

## Youth Group's Summer of Adventure!

By John Kidwell

### ■ Riding into Summer

Our summer journey began at the end of May with an unforgettable horseback riding trip in Metamora, Indiana. For 2 ½ hours, we explored trails that wound through peaceful woods, wide open fields, and even a sparkling stream. It was the perfect way to step into summer and bond as a group. Later that week, we also launched our weekly pool parties, where every Wednesday became a time to relax, swim, share food, and just enjoy each other's company. These evenings quickly became a highlight of the summer — a place where new friendships were formed and laughter was endless.



### ■ Faith and Adventure

June brought the biggest thrill of the summer — a trip to West Virginia's Adventures on the Gorge, where we went whitewater rafting. The rapids were wild, the scenery was stunning, and the memories made on the water will last a lifetime. It was not only an adrenaline rush but also a powerful team-building experience for our youth group. We also ended June by giving back in a meaningful way by helping with Vacation Bible Camp. Our youth served as leaders, mentors, and role models for the younger kids. It was a week filled with songs, skits, games, and sharing the love of Christ in a joyful and energetic setting.

### ■ Parades, Caves, and Christmas

July was packed with even more excitement. We celebrated Independence Day by participating in a Fourth of July Parade, where we had two floats and tons of fun waving to the crowd, passing out candy, and representing our Youth Group with pride. Next up — an underground adventure! We traveled to the Mega Caverns in Louisville, where we went zip-lining through the caves. It was an exhilarating and unique experience, followed by a meaningful weekend retreat in La Grange, where we reflected, reconnected with our faith, and grew closer as a group. Back at home, we brought joy to others by hosting Christmas in July for the residents of Woodcrest Retirement Home and handed out over 120 gift bags with donations from parishioners. Seeing the joy and gratitude on the faces of the residents reminded us all of the true meaning of giving.

### ■ Serving with Heart

Even as summer winds down, our Youth Group is still going strong. In August, we will feed the homeless at Hosea House, serving Skyline chili with love and compassion. We're also looking forward to hosting a Prom Night in the Sterling Event Center for our Busy Buddies, a group of amazing young people with special needs. It will be a night filled with music, dancing, and joy — and we can't wait to share it with them.

### ■ A Summer to Remember

This summer, our Youth Group didn't just go on adventures — we grew together, laughed together, served others, and deepened our faith. From the trails of Indiana to the rapids of West Virginia, from holiday parades to zip lining underground, from caring for the elderly to celebrating with our Busy Buddies — we did it all. This truly was a Summer of Adventure, and we're so grateful for every moment. Here's to continuing the journey — wherever God leads us next! Thank you for your support of our Youth Group.

For more info or to volunteer, contact  
John Kidwell ([jkidwell@stbarbaraky.org](mailto:jkidwell@stbarbaraky.org))



Cross the Bridge for Life in June

## Vacation Bible Camp

During a hot week in June, our participants learned how Joseph relied on the Lord and how God provided for him in every situation. Thank you to all of the kids, teen volunteers, and adult leaders for a great week.



## Where Did They Go?

You have probably noticed that we are missing a couple of faces around here lately. I had just congratulated Terry Mason on being ordained to the Diaconate in the last edition of Crosstalk. Some people don't realize that just as a priest does, a deacon makes a promise of obedience to the Bishop upon being ordained. Deacon Terry was assigned by Bishop Iffert to St. Patrick Parish in Taylor Mill. We wish Terry and his wife Kim many blessings in this new assignment.



Father Michael Hennigen, who was living in residence at the rectory for the last year, has been assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Timothy Parish in Union. Father Hennigen did a fantastic job as Vocation Recruiter, and we wish him many blessings in his new assignment.

