

Holiday Season Giving Opportunities

Give Catholic NKY

Join us for Giving Tuesday on December 2!

This is a new opportunity to raise funds in just 24 hours for our parish as well as rally support for church and school needs in the Diocese of Covington. Our parish goal: raise \$20,000 to be used to replace the church pew kneelers.

www.givecatholicnky.org

Retirement Fund for Religious

This national collection helps religious communities care for their aging members, who have offered a lifetime of service. Learn more at www.retiredreligious.org.

Donations can be placed in the collection basket, sent to the parish office, or online at www.covdio.org/give

Christmas Flowers Fund

Donations are used to enhance our worship space with poinsettias, trees, and greens for the Christmas season. Contributions can be made in memory, celebration, or thanksgiving of loved ones. Donate online on the parish website or send donations to the parish office or collection basket by Dec 14.

Christmas Giving Tree

Each year, this ministry provides gifts for families from local schools and Head Start programs. Each child receives three gifts of choice and new socks & underwear. Sign up for gifts after Mass or on the parish website, then return unwrapped gifts to church no later than noon on Dec 14. To make a monetary donation and let us shop for you, please mail or drop off a check payable to the church with a note marking it for the Giving Tree.

Contact sbgtree@gmail.com with any questions.

Woodcrest Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Help fill the holiday wishes of the Woodcrest residents. Select a name from the signup on the parish website and return unwrapped gifts by Dec 14. The St. Barbara Youth Group elves will bag and deliver the gifts to Woodcrest.

St. Vincent dePaul Northern Kentucky Holiday Programs

"Vincent's Angels" allows parents and caregivers to personally choose Christmas gifts for their children. Toys are still needed so every child can experience the joy of Christmas morning. Toys donations can be delivered at any SVdP NKY thrift store.

Adopt-a-Family sponsors receive a wish list, purchase gifts, and drop off wrapped presents at the Erlanger SVdP facility to help a family feel seen and loved this Christmas.

Learn more about donation and volunteering opportunities: www.svdpnky.org/holiday-giving.

Thank you for your generosity!



Advent & Christmas Mass Schedule

♦ **Advent Evening Mass:** Dec 3, 10, 17 at 7 PM
After Mass, Faith and Fellowship speakers will share reflections on Advent themes.

♦ **Advent Sunday Masses:** Regular times

♦ **Christmas / Nativity of the Lord**

Dec 24 at 4 PM & 10 PM

Dec 25 at 10 AM

♦ **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

Dec 31 at 7 PM

Jan 1 at 10 AM



Ways to Give for Offertory and Ministry Collections

St Barbara Church's Mission: ***We seek to serve others individually and as a parish according to God's plan for us; we are the Body of Christ.*** Our mission is made possible through generous giving. However you choose to give, your support is vital to the continued success of our parish community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our parish.

We encourage you to use electronic giving for your regular offerings and one-time gifts to the church, as well as our St Vincent dePaul, Families for Life, Youth Ministry, and Religious Education funds. Using your bank account, debit or credit card is easy and secure. Choose one of these methods to get started with online giving through Vanco:

- ♦ Visit www.stbarbaraky.org/give or click the GIVE tab on the parish website.
- ♦ Scan the QR code here or on the pew card.
- ♦ Download the Vanco Mobile app
Search Erlanger KY, choose St Barbara



If you prefer to give by cash or check, please place your donation in the collection basket. Registered parishioners receive offering envelopes by mail; online givers can opt out of envelopes by contacting the parish office. Donations can also be sent to the parish office. By donating online or by envelope, parishioners can receive statements of their contributions for the year. We appreciate your past, current, and future support of our parish!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Souls of the Just are in the Hands of God

In the month of November, we remember all of those who have gone before us. I was at the gym and said to one of my friends: "I am so tired of dealing with dying and death and funerals" Then I said: "Well I guess it is the line of work that I am in." To which my friend replied: "Or it could be YOUR AGE!" Regardless, we have had an overabundance of funerals in our parish this year. It is a good reminder that we should always be ready because we do not know the day or the hour when God could call us home. While it is common to think that our departed friends are gone forever, All Saints and All Souls Day reminds us that those who loved you while they were on this earth are still bound to you by the chord of love. They are drawn by that love when you call on them to intercede for you whenever you are in need.

*Eternal rest Grant Unto Them Oh Lord
and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.*

God Bless, Father John



Maintainers of Our Parish Campus

After a career as an electrician and over 10 years on the parish staff, Ken Guenther will retire at the end of the year. As plant engineer, his responsibilities were ensure that the church buildings and grounds are maintained and updated, using contractors, the Spare Time Parishioners, and other volunteers. Ken was also on the steering committees for the church expansion and Sterling Event Center. He plans for more travel with his wife Joan, working in his garden, and to continue coin collecting. We are so grateful for all the ways that Ken has served our parish and hope to see him around the parish campus and at parish events.



Todd Herrmann joined the St Barbara staff earlier this year to train under Ken, who feels that he is passing on the plant engineer position to a very knowledgeable and hard-working person. Todd has a background in operations management and is passionate about nature. He currently represents the city of Erlanger on the Kenton County Planning Commission and a member of Erlanger's urban forestry commission. We are confident that our parish buildings and grounds will continue to be well maintained under Todd's care.



Our Parish Family

New Parishioners

Kevin & Tresa Bleser
Monica Doha
George & Dana Farris
Anthony & Ashley Fugazi
Matthew & Jennifer Kirby
Matthew Kloska
Nicholas & Rose Ledford
Frank & Kasia McDermott
Joyse Richmond
Allison Riegler
Ryan Skelton
Cathy Sutton
Joseph & Elizabeth Thiel
Suzanne Thomas
Debra Wishmeyer

Marriages

Ben Farringer & Stella Childress

Born to Eternal Life

Chester Dreyer
Emilie Linton
Peggy Menke
Harriett Schulte
Tara Lynn Williams
Timothy Jacobs
Jack Anthony Kleier

Stewards of Our Parish Finances

In conjunction with the pastor, the Finance Council is tasked with providing good stewardship of parish finances and the annual financial reports for the parish. This is done by:

- Ensuring adherence to diocesan financial policies and procedures.
- Preparing the annual budget in collaboration with the pastor and other appropriate parties.
- Reviewing parish financial reports compared to budget.
- Reviewing, approving, and signing the year-end report submitted to the bishop.

The council consists of the pastor, deacon, business manager and members of the parish with expertise in matters of finance or civil law. Current members are Jeremy Armbruster, Tim Pieper, Andy Hagedorn, John Wood, Kathy Papas, Darla Kettenacker, and Paul Meier.

We would like to thank everyone who gave to the 2025 DPAA. 100% of all money collected over the St. Barbara parish goal will be returned to our parish to update the sound system in church.

Parish Goal: \$116,000
Amount Collected to date: \$162,971
Amount Committed: \$177,190 from 324 donors (18% of parish)



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The death of a loved one is a time of grief, but it is also an opportunity to gather family and friends to celebrate their life. We are fortunate at St. Barbara to have a Bereavement Ministry that plans the funeral Mass and hosts a reception. Knowing that our parish is there to support them during this difficult time is a great comfort to the family of the deceased.

After a parishioner passes away, either a loved one or the funeral home contacts the parish office. The family and Father John then determine the date and time of the funeral. The family meets with Deacon Chuck Melville or Laura Scheben at the parish office to discuss the funeral arrangements. During this meeting, information is collected about the deceased, including their place of baptism, date of death, names of immediate family members, and any specific details that will help shape the homily. The family chooses the two readings, the Gospel, and the songs to be used during the Mass of Christian Burial. Typically, the family provides the readers and gift bearers. The parish arranges for musicians, altar servers, and ministers for Communion unless the family will provide these ministers. The family is asked for an estimate of how many people are expected to attend the funeral Mass and reception. Once all information is collected, the funeral program is prepared and printed by the parish office. On the day of the funeral, a sacristan prepares the church and assists during the Mass.

Our parish also offers to host a reception after the funeral Mass. The parish office sends the expected number of attendees to Erika Geiger and her committee, who handle the details for the reception. The parish provides a meal that includes meat sandwiches, baked beans, deviled eggs, pickles, and cheese potatoes. A group of volunteers prepares these dishes in the Sterling Event Center kitchen on the day before the funeral. There are 46 people that Amy Hahnel can contact to bring additional side dishes and desserts. About a dozen people are also willing to help with serving food or bartending at the receptions. It's wonderful to have a large team to call on, especially when there are several funerals in a short span and to ensure coverage when volunteers are out of town.

If you would like to join Bereavement Committee, please contact the parish office. The parish is also able to support the committee with donations at the annual Bake Sale, which helps to offset the costs of the funeral receptions.

***"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted"***

For more information on our parish ministries and how to get involved, please visit our parish app or website www.stbarbaraky.org

Stewardship Spotlight

"Be sure to do what you should, for then you will enjoy the personal satisfaction of having done your work well, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else". --Galatians 6:4

Bill and Amy Hahnel joined the parish in the summer of 2002. It was an easy decision and transition as Bill's sister and family were longtime parishioners. When their three children were young, the family was not too involved at the parish but would help with the Parish Kitchen and Action Ministries. Amy likes the community outreaches, but the church ministries are most special. Later, they became involved with "Kool Kids" and then the Youth Group at St. Barbara. Bill drove their truck as the "pack mule" on many youth trips. They became more involved with liturgical ministries: both as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the Vocations Crucifix, and Amy as a Lector. For the parish bereavement committee, Amy organizes the food and is the backup coordinator for funeral receptions and Bill bartends as needed. For many years, the Hahnels have organized the Soup & Bread Supper on Holy Thursday. Amy also participates in the Walking with Purpose bible study. In the fall, Bill is usually found working Holy Name Turkey Shoots and Amy has been active with the festival Bid-n-Buy. Around the parish campus, Amy cleans the church with the Altar Society, Bill works with the Spare Time Parishioners, and both assist with the Christmas decorations at church.



When Amy was a child, her family's house burned and the community support received created a desire to help people when able. This experience led Amy to be a volunteer firefighter and an EMT. It also led her to help with the Giving Tree after joining the parish. This annual program was managed by SVdP until 2013, when the Hahnels "took it over" as a parish ministry. Amy shared that *"We enjoy being able to help so many families and children at Christmas and seeing the relief these families have when they pick up their gifts is a gift to us. It is wonderful to have our adult children and spouses now help us with this ministry."*

Since Bill is retired and Amy works part-time as needed from home, they *"are beyond blessed to be able to watch our grandchildren, a gift to our children as well as a gift to us."* Their two daughters' families attend Mass with them and daughter Katherine regularly sings as part of the music ministry at the 9 AM Mass. In their "spare time", Bill likes to work outside, putter around the garage/basement, and reading. Amy enjoys cooking, reading, sewing, and quilting.

Thank you to Bill and Amy Hahnel for inspiring us and sharing about their parish ministries and community activities. Our parish has been beyond blessed with their stewardship!

Welcome

Ladies of St. Barbara Parish,
Mark your calendars for the next annual Women's Welcome Weekend: January 24-25, 2026. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to spend time with women from your parish family who will share stories of their faith journeys which will lead you to a closer relationship with God and each other.

Read what this past Women's Weekend meant to fellow parishioner **Sandy Butler**: *"Our Welcome Weekend was truly a blessing! From the moment we arrived, we were embraced with warmth, kindness, and genuine hospitality. It wasn't just an event- it was the beginning of something beautiful! Becoming part of our parish family has brought us deeper connections, spiritual growth, and a true sense of belonging. We've found community, friendship, and purpose, and we're so grateful for the journey that started that weekend! If you're considering attending, we wholeheartedly encourage you to come. You might just find blessings that you didn't even know that you were seeking."*

For more information about the next Welcome Weekend, go to www.stbarbaraky.org/welcome-weekend or email welcome@stbarbaraky.org.

Incredible Rocktoberfest 2025!

By Johnna Herrmann

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our parishioners, donors, and sponsors for your enthusiastic support of Rocktoberfest 2025. This successful community event wouldn't have been possible without the energy, time, and dedication of our amazing volunteers — you truly made it rock! We're thrilled to share that both attendees and volunteers gave positive, constructive feedback through our post-event surveys, affirming the success of this year's festival and contributing ideas to support a spirit of continuous improvement for future festivals. While we anticipate a few more invoices, the festival's net profit is projected to be just shy of \$75,000.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're gearing up to celebrate the 15th year of Rocktoberfest with even more excitement and community spirit. Rocktoberfest 2026 will be held on September 11 & 12. If you're interested in joining the leadership committee, please contact the church office. Planning kicks off in January. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of Rocktoberfest, proudly voted Northern Kentucky's Best Festival three years!

Special thanks to our 2025 Steering Team:

Shane Studer, Kera Studer, Johnna Herrmann, John Wood, Kerri Kuebler, Laura Hegge, Gary Stegman, Ralph Huser, Derek Woodruff, Tom Duggan, John Zuidema, and adviser Dave Pauly. Kudos to our volunteer coordinators Angela Hagedorn and Shannon Scherrer.



The Fruit of Generosity

by Kimberly Wagner, St Henry Principal



This year we are talking about the Fruits of the Spirit at St. Henry. For the month of November, we are focusing on the fruit of generosity. Generosity is a way of life rooted in the belief that all we have comes from God and is meant to be shared with others out of love. I truly believe that St. Henry School is born out of the generosity and love of our community. I don't think that anyone can be a part of our school community without seeing this. When I talk about generosity, I do not mean only financial generosity (although we never complain about that either!)

This year we are asking families to "Share their St. Henry Story." Here is one story.....

"When our family first toured St. Henry, it immediately felt like home. There was a warmth that radiated from every classroom, every hallway, and every person we encountered. At St. Henry, our family truly has a voice. But even more importantly, each of our children does. Their individuality is celebrated, their voices are heard, and their needs — both academic and emotional — are supported with compassion and intention. The staff and teachers go above and beyond to ensure every student feels seen, valued, and capable of success."

The amount of support provided, especially for children with different learning needs and abilities, is nothing short of inspiring. It's a reflection of a school community that believes every child deserves to thrive — and works tirelessly to make that happen. Staff proactively communicate what they need and what your child needs to ensure success."

~Jena & Tad Sexton

We are so grateful for the faculty, staff, parents, grandparents, and community members who give of themselves selflessly with their time, talent, and treasure to make St. Henry a place where our students can thrive — spiritually, academically, socially, athletically, and beyond. One of the things that we have learned as we have talked about virtues and fruits of the Spirit the last two years is that when one of us grows, we all grow. Thank you for your generous support that has helped us grow into the community that we are. Please continue to pray for us as we strive to become ever more fully the generous community of Christians that God created us to be, sharing all that we have and all that we are!

Catholic Schools Week 2026 will be celebrated from January 25 to January 31. Please join us for our Open House on Sunday, January 25 from 12:30 - 2:00 PM.

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

Share the Good News!

Suggestions for our quarterly newsletter are welcome and can be sent to jbolin@stbarbaraky.org