

Let's Stay Together!!!

The old AI Green song could so well apply to our parish after this past year. *"Let's Stay Together, whether times are good or bad, happy or sad. Let's Stay Together."* I don't know about you, but for me, it seems like spring is more beautiful than ever this year. It feels like last year everything was in black and white and now everything is in color again. We survived one of the strangest years of our lives, with COVID-19, political unrest, riots, and shootings.



But here at St. Barbara, we not only survived, but we are beginning to thrive once again because that's who we are. We stay together through all things. One thing I came to realize this past year is that 95% of the time when there is a complaint or negative reaction, it is usually someone from a different parish. It is SO good to see so many of you back in Church. And things are only going to get better. We may even be back to having our Parish Picnic and Rocktoberfest this year, God willing. Let us thank and praise our God for bringing us through this past year! And no matter what lies ahead in the years to come: *"Let's Stay Together!"*

~ God Bless You All,
Father John

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First Communion Joyfully Celebrated

On Sunday April 25, 22 young members of our parish celebrated their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to all of those receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time: Bentley Bunch, Quinn Cooper, Rogue Crider, Koleson Eten, Elaina Hamilton, Rose Hauser, Aidan Hawkes, Bella Jeffries, Adelynn Kiefer, Brooke Larson, George List, John McElheney, Molly O' Gorman, Conner Pleiman, Sophia Reinhart, Aiden Richter, Lindsey Schlotterbeck, Abigail Stephens, Jaden Stephens, Tanner Teke, Emalyn Wisher, and Madelyn Wisher.

On April 10, Ava Lehmkuhl celebrated First Communion with her family. Noah, Lucy, Samuel, and Emily Link celebrated First Communion on May 9. Elaina Hamilton was also baptized in April in preparation for First Communion.

Thanks to the families, catechists, Father John, and Deacon Chuck for their love and support for our students during their preparation for the sacraments.



Congratulations

Celebrating 25 Years Ordained

RCIA: Full Communion with the Church

By Deacon Chuck Melville

When I think of spring, I think of Easter and fresh, new life after the dreariness of winter. At Easter, we reflect on the Risen Christ and the new life that we have as baptized Christians. Our



sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are the gifts from God that define our life as Catholics. It is especially encouraging to see the faces of the new members of our Church as they participate in the Rites of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil. This year, five catechumens were baptized into the Faith and received their first Holy Communion, and were also confirmed by Father Sterling. We welcomed David and Jamie Peru, along with their daughters Ysabella and Selena and David's mother Dorothy Huntelmann to full communion with the Church. Aden Thompson, whose family recently relocated to our area, was also confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

For the past eight months, these folks met with our RCIA team without fail, questioning, searching, and preparing to join our ranks. Two Sundays after Easter, I spoke to David and his family about their experience. David explained that it was the feeling of being welcomed by our parishioners that stood out to him. People were coming up to him at work and at church to welcome him. The family spoke of reading the letters and cards sent by parishioners they hadn't met yet and feeling a part of something special. Even experiencing the Mass felt different, more enhanced, as they were finally able to fully participate in the Eucharist. It occurs to me that we "cradle Catholics" tend to lose sight of the truly remarkable experience that is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Sometimes it takes "new eyes" to see and remind us of the real gift that God has granted to His people.

Our Parish Family

New Parishioners

Andrea Cash
David Hamilton
Ashley Holloway-Stacey
William Klein
Margaret Knorr
Jeff & Tara Rowekamp
Michael & Susan Schroth
Jessica Vick
Jane Wendeln

In Memoriam

Dorothy McKillip
Frances Schuh

Stewards Among Us

By Don Rohman

Stewardship is defined as, "The job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property." Marty and I can't think of a better property or organization to take care of than St. Barbara!

We joined St. Barbara about 22 years ago. At the time, we had two kids in school—Jon and Emily at Summit View and two older kids—Steve and Greg who had graduated. We needed to be more grounded in our faith and one of our kid's teachers, Jackie Koop, told us to try St. Barbara and that it was a "pretty welcoming parish." So we did, and we made connections right away by helping out with one of the Fish Fry Dinners.

I served Mass in grade school at St. James in Wyoming and in 7th grade, two of us were asked to be student lectors at the school Masses. We took turns the first year, but in the second year, the other student moved away. So I did almost every reading at the school Masses my 8th-grade year and came to love the Gospels!