SO, you're still stuck with me, and I am blessed for that. Let us pray that God continues to guide us into the future as we continue to grow in God's love.

~~~ God Bless, Fr. John

## Our Parish Family

### New Parishioners

Robert Coyne  
Dana & George Farris  
Kevin & Elizabeth Federle  
Norbert Felhues  
Amy Freeman  
Jacob & Alicia Hasekoester  
Anita Murphy  
Jeff & Lora O'Bryan  
James & Lisa Phillips  
Gregory & Jane Sora  
Howard & Wendi Stroupe  
Virgine "Jeannie" Saulino  
Donald Wildeboer

### Marriages

Ben Riggs & Ashley Collins  
James Stubbins & Maura Juenger

### Born to Eternal Life

Jane Lothar  
Robert Perrone  
Carol Quinn  
Stephen Schmidt  
Mark Selby  
Arthur Smith  
Edward Wilbers  
Donald Buring

### Share the Good News!

Suggestions for our quarterly newsletter are welcome and can be sent to [jbolin@stbarbaraky.org](mailto:jbolin@stbarbaraky.org)

## Help Wanted!

Thoughts from Deacon Chuck

So, what happened to Deacon Terry Mason? He was here, and now he's not. For the past 5-6 years, our parish has been supporting Terry and his wife Kim as he discerned entering the process of becoming a permanent deacon within our diocese. There is a lot of prayer and trepidation in the journey to ordination. Eventually, we enter the seminary for the final three years of training. We wonder what we're getting into and how it will affect our personal life, especially our family life. Every other weekend for three years, we are in class, sometimes wondering what we have gotten into after so many years away from school. We enter the program knowing that, like our parish priests, we serve the Bishop and the needs of the Diocese first. In time, we are ordained and receive assignments. Fifteen years ago, I found out the evening before ordination that I would be coming to St Barbara. In Terry's case, he was ordained before the official assignments were made. There were more parishes needing a deacon than were available this year. Terry recently found out that he was being assigned to St. Patrick Parish in Taylor Mill. In speaking with Terry, after the shock wore off, he accepts the challenge of his new parish. Terry shared with me that the welcome he has received is God's way of letting him know this is where he is supposed to be.

This being said, your help is needed. We, as a Church, are in dire need of men accepting the call to a vocation. Priests and deacons are in short supply, and as time goes by, the shortage becomes that much greater. Our Diocese is facing a challenge of responding to the needs of our people. Retired priests and deacons continue to give their time to the people of Covington. Our Bishop is working to meet the needs of our congregations. As Catholics, we all have a part to play. We must encourage men to recognize the call to serve and to respond.

So what can you do? Has the Holy Spirit called you, or someone close to you, to the priesthood or the diaconate? We, as members, must pray that men continue to step up to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit. The journey of ministry takes many challenging twists and turns, but the rewards are heartwarming. God bless you, and please pray for more vocations.

## Pastoral Council Member Update

In cooperation with the pastor, the Pastoral Council provides consultation necessary to fulfill the mission of St. Barbara Parish. Father John Sterling, Deacon Chuck Melville, Religious Education Coordinator Jackie Koop, Youth Minister John Kidwell, Young Adult rep Ross Emerson, deanery rep Marybeth Bosko, and a finance council rep are the ex officio members. New members Ed Butler, Julie Enzweiler, and Judy Gerwe will join members Henry Noble (chair), Don Prysi (co-chair), Craig Bluemlein, Bill Dorsey, Carol Lynn Galloway, and Johnna Herrmann. Thank you to departing members Joe Barth, Dennis Kennedy, and Jeanne Sperry for serving for three years.



## Faith Formation & Enrichment



If you or someone you know would like to explore your faith and find out what the Catholic foundations of faith are all about, we can help.

OCIA is the formal process by which non-Catholics learn about our Faith in Jesus Christ in the Holy Trinity, as well as the history and the teachings of the Church. Beginning Sept 21 and continuing through the Easter season, we will meet after the 9 AM Mass for about an hour. Through the process, participants can prayerfully decide whether to become a member of the Catholic Church. To learn more about OCIA, contact Deacon Chuck Melville ([cmelville@stbarbaraky.org](mailto:cmelville@stbarbaraky.org) or 859.371.3100).



