

Celebrating the Sacraments

April started and ended with very blessed and grace-filled occasions for our parish as OCIA, second grade, and eighth grade parishioners received Sacraments of Initiation. Let us all continue to pray for all of them and encourage them in their faith journeys. We are grateful for the love, guidance, and support of the families, sponsors, Father John Sterling, Deacon Chuck Melville, Coordinator of Religious Education Jackie Koop, CCD catechists Teri Ayt and Diane Blackwood, OCIA leaders Willy and Christine Salyers.



The Sacrament of the Eucharist was received by our first communicants on April 26, 2026.

Congratulations to Madison Bailey, Amelia Buerger, Patrick Goubeaux, Sean Guilfoyle, Oaklie Hegener, Lucas Hasekoester, Crosley Keckeis, Corinne Lageman, Charlotte Rapien, Bowen Schroeder, Alana Steinhard Chavero



The sacrament of Confirmation was conferred by Bishop Emeritus Roger Foy on April 30, 2026.

Congratulations to Isabella Chandler, Khloe Doha, Simon Greenwald, Josie Hall, Lucas Hasekoester, Lucas Jump, Amelia Klaene, Charlotte Lageman, Ella Madru, Matthew Menke, Cade Mohr, Blake Neace, Mia Riordan, Emma Rust, Brennan Salyers, Caroline Schumacher, John Schumacher, Aidan Smith, Andrew Williams



OCIA candidates and catechumens received the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil on April 4, 2026.

Congratulations to Steve Devaney, Monica Doha, Khloe Doha, Darlene Pittman, Alisah Wilson, Sarah Beckham, Amanda Devaney, Zachery Watson, Corinne Mozea, Kasey Fischesser, Steve Madrid, Fiona Emerson

Thoughts from Deacon Chuck



Spring time brings change, new life, new challenges. After the cold and sometime dreary winter we experience change and new challenges. Here at St Barbara we celebrated Easter with the addition of our new Catholics at the Easter Vigil, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation were received by our "Elect".

At the end of April, our second graders received their First Holy Communion, the first of many encounters in receiving Christ in the Eucharist. The month ended with our eighth graders receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Emeritus Roger Foys. Our young folks declared, on their own behalf, their belief in God before our Community. There has been so much for our Parish Family to celebrate. We also celebrated several baptisms, weddings, and celebrations of life for our deceased members and families.

But there is also a feeling of anxiety, and a bit of anticipation. Early in the year Father John announced that he would be retiring from active ministry in July. The news sparked surprise and speculation about the future of our Parish. Father John has assured us that he wasn't disappearing from ministry, just the administrative side of serving the Church. *(I expect that he will be able to focus on his beach ministry much more in January and February than he has in the past.)* The other side of this coin is that from the day of his announcement, we have been inundated with questions as to who will be his replacement. The speculation has run rampant. Our questions were answered on May 8 & 9 when Father John announced to the parish that Father Joseph Gallenstein has been named as the next pastor of St. Barbara Parish. Father Joe is currently serving as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Alexandria, KY.

When it comes to clergy assignments, it is the Bishop's job to determine who will lead each parish. Clergy, priests and deacons, annually promise to serve the Bishop of Diocese, as part of our renewal of the vows of our ordination. From my personal experience, I found out that I would be assigned to St. Barbara on the night before my ordination. Deacon Terry Mason was with us a month before he was assigned to St. Patrick. I had never seen this Church and knew very few parishioners, but I trusted that the Holy Spirit knew where I was needed and guided the Bishop's decision. As clergy, and as the parish faithful, we put our faith in God's will and trust that our next pastor will lead us with the love, compassion, and fervor that we have experienced with Father John. It will be up to each of us, in our St. Barbara Parish family, to wish Father John well in his new endeavors and to welcome Father Joe into our community.

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 website or app.

