



# Blessed SACRAMENT

BECOMING STEWARDS IN COMMUNITY

## CONTENTS:

- 3 Are We Truly an Easter People?
- 4 Modern-Day Faith Formation  
*Book Discussions and the Endless Possibility of the Digital World*
- 6 Keeping the Faith During a Crisis
- 7 Becoming a Lifelong Learner:  
*Diocese of Covington Adult Faith Formation Courses*

## BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE OF OUR EIGHTH-GRADE GRADUATES

When our 55 eighth-graders graduate from Blessed Sacrament School this spring, it will be a bittersweet parting for the faculty and staff as they make their farewells. Yet the “sweet” portion of their farewells is the knowledge that the graduates will be moving forward with the unique talents and gifts that have been lovingly nurtured at Blessed Sacrament School.

“Our soon-to-be graduates are beginning their new adventures at a number of local high schools, including Notre Dame Academy, Covington Catholic, St. Henry, Villa Madonna, Holy Cross, St. Ursula, and St. Xavier,” says Dan Steffen, Principal. “Of our 55 students, 16 received one or more scholarships to the following high schools — Notre Dame Academy, Covington Catholic, Holy Cross and St. Ursula.”

Blessed Sacrament School is a three-time Blue Ribbon Award winner, and the students’ performance shows why. Thirty-one percent of students are taking Algebra I at the high schools for high school credit and one student is taking Algebra II for high school credit. In addition, the awarding of scholarships; sports achievements; Spanish I rates, and the excellence in their pro-life essays, as well as achievements in MATHCOUNTS, Governor’s Cup, and written composition/assessment demonstrate our commitment to excellence.



## *Blessed Sacrament School* continued from front cover

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The advantages Blessed Sacrament School offers all its students provide insight into why the students are truly prepared. The students have weekly Mass attendance, and receive instruction through Theology of the Body that is implemented in grades K-8. There are three classrooms per grade level, with the average class size of 21 students, assuring more individual instruction.

There are full-time aides in kindergarten and aides for first, second and third grade who provide valuable support for the teachers. Students enjoy music, physical education, enrichment, library, Spanish, art, and technology. Blessed Sacrament School provides full-time academic specialists to provide intervention and enrichment, including a reading specialist, two math specialists, and a licensed special education teacher. In addition, students are served by a full-time licensed counselor.

Blessed Sacrament School also offers the RTI program — Right to Intervention — in grades K-3 to provide tiered instruction on essential skills. Students can take advantage of the accelerated math option beginning in sixth grade, and accelerated language arts beginning in seventh grade.

The teachers and staff at Blessed Sacrament School therefore have good reason to feel joy and pride as this new class of graduates prepares to

depart for the next step in their education.

“For nine years, we have watched these students grow academically, spiritually and socially while transforming into role models for our younger students,” Mr. Steffen says. “Even as eighth-graders, they continue to be eager learners, challenging themselves academically and athletically.”

And as Mr. Steffen notes, the students’ service has provided a strong example for both younger students and our faith community.

“Many are servers for the parish, volunteer as tutors for younger students during an after-school program, serve on our Student Council Board, and dedicate their time and talent to various organizations and events across the tri-state,” he says. “They are all distinctive leaders in their own sense, and we as a community will miss them. They have led by example throughout their time at Blessed Sacrament School. It will be bittersweet come May when they graduate, but we are excited to see how they continue to change the world for the better with their spiritual gifts and unique talents.”

Mr. Steffen also points out that many alumni come to visit the school and teachers, and he looks forward to having this year’s graduates do the same.

“We are excited to see their faces again in the following years!” he says.

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— MR. DAN STEFFEN, PRINCIPAL

*If you would like more information about Blessed Sacrament School, please contact the school office at 859-331-3062 or [bssoffice@bssky.org](mailto:bssoffice@bssky.org) to learn more, ask questions, schedule a tour, schedule a shadow day, or enroll.*

A Letter From Our Pastor

## ARE WE TRULY AN EASTER PEOPLE?

Dear Parishioners,

During a visit to Croatia when he was pope, St. John Paul II proclaimed, “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” Are we really the Easter people? I think we should be.

In spite of all the hardship in our world right now, this is still the Easter season and it continues throughout this month until Pentecost Sunday, May 31. What does that mean, however, to be Easter people? Being an Easter person has much to do with how we view our faith and how we live it out, no matter what is going on in the world around us. Stewardship people are Easter people.

