

The Next Chapter

I am sure that by now you have heard of my plans to retire from full-time ministry in July. A great deal of prayer went into this decision. As I turned 70 this year, I realized that I don't quite have the same level of energy that I used to have. 70 is the age for retirement for priests in our diocese. Though I am healthy and feel great, I do believe that it is time for someone younger to take the reins. I do plan to remain in active ministry and hope to help out whoever will be filling my shoes. After the winter we had here, I WILL be spending January and February in Florida from now on.



Being with our parish family has been the best 20 years of my life. We built a new Church, Adoration Chapel, and Event center, and all is paid for. But more importantly, we built a strong parish family, which I pray will remain. Our staff has been the best, and I am sure that will continue with whoever your new pastor is.

You all are precious to me! Please pray for me as I venture into this new chapter of my life.

God Bless You All, *Father John*

THANK YOU

for your generosity

Special Collections in 2025

International Needs	\$5,069
Good Friday/Holy Land.....	\$2,143
Peter's Pence	\$3,636
Domestic Needs	\$3,220
Education of Seminarians..	\$3,894
Retired Religious	\$7,543
Disaster Relief	\$4,032

Give Catholic NKY (Giving Tuesday): \$4,915

DPAA collected as of Dec. 31st: \$188,563

Woodcrest Nursing & Rehab
Christmas Gifts for 110 residents

Christmas Gift Giving for Children
170 total children: 44 Families with 132 children and 38 children from HeadStart, each receiving 4 gifts = 680 gifts given.

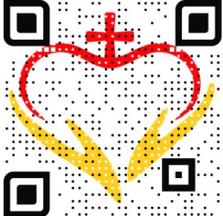
What's on Your Heart?

TAKE THE DMI SURVEY

Our second parish-wide Disciple Maker Index Survey is happening Feb. 18 through March 23

VISIT COVDIO.ORG/DMI OR SCAN THE CODE

 It takes less than 15 minutes



What is Keeping You from Living More Fully the Kingdom of God?

The **Disciple Maker Index** allows you to assess how you may be doing both in your discipleship of Christ as well as in your spiritual growth. By doing this assessment in the survey like Disciple Maker Index, it gives the leadership of your parish valuable insights into discovering ways that we can use to help make you, our parishioners, better Christian disciples. This, in turn, can assist you in finding the joy of being a Catholic-Christian which may help others to discover their faith in God, too.

The Disciple Maker Index survey is live from Feb 18 – March 23 at www.covdio.org/dmi/. Paper surveys are available at church and upon request from the parish office. All your responses are completely confidential. No member of the parish staff or our leadership team will ever have access to your individual answers. If you have questions about the survey or if have any issues in taking it, please contact Jeanette Bolin (jbolin@stbarbaraky.org).

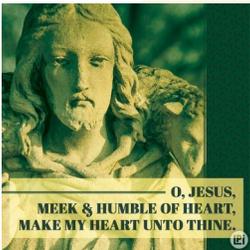
"I Was Thinking..."

by Deacon Chuck Melville



We're beginning the season of Lent, making our preparations for Easter. In the time of Jesus, it was a time of upheaval and political intrigue. In the midst of the tensions, Jesus proclaimed a message of peace and love. The heart of peacemaking is the heart! So as we consider Lent and making peace with others, let's begin by reflecting on Jesus. In Philippians, St. Paul uses two words to describe Jesus' Incarnation and death on the cross. Jesus "emptied himself and humbled himself." In other words, before we could experience peace with God, Jesus had to empty himself and humble himself. The same act of humility has to happen in us if we want to make peace with others. "*Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye?*" Notice the first step in peacemaking according to Jesus is the humility to get the log out of our own eyes. We need to deal with our own stuff first. We take responsibility for our own actions before we focus on what the other person did.

So how do we overcome these tendencies? Can we remove the log from our eye, first? You know, even if we believe the other party is 90 percent wrong, we are still responsible for our 10 percent. We are 100 percent responsible for our 10 percent! So maybe, take a moment to reflect on Jesus' emptying himself and humbling himself by dying on the cross. Then commit yourself to obeying Jesus' example and command.



Start with your heart! As we begin Lent, maybe we should ask ourselves, "Was there a time today when I humbled myself and faced my own issues rather than getting angry or confronting someone else?" If so, thank the Lord. If you failed to do so, ask Jesus to forgive you and to give you the courage to do as he did.

Young Adult Group – Support that Matters

by Ross Emerson, Young Adult Ministry

It is said that the Lord works in mysterious ways. The longer that I am involved in Young Adult Group, the more and more that I am learning to appreciate this turn of phrase. God has a way of transforming moments that may seem casual or ordinary to you into extraordinary moments for others that cannot be fully understood or anticipated.

