

## We are All Called to a Life of Ministry

A life of ministry begins with personal holiness and a personal relationship with Christ. As a priest, it took me a while to learn this. I now begin every day with a Holy Hour. I begin with meditation and then go to the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. This time is separate from any homily preparation. It is when I get filled with the Spirit of Christ to do God's work and God's will. Following the Liturgy of the Hours through Evening Prayer and reflecting on the day with Night Prayer also helps to sustain me, realizing that I am not doing the work, but Christ is doing it through me. Bishop Foys helped me to realize the importance of these practices when I was dealing with some problems a few years back.



The temptation is to get SO busy in the ministry that we put the prayer on the back burner when it really needs to be just the opposite. Before the seminary, Father Ray Holtz taught me the importance of personal prayer and a relationship with Christ. I also find this connection while hiking in the woods and finding God in nature.

When we put it all in God's hands, we can watch our vocation unfold on a daily basis as we attempt to always do God's will. It is exciting to see what God can do when we get out of the way!

~ God Bless You All,  
Father John

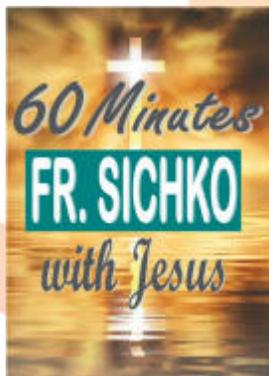
## St. Barbara Invites You to Our Church Mission

We welcome Fr. Jim Sichko, a full-time preacher, evangelist, and motivational speaker on Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1 from 7-8pm in church and broadcast in the Sterling Event Center.

Known for his storytelling, Fr. Jim weaves everyday life experiences with the rooted messages which lie within the gospels. Each 60-minute talk is geared for all in a family household with no exceptions.

Doors open at 6pm. No Tickets Required. Record attendance expected. Mask are strongly encouraged.

Fr. Jim Sichko will also be preaching at all Masses on Nov. 27 and Nov. 28.



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## Rocktoberfest 2021 Rocked!

By Tina Bowen

We all know the dreaded COVID put a halt on many things in everyone's lives. At St. Barbara our faith, fun and fellowship was put on hold temporarily with many activities that are a great part of this parish. That included of course our annual festival, Rocktoberfest in 2020.

The Steering committee, confident that we would prevail in 2021 starting meeting in February to plan the event. We worried about getting supplies, and having enough volunteers, and even worried that people would even come to the festival. By "letting go and letting God" the weekend was a great success!

We were busy each day, and crowd came to listen to great bands, Doghouse, The Whammies, and Brother Smith. They played games, bet on the duck races, ate lots of burgers, hot dogs, and drank beer, slushies, and soda. The community came and supported our parish! Our parish family came out to volunteer their time and talent to man the booths, sell chances, and clean up.

This festival was not about fundraising in 2021, it was about bringing our faith, fun, and fellowship back into the parish, and we succeeded tenfold.

Thank you to every person that volunteered or donated anything towards the success of Rocktoberfest 2021. YOU are what makes this festival happen.



## First Impressions of Our New Bishop

By Deacon Chuck Melville

A couple of months ago, I received an email telling me I had been selected to be one of the deacons at the installation of our new Bishop. I was surprised but elated that I was being asked to be a part of that service. The big day arrived; there I was dressed in elaborate vestments, processing in and being close to our new Bishop, two Cardinals, quite a few other bishops, and many of the priests of our Diocese. The Installation Ceremony was impressive. I must admit; my head probably got a little bigger. But as I went about performing the tasks set out for me, I got to observe our new shepherd, Bishop John Iffert. I had viewed the news reports when he had first been announced as the replacement of Bishop Foys. He seems kind of shy, even a bit overwhelmed. But, here we were, close up.

My first personal encounter with Bishop Iffert was at practice the day before. He approached me and introduced himself. It was a humble, heartfelt greeting of new friends. I watched as he prepared for his big day and my initial impressions were reinforced. As we worked through the elaborate ceremony I watched a humble man accept the responsibility of guiding our Diocese into a new era for all of us.



Bishop Iffert's message as he begins his time with us is one of thanksgiving. His Episcopal Motto, "In all things, Give Thanks" reflects his conviction that turning to Christ with rejoicing, prayer and thanksgiving is truly God's wish for all of us. We really don't know where life will lead us, or the challenges that our Diocese will face, but I am confident that we will have a loving shepherd guiding us with care.

## Families for Life

By Karen Riegler

There is a lot of discussion these days about "following the science". Through the technology of ultrasound and other forms of technology that give us a "window to the womb", science tells us that an unborn child is very much human and alive. The unborn baby is a distinct human person who depends on the mother's body for protection and nourishment. This is not potential life, but life with potential!

There are definite obstacles that lay in the way for women who are faced with an unexpected pregnancy. Enter the Pregnancy Centers and their devoted volunteers who work with these young women (and men) to help remove these obstacles—instead of removing the baby. The pregnancy centers offer hope and a future, not only for these parents but for their unborn children. Guiding them through making a choice for parenting or making the choice for an adoption plan, provides a life-giving path instead of the demise of an innocent life. The pro-life community supports these front-line workers with our donations, our support through fundraisers, and our own volunteer time. These pregnancy centers are always grateful for our help and support. We are very blessed that these pregnancy centers are such a vital part of our community.