Jesus is so alive for us on Easter Sunday morning. He needs to be alive for us and in us every day, and certainly in these days that follow Easter. At the time of His Resurrection, His followers did not whisper “He is risen” — they shouted it and rejoiced! That is how we need to approach our faith as well.

During Lent leading up to Easter, we did not use *Alleluia* in our liturgies. We put it away until Easter, and I missed it. But then, it made it even better when it came back over and over on Easter and throughout this Easter season. St. John Paul II was telling us all that we are not just an Easter people, but we are also an *Alleluia* people. We are called to exemplify *Alleluia* in everything we do. Think about it. Who is an *Alleluia* person? Certainly, it’s someone who is brimming over with Good News, regardless of circumstances, constantly reflecting the joy of being a Christian and a Catholic. It is also possible to be an *Alleluia* person in quiet ways, but others do need to see that God is alive in us, even in hard times.

Easter began with the Easter Vigil, but it did not end on Easter. That was the beginning. One indication to us that Easter is going on right now is a change in how we identify the Sundays throughout May. For many years, the Sundays that followed Easter during the Easter season were called the

“Sunday after Easter.”

When the Church adopted the new liturgical calendar, that was changed to “Sunday of Easter.” Thus, we are not winding down from Easter — we are in the midst of it.

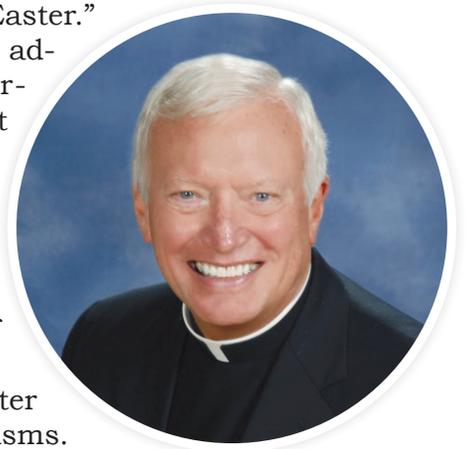
We became Easter people at our Baptisms.

We should be Easter people every day and every week and during every season. Being an Easter person is acknowledging our call to discipleship and stewardship. We should begin and end everything with *Alleluia*. *Alleluia* — *Hallelujah* — means quite simply “Praise to God.” It is not just something we sing, chant or say. It is something we live. By living our lives in praise of God — stewardship is, after all, a way of life — we can be and are an Easter people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl*

Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl  
Pastor



## MODERN-DAY FAITH

### Book Discussions and the Endless

Though many Catholics associate faith formation with sacramental preparation and their grammar school years, the truth is that we Catholics never really stop learning about the faith. It is an ongoing process that matures and deepens as we ourselves enter new phases of life.

“St. Paul says, ‘When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things’ (1 Corinthians 13:11),” says Director of Religious Education Rosanne Thomas. “Without continuing, life-long faith formation, adults wind up with a faith that doesn’t fit, like trying to find fulfillment in the same activities that brought delight in childhood. I think many adults who leave the Church do so because their faith didn’t grow up with them. They don’t know what they are missing.”

Rosanne adds that this ongoing formation can take on a wide variety of forms such as a Scriptural study or a stewardship retreat. Recently, however, she says that the parish has enjoyed a number of book studies thanks to the generous donations of several parties.

“Dynamic Catholic has gifted us with some copies of their *BEST LENT EVER Journal*, which is a companion to their daily video series with the same name that individuals can sign up to have emailed to them,” Rosanne says. “They also gifted us with 50 copies of Dr. Allen Hunt’s book, *Confessions of a Mega*

*Church Pastor*. Then we also had a parishioner donate 300 copies of *Letter to a Suffering Church* by Bishop Robert Barron. We encouraged parishioners to take copies of Bishop Barron’s and/or Dr. Hunt’s books and read them during the Lenten season. We also set up a basket in the back of church where people could place the books after they read them if they wanted to share with others after we ran out of copies.”

As part of this initiative, Rosanne and her team also created an online discussion platform through Facebook. Most recently, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, this not only ended up becoming a major hub for book discussion, but also for essential community connection in general.

