

## A True, Humble Servant-Leader

We were so blessed to have our new Bishop John Iffert visit our parish last month. I am so proud of our parish, and he was so uplifting and encouraging. Due to Covid restrictions, we could not have a reception for him. So, he asked if he could just come over to the rectory to have a cup of coffee and get to know me better. We talked for two hours! I found in him a true, humble servant and leader who is sincerely trying to continue the work of Jesus here on earth. The icing on the cake is that he has a great sense of humor! We are so blessed to be living in this time in the Church when we have a Pope and a Bishop who know how to be Servant-Leaders. May we continue to pray for them as we all attempt to do the same.

~God Bless,  
Fr. John



On January 16, our new bishop presided at a Mass at St. Barbara and greeted parishioners in the Narthex. Bishop John Iffert is pictured here (center) on that day along with Father John Sterling (right) and Deacon Chuck Melville (left).



Join your parish family and neighbors for great fellowship and fabulous food on Fridays during Lent.

March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1 and 8  
Dine in the Sterling Event Center: 4:30-8pm  
Drive thru: 4:30-7:30pm

Check the bulletin for more information and volunteer signup. Go to [www.stbarbaraky.org/fish-fry](http://www.stbarbaraky.org/fish-fry) to view the menu.

## What's Inside

- ◆ My March for Life Experience
- ◆ Spiritually Adopt a Baby
- ◆ Listening Prayer from Deacon Chuck
- ◆ News from St. Henry School
- ◆ Our Vocation Crucifix Program
- ◆ Do You Know About Our Ministries?
- ◆ The Numbers are In...We Rocked!

## 60 Minutes with Jesus & Father Jim

By Stan Heck

In the fall, we had the unforgettable experience of attending a mission led by Father Jim Sichko, a priest of the diocese of Lexington and former entertainer on Broadway!

After hearing from Father Jim at our weekend Masses, hundreds of people came out on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings to fill the church and much of the Event Center.

We heard many tales of Father Jim being touched by the needs of the rich and famous as well as the poor and humble. Father shared one story of flying to Australia for a mission. He travels so much that he often avoids interaction with others. An older woman next to him noticed him praying the rosary and asked him to pray for her. He said he would be happy to pray for her; he admits almost being rude, not asking what her need was. She insisted on telling him. It was entertainer Olivia Newton-John. She asked him to pray for her recovery from advanced breast cancer.



He apologized immediately. They spoke at length. She and her husband then came to his mission in Australia, they both converted to Catholicism and have been in touch ever since.

Father said the obvious: sometimes God sends us strangers who need our love and attention. We need to keep our eyes open if we are to be Good Samaritans!

To learn about Father Sichko's work as a papal missionary of mercy, visit [www.frjims.com](http://www.frjims.com).

## My March for Life Experience in 2022

By Katarina List

Recently, we traveled to Washington D.C. for our annual March for Life Trip. We visited many places including the National History Museum, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and many other fascinating sites. The most impactful activity was the March for Life.

The March for Life is a peaceful protest in which people come together to stand up for all the innocent, unborn children who are wrongfully killed through abortions. Standing against Roe v. Wade case decision and standing up for the 125,000 babies that die every day because of an abortion. Through marching, we hope that abortions are voted illegal once and for all and hope that the abortion of innocent unborn children ends.

I have gone on the March for Life in the past, but this year struck me in different ways. One reason was because of the heightened government support we received during the March. Before the March began, there were a group of Pro-Choice protestors. They were screaming into a megaphone so loudly that nobody could understand a word they were saying. The police came, surrounded them, and walked them to the side of a street into a little corner off the path so the Pro-Life protestors could march in peace.

Another reason was the number of people in attendance. I remember seeing tons of people on the first trip and how supported that made me feel. Seeing that same number of people returning to March despite COVID-19 concerns was inspiring to me because it means that, even when the world seems to be in trouble, people are still willing to take time and effort to stand up for the powerless.

One last reason was the signs I saw while walking through the March. Towards the middle of the march I saw a sign that said, "I ♥ MY BROTHER. DOWN SYNDROME LIVES ARE WORTH LIVING". This reminded me that many people abort babies that are said to have disabilities. As a sibling of a person who has Down Syndrome, I felt even more passionate and purposeful about the March because it made me feel like I was standing up for people who are like my brother. People who don't have a voice. People who only want to give love.



## Spiritually Adopt a Baby

Parishioners are encouraged to "adopt" an unborn baby by signing a Spiritual Adoption pledge card, available in the church Narthex. You are asked to name the child for whom you will be praying and to pray a simple daily prayer for this baby. Each month from January until October, a new "Little Ones" poster will be displayed to show how the "adopted baby" is growing in the womb. You can also read a "thank you for praying for me" note. The purpose of the Spiritual Adoption Program is to:

- Use the power of prayer to save unborn babies
- Educate adults and children about the development of the pre-born child
- Provide mothers in need with baby gifts that are collected at the parish and sent to local pregnancy centers

We hope that you and your family will take this opportunity to participate and experience the power of prayer for God's most precious gift of life. This year more than ever, we need prayers for our unborn adopted babies and a favorable decision on the Mississippi challenge now before the U.S. Supreme Court; a decision is expected this summer.

