithpurpose.com.



Be a Part of a Lasting Legacy!

Have a paver engraved for the path to the St. Barbara Adoration Chapel to honor family, friends, loved ones, pets, or in memoriam for a special person.

Choose a favorite saying or poem or just a name and date. The possibilities are endless and there is no limit to the number of bricks you can purchase.

Each 4"x 8" brick is \$100 and each 12"x 12" paver is \$500. To order, please complete a printed form or the online form at stbarbaraky.org/legacy-pavers.

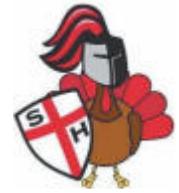
The deadline is Dec. 27.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Hehman at mark.hehman@gmail.com.



Giving Thanks and CruGiving

By Dennis Wolff, Principal



Philippians 4:6 reminds us to "*not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*" This is a verse we have been thinking about recently at St. Henry School. We are thankful for our blessings, and with thankful hearts we offer prayers and petitions as we plan to keep our beloved school moving forward in these, again, unprecedented times.

We are thankful that our students have been able to attend in-person school since August. Some students were required to stay home to quarantine, and some have chosen to stay home and participate synchronously. Synchronous learning means that students have been learning from home virtually alongside their classmates during the regular school day.

We need your help to keep **ST. HENRY STRONG!** We are having CruGiving from November 15-21 to raise needed funds to maintain the excellence that the St. Henry name represents in households around Northern Kentucky and everywhere.

Your gift will support Technology, Innovative Curriculum, Teacher Development, Student/Teacher Support, and Enrichment programs. We in turn, will be helping others and celebrating all that makes St. Henry excellent. Each day during CruGiving week, our students and faculty will be doing student led service-learning projects to benefit others and make concrete what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

- St. Vincent de Paul canned food drive
- Diocesan Catholic Children's Home drive for books, board games and art supplies
- Donut sale for resources to make prayer blankets
- Candy gram sale to support the Diocesan Seminary Ball
- Preparing and cutting angels for holiday giving tree

For more info, visit www.sthenryschool.net/page/CruGiving2020

Stay connected with us at [facebook.com/st.henryschool](https://www.facebook.com/st.henryschool) and our website: sthenryschool.net.
St. Henry and St. Barbara, pray for us!

DPAA Update

"Hope does not disappoint ... the love of God has been poured out into our hearts." (Romans 5:5)

We appreciate your generosity to give hope and support to those in need in our community through the annual DPAA. All parishioners are encouraged to contribute to the 2020 DPAA campaign with a pledge or donation of any size. All funds collected over our parish goal of \$121,000 will be returned to St. Barbara to be used for parish projects. To donate or for more info, visit covidio.org or pick up a DPAA envelope in the Welcome Center at church.

Thanks for your giving and prayers!



Rocktoberfest Steering Committee

By Courtney Mueller

Possibly the most exciting event St. Barbara's holds each year is Rocktoberfest. Anyone involved in planning the festival will agree that the process can be stressful, exhausting, and fun. Before the chairs and booth captains start meeting, the steering committee is hard at work, making each festival bigger and better than the last.

Ten years ago, Dave Pauly was asked to start the festival for St. Barbara. Dave says that God has rewarded him by allowing him to be involved in Rocktoberfest. His favorite part of planning the festival is meeting new people.

“Festivals create friendships and bonds that otherwise wouldn't happen. Festivals allow us to express our faith and fellowship, have fun, and meet new people,” Dave said.

John Mikula became a member of the steering committee after he offered to help with graphics. While he loves the fellowship and knows that he has made friends that will last a lifetime, one of his favorite parts is after the festival starts. John commented, “People are having fun, stress begins to subside, and you begin to relax — a bit, take a step back and see what your efforts produced. It's a good thing.”

Tina Bowen also started volunteering at the festival in order to meet new people. She started out working a few volunteer shifts over the weekend, but was soon “promoted” to be a captain, a chair, and now a member of the steering committee. Even though it is stressful, Tina said, “I enjoy the organization and planning of it...I can't imagine not ever helping with it.”

Peggy Tuemler became a member of the steering committee nine years ago when Dave Pauly asked her to serve as the committee's secretary. She said, “I agreed, and little did I know, that it would change my life for the better.” Peggy loves the week leading up to the festival when everything is being set up because she likes to see everyone come together as a team and enjoy spending time together.

Tony Buerger, Therese Cloar, Dawn Divita, Chuck McHale, Lauren Senvisky, Steve Senvisky, and Curt White also served on the 2019 steering committee, but were unavailable for comment.

While we were unable to hold the festival this year, we look forward to being able to have the 10-year anniversary of Rocktoberfest in 2021 and celebrating with the parish.



Ministry Spotlight: Family Promise

By Courtney Mueller

Several years ago, the organization formerly known as the Interfaith Hospitality Network reformed as an affiliate of the national Family Promise and has been providing assistance to low-income families in our community.

Specifically, Family Promise serves homeless families in Northern Kentucky. Volunteers assist families with finding permanent housing, cook meals for families, and help clean the Day Center. Case managers meet with families on a weekly basis to discuss housing and employment opportunities. The ministry is currently working with their 60th family.

Volunteers often maintain relationships with the families served by Family Promise. Michael Fay and Debbie Feldman have been serving as the Coordinators of Family Promise; Michael commented, “I've become much more aware of the struggles of people experiencing homelessness, and more aware of how many people are affected in [Northern Kentucky]. I've met some amazing people who were merely the victims of one too many bad things happening to them at one time, resulting in homelessness.”

For more information or to volunteer, parishioners can contact the parish office and ask for the contact information for the St. Barbara's coordinators, or visit nkyfamilypromise.org.



Our Parish Family

New Parishioners

John Rasp
Jon & Teri Aydt
Daniel & Connie Cornett
Walter & Sharon Salyers
Robert & Carol Holcshuh
Ryan & Alexa Satek
Samuel & Abbey Dedden
David & Kathleen Kreyling
John & Danielle Marx
Ryan & Dana Malone
Jerry & Cristy Thompson

Newly Married

Michael Macht & Christina Rust
Nicholas Ackley & Dana Kemp
Cody Wilson & Alisha Kirk
Samuel Dedden & Abbey Moellering

In Memoriam

Cathryn Fugazzi
Linda McHargue
John Brockman