

Crosstalk

Winter 2019 Issue

The Good News From St. Barbara

THANKING OUR VOLUNTEERS!

By John Mikula

The St. Barbara Volunteer Appreciation Event was held on January 26, 2019 as a tribute and thank you to all of the volunteers that make St. Barbs such a great parish. Parishioners are involved in every aspect of the parish, from daily operations to ministry functions to outreach services to mission trips to our annual festival. Our volunteers are like no other. When there is a need and a request for help, our volunteers are eager to assist. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing parish with such wonderful people.

**In the words of Dr. Seuss -
“Unless someone like you cares a
whole awful lot, nothing is going
to get better. It’s not.”**

The annual Appreciation Event is truly just a small thank you for everything you do! St. Barbara volunteers certainly have made life and our parish better!



What's Inside

- ◆ What is God calling you to do?
- ◆ Lenten Messages from Father John & Deacon Chuck
- ◆ Learn about the VITA Ministry
- ◆ Highlights from the March for Life 2019
- ◆ News from Crusaders
- ◆ What's the "Wolff Pack"?

CROSSTALK IS BACK!

Welcome to the new Crosstalk. As the new editors of our parish newsletter, we are passionate about our St. Barbara community and sharing its vibrant stories with you. Please share your ideas with us. Our email is crosstalk@stbarbaraky.org.

Each quarter, you'll see this newsletter nestled inside the bulletin as well as on the parish website and app. Look for more pictures and stories in your email and on the parish Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SaintBarbaraErlanger.

If you do not have an email address on file or if you are homebound, please call the Parish Office at 859-371-3100 and we will mail out a copy.

- Courtney Mueller, Jeanette Bolin and Liz Smith

COME TO THE FISH FRY

March 8, 15, 22, 29. April 5, 12.

Dine in the Sterling Event Center:

4:30 - 8:00 PM

Drive thru:

4:30 - 7:30 PM

Join us for GREAT FOOD....



- Choose from fried cod, shrimp, baked tilapia, or our famous Bob Lee special dinners with sides
- Fish sandwich, pizza, and kids meals also available
- Extensive dessert table, sponsored by the Holy Dames
- Beer, wine, & soft drinks available for additional cost

Sponsored by the Holy Name Society. We welcome all kinds of help! To volunteer, contact Bob Kirkwood 859-240-3038.

COME BACK TO ME

By Deacon Chuck Melville

It seems like Christmas just ended, winter cold and snow have us locked in and we're beginning to look ahead toward spring. For me, spring means Lent and the celebration of Easter. When we think of Lent, we think of Ash Wednesday, fish fries, and fasting - giving something up. For years, I would give up chocolate or desserts in general (if I was really ambitious) or maybe I would skip a lunch and donate that money to St Vincent dePaul or another cause -- little things that didn't hurt too much.

As I look ahead to Lent this year, I began to ask myself is there something I am missing? Is Lent all about fasting? Is it really about giving something up, or doing something for another? What is it that God is expecting of me during this time of reconciliation and penance?

As I thought about this, the words of a hymn came to mind. It is one of the songs I love that we hear often during Lent. The song "Hosea" is one in which we sing words of God's invitation to us to: *"Come back to me, with all your heart."* The invitation to come back with all our heart is not always easy for us to accept. The next line of the song says, *"don't let fear keep us apart,"* but I wonder whether it is always fear. Actually, it requires an absence of fear, or at least a willingness to go on in spite of fear, to completely drop our defenses between God and us.

But it seems to me there is more to it than that. We may want to come to the Lord, but not completely, not really with all our heart. Maybe only just a little bit or maybe a lot, but just not all the way. We hold something back. There are some things we just can't let go. Is it fear of admitting, even to ourselves, our selfishness, our lack of compassion, or our lack of trust?

I believe that part of God's invitation of Lent is to focus on what makes it difficult for us to fully embrace God's love, to fully respond to the invitation to come back with all of our heart.

So, what's holding you back?

What are you worried about giving up?

