

Welcome to the Catholic Communities of...

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

305 E. Walnut St., Fort Branch, IN 47648
www.holycrossparish.info

Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
Weekday (see inside bulletin)

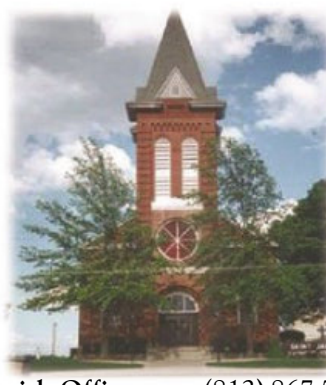


Parish Office(812)-753-3548
School Office(812)-753-3280
Office Manager Lisa O'Neal
E-mail..... loneal@evdio.org
Principal.....John Hollis
E-mail..... jhollis@evdio.org

ST. JAMES CHURCH

12300 S 50 W, Haubstadt, IN 47639
www.stjameshaubstadt.com

Masses: Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:00 am and 9:00 am
Weekday (see inside bulletin)



Parish Office(812)-867-5175
School Office.....(812)-867-2661
Office Manager Amy Macke
E-mail..... amacke@evdio.org
Admin. Assistant Elisha Dewig
E-mail..... edewig@evdio.org
Principal.....Angie Johnson
E-mail..... ajohnson@evdio.org
Rentals..... RaNae Rainey
Call or Text(812)-204-5084

STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH

211 N. Vine St., Haubstadt, IN 47639
www.stspchurch.com

Masses: Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:00 am and 10:00 am
Weekday (see inside bulletin)



Parish Office.....(812)-768-6457
School Office.....(812)-768-6775
Cemetery..... Kim Goedde
E-mail..... kgoedde@evdio.org
Principal Megan Howington
E-mail... mhowington@evdio.org

Chief of Parish Operations: Joe Hopf (812)-768-6457 chopf@evdio.org
Parish Finance Officer: Jane Rhodes (812)-768-6457 jrhodes@evdio.org
Director of Sacred Music: Drew Wilson dwilson@evdio.org

We are three unique Catholic Communities that share resources to better serve and build the Kingdom of God.

SACRAMENTS (CONTACT PARISH OFFICE)

Baptism—Parents must attend baptismal prep class prior to baptism
Marriage—Must be scheduled at least 6 months in advance
Anointing of the Sick—Available upon request
Ministry to the Sick or Shut-In—Anyone who cannot attend Mass and receive Communion, please contact the parish office
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 30 minutes before every Mass
Saturday morning at Sts. Peter & Paul from 8-9 am

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Christopher Droste, Pastor cdroste@evdio.org
Rev. Kenneth Betz, Parochial Vicar kbetz@evdio.org
Rev. Luke Hassler, Parochial Vicar lhassler@evdio.org
William Brandle..... Deacon
Joseph Siewers..... Deacon
Emergency Number to our Priests(812)-768-5747

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ADULT FORMATION

Laura Goedde..... lgoedde@evdio.org
Liz Hirsch..... lhirsch@evdio.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Bryan Macke (812)-664-7992 bmacke@evdio.org

BULLETIN

Holy Cross—Lisa O'Neal loneal@evdio.org
St. James—Amy Macke..... amacke@evdio.org
Sts. Peter & Paul..... loneal@evdio.org

PARISH REGISTRATION

We would like to welcome all new members to our parish family.
Please contact the parish office to formally join a parish in our community.



Mass Schedule for January 1– January 9

Saturday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am † Helen Marie Odom †
4:30 pm † Ferdinand Spindler †

Sunday, January 2 - The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am † The People of Holy Cross, St. James, and Sts.
Peter & Paul †

Tuesday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:15 am (*School Kids Only*) † Bob Friedman †

Wednesday, January 5 - St. John Neumann

8:15 am † Mel & Anna Greulich †

Thursday, January 6

8:15 am (*School Kids Only*) † Jerry L Lamey †

Friday, January 7

8:15 am † John, Leland & Anna Hasselbrinck †

Saturday, January 8

4:30 pm † Sarah Richie †

Sunday, January 9 - The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 am † Duane LaPlante †

Adoration

Adoration is Thursday, January 6 - Friday, January 7.
Please honor your time that you are scheduled for.
Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to spend time in
prayer with the blessed sacrament.

Scheduling a Baptism or Wedding

If you have questions, need additional information or want
to schedule a Baptism or Wedding, call the parish office at
812-753-3548

Holy Cross Stewardship Offering

December 19	\$7,060
Weekly Budget	\$9,902
Gain (Year to Date)	\$17,908

Thank you for your Donations!

Catholic Parishes Campaign (CPC)

Catholic Parishes Campaign (CPC)

We have turned in \$79,530 in pledges to the diocese from
198 families. Our assessment is \$94,036. Pledge cards
may be dropped in the collection basket or mail to the
parish office. Online giving is also available
at www.evdio.org and click on "DONATE NOW" (there
is a service fee for online giving). Thank you to those who
have already given.

Liturgical Ministry Roles For Jan. 8/9

Rosary Leader

4:05 pm Diane Kiesel
8:05 am Bev Hirsch

Servers (Senior Server in BOLD)

4:30 pm Emmy Hoke, Kaylia Hoke

8:30 am **Ryan Holzmeyer**, Meredith Mann, Paige Schnaus

Lector

4:30 pm Christie Menke
8:30 am Kristin Koehl

Ushers

4:30 pm John Hollis, Roger Johnson
8:30 am Jacob Hirsch, Andy Kiesel, Gavin Kissel,
..... Ian O'Neal

Church Cleaners - Jan. 5

Rita Stone, Peg Hall, Connie Dewig, Jodie Paridaen,
Susie Powers

Collection Counters - Jan. 9

Steve Hall, Bill Knapp

RCIA Hostess - Jan. 9

Lisa O'Neal



Magnificats and Word Among Us

The January Magnificats and Word Among Us are available for pick up in the parish office.

New Parishioners

If you are a new parishioner and have not yet registered, please call the parish office at 812-753-3548, or e-mail Lisa at loneal@evdio.org. Welcome to our parish family!

Post-Abortion Help Project Rachel

Do you or someone you know need confidential help after an abortion? Call 812-483-7812 or email projectrachel@evdio.org.



Lighthouse Ministries

Take a moment to look at the Lighthouse Ministries display in the back of church. You will find great CD's on a variety of topics. They're a great way to grow in our faith!

Snow Removal

It is that time of year when we could get some untimely snowfalls. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed to help shovel snow around the church & school. If you would like to be put on the list to help with snow removal, please call Lisa at 812-753-3548 or e-mail loneal@evdio.org. It would be most helpful if volunteers can just show up as early as you can safely do so whenever it snows; especially if it is an early Sunday morning snowfall. Thank you.

Parish FUNDRAISER

Half Pot Raffle

The Half Pot ticket sales are off to a great start! Extra tickets will always be available in the back of church and in the parish office. Please remember to turn in your tickets as you sell them. Turning in your tickets often, will allow us to watch our half pot amount grow! You may mail in your tickets, drop in the collection basket, drop off at the parish office or you may safely place in the drop box on the side door to the Parish office.

Last year's Raffle was a huge success with our final winner taking home \$36,200! Let's make this year just as fun and a successful fundraiser for our parish!

Thank you and Good Luck to All!!

Thank you Volunteers

We have been blessed with wonderful and hard-working volunteers. Thank you to all those who have helped clean the church, decorate for Christmas, and helped volunteer at Mass. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated!



2022 Mass Intentions

We still have several dates open for 2022 Mass Intentions. To schedule a Mass Intention, please stop by the parish office. Each Mass Intention is \$10. You may have 3 dates per person, one being a weekend and two on a weekday.

Holy Cross School News

- Jan. 3 - School Resumes
- Jan. 4 - Home basketball game @ 4:30pm
- Jan. 5 - Free Dress
- Jan. 6 - Home basketball game @ 4:30pm



Mass Schedule for January 1-9

Saturday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:00 am † Bob Kissel †
5:00 pm † Bernie Burger †

Sunday, January 2 - Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 am † Ray Dewig †
9:00 am † Syl & Valeria Elpers †

Tuesday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:30 am † Deceased Members of Raymond & Lucile
Rexing Family †

Wednesday, January 5 - St. John Neumann

8:30 am (*Students Only*) † Alberta "Bert" Elpers †
7:00 pm † Henry Kissel, Jr. †

Thursday, January 6

7:30 am † Howard Huff †

Friday, January 7

8:30 am (*Students Only*) † Angela & Gary Lamey †

Saturday, January 8

5:00 pm † Killian & Irene Baehl †

Sunday, January 9 - Baptism of the Lord

7:00 am † Living & Deceased Members of Knights of St. John †
9:00 am † Ben & Mildred Martin †

Note: When there's a funeral Mass, morning Mass is canceled.

Baptism

† Braxton James Martin and Carmen Leann Martin,
children of Chandler Martin and Brianna Meyer,
baptized on December 21 by Fr. Betz.

Happy Birthday

January 14 - Marie Friedman, Holiday Retirement Village
1200 W Buena Vista Rd Ste 135, Evansville, IN 47710

St. James Stewardship Offering

December 19, 2021	\$12,109
Weekly Budget.....	\$15,721
Deficit (Year to Date).....	\$26,647

Thank you for your donation!

Wednesdays

Eucharistic Adoration is from 6-7 pm followed by
Mass at 7 pm.



MD Now Enrolling for 2022-23

New student applications are now available on our web-
site: materdeiwildcats.com. Tuition assistance is available!
Contact Enrollment Manager Jill Seiler
at jseiler@evdio.org or 812-426-2258 for more infor-
mation.

Liturgical Ministry Roles For January 8-9

Rosary Leader

5:00 pm (Joyful).....Kalena Gries
7:00 am (Glorious).....Sharon Adler
9:00 am (Glorious).....John Karges

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm.....Tim Hasenour
7:00 am.....Paul Weis
9:00 am.....Greg Kissel, Eva Agee

Lectors

5:00 pm.....Ron Stolz
7:00 am.....Stacey Bane
9:00 am.....Bobbie Biggs

Servers

5:00 pm.....Landon & Sadye Elpers
7:00 am.....Collin & Baylee Maurer
9:00 am.....Emma & Ryan Van Bibber

Ushers

5:00 pm.....Mike & Ronnie Durbin
7:00 am.....Darrin Jarboe, Greg Bittner
9:00 am.....Howard & Jane Ann Kiefer

Accompanist / Cantor

5:00 pm.....Bob Seibert, Connie & Jeff Huff
9:00 am.....Jo Woods-Phelps, Linda Kissel

Church Cleaners.....Vicky Hasenour, Pam McIntyre,
.....Karen Mutschler, Diane Schillinger

*Please contact the Parish Office at 812-867-5175 to volunteer
for any of the Ministries. Your help is greatly appreciated.*

St. Vincent de Paul

January is the month for St. James to give to the St. Vincent
de Paul Pantry. Please place any food items in the drawers
at the church entrances. Any monetary donations should
be made out to St. Vincent de Paul and can be dropped off
at the Parish office or placed in the collection basket.

Help Needed

We are looking for individuals to work at the wedding
receptions. Previously called St James Security, now Event
Stewards. The Altar Society will pay \$100.00 per event.
Individuals must be at least 18 years of age. Please contact
RaNae Rainey 812-204-5084.

Tornado Relief Donations

Please see cluster area for details if you would like to help
those affected by the tornado.

Magnificats

The January Magnificats are in the parish office. If you are
unable to pick up your Magnificat during office hours,
please contact the Parish Office at 812-867-5175.

