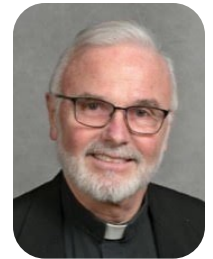


Meet Our New Pastor: Father Joe Gallenstein

First, I want to thank everyone who has extended such a warm and gracious welcome to me. Secondly, I want to say thank you to Father John for making the transition of pastors so easy. I am sure you will get to know me more fully over the time of pastorate, but I thought I'd take this first article to introduce myself.



I am the youngest in a family of 16 children, the eighth boy born to LeRoy and Margaret O'Rourke Gallenstein. I was raised in Maysville, KY, received all my sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at St Patrick Church, and went all 12 years to St Patrick School. Upon high school graduation, I entered St Pius X Seminary for a very brief three days. Realizing that seminary was NOT for me, I quickly enrolled in Maysville Community College (at the time, part of the University of Kentucky system), transferring after two years to NKU, where I completed my undergraduate studies in history, political science, and philosophy. I worked briefly as a counselor at Campbell Lodge Boys Home while finishing college. I worked as a manager for Convenient Food Mart for a couple of jobs for a few years in Lexington. This was in a poorer part of the city, and it really opened my eyes to poverty.

I entered the priestly formation program of the Diocese of Covington in January 1985, completing my "pre-theology" requirements at Thomas More College (now University). Bishop Hughes then sent me to the Catholic University of America and Theological College in Washington DC for my graduate theological studies. Completing those, I was ordained a priest for the diocese in May 1990. From 1990-1999, I served as parochial vicar at St Joseph Church in Cold Spring, Blessed Sacrament in Fort Mitchell, and St Paul in Florence. I also taught at Covington Latin School my first two years as a priest. From January 2001 to December 2010, I was Associate and then Executive Director of Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK) while also serving respectively as Chaplain to the Congregation of Divine Providence in Melbourne, Parochial Vicar at St Therese in Southgate, and then Pastor at St Anthony in Taylor Mill. During this time, I completed a master's in social work from the University of Kentucky. In July 2012, Bishop Foys appointed me Pastor of St Mary of the Assumption in Alexandria, where I served for 14 years before my appointment by Bishop Iffert as your pastor here.

Some of you may know this and others not, but perhaps the most out-of-the-ordinary thing about me as a priest is that I have a son. He is 28 years old now. Some may wonder how it is that I could be a priest with a child. That story is long and detailed, and I'd be happy to share it with anyone genuinely interested in hearing it. For the first couple of years of his life, I remained a priest but was not in a public or assigned ministry. I helped those parishes that asked, in Covington and Lexington. At the instruction of Bishop Muench, I completed a program of spiritual and pastoral renewal at the University of St Louis, followed by an 18-month after-care program. Subsequently, Bishop Foys asked me to do an extended retreat with the Trappists. Through all of this, I was convinced that I had an obligation to have a meaningful relationship with my child. And I have for these 28 years. I also thought at the time that I would labor as a priest in various chaplaincies but never in a parish, and most certainly never as a pastor. Just days before my mother would go to her reward, I was on the cusp of returning to parish ministry. I was understandably very nervous about it. She said, as only a mother of 16, grandmother to 52, great-grandmother to many more could say: "Joe, if you love God and love Caleb, things will work out." The way has not always been easy, but my mother was right.

I know that being a father to Caleb has made me a better person. Many have opined that it has made me a better priest and pastor. I pray that is true and will continue to be so.

~~ FrJoe

Farewell and Blessings for Father John Upon His Retirement

Father John Sterling retired as our pastor on July 14, beginning a new chapter of life to refocus his ministry and to spend more time in Florida. He is truly grateful for the appreciation and love shown during his 19 years as pastor, at his retirement party, for the gifts and cards, and all of the well-wishes for his retirement. Thank you, Father John, for all that you have done for St. Barbara Parish!



On June 27, a crowd of 400 friends and family gathered in the Sterling Event Center to celebrate Father John. Bishop John Iffert also joined the festivities. After the catered meal, everyone enjoyed the slideshow and song about our beloved pastor, with quotes and photos contributed by many whose lives were touched by Father John.



Get ready to celebrate! Rocktoberfest returns for its 15th year, and we invite you to be part of this beloved parish tradition. Thanks to the dedication of our Steering Committee and the generous support of our parish community, Rocktoberfest continues to be a joyful celebration of faith, fellowship, and fun. This event is truly a labor of love, made possible by your time, generosity, and participation.