For the Young Adult Group, we had one of those moments on October 4, 2024. That day, we organized a Candlelight Mass to be held at St. Barbara in collaboration with the Angelico Project. Our members helped schedule the event, procured supplies, and decorated Baumann Hall for the after-Mass reception. The Mass itself was beautiful. To see our altar adorned with such an incredible number of candles created a truly special environment. It provided a soft warmth that made the Mass feel like a comfortable evening out with friends.

It wasn't until much later that I found out that this same Mass meant something much different for a young couple in attendance. To them, the Candlelight Mass was a private source of comfort as they mourned the loss of a child to miscarriage. Amidst the pain and confusion that these young parents were experiencing, they felt called to celebrate their unborn child privately by the soft glow of candlelight. And once there, they found themselves surrounded by a group of peers that welcomed them with open arms. Even though we could not know their struggle, the connections they made would go on to help this couple quietly through this difficult moment in their lives.

If that is not the Lord working to make ordinary efforts into an extraordinary impact, I am not sure what is. To play even the smallest part in God's plan to provide grace to others is truly one of the greatest privileges that we can have. And that is the mission of Young Adult Group: to be a source of God's grace for the young people of our parish.

So why not join us? We meet the first Sunday of every month from 10 -11 AM in the Sterling Event Center. Help us plan the next great event and make some new friends along the way. It might even be that next ordinary event that God is waiting to use in your life to accomplish extraordinary things. To learn more, contact us at youngadults@stbarbaraky.org

Our Parish Family

New Parishioners

William & Rose Bertram
Jean & Arnold Birr
Daniel & Kelly Clasgens
Kyle & Katelyn Cottingham
William Cuniffe
Amy & Steve Curley
Derek Deaton
Morrissa VanDyke

David & Susan Foster
Leo & Brandy Franxman
Verna Fugazzi
Deborah Grelle
Kelly King
Melanie Margolen
Judy Marksberry
Christina Matthews
Greg & Georgia Medosch
Thomas & Vickie Reckers
David & Erica Ruiz

Marriages

Greg Bauer & Megan Luneke

Born to Eternal Life

Joyce Levo
Margaret "Peggy" Morgan
Beverly Krebs
Mimi Trenkamp
Philip Wagner
Rose Wagner

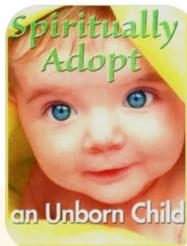
The Precious Gift of Life

by Karen Riegler, Families for Life

In the face of the alarming rise in assaults on human life across the life spectrum, the Catholic Church remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding all human life. The Church especially acknowledges that respect for life commences at the very beginning of human existence, within the confines of a mother's womb. If we fail to value life at this vulnerable and innocent stage, how can we expect to value the lives of the elderly, the infirm, and the marginalized members of our society? This devaluation of human life, often referred to as the "slippery slope," has been increasingly disregarded by our culture in the pursuit of convenience and one's freedom of choice.

Technological advances have allowed us to have a "window" into the womb where the miracle of an unborn child is developing day by day and month by month, yet we are still told that this life is a "choice" and only a "clump of cells." We are making advances in our laws restricting abortion but what is needed is increased education. The Bishops have called us to work together to make abortion "unthinkable" in our culture now and in the future.

That is why we are asking our St. Barbara community to make a commitment to pray daily for an unborn baby who may be in danger of abortion, by participating in our Spiritual Adoption Program. Through this program, families are given an opportunity to spiritually "adopt" and name a child and pray each day that he or she will be carried to term and experience the fullness of life as God intended. Prayer cards are available at the "Little Ones" posters that are on display in the Narthex. These posters will display and chronicle your "adopted" baby's development in the womb each month. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to pray together, but also view together the miraculous changes taking place each month as the baby grows.



At the end of nine months during October, Respect Life Month, St. Barbara's Families for Life will be conducting a Baby Shower to benefit mothers in need in honor of our spiritually adopted babies. What a fitting way to end our Spiritual Adoption Program! We hope you and your family will take this opportunity to participate and experience the power of prayer for God's most precious gift of life!

"The greatest destroyer of peace today is the crime of abortion against an innocent unborn child."
~St. Mother Teresa, reiterated recently by Pope Leo XIII.

Share the Good News!

Suggestions for our quarterly newsletter are welcome and can be sent to jbolin@stbarbaraky.org. For more information on our parish ministries, please visit our parish app or website.



Prayer Is Listening to the Heart of God

Guest Speaker Sister Marla Monahan
April 15 at 7 PM in the Sterling Center

Lenten Reflections after Wednesday 7 PM Masses

Feb. 25: Jeff Jehn – Wake me up, Lord!
March 4: Johnna Herrmann – Fasting to Fuel Your Lenten Journey
March 11: Liz Smith – The Joy of Giving
March 18: Beth Penn – a Lenten theme
March 25: Stan Heck – Mary's Yes and the Word Became Flesh

www.stbarbaraky.org/faith-fellowship

JOIN US EACH FRIDAY DURING LENT



4:30
to
8:00

USE OUR

DRIVE THRU CLOSES @ 7:30!

DRIVE THRU

Hosted by the Holy Name Society

Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27

Menu and Volunteer Signups:
stbarbaraky.org/fish-fry

Save the Date for Rocktoberfest 2026!

Rocktoberfest is turning 15! This year's festival promises to be one of the best yet as we celebrate 15 years of faith, fun, and fellowship. Join us Friday and Saturday, September 11–12 for two evenings filled with music, great food and beverages, Bid 'n Buy, games for all ages, rides, and the warm fellowship that makes our parish feel like home. Whether you've been with us since the very first Rocktoberfest or this will be your first time attending, we can't wait to celebrate this special milestone together!

More details will be shared in the coming months in the parish bulletin, website, and emails. For information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Johnna Herrmann (johnnaherrmann@gmail.com).





Spending the Holidays with the Youth Group

by John Kidwell, Youth Minister

After Halloween each year, the Youth Group's focus quickly shifts to Christmas. Each November, we receive a list from Woodcrest Retirement Home of all their residents and the Christmas gifts they are hoping for. This list is uploaded to the parish website, and generous parishioners help us collect the gifts. The gifts are sorted, then bagged and tagged, ready for delivery. On the Thursday before Christmas, we returned to Woodcrest Retirement Home with four vanloads of gifts for 110 residents, delivering them personally to each room. It is an incredibly humbling and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

We host a Friendsgiving potluck dinner for our special-needs children, known as the *Busy Buddies*. The evening is filled with food, games, laughter, and—of course—dancing on the stage to favorites like the Cha-Cha Slide, Cotton Eye Joe, and the Cupid Shuffle.

For service, we headed to Hosea House, where we helped feed 111 people and moved 3,500 pounds of canned goods into storage in November and also served 92 people in December.

We enjoy a little downtime with a pizza party and Nerf War night in November, where the kids relax, have fun, and yes—take aim at their youth minister! We also celebrate with a Youth Group Christmas party, featuring a gift exchange full of surprises, swapping, laughter, food, music, and dancing.

Another highlight is Lunch with Santa, where the Youth Group helps children make crafts, serve hot chocolate and cookies, write letters to Santa, and wait their turn to visit with him. That same evening, our Busy Buddies celebrate with their own Christmas party—complete with gift exchanges, lots of food, plenty of fun, and yes... more dancing on the stage.

Throughout all of this, our youth came together every Wednesday night for Mass during Advent. One of the greatest blessings of the season is our Youth Mass, where all ministries are led by the youth—it truly is one of the most inspiring Masses of the year.

I am deeply thankful for all the youth who gave their time, energy, and hearts throughout this busy season. Our parish is truly blessed with such amazing young people. Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and supported these efforts. May God bless you all.

Sharing the St. Henry Story

by Kimberly Wagner, St. Henry Catholic School Principal

We recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week. During this week, we take the time to celebrate everything that makes St. Henry awesome! This includes our school families, our students, our teachers, priests/deacons, and the larger community. It is a privilege to be a part of such an amazing group that supports our students and our families.

Throughout this year, we have been focusing on allowing families to “Share their St. Henry Story.” Mrs. Finch, our Intervention Specialist, shared the following...

“I came to St. Henry in search of a teaching job. I stayed because the job is not work for me. It is taking care of my new family members I've gained in the students, staff and parishioners at St. Henry. It is spreading the love and joy of God to others. It is helping kids on their path through education and continuing to see them grow each and every year. It is making lifelong memories with my students. I know that by being at St. Henry, my family is well taken care of by all the teachers and staff. I know that my children are learning in a safe, respectful environment. I know that my children have God at the center of their minds and are being guided to a life that leads to Him. St. Henry is a place built strongly on a community of faith. I am proud to be a part of the legacy of this parish and school.”

In support of Catholic education at St. Henry and families like the Finches, I would like to invite you to attend our Derby Night at St. Henry fundraising event on March 14. It will be a fun evening that will allow us to gather as a community and support our school. On this night, we are fundraising for our Teacher Tuition Assistance Fund (teachers receive 50% off of tuition for their children) and to help close the gap between the cost of tuition and the actual cost of education per student.

Learn more: <https://givebutter.com/c/derbySHCS>

Stay connected with us: www.sthenryschool.net and www.facebook.com/st.henryschool.



**Now enrolling
preschool through
eighth grade**



Did you know that as a feeder parish, active St. Barbara parishioners are eligible for the in-parish tuition rate?