All baptized students in first through eighth grades, whose families are registered and active parishioners of St. Barbara, and are attending public schools or are homeschooled should enroll in the parish's CCD Program. These classes are required before students are admitted to the preparation classes for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Classes for the coming school year will take place from 7- 8 PM on Wednesdays beginning Sept 17 in parish classrooms. Registration is available online at [www.stbarbaraky.org/ccd-registration](http://www.stbarbaraky.org/ccd-registration). Forms are also available in the Welcome Center. To learn more, contact Jackie Koop ([jkoop@stbarbaraky.org](mailto:jkoop@stbarbaraky.org) or 859.371.3100).



Our adult religious education program meets monthly from September to May. During Advent and Lent, team members give short reflections after Wednesday evening Masses. Upcoming events will be announced in the parish bulletin and emails. [www.stbarbaraky.org/faith-fellowship](http://www.stbarbaraky.org/faith-fellowship)



St. Barbara parish book club for adults meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

We read and discuss books to foster spiritual growth and healthy attitudes. Contact Stan Heck ([stanheck47@gmail.com](mailto:stanheck47@gmail.com)) or Pam Backer ([pam.backer@gmail.com](mailto:pam.backer@gmail.com)) for details.



Take a deeper dive into scripture by joining one of our parish groups.

- ♦ **Sunday Bible Study:**  
Sundays from 10 - 11 AM  
Contact: Rob Gronner ([gronnerrob@gmail.com](mailto:gronnerrob@gmail.com))
- ♦ **Men's Bible Study:**  
2nd & 4th Monday from 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
Contact: Jim Steggeman ([jim.steggeman@gmail.com](mailto:jim.steggeman@gmail.com))
- ♦ **Heck Bible Study:**  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays from 4 - 5 PM  
Contact: Stan Heck ([stanheck47@gmail.com](mailto:stanheck47@gmail.com))
- ♦ **Walking with Purpose** for women, see next column.



Walking with Purpose is returning to St. Barbara Parish in October for our 7th year of Scripture study and Christian fellowship. Join God's Beloved Daughters on Monday evenings to explore the Bible together and enjoy Christian friendship. Walking with Purpose is a Catholic Bible study that is created by women and for women. It combines personal study with small group discussion, linking real-world challenges with solutions found in Scripture and our Catholic faith. We welcome all women, irrespective of faith, age, or Bible study experience.

This year, all of our participants will study "*Living in the Father's Love*", a study of God the Father, where we discover what kind of a Father God is and just how much He loves us. Next, we will dive into "*Passionate Discipleship*," a study focused on equipping women to know Christ and to make Him known. We will study 2 Timothy verse by verse as we immerse ourselves in Paul's last and deeply personal letter to his beloved friend and mentee, Timothy.

Why not join us? You were not meant to journey alone! Our meetings are held on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 in the Sterling Event Center beginning October 6th. To register, go to [www.stbarbaraky.org/walking-with-purpose](http://www.stbarbaraky.org/walking-with-purpose).

New and returning women are invited to our Open House on August 25 from 7-8:30 in the Sterling Event Center.

Need more information or help with registration? Contact Laurie Munson (859.468.8514, [lauriemunson22@gmail.com](mailto:lauriemunson22@gmail.com)) or Marybeth Bosko (954.205.0018, [marybethbosko@gmail.com](mailto:marybethbosko@gmail.com))

## Welcome

The men of St. Barbara's are invited to attend a "Welcome Weekend" on October 18th & 19th. This weekend is designed to help you discover what might be missing in your life and what you can do about it. You will have the opportunity to meet other men of the parish and just take time to relax and reconnect with your inner self.

As a cradle Catholic, I have attended a lot of "encounter" events. This Welcome Weekend left me with a sense of spiritual peace that empowers me to share my faith journey with all those that I meet every day.  
~~ Ed Bosch, Welcome Team Member

For more information about the Welcome Weekend, email [Welcome@stbarbaraky.org](mailto:Welcome@stbarbaraky.org) or register online at [www.stbarbaraky.org/welcome-weekend](http://www.stbarbaraky.org/welcome-weekend).

## Celebrating 14 Years of Rocktoberfest!

By Johnna Herrmann



Get ready to raise the roof and lift your spirits. Rocktoberfest is back for its 14th year, and we want YOU to be part of the celebration! This beloved parish tradition continues to thrive thanks to the incredible dedication of our Steering Committee and the enthusiastic support of our parish community. We are especially excited to welcome some new faces to our leadership team this year, bringing