**Join Us! Friday September 11 from 6 PM to midnight
and Saturday September 12 from 5 PM to midnight**

Our festival features an indoors Bid 'n Buy auction, a grand raffle, games for all ages, rides, delicious food and beverages, live music, Ducky Downs, on-site parking, and more. Mass on September 12 is at 4 PM

Ways to help:

- ◆ Donations for our popular Bid 'n Buy auction are now being accepted; see the website for donation ideas and Amazon wish list. Festival Supplies are also needed; sign up online or grab a post-it note from the board in the church Narthex or Welcome Center. No donation is too small or large!
- ◆ Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the festival. Helping hands are especially needed for setup beginning Tuesday evening the week of the festival, during festival hours, and for cleanup on Sunday after the 11 AM Mass. Sign up online or in person before or after Masses in the Narthex.
- ◆ Purchase Grand raffle tickets, festival shirts, booth sponsorships, and entries for the Ducky Down big races.
- ◆ Come to the festival, and invite your family and friends!

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/rocktoberfest.



Pastoral Council Member Update

In cooperation with the pastor, the Pastoral Council provides consultation necessary to fulfill the mission of St. Barbara Parish. Father Joe Gallenstein, Father Allan Frederick, Deacon Chuck Melville, Business Manager Lesley Duggan, Religious Education Coordinator Jackie Koop, Youth Minister John Kidwell, Young Adult rep Ross Emerson, deanery rep Marybeth Bosko are the ex officio members.

New members Dianna Shelton and Ken Guenther will join Don Prysi (chair), Ed Butler, Julie Enzweiler, Judy Gerwe, Craig Bluemlein, Bill Dorsey, Carol Lynn Galloway, Johnna Herrmann. Thank you to departing members Henry Noble and Carol Lynn Galloway for their contributions for the past three years.

Vacation Bible Camp "Road Trip"

In June, 40 kids embarked on a journey through the Bible, exploring stories that reveal God's presence in every aspect of life. Each day highlighted a different Bible Hero, showing how God guides, protects, and provides for His people throughout their faith journeys. Everyone enjoyed the Bible stories, interactive games, and fun challenges. Thank you to the kids, 12 teen volunteers, and 9 adult leaders for a great week.



Our Parish Family

New Parishioners

Robert Andrews
Diane & Les Beebe
Michael & Elisabeth Cahill
Teri Chinen
Beth D'amico
Matthew Farrell
Jayden Wilson
Michael Jake & Edna Higgins
Ben & Renee Huff
David & Emily Keylor
Anthony & Jordan McCarty
Gregory & Sara Moellering
Eric & Melani Moore
Linda & John Niesen
Gerry Otto
Kwasi "Alex" Prempeh
Daniel & Inna Schank
Paulina Sanchez
Mark & Kathleen Washam
Sebastian White

Marriages

Abigale Leonhard & Jackson Sora
Emma Smith & Geno Merten
Shelley Padgett & Steven Padgett

Born to Eternal Life

Paul Arlinghaus
Sheila Zalla
James Rasbach
Mark Motz
Mary Jean Daugherty
George Schneider

Upcoming Faith Formation & Enrichment Opportunities for All Ages



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 can enroll in 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 16 in parish classrooms. Registration is available online at www.stbarbaraky.org/ccd. Forms are also available in the Welcome Center. To learn more, contact Jackie Koop (jkoop@stbarbaraky.org or 859.371.3100).



OCIA is the formal process for adult Christian initiation in the Catholic Church. It is designed for adults who have never been baptized, those baptized in other Christian traditions, or baptized Catholics who have not completed their sacraments of initiation. Beginning Sept 21 and continuing through the Easter season, we meet on Sunday morning for about an hour to learn about the history and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Through the process, participants can prayerfully decide whether to become a member of the Catholic Church. To learn more, contact Deacon Chuck Melville (cmelville@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



SUNDAY GROUP: Sundays, 10 - 11 AM

MEN'S GROUP: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6:30- 8:PM

HECK GROUP: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 4 - 5 PM.

Contact: Rob Gronner (gronnerrob@gmail.com)

Contact: Jim Steggeman (jim.steggeman@gmail.com)

Contact: Stan Heck (stanheck47@gmail.com)



Walking with Purpose is returning to St. Barbara Parish on September 28 for our eighth year of Scripture study and Christian fellowship. Last year, 160 women came together on Monday evenings to strengthen their faith and their relationship with Jesus. We have learned that studying God's Word with an open and receptive heart will help bring spiritual growth and enrichment to every aspect of our lives.

Walking with Purpose is a Catholic Bible study that 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. We are eager to see all of our returning women, but if you've never joined us, we have an open seat for you!

This year all of our participants will begin with "Rooted and Radiant" – a study of Colossians that will help us to recognize the challenges that faced the Colossians are very similar to the challenges we face today. Next, we will move on to "Fearless and Free"- Experiencing Healing and Wholeness in Christ. It's a study of Ephesians that will help us to flourish in Christ's love.

Our meetings take place on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Sterling Event Center.