St. Barbara's Families for Life would like to thank our parishioners who donated items for the October baby shower for CareNet, New Hope Center, and the Rose Garden Mission pregnancy centers. Thank you also to those who donated money in the spring to the CareNet baby bottle collection. We are happy to once again provide support to mothers who have chosen life for their babies.

There is so much we can do as a faith community to build a Culture of Life! Families for Life is the pro-life ministry at our parish that provides ways for parishioners of all ages and abilities to channel their energy and direct their efforts to be involved in specific pro-life activities in our parish, diocese, and community. Our ministry is based on the Church's fundamental teaching that all life is a gift from God, and that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. The Church and its Bishops have identified abortion as the preeminent life issue because of its ramifications, but it is not the only life issue that our ministry addresses. Please consider being part of St. Barbara's Families for Life. To learn more, please contact Karen Riegler at 859-393-7304 or [karenriegler@me.com](mailto:karenriegler@me.com).

### Advent & Christmas Season Masses

#### Advent Masses

Dec. 1, 15, and 22 at 7pm

#### Immaculate Conception Holiday

Dec. 8 at 10am & 7pm

#### Christmas Eve Masses

Dec. 24 at 4pm, 6pm, 10pm

#### Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 25 at 10am

#### New Year's Eve

Dec. 31 at **CHANGED to 6:00 pm was 4:30pm**

#### New Year's Day

Jan. 1, 2022 at 4:30pm

## Welcome Weekend is Calling You

By Jeanne Sperry

Do you sense that something is missing in your life? Do you feel that if you weren't so busy you would be happier, healthier, more fulfilled, and maybe even a better person? You are invited to join us at the next St. Barbara Women's WELCOME Weekend.

Get to know other women in our parish community and hear how their faith in Christ has helped them through life's many challenges. The Welcome Weekend is a relaxing opportunity for personal reflection, prayer, sharing God's word, and reconciliation. As a Receiving member of the Welcome 2020 Weekend, I will never forget the women in the parish who opened up their hearts and souls to make us realize that all of us have problems in our lives, but we never have to face them alone because we are always surrounded by loving and caring women who are there to help carry us through. I can't think of a better way to spend a cold February weekend than to be pampered with delicious meals, fun activities, and every possible amenity that will make a weekend away from home one to remember and cherish.

**Welcome.**  
There is More to Life

Join us for this FREE incredible experience!  
February 26 & February 27, 2022  
8am on Saturday to 2pm on Sunday  
Sterling Event Center

For more information contact:

Jeanne Sperry at [jeanne.sperry@fuse.net](mailto:jeanne.sperry@fuse.net) or 859-331-2629  
or Jeni Luken at [djlukenjr@gmail.com](mailto:djlukenjr@gmail.com) or 859-801-2822

### Our Parish Family

#### New Parishioners

Alisha Arlinghaus  
Nick & Brittany Brinkman  
Terrence & Beverly Dullaghan  
Renaud Lawrence  
Antonio & Emilce Lopez  
Andrew & Cheryl Lucas  
Laura Naviaux  
Ivan & Jaceline Pomales  
Daniel Sidor  
Jack & Stephana Zelezonik

#### Newly Married

Alec Kaelin & Abigail Lukey  
Christopher Ingraham & Emily Kraft

#### In Memoriam

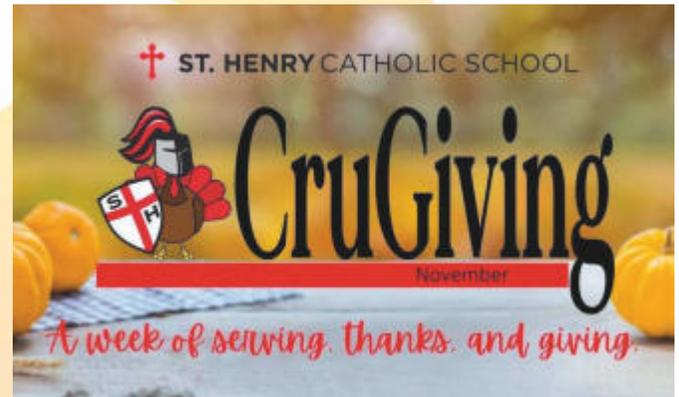
Linda Benzinger  
Gary Guenther  
Ruth Reeves  
Joseph Watson  
Michelle Williams  
Mildred Zimmerman

## Crusaders Making Great Strides

By Dennis Wolff, Principal

After an up and down beginning to the school year, we are settling in and making great strides at our parish school, St. Henry Elementary. Our eighth graders are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and visited the Emergency Shelter, Parish Kitchen, and Welcome House in Covington as part of their SEEK retreat. They also recently returned from Camp Joy for their overnight team-building experience that was paused last year. The volleyball season is wrapping up and St. Henry had some very strong performances across grade levels that included an undefeated regular season and league team champions. We're looking forward to having our basketball tournaments back, starting with the Crusader Classic in November.