fresh energy and ideas to the parish festival. Rocktoberfest is truly a labor of love, and it wouldn't be possible without your generosity, time, and joyful participation.

### Join Us!

**Fri, September 12 ♦ 6 PM – Midnight**  
**Sat, September 13 ♦ 5 PM – Midnight**

Featuring Bid & Buy Auction, Raffles, Games for all ages, Midway Rides, Ducky Downs Racetrack, plentiful Food and Drink, Live Music, and Free On-site Parking.

Help us give a huge shout-out to our parishioner-based bands. We're thrilled to showcase their talent on our festival stage.

- ♦ Friday: Kick off the weekend with fantastic music from "The Closers"!
- ♦ Saturday: Grab your dancing shoes to enjoy music from "The Grateful Dads" as they bring the house down with sing-along classics!

### After weekend Masses leading up to the festival:

- ♦ Grab your Grand Raffle tickets
- ♦ Enter the Ducky Downs big race
- ♦ Purchase this year's Rocktoberfest t-shirt
- ♦ Secure one of the remaining booth sponsorships

We're also collecting donations for our Bid 'n Buy auction, which will be held indoors this year in the air-conditioned Sterling Center—a cool new twist on a favorite tradition! And don't forget to check out the Wish List post-it note boards for festival supplies, posted in the church Narthex and Welcome Center.

### Volunteers Needed!

We'll need plenty of helping hands before, during, and after—especially for setup starting on Tuesday evening before the festival, during the festival hours, and on Sunday after the 11am Mass for cleanup. Sign up online or in person before and after all Masses in the Narthex or scan the QR code.



Let's come together in faith, fellowship, and fun to make this year's Rocktoberfest the best one yet!

For updates and details, visit the weekly bulletin, parish app, or [www.stbarbaraky.org/rocktoberfest2025](http://www.stbarbaraky.org/rocktoberfest2025).

## Learning and Growing Together

by Kimberly Wagner, St Henry Principal

We are excited to be beginning the 2025-2026 school year at St. Henry! The theme for the year is "Cultivating Christ-Like Character, One Fruit at a Time." Throughout the year, we will discuss the different Fruits of the Holy Spirit and help students see God bearing fruit in their lives. Specifically, last year we talked about virtues, so the hope is that our practice of virtue is now bearing fruit!



We also hope that this year we can spend time telling our stories about St. Henry, why we love our school so much, and how it is bearing fruit in our lives. This will be my third year at St. Henry. I came to be here very much by way of the Holy Spirit. I wasn't planning to change roles quite yet, but St. Henry kept coming up, people kept mentioning it to me, and when I would pray, I kept hearing God say "get out of the boat." These last several years have brought me many new challenges as I have transitioned into a new role and a new community, but they have also borne much fruit in my life! I have come to love this community that put their trust in me and supported me even when they did not know me very well. I find so much joy in being with our students and our teachers. They are curious and joyful and are excited about all of the little parts of daily life. It has reinforced the joy of learning in my life and their excitement is infectious. Our students teach me about unconditional love every day when I walk down a hallway, and students get excited to see me or give me a hug. I can only hope that they feel that same love from me and the faculty at St. Henry. One of the things that I love doing with our students is helping them connect our Catholic faith to every aspect of their lives. It is a blessing to be here at St. Henry and to learn and grow together with this community. Thank you for supporting this community and making this growth possible in our students and in me! Please keep us in your prayers!

Stay connected with us: [www.sthenryschool.net](http://www.sthenryschool.net)  
[www.facebook.com/st.henryschool](https://www.facebook.com/st.henryschool)

### "Pilgrims of Hope, Missionaries of Mercy"

is the theme of this year's DPAA.

It invites us to embody the heart of Christ. By sharing our spiritual and material gifts, we can extend God's love, compassion, and hope to those who suffer. We would like to thank the 304 parish households who have given to the 2025 DPAA. We would love to increase our participation percentage rate; no amount is too small or large. To date, \$175,159 has been pledged. 100% of all money collected over St. Barbara's DPAA Parish Goal of \$116,000 will be returned to our Parish to update our sound system. Please prayerfully consider contributing to the annual appeal. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!