To register or learn more about our program, go to www.stbarbaraky.org/walking-with-purpose. Need more info or help with registration? Contact Laurie Munson (lauriemunson22@gmail.com) or Marybeth Bosko (marybethbosko@gmail.com)



My name is Michael Constantino. My wife, Amber, and I love it here and have always felt part of a parish family, but I felt the need to get to know more people on a personal level within our faith community. I was able to accomplish this by attending a Men's Welcome Weekend in 2025. I wasn't exactly sure what I was signing up for, but I asked myself, how bad could it be? I'm here to tell you that it changed me! What a great opportunity to spend time with other likeminded men of faith! From the moment I arrived I felt the love of Christ.

The men on the Giving Team did all of the work, and I just got to be present and take it all in. The days were spent in prayer and listening to faith filled men talk about their life struggles and the different aspects of their faith journey. The fellowships that I developed over the weekend did not end there. My faith journey has continued into regular gatherings to remain bonded in our friendships with each other and with our God. I feel blessed that the Welcome Weekend and my new Faith Family have given me a fresh start and helped me to become a better version of myself. Now it is my opportunity to return the favor and invite a new group of men to be part of this amazing transformation.

Please consider joining us on October 10 & 11 for the Men's Welcome weekend, held on our St. Barbara campus..

For more information, email Welcome@stbarbaraky.org or register online at www.stbarbaraky.org/welcome-weekend.

A Fun and Faith-filled Summer

By John Kidwell, Youth Minister

The St. Barbara Youth Group had another exciting and faith-filled summer with activities that brought our parish families together through fun, service, and fellowship.



In June, the group traveled to Indiana Beach for an overnight adventure. We stayed in cabins, rode roller coasters, spent time at the beach and water park, and ended the evening watching a spectacular fireworks show. It was an unforgettable trip filled with laughter and great memories. Also in June, our youth hosted an Ice Cream Social for the residents at Woodcrest Retirement Home, bringing smiles and fellowship to many. On Father's Day, our youth handed out gifts to all the fathers of our parish after Mass.

July was filled with even more excitement. The Youth Group proudly participated in the Independence Day Parade with two floats, sharing our parish spirit with the community. We also organized our annual Christmas in July project, collecting gifts from our generous parish families and delivering them to the residents of Woodcrest Retirement Home. Their joy and appreciation made this one of the highlights of our summer.

We wrapped up the season with our annual retreat in La Grange, Kentucky. The weekend focused on overcoming our fears through faith in God. Along with meaningful discussions and prayer, we enjoyed a ghost tour, swimming at a state park pool, fishing, and an evening bonfire. It was the perfect way to end a wonderful summer together.

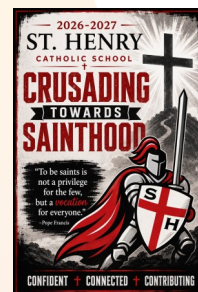
A sincere thank you to all of our volunteers, parents, parishioners, and supporters who make these activities possible. Your generosity allows our youth to grow in faith, friendship, and service to others.

Crusading Towards Sainthood at St Henry Catholic School

by Kimberly Wagner, St Henry Principal

There's a special energy in the halls of St. Henry as we welcome students back for a new school year. Fresh school supplies, new faces in the hallways, the joyful noise of reunions after a long summer, and students ready to learn! We are also excited to welcome Father Joe, St. Barbara's new pastor, who will be coming to say Mass for our students on a monthly basis.

This year's school theme, "Crusading Towards Sainthood", invites our students, teachers, and families to see the school year not just as an academic journey, but as a spiritual one. Just as the great saints pressed forward with courage, faith, and perseverance, our students are called to "crusade" toward holiness in their studies, their friendships, and their daily choices. It's a beautiful reminder that everything we do at St. Henry — from math lessons to recess to Mass — is ultimately in service of growing closer to God and becoming the saints He created us to be. Each classroom will be choosing a saint that will be their patron for the year. They will study their characteristics and how they call us to be holy, as well as asking for their intercession.



None of this academic or spiritual growth happens without the faithful support of our parish and school family. We are grateful to share some exciting progress on the St. Henry's Capital Campaign. Work on replacing the school's HVAC systems has been underway throughout the summer. Looking ahead, our next major project will be replacing the windows in the Junior High building, planned for next summer. This will improve energy efficiency and comfort in a part of the building that has served generations of St. Henry's students. We also plan to add two handicap-accessible restrooms in the gym, ensuring that our facilities are welcoming and usable for everyone in our parish and school community, at every event and every stage of life. Learn more and contribute to our campaign and the improvements to our campus at sthenrynk.com.

Please keep our students, teachers, and staff in your prayers as we begin this new school year. May St. Henry intercede for us as we all crusade toward sainthood together!

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.
We switched to a new format for the Crosstalk for easier online reading.

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