### Our Parish Family

#### New Parishioners

John Fischesser  
Abigail Fuerst  
Larry Galchick  
James & Eziafa Hornsby  
Nancy Martin  
Thomas & Judith McGovern  
James & Samantha Payne  
Jerry & Judy Schmidt  
Scotty & Pam Strunk  
Erik & Bethany Wilkin

#### Newly Married

Ryan Zumdick & Nicole Zwick

#### In Memoriam

Alvin Zimmerman  
Lamont Jamison  
Douglas Spaulding  
Walter Krebs  
Mary Merten

## Listening Prayer

By Deacon Chuck Meville

As I was trying to determine what to share with you, I asked for a little shove to get things moving. Later, I started talking to parishioners about something missing in their everyday prayers. One spoke of saying a rosary every day and it was just becoming words repeated over and over. The discussion revolved around: how do we pray?

When we think about prayer, we think about communicating with God. Listening isn't generally the first thing that comes to mind. But prayer is communion with God—and that requires that we listen to what's on God's heart in addition to expressing what's on our own. This isn't something that comes naturally to most of us. How can we nurture our listening skills so that we can hear His voice?

I used to think, if only God would speak more clearly, I would follow Him more closely. But then I started asking myself, when have I really listened for God's reply? Have I been too busy asking for things and not recognizing God in the results? Have I been so busy patting myself on the back for a positive result that I missed God's hand in my life? God desires to communicate with His people, even more than we desire to communicate with Him! He is still the same God He has always been, and He continues to speak to us.

I have learned to hear His voice through listening prayer—what some call contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is thoughtful, reflective prayer. How can we, in our world of constant noise and activity, incorporate it into our daily lives? It requires effort, active listening, focused attention, and confident expectation that God will speak. Contemplative prayer is being with God, empty-handed, waiting attentively for whatever He wants to say. Why don't most of us practice this discipline? Why is simply sitting at His feet with no agenda so difficult—even frightening? Maybe it is because we are afraid of what we might hear. When we quietly wait on God, the Holy Spirit often speaks penetrating words—words of conviction, words of love, or no words at all. Maybe we don't practice contemplative prayer because we fear hearing no words at all. We are so afraid of wasting time we become unable to enjoy the delight of simply being with Him. And yet, God delights for us to sit at His feet and enjoy being with Him.

So how do we begin to listen to God? True listening takes perseverance. We are not very receptive to being controlled, even controlling ourselves. We will find every reason not to practice contemplative prayer: things to do, people to see, phone calls to make, worries to crowd our thoughts. As we sit in silence, we may itch and squirm, our backs will ache, and our stomachs will grumble. But as we sit with Him in faith and obedience, He will honor our desire to know and hear Him. Start by mapping out some quiet time, without phone, TV, or radio. It can be any time, you just need to do it. Maybe, instead of just reading Scripture we begin to meditate on Scripture. Read a passage, think about it, and then sit back quietly and see where your mind takes you. Then reread and start again. Another way might be to journal in prayer. Write down your thoughts/prayers, then listen and ask the Holy Spirit to provide wisdom and understanding to what you are praying out of His Word. You could also just sit and be still before Him. God is all around us, especially in nature. We just need to take the time to breathe, to see God's blessings all around us.

We may just hear Him as we pass through a room going about our daily tasks.

## Celebrating Catholic Education

By Dennis Wolff, Principal



Open House kicks off Catholic Schools Week each year and this year we celebrated the value of Catholic education.

Each day during Catholic Schools Week, there are different themes: we celebrate the community, the nation, our students and families, our staff, and of course, vocations. Catholic Schools Week is a good reminder of the positive difference a Catholic education makes in a student's and family's life, and everyone in our community enjoys celebrating together.

During Catholic Schools Week, one student from each grade at St. Henry Catholic School was chosen to attend Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Bishop John Iffert presided at the Mass with student representatives from every school in the Diocese of Covington.



After a COVID hiatus last year, our Crusader Royale fundraiser is back! Join us on Saturday, March 5, to be part of the fun that will include for the first time a bourbon bar, silent auction, raffles, and more. Visit [Royale2022.givesmart.com](https://Royale2022.givesmart.com) or text Royale2022 to 76278 to buy tickets. We hope to see you there!

St. Henry Catholic School is now accepting students from preschool through eighth grade for the 2022-23 school year. Visit [sthenryschool.net](https://sthenryschool.net) for more information or call 859.342.2551 to schedule a tour. Stay connected with us: [facebook.com/st.henryschool](https://facebook.com/st.henryschool).

St. Henry and St. Barbara, pray for us!



Synodality is a way of "journeying together" of living out our faith that calls for speaking and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit. The desired result is that we will become more capable of listening with care and compassion, again and again over time, especially to those with whom we disagree and those who are not often heard. Through this process, we hope to discover what we should change in ourselves to deepen our relationships and to live out our faith more fully. Continue to look for more information in parish communications, on social media, or on the diocesan website ([covidio.org/synod](https://covidio.org/synod)) on how to share your experience.

## Our Vocation Cross Program

By Courtney Mueller

One of the ministries that sets St. Barbara apart from other churches is our Vocation Crucifix program. Since the ministry's inception, both the number of seminarians and vocations in our Diocese have increased significantly. There is also a poster in the Narthex with the pictures of seminarians so that parishioners can see the faces of those for whom they are praying.

When the ministry began, Norb Baumann approached Debbi Vogt with information from the Serra Club about similar programs around the country. Crucifixes were donated by parishioners (including Norb and Debbi), and Ken Guenther created the boxes that hold the crucifixes with his son, Danny. The boxes are made from the wood of the dining room hutch from the old rectory, the wood from the old barn, and the wood from the wall that was torn down. Debbi posted sign-ups for anyone who was interested, and issued letters to let parishioners know which week had been assigned to them to collect the crucifix at the end of mass.

Now at each of the Sunday Masses, a volunteer takes a Vocation Crucifix to pray for vocations at home throughout the week and returns it the next weekend.

While Debbi was in charge of the program for about 12 years, she has since passed the torch to Debbie Wood, and now to Christine Roberts.

Christine is pictured here with her granddaughter.



One of Debbi's favorite memories of the ministry was when the mother of a young girl in the parish contacted her to request the Vocation Crucifix on a specific weekend. She told Debbi that her daughter's birthday fell on that particular weekend, and that her daughter was very excited about the ministry. The young girl had asked if they could take the Vocation Crucifix home that week so that her family could pray for vocations for her birthday. Debbi said that she loved this story because it showed that, not only are families in the parish talking about religious vocations, but that they were using the Vocation Crucifix as a way to pray together as a family.

For information about the Vocation Crucifix ministry or to get involved, contact Christine Roberts at [chranrob@fioptics.com](mailto:chranrob@fioptics.com).

### Learn about stewardship opportunities at our parish!

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](mailto:crosstalk@stbarbaraky.org).

## Do You Know About Our Ministries?

By Penny Kramer

Did you know that there are more than 40 ministries here at St. Barbara? Many of them are behind-the-scenes. When you sit in church next week or the next time you attend a function, look around. Do you see some busy folks? Do you know what they are doing? Do you know what ministry they are fulfilling? Do you know how important all of the ministries are to our Parish and our St. Barbara Family? There are several hundred volunteers and coordinators that represent our parish in the Diocese and the community. All of these individuals do it because they are being called.

The proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" means that an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and loving family environment. We are God's children, and as part of our Stewardship, we are being called upon to follow his example. The stained-glass window behind the altar says: "Take up your cross and Follow Me". Our Parish and our St. Barbara Family are like a village of God's children that depends on its army of volunteers every day to maintain our facilities and coordinate and staff our programs and events. Every person who dedicates their time to the parish is doing their part so that we can work together to deepen our faith, grow spiritually, and raise our children in our home here at St. Barbara.

So, each weekend when you hear Father John announce what is happening at our parish and thank someone for their stewardship, we hope you realize just how important they are to our St. Barbara village. Of course, we can always use more people pitching in. Are you being called? To find out more about our ministries or how to get involved, go to the Ministries tab on the parish website or app or call the office at 859-371-3100.

## The Numbers Are In...We Rocked!

After all the bills were paid, our parish netted \$97,856 for Rocktoberfest 2021! This could not have been possible without those who sponsored, donated, or volunteered for this event. We are so thankful and blessed. Save the dates for Rocktoberfest 2022: Sept 9-10-11. If you would like more information on our parish festival, please contact Tina Bowen at [tinabowen1971@gmail.com](mailto:tinabowen1971@gmail.com).



### Lent & Easter Liturgies

**Ash Wednesday Mass**.....March 2 - 10am & 7pm  
**Lenten Evening Mass**.....Wednesdays in Lent - 7pm  
**Holy Thursday Mass**.....April 14 - 7pm  
**Passion of the Lord**.....April 15 - 3pm  
**Way of the Cross**.....April 15 - 7pm  
**Easter Vigil Mass**.....April 16 - 8:30pm  
**Easter Sunday Masses**.....April 17 - 9am & 11am