Last year in response to the challenging times presented by COVID, we kicked off our first ever CruGiving fundraising week. We were blessed to raise more than \$50,000! What a tremendous outpouring of support from our St. Henry community that spanned across cities, counties, and states.



This year we're prayerful that we can meet and exceed that goal as we aim to raise money to purchase new reading books, upgrade the science lab, buy needed equipment for our youngest Crusaders to use and develop their gross motor skills, and more. To incentivize meeting the goal, students will have an opportunity to sink me in a dunk tank if the goal is met as well as earn an extra day off! To donate, go to our CruGiving website at [CruGiving2021.givesmart.com](http://CruGiving2021.givesmart.com).

I cannot thank you enough for your time, your prayers, and your generosity in helping us stay ST. HENRY STRONG. St. Henry and St. Barbara, pray for us!



Our adult religious education program restarted this fall. We accepted Father John's challenge to focus on a broad range of topics covering mind, body, and spirit. Our topics will be announced in the parish bulletin and by email. Come join us for these educational talks and discussions on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in the Sterling Event Center at 7pm.

## Inspiring Stewards Among Us

By Courtney Mueller

Something all new parishioners at St. Barbara receive is a phone call from Bill Fotsch to welcome them to the parish. Whether he is working on planning the festival or helping to clean the parish grounds, Bill's kind, fun-loving nature is evident to all who know him.

Though he is part of several ministries, lecturing and helping to plan Rocktoberfest are among his favorites for different reasons. Bill has been a lector for decades, and enjoys having the opportunity to understand the readings on a deeper level and as Bill says, "to contain my standup comic tendencies."

He was recruited to help with Rocktoberfest by Dave and Patti Pauly. He said "For me, it's all about faith, friendship, and fun – with a double dose of fun."

He encourages new parishioners to get involved in ministries they are passionate about.



While Bill has many great memories of St. Barbara, he specifically mentioned giving his cancer testimonial and receiving a kind word from Father John. Bill also recalled introducing Father John at a Valentine's Day event saying, "he had not forgotten his fifty-seven past girlfriends, given that he sings a hymn in Latin before every mass, which I translated, 'to all the girls I've loved before...'"

Outside of the parish, Bill is the founder and CEO of Open Book Coaching, and says that his work is an extension of his faith. Bill is constantly trying to make the world a better place and live up to the Fotsch family motto: To whom much is given, much is expected.

### Have You Moved or Updated Your Email Address?

Please send your new information to the parish office at [stb@stbararaky.org](mailto:stb@stbararaky.org) or 859-371-3100. We need your help to keep our records updated and our parishioners informed.

Thank you!

## Ministry Spotlight: Children's Liturgy

By Courtney Mueller

Bringing children closer to God is at the heart of Children's Liturgy. Each week, kids know they can expect to sing, listen to God's word, and participate in fun activities.

When asked about her favorite part of the ministry, Alicia Kemp said that she enjoys reading the Bible in the simplest terms and applying it to daily life. She also shared one of her favorite stories about helping with Children's Liturgy. Alicia recalled that, "when Christmas is close, I ask the children whose birthday we are celebrating in our church, and there is always a child who says it's their birthday!"

Alicia has been involved with Children's Liturgy since 1997 and was taught by Debbie Vogt. She said that through learning from Debbie, she really saw how being a parent and teaching went hand-in-hand.

For more information or to get involved with Children's Liturgy, contact Alicia Kemp at [aliciaagnes Kemp@gmail.com](mailto:aliciaagnes Kemp@gmail.com). Volunteers are needed for both 9am and 11am masses.

## Holiday Giving Opportunities

As we approach the holiday season, please consider giving to our parish's collections for those in need. **Thank you for your generosity!**

- Our **Christmas Giving Tree** provides gifts for families from Summit View, Caywood, Beechgrove, and Turkeyfoot Middle schools. Printed tags with the requested items are available before or after weekend Masses or you can make a selection on **SignupGenius**. Please return the unwrapped gift with the gift tag attached no later than noon on Dec.5. Contact [sbgtree@gmail.com](mailto:sbgtree@gmail.com) with any questions or for information about signing up online.
- Spread some holiday cheer to the residents at **Woodcrest Nursing & Rehabilitation Center** by selecting a gift from the Woodcrest Wish List. See the parish website or app to sign up, then return gifts by Dec.12. Contact [jkidwell@stbararaky.org](mailto:jkidwell@stbararaky.org) with questions.
- The **Retirement Fund for Religious** helps religious communities care for their aging members, who have offered a lifetime of service. Donations can be placed in the collection basket, sent to the parish office, or made online at [covidio.org/stewardship-missions](http://covidio.org/stewardship-missions). Learn more at [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).
- The **St. Vincent dePaul Society** provides assistance with utility costs, rent, groceries and household items to needy families in our area. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket or made online at [stbararaky.weshareonline.org](http://stbararaky.weshareonline.org).

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@stbararaky.org](mailto:crosstalk@stbararaky.org).