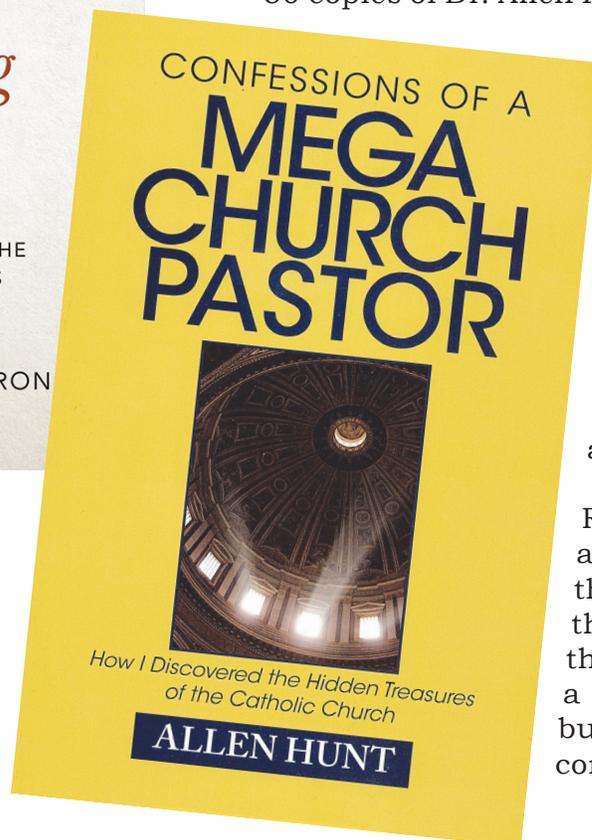
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# Letter to a Suffering Church

A BISHOP SPEAKS ON THE  
SEXUAL ABUSE CRISIS

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

*During the Lenten season, parishioners were encouraged to read books like Dr. Allen Hunt’s *Confessions of a Mega Church Pastor* and *Letter to a Suffering Church* by Bishop Robert Barron.*





# WITH FORMATION

## *and the Possibility of the Digital World*

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“We had no idea when we set that up that it would soon become the most practical — as well as the only — means of discussion,” Rosanne says. “We noticed an increase in the number of people joining the online discussion as soon as everything started to shut down. The books we had handed out already had bookmarks with information on how to connect to the online group. So even the people who may not have planned initially on participating in the discussion when they picked up books already had all the info needed to join in hand when things changed.”

Though digital connection isn’t for everyone, Rosanne says the pandemic pushed everyone to delve more deeply into the virtual world in search of the community and spiritual connection they were craving. The result was truly beautiful, as parishioners came together in a completely unforeseen, yet truly blessed way.

“People are discussing their faith with people they didn’t even know before,” Rosanne says. “We are a parish of 1,800 families. People habitually go to their favorite Mass, and many parishioners never even meet each other. Yet, suddenly they are talking about their faith with strangers — who aren’t really strangers. To me, this is social media at its best. It’s a beautiful thing to see the boundaries keep expanding like that, and the walls come tumbling down.”

Though all the copies of Dr. Hunt’s books are now gone, Rosanne says that there are still a few remaining copies of Bishop Barron’s located at the church entrances. Parishioners have also slowly been returning books once they’ve finished reading them so as to pass on to others. There

are also plans to purchase and distribute new books sometime after Easter once life returns to a more normal state. In the meantime, Rosanne and her team are excited to continue exploring online possibilities in the hopes of encouraging others to find new ways to give of their time to the Lord.

“The more like Christ we become, the more of Christ we can bring to others,” Rosanne says. “Time, like everything else, is a gift from God. Once we begin spending time growing in faith, we discover how valuable that use of time really is.”

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— ROSANNE THOMAS

*Please refer to the bulletin and parish website for more information about upcoming book studies, or contact Rosanne Thomas at 859-331-4302, ext. 22, or [rthomas@bscky.org](mailto:rthomas@bscky.org).*

## KEEPING THE FAITH DURING A CRISIS

**A** diversity is a part of life. We may face family strife or financial issues. We may experience a personal or family medical crisis. We may suffer the loss of a loved one.

The thought of not being able to attend Mass to receive the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord as a result of a crisis — such as the one we are experiencing today with the COVID-19 pandemic — is devastating.

Right now, it may seem challenging to remain a faithful steward. We may even question our faith and wonder how to find God during these turbulent times.

Where do we turn?

First and foremost, we must pray without ceasing. During a difficult time, you can always turn to the Church's treasury of prayer. Take time each day to read the daily Scripture readings — they can be found at [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org), and then by selecting the date on the calendar on the home page. You can also use the many rich resources of our faith to engage in spiritual reflections each day as an individual and with your family. This can include simple prayers like an *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* a few times a day, as well as praying the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours, and Stations of the Cross, among others. Many resources for these are easily found online.