Our Parish Family

New Parishioners

Peggy Bellew
Juli Brace
Gillian Casey
Zachary & Courtney Curtis
Douglas & Megan Dorsel
Mary & Ken Goldsberry
Dakota Graue
Joseph & Evelyn Hancock
April & Adam Hartung
Mary & John Hoffman
Madeline & Brent Izor
Todd & Amy Jacobs
Melissa & Benjamin Lighthall
Connor McGinnis
Samantha Mieskoski
Ken & Molly Neuhaus
Reagan Parker
Kendyl Tomlin
Margaret & Grant Vercheak
Regina Wood
Matthew & Sarah Wright

Marriages

Matt Kloska & Kylie Moellering

Born to Eternal Life


Barbara Amand	Noraa DeGlow
Paul Kolkmeier	Carrie Moeves
Thomas Reynolds	Lawrence Whitis
Mary Ann Witt	Jeffrey Work

LIVE AS CHILDREN OF


LIGHT

EPI 5-8

Vocations • Pro-Life Ministry • Catholic Charities • Religious Education
Campus Ministry • Hispanic Ministry • Thomas More University
Evangelization • Clergy Formation • Tuition Assistance
Priest Retirement, Nursing & Health Care Coverage



2026
DIOCESAN PARISH
ANNUAL APPEAL



TO
SUPPORT:
COVIDIO.ORG/GIVE

Thank you to all who have already contributed to the 2026 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal (DPAA). Pledges and donations are still needed and can be made online or placed in the offertory basket or sent to the parish office. Any funds collect over our goal of \$134,500 will be returned to the parish for special projects. God bless you for your generosity!

Support, Sponsor, Celebrate Our Parish Festival

We are excited to announce our 15th anniversary of Rocktoberfest on Sept 11 & 12. Preparations have already begun for what is one of the largest and best festivals in Northern Kentucky.

We turn to our community to help make this event a huge success. Sponsorships are currently open; you can market and advertise your business and help St. Barbara Parish. Interested in donating items or volunteering? Learn more and stay updated: www.stbarbaraky.org/rocktoberfest



Bringing Men Together - the Holy Name Society

Early in 2021, I started attending St. Barbara's and wanted to get involved at the church. A friend suggested that I get involved in the Holy Name. By its name, I told her that I was not looking for a prayer group. Later that year, she encouraged me again, and I finally decided to give it a try. To my surprise, I really enjoyed myself and came back for another meeting, and have been a loyal member since then. I continue to attend meetings and events because of what the Holy Names stand for: fellowship, fun, and friendship. ~ Mike Cooper, Holy Name President

The mission of the Holy Name Society (HNS) is to combine the ideals of spiritual growth, charitable works, fundraising, and entertainment in a way that brings together the men of St. Barbara Parish.



The Holy Name Society supports the parish and other organizations both financially and through volunteer efforts. They provide all sacramental wine and communion hosts used at Mass, sponsor the printing of the annual church calendars, and contribute funds to the St. Barbara Youth Group. The Holy Name coordinates the Spring and Fall Grounds Cleanup and assists the Spare Time Parishioners with campus projects. Each year, they vote to donate \$500 to 15–17 local, national, and international charities. Additionally, they support several homeless shelters by serving meals and offering encouragement. The HNS is always seeking new outreach opportunities to serve our community.

Men of the parish are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Sterling Event Center (Sept-June). Dinner is served at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting from 7:15 to around 8:00 PM. No initiation is required—just show up and participate. All men of the parish are also invited to the Summer Cookout and Christmas Party—bring a friend to enjoy good food, drinks, and fellowship. For updates on meetings and events, check the bulletin and parish emails. Learn more at www.stbarbaraky.org/holy-name-society or contact us at hnsbarbara@gmail.com

Crossing into Legacy

After 20 meaningful years, *Cross the Bridge for Life* has come to a close. For two decades, this event was a staple for those who value respect-life efforts and issues in the tristate and beyond. This event has brought together families, individuals, volunteers, and partners, such as our coalition members and sponsors, united by a shared commitment to upholding the dignity of all life. What began as an idea among a few local leaders in 2005 became an annual celebration of the joy of life, filling the Purple People Bridge with thousands on the first weekend of June. Not only can one imagine the power of all those prayers with every step across state lines, the impact *Cross the Bridge for Life* will live on through those who came, were inspired, and lived our message - to celebrate the joy of life, every life!



We are deeply grateful to everyone who walked, organized, volunteered, sponsored, prayed, and supported this event over the years. Your dedication and faithfulness are the reasons that *Cross the Bridge for Life* had such a long journey. However, with the upcoming reconstruction of our event site and other significant unknowns for the future, the CTB4Life Steering Committee realized it's time to close this chapter. This was not an easy decision, but we cherish the memories and its legacy, and are grateful to know that God inspired and powered this event, so we trust His plans.

While this event is ending, the mission and values that inspired *Cross the Bridge for Life* continue. We encourage you to intentionally seek opportunities to uphold the dignity of life and to support others that boldly endorse the sanctity of all life. We carry forward relationships built, the lives touched, and the hope strengthened through these past 20 years. Our final hope is that all who participated in *Cross the Bridge for Life* encourage others to joyfully cross whatever bridge to uphold the dignity of life. Thank you to everyone at St. Barbara parish for being part of this journey and crossing the bridge with us!

~ Karen Riegler
CTB Steering Committee & St. Barbara Families for Life
www.crossthebridgeforlife.org



Vacation Bible Camp

June 22- June 26
9:30 to noon



Bible stories, games, skits, songs, & snacks
Ages: 5 to 11 \$15 per child
Signup forms available in the Welcome Center
and www.stbarbaraky.org/vacation-bible-camp

To volunteer or for more information,
contact Jackie Koop (jkoop@stbarbaraky.org)

Summer of Fun and Faith

by John Kidwell, Youth Minister

This summer is shaping up to be a wonderful season filled with faith, fellowship, service, and fun for our youth group and families!



In June, we will make our annual trip to Indiana Beach for a few days of excitement and fellowship. We will celebrate Father's Day by handing out special gifts to all the fathers in our parish. We will also be volunteering at Vacation Bible Camp, working with the younger children of our parish and help to make the week fun and faith-filled for everyone involved. In July, we will participate in the Independence Day Parade in Independence with two floats designed and built by our youth. Later in the summer, we will travel to LaGrange for our annual retreat. This year's retreat theme focuses on overcoming fears and growing stronger in faith. While there, we will also visit the famous haunted sanitarium for a fun and memorable experience. In August, our youth group will host the Busy Buddies prom for our special needs friends. We will wrap up the summer by helping run the children's games and activities during Rocktoberfest.

We continue our visits to Woodcrest Retirement Home every third Thursday of the month. These visits are always a blessing as we spend time with the residents, share smiles, and build meaningful friendships. Our August visit is a sweet and special one when we host an ice cream social for the residents. Each year, we invite our parishioners to help us collect items for our "Christmas in July" project to provide treats for the Woodcrest residents.

Throughout the summer, we will also host family pool parties every Wednesday evening. These gatherings give our kids and families a chance to swim, relax, and talk about upcoming events and activities together.

Please keep all of our youth, volunteers, and families in your prayers as we continue building friendships, serving others, and growing in our faith together during this exciting summer season.

Where Faith Gathers, Foundations Matter

by Kimberly Wagner, St. Henry Catholic School Principal



We continue to work to provide a wonderful school environment for our students. In addition to making sure that we have faculty and staff who are passionate about students, we are preparing to do a number of facilities projects. In order to do that, we are currently running a Capital Campaign: *Where Faith Gathers, Foundations Matter*. Projects that will be supported by this campaign include all new HVAC for the school, adding handicap accessible bathrooms to our gym, new windows for our Junior High building, new playground surfacing, and hopefully renovating Benedictine Hall to become a Day Care and include an Adoration Chapel. We are blessed to have already raised the money that we need to do the HVAC project, which will be taking place this summer. It would mean so much to have your support as we undergo these changes at our school. We appreciate your prayers! If you would like to learn more about the campaign or make a pledge (whether that be prayer or financial), visit www.sthenryky.com/where-faith-gathers-foundations-matter. Know that our relationship with St. Barbara is a blessing to our community and we can't wait to share these improvements to our campus with you!

A huge part of the community that we have is the wonderful families who partner with us in educating their children, and we would love for you to be a part of the Crusader Family. We have been blessed to be able to share the stories of some of our families and why they chose St. Henry and why they continue to choose St. Henry every year.

Here is a story from one of our Kindergarten parents.
"Choosing a school for your Kindergartener is one that comes with many emotions. It's truly a momentous step when we send our children off to begin their newest journey, but our experience at St. Henry has been truly remarkable, making the transition seamless. My son looks forward to school each day. We are deeply grateful for everything St. Henry has provided. The community has exceeded every expectation I had. It's heartwarming to see many parents, grandparents, teachers, and staff always showing up and deeply involved in our children's lives."
~Brittney Lute

We invite you to continue to prayerfully consider sending your child to St. Henry if you are not already. We are enrolling for preschool through eighth grade. As a feeder parish, St. Barbara parishioners are eligible for in-parish tuition rates. Contact us for more information.

Stay connected with us: www.sthenryschool.net