My wife Marty is one of the hardest working women I know and is currently the Altar Society Coordinator. So, every Saturday morning, she is at church with a small crew of us who clean the Church and Adoration Chapel. So if you're bored on a Saturday morning around 9:30, come on up! Marty orders and arranges the flowers, such as the poinsettias at Christmas and the explosion of colorful flowers at Easter and throughout the year.



Over the years, we have stayed Virtus trained and been involved in many ministries and activities: Holy Name Society as member, vice-president and president, the Holy Dames, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, 7th Grade CCD Teacher, Crosstalk writer and photographer, event bartender, coordinator and server at the Rocktoberfest Grill (The Woolly Bully Cafe), helpers at Fish Fry Dinners and Turkeyshoots, Golf Outing coordinator, Prayer Warriors, a King at Mass for Epiphany, helpers at Youth Group events, and just humble parishioners!

We'd like to finish with this thought... we are just now coming out of one of the most separating times for our country and the Catholic Church—that being, the forced distancing from our families, friends, and even our Church family. If the family that "Prays together, stays together" then we need to gather the courage to come back and break bread with our parish family and strengthen that connection through the Eucharist! Then take that strength, and look for more ways YOU can be the good Stewards that a parish like St. Barbara needs to flourish and grow! Just try something—it could be the most rewarding opportunity you have as a parishioner in an exciting parish like ours!

God Bless you all, and God Bless St. Barbara Parish!

Catechists Share Faith in CCD Program

By Jackie Koop

Our parish provides religious education for the children who do not attend a Catholic grade school. These classes are required before children are admitted to the Sacramental preparation programs. The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program is conducted by volunteers in the parish who share their faith and religious education with the children of the parish.

The CCD school year ended abruptly and unexpectedly on March 11, 2020. Our dedicated and experienced staff deeply regrets that they didn't get to celebrate the accomplishments of their classes. This year, the staff has been most supportive in corresponding and assisting students, grandparents, and caregivers to complete their religion studies at home. Everyone is looking forward to a joyful reunion in the fall.

First grade teacher Christie Menke may have been the most disappointed as it was to be her first year as head teacher, after assisting Minnie White for three years. She is excited for the now 2nd graders she worked with, who are celebrating their First Communion. Joanie McGrath, our veteran 2nd grade teacher, stepped back this year to dedicate more time to family. Mary Jo Galbaugh graciously agreed to work with 2nd grade. Kayla Bunch is our 3rd grade teacher and is a childcare development professional. Cindy Boehmker, our 4th grade teacher, often catches up with her former kindergarten students whom she taught at Hinsdale Elementary. Pat Wilson "pleads the fifth" teaching 5th grade at Mary Queen of Heaven School and St. Barbara CCD. She is well loved for her sense of humor which you may have noted with her corny jokes in the parish bulletin. Our middle school teachers have a special gift of love and understanding of "tweens and teens." Patti Smith teaches 8th grade and Confirmation prep at St. Augustine School, and prepares the St. Barbara 6th graders for the challenges ahead. Don Rohman is the 7th grade teacher, and our parish photographer. Don has been known to sing "this 7th grade of mine is drivin' me out of my mind" to the tune of "This Little Light of Mine". Patience is a virtue owned by all the teachers. Diane Blackwood is the 8th grade teacher and Confirmation coordinator, responsible for teaching the Theology of the Body and Decision Point programs.

The St. Barbara CCD team is grateful and commends our students and their families for their faithful completion of studies at home. We also salute our CCD team for their service to our parish. We are excited to see our parish families back at Mass, and wish you a healthy and joy filled summer. Registration information will be announced later in the summer. See you in class in September!



Connected, Confident and Contributing

St. Henry Elementary students share what they are thankful for during this year and what they have learned.



Jaxon Moore - I am so thankful St. Henry does their best to keep every student who walks through the doors safe. I love how St. Henry has been cool, calm, and collected through all of this COVID-19 stuff. I am so very thankful for going to St. Henry.

Andy Price - During this year, St. Henry has done the best of their abilities to keep things fun and safe, and I have learned so many things. I thank God and the St. Henry staff and families who are making this possible. In the Bible we learn that Samson lost all of his strength, but God gave him the strength back to right the wrong. God will give us the strength we need and we will carry on through the times where we think that we can't. So ask God for strength, and if he gives it to you, use it in a way that brings you closer to God. All in all, I would like to say, well done St. Henry!

Logan Purcell - This year was tough with COVID-19 always getting in the way but we found a way to work through it. An overall assumption of this year is that COVID-19 is like Goliath and our school is the tiny David. David eventually strikes Goliath down with a stone like we did with the vaccine. So all I want to say is, thank you St. Henry Catholic School!

Makayla Hagedorn - I am thankful for the ability to continue learning in person, five days a week. This year has given us examples of many normal things we used to take for granted. Looking back, I would not have thought to relish the group work, after school activities, or bus rides. Now I am thankful for the almost normality we are able to experience. The pandemic has taken away many things but it hasn't taken away our crusader strength. We have stood strong no matter what was thrown at us and that is something we all need to be thankful for.

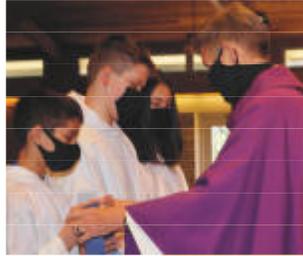
Abby Price - I am very thankful for the education I received this year, but most importantly, I have grown closer to our Lord. Not only does St. Henry Elementary School prepare me for my future, the school shaped me into the person God wants me to be. A huge thank you to St. Henry School for making me the person I am today.

Jack Lewis - One of the many things I am thankful for this year is the community. St. Henry has made it incredibly easy to not only see my friends, but also interact with them while still staying safe. In the past year and a half the need for support has gone up tremendously. St. Henry has made a great environment for students to get the support they need and become better people.

Connect with us on facebook.com/st.henryschool and on our website sthenryschool.net.

Servers Recognized for Faithful Ministry

The Serra Club for Vocations of Northern Kentucky annually acknowledges the dedicated service of the young people who minister at their parish as altar servers. The awards are traditionally given at the Cathedral by the Bishop but the 2020 and 2021 awards are being given at the parish due to the pandemic. The 2020 Serra Club awardees recognized at Masses at St. Barbara on March 6 & 7 were Rebecca Ehrman, Samuel Menke, Tobias Rice, Katie Schlensker, and Trisha Schlensker. The 2020 Eilerman awards, sponsored by the St. Barbara Holy Name Society, were presented to Tobias Rice and Trisha Schlensker. The 2021 Serra Club Awards will be given to Cole Bunch, Christopher Fulmer, and Isaiah Reinhart. The 2021 Eilerman Award winners will be given to Rebecca Ehrman, Christopher Fulmer, Samuel Menke, and Katie Schlensker. Congratulations and thank you for your ministry!



2021 DPAA is in Full Swing

The theme for the 2021 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal is from John 3:17. *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”* By contributing to the DPAA, we are able to complete a small part of that mission. Your generosity will provide education and faith formation for adults and children. It will encourage men and women to answer God’s call to serve the Church as priests, deacons, and members of the consecrated life. It will care for our retired priests. It will serve the poorest of our brothers and sisters through Catholic Charities, our inner-city agencies, and other social service programs.



The mandatory goal for St. Barbara this year is \$124,100. Thank you to those who have donated or pledged already. Contributions may be made at the website (covidio.org/stewardship-missions) or by using the envelope mailed to registered families. Envelopes are also available in the church and welcome center and can be placed in the collection boxes. No donation is too small. Participation is most important. This year’s drive is only beginning, and we trust that the great generosity of our parishioners will help us to reach our goal again this year, and assist the many programs and charities supported by the DPAA.

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.

Youth Group Keeps Busy

As things start to open back up, the Youth Group remains just as busy as ever! Since Christmas, members of the Youth Group have met almost every other week to volunteer and spend time together.

The Youth Group has participated in several volunteer activities. In addition to helping with the Capernaum Easter scavenger hunt, Youth Group members volunteered with the Knights of Columbus. Throughout Lent, members helped at the weekly Knights of Columbus fish fries and participated in a candy drive.



Of course, the Youth Group has never been all work and no play. Oh May 5, the Youth Group recommenced having weekly meetings with a Cinco de Mayo pool party. Since the beginning of the year, they have also had fun at Defy trampoline park and Scene 75 in addition to having a bowling and roller-skating parties.

As we move toward summer, the Youth Group already has a lot of exciting plans! In June, they are looking forward to helping with Vacation Bible School and building a float for the Independence Fourth of July parade. They will finish out the summer with a white-water rafting trip at the end of July and a retreat in August before working in Children’s Games at Rocktoberfest.



Join the Rocktoberfest Team

Are YOU interested in taking a more active part in planning Rocktoberfest? Rocktoberfest is September 10, 11 and 12 this year. The Steering Committee is currently looking for people to fill the roles of Family Games Chair and Concessions Chair as well as captains for several booths. Helping to plan the festival is a rewarding experience and a great way to meet new people! If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Peggy Tuemler at ptuemler@twc.com or 859-866-2777.