It is also important to remember that at times when you cannot physically attend Mass, Sunday remains a holy day, and you are encouraged to pray. You can participate in prayer by way of televised or live-streamed Mass — one option for viewing daily Mass online can be found at [www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

During times of crisis, we must also find ways to use our talents to serve God. If you are unable to participate in ministries and serve your parish community, you can still use your talents to serve your family and those closest to you. Something as simple as calling to check on family and friends — or even doing a video call — can go a long way.

Finally, we must try to remain good stewards of our treasure. You may have lost your job or have seen a reduction in work hours and pay. You may support

your parish more with time, talent, and prayer under such circumstance. On the other hand, you may find you have extra funds because you spend less on entertainment, and you can afford to give more to make up for what others cannot give at this time. Let us help one another as God enables us.

No matter the situation, God always remains faithful to us. Don't forget that everything God gives us is a gift, and the way in which we share our gifts with God and our neighbor is ultimately how we give Him glory.



### ***An Act of Spiritual Communion***

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the  
Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I desire to  
receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive  
You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

# BECOMING A LIFELONG LEARNER: DIOCESE OF COVINGTON ADULT FAITH FORMATION COURSES

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For many of us, continual growth and improvement is an important part of our lives, in our careers, health and relationships. But when it comes to the faith, all too often we stop growing and learning after Confirmation, or if we attended Catholic schools, graduation.

However, as Catholics, we believe that deepening our relationship with Christ and His Church is a lifelong journey — something that begins with our Baptism, and shouldn't end until we pass from this life into the next. Here in the Diocese of Covington, we hope to give our adult parishioners opportunities to go deeper in their understanding of what the Church teaches, as well as in their relationship with God.

Although initially designed as part of the diocesan Catechist Certification Program, our diocese offers short mini-courses each summer that are designed not only to help form catechists, but also to give all adult Catholics an opportunity to dive deeper into the rich mysteries of our faith.

“Education is a lifetime thing, it's not a one-time thing,” says Isaak A. Isaak, our diocesan Co-Director for Catechesis and Evangelization. “You have to have the idea of lifelong learning,



in terms of our faith. No matter how much we know, we'll all fall short. You can never be fully educated about God. He's like the ocean — going deeper and deeper and deeper, the more you are immersed into it.”

This year, the courses will take place mid-June at St. Pius X School, in Edgewood. The courses cover a wide range of topics, from Scripture and the sacraments, to Catholic Social Teaching and Church history, to prayer and Theology of the Body. Some courses take place over several evenings, while others are condensed into a full-day session. All courses are

designed to help participants come to a greater appreciation of God's truth, revealed through Jesus and His Church.

“Our faith is beautiful, God is beautiful,” Isaak says. “As the psalmist says, ‘Lord, you are a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.’ We need to learn as much as we can about our faith, so it can be a light for us.”

As Catholics, growing in knowledge of our beliefs is not simply a mental or academic exercise, but also a chance to come to know our God more fully — in turn, we also come to love Him and receive His love for us more deeply.

*continued on back cover*

# Blessed SACRAMENT



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www.BSCKY.org**

## *Becoming a Lifelong Learner* continued from page 7

“If I don’t know my faith, if I don’t learn about my faith, how can I apply it and how can I be able to pray?” Isaak says. “St. Jerome says, ‘Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.’ It’s really true. If you don’t know Him, how are you able to practice your faith?”

Isaak encourages the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament to take advantage of this opportunity to grow in their knowledge of what it means to be Catholic, regardless of where they are in their

faith journey.

“If you want to start having a relationship with God, start somewhere,” Isaak says. “Come to this event. If you want to establish a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, this is where you could start.”

“The Word of God is like a compass — it gives you guidance in life,” he adds. “Take this provision to guide you in life along the way. That’s what I hope for people.”

*If you would like more detailed information on this summer’s Adult Faith Formation Courses, including the schedule and courses offered, or to register, please visit [www.covdio.org/catechesis-and-evangelization/](http://www.covdio.org/catechesis-and-evangelization/).*

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 p.m. | **Sunday:** 9:00 (with Children’s Liturgy) & 11:00 a.m. | **Weekdays:** Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m., Monday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. (When school is in session, Mass is at 8:45 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday & Friday)

**Holy Days:** 7:00 p.m. (prior day Vigil, excluding All Saints Day) 6:30 & 10:00 a.m.

**Eucharistic Exposition:** Wednesdays following Mass — Benediction to close exposition: 6:15 p.m.

### SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION

**Saturday:** 2:30-3:30 p.m. | **Thursday before First Friday:** 10:30 a.m. | **Third Tuesday:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.