God is patient. He has waited a long time for us. And He'll keep waiting for us to figure it out, and He will be ready to welcome us with open arms when we do. We sing God's words in "Hosea":... *"Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life."*

Adult Faith & Fellowship

During Lent, the weekly discussion is wrapped into the 7 PM Mass on Wednesdays:

- March 6: Ash Wednesday - Father John or Deacon Chuck
- March 13: The Sacrament of Reconciliation - Matthew Lageman
- March 20: Using Your Catholic Resources - Tyson Hermes
- March 27: What Kind of Christian are You? - Jeff Jehn
- April 3: In All Your Ways, Be Mindful of God - Don Brockmeier

YOUTH GROUP: MARCHING FOR THE UNBORN

By Amber Konerman

Life, liberty and pursuit of happiness - three unalienable rights for humans. Without life, liberty and happiness are out of reach. Sadly, many unborn babies are aborted before living outside of the womb. Since the unborn have no voice, many Pro-Life supporters stand up for the voiceless by attending the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

In January, St. Barbara's Youth Group made a bus trip to the nation's capital to partake in this year's march. After our arrival, we visited the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington memorials, then went to our hotel to rest up for the big day ahead of us. On the morning of January 18, we went to Arlington National Cemetery where four members of our Youth Group took part in the wreath-laying ceremony. We then headed toward the capitol and stopped in front of Capitol Hill for a picture before the March. This year, God blessed us

all with good weather and no snow. Right as we entered the March, the sun peeked out of the sky, shining light onto all the pro-life marchers. The signs made by youth group member Amber Konerman with pro-life quotes caught the attention of many marchers, who stopped and asked for pictures. Our signs were just a few of the thousands of signs that were displayed by marchers.

Each year the March is different, but the excitement never waivers. Walking into the March, there is a certain energy and positivity that cannot be matched.

The feeling of not only marching for your own rights, but the rights of those who are given no voice is truly amazing. Indeed, it is a selfless act. A truly inspiring thing about the March for Life is that this event gathers people from all backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, cultures, and beliefs to march for others.

It really is the little things in life that make it great. Children are the next generation who will continue to make life amazing. Joy and happiness radiate throughout every single person there. We are the generation that will do this right!



ST. HENRY CATHOLIC SCHOOL: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

By Julie Nelson

*We are connected... We are contributing...
We are confident... We are Crusaders!*

Many exciting things are happening every week at St. Henry Elementary! In January, we opened our doors to invite new families to experience the St. Henry difference and to kick off Catholic Schools Week. Several families enrolled before leaving, proudly carrying their "Welcome to the Crusader Family" sign with them. One family who attended the open house commented: *"the kids that served as helpers and tour guides were so respectful and confident. They were a great representation of what a student can grow to be at St. Henry."*

Catholic Schools Week is a great time to thank those in our community that support our school and students. On Monday, a team of student council members delivered cookies and a thank you to the St. Henry and St. Barbara parish offices, the Erlanger and Elsmere city buildings, police and fire departments, and the Kenton County Library. The community loved being remembered by our school! Other events included family donut day, dress like a teacher day, teacher appreciation luncheon, dress like a student day, thanking our veterans, making special bags for our bingo players, celebrating our families with a BingoFest, and more!



During "dress like a teacher" day, 40+ students (now known as the "Wolff-Pack") chose to dress as our new principal, Dennis Wolff. This truly shows how the students feel about Mr. Wolff. Obviously, he has made and continues to make a positive impact on the children.

Join us for St. Henry's Friday morning Mass! We invite St. Barbara parishioners to join us any Friday morning at 8 AM -- it's the perfect way to start your day, hearing 350 children singing and leading the Mass.

If you are interested in registering your child for the 2019/2020 school year, please contact the office as soon as possible. As a St. Barbara parishioner, you are eligible for the "participating tuition" rate. For more info and news, visit www.sthenryschool.net or www.facebook.com/st.henryschool.

ST. HENRY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL: FLOURISHING SOCIALLY, IN SERVITUDE

By Sarah Banks

As we begin 2019, the Crusaders continue to flourish socially and in servitude. The Crusaders for Life club joined others in Washington DC to participate in the annual March for Life in January.

Recently, our students helped out at the annual Special Olympics Skiing event held at Perfect North Slopes. They were assigned an Olympian who they assisted down the hill and helped get from hill to hill.

Our Culinary Club held an after-school event where we



baked over 200 muffins from scratch, then delivered them to the local Emergency Shelter in Covington. In place of our old Shantytown service project, students are helping out at the Emergency Shelter for an evening, which allows students to work directly with people who are experiencing homelessness. For this year's Elves on a Mission, SHDHS adopted 12 families, with an average of 5-7 family members. The Spanish Club and Spanish Honors Society adopted a Hispanic family. All of these "adoptions" allowed each of the families to have a very merry, and somewhat stress-free, Christmas with their families.

***The outpouring of help
from our Crusader Family
was overwhelming.***

We hope that you will join us and sing along at our spring musical "We Will Rock You - School Edition." Performances are on March 29 and 30 at 7:30 PM. and March 31 at 2:00 PM.

Registration for the 2019/2020 school year is going on now. For more information and to read more about the great things happening at SHDHS, please visit www.shdhs.org or www.facebook.com/StHenryCRU.

IT'S LENT MON, WHAT YOU GONNA DO?

Yes, I still have some of that Jamaican in me from the trip. It was so great to be with the residents, the workers, and the best team on the face of the earth. But I realize that we are getting into Lent and it is time to re-focus. I could have used a few more weeks to get ready for this season of repentance, prayer, and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus, while He was here on Earth, did stress the importance of the "hidden" spiritual life. We don't do what we do to be praised by people, but to enter into closer communion with Christ.

Lent is a time of returning to God.

It is a time to confess how we keep looking for peace, joy, and satisfaction in the many people and things around us, without really finding what we desire. Only God can give us what we really want. At the mission in Jamaica, I saw people in the worst possible life situations ever. BUT THEY WERE HAPPY! So as we enter into this Lenten season, may we all try to refocus and enter into that place of truth where we find, once again, that our true identity is in Christ!!

God Bless You All, Fr. John

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: VITA

By Courtney Mueller

One of the many ministries available to our parishioners is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. After learning about stewardship, Kevin Byrne was inspired to start the St. Barbara VITA program with other parishioners in 1988. Kevin said, "I came to realize that it is much more than just giving to the church. It is a way of life where special skills and talents are shared with the community at large."

Over the last thirty years, the group has added new volunteers and moved several times. They currently meet at the Florence branch of the Boone County Library from 5:30 to 8:30 on Wednesday evenings from February 6 - April 3. No appointment is necessary and the free service is available to individuals of low to moderate income as well as the elderly who cannot afford to have their taxes prepared. While some computer and math skills are necessary, tax law training is provided to volunteers by the IRS. For further information about volunteering or having your tax return prepared, contact Kevin Byrne at kevinbyrne@fuse.net.

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.

INSPIRING STEWARDS AMONG US

By Courtney Mueller

I had the opportunity to sit down with Pauline Baumann to discuss the many stewardship roles she plays at St. Barbara. When talking to Pauline, her passion for serving others is immediately obvious, as is her passion for learning about others. Pauline is truly a people person, so one of her favorite things is getting to know other parishioners, because, as she says, "we are many parts and we all come together to make a whole," which is exactly what is so wonderful about being a parishioner at St. Barbara. Just like a family, we all pull together to do what is needed; and with so many stewardship opportunities, it is not hard to find joy in service.

One aspect of service Pauline emphasized during our conversation was:

Listening to what God is calling us to do and using our talents to better serve Him.

Pauline uses her talents in many ways both at St. Barbara and out in the community.

After retiring from her career as an English teacher, Pauline was the editor of the Crosstalk for 24 years and a tutor at the Notre Dame Academy Urban Education Center. She serves as a Eucharistic minister both at church and at the hospital, writes the petitions for Mass, and oversees the lectors. Pauline has also been a long time and active volunteer for St. Elizabeth Healthcare and BeConcerned.

Pauline is always excited to get involved and is a cheerleader for all she meets. She encourages all to use the talents God has given them to serve our parish and the community as a whole. Pauline is a firm believer that, as Christians, we are the hands and feet of God, and she exemplifies this every day. She is truly an inspiration to all at St. Barbara Parish.



SAVE THE DATE

See future bulletins for more details.

Parish Fish Fry.....	Fridays in Lent
St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive.....	March 23 - 31
Hearts & Hands Bunco.....	March 30, 6 PM
Knights of Columbus Easter Candy Hunt....	April 14, 2 PM
Holy Thursday Supper.....	April 18, 5:30 PM
Holy Thursday Mass.....	April 18, 7 PM
Passion of the Lord.....	April 19, 3 PM
Stations of the Cross.....	April 19, 7 PM
Easter Vigil.....	April 20, 8:30 PM
Easter Sunday Masses.....	April 21, 9 & 11 AM
First Communion.....	April 28, 11 AM
Confirmation.....	May 2, 7 PM