Scrip Program

Scrips are still available in the Parish Office. We are down to just the following:

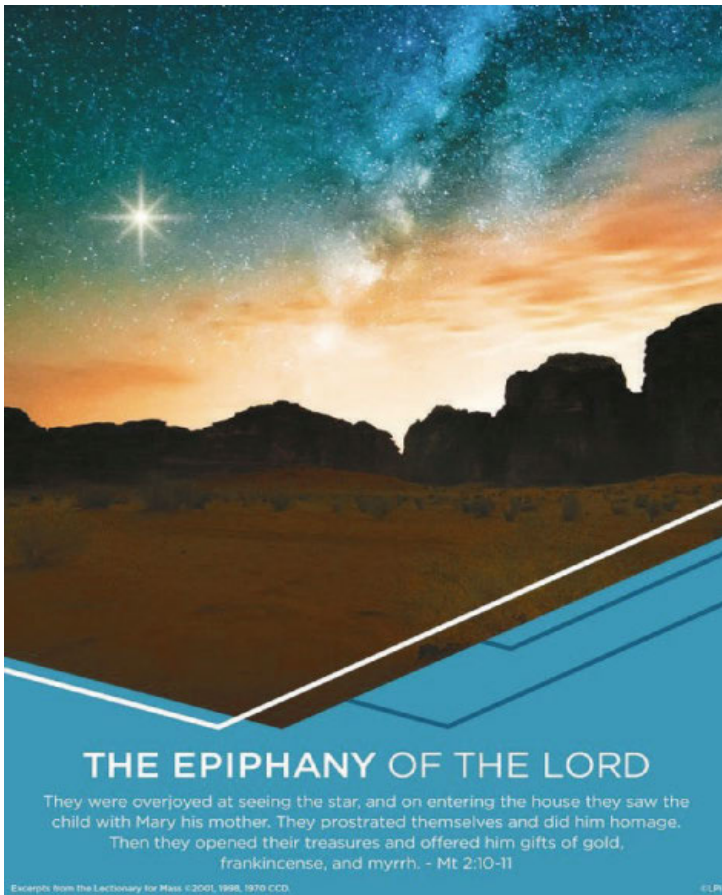
Home Depot \$100	Stadium 16 \$25
Walgreens \$25	Krispy Kreme \$10
	Showplace North \$5

Traditional Lottery Tickets

Tickets are now available in the Parish Office. Tickets are \$100 and drawings take place monthly.

Catholic Parishes Campaign (CPC)

We have turned in \$105,147 in pledges to the diocese from 362 families. Our assessment is \$128,745. Pledge cards may be dropped in the collection basket or mail to the parish office. Online giving is also available at www.evdio.org and click on "DONATE NOW" (there is a service fee for online giving). Thank you to those who have already given.



Project Rachel

Project Rachel is a healing ministry of the Catholic Church that helps women and men whose lives have been touched by abortion. This pain can often increase during the holidays but you do not have to carry this alone. It is time to heal. The call is Confidential. 812-483-7812.

St. James School News

Mission: *St. James School provides faith formation and a holistic educational experience which enables students to become self-confident, contributing members of society.*



Welcome back, staff and students!

Dates to remember:

Jan. 3- School resumes; NO Vanderburgh bus service

Jan. 6- Spirit Dress, 9:15 a.m. 2nd-5th grade Spelling Bee, followed by 6th-8th Bee (visitors may not be allowed, depending on Covid guidelines at that time), Home basketball vs. North Posey 5 p.m. 7th/8th G, 6 p.m. 7th/8th B

Mass Intentions

St. James is taking Mass Intentions for the 2022. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule.

Holy Cross Half-Pot Raffle

Tickets are available for sale in St. James Parish Office. Tickets are \$20 per ticket or 6 for \$100. Drawing will be held in the month of February.

Respect Life

"Fewer women would have abortions if wombs had windows."

- Dr. Bernard Nathanson, former abortionist turned Pro-Life, in his 1979 book *Aborting America*

Bi-Monthly Quilt Raffle Tickets

This is a reminder to purchase or sell your bi-monthly Quilt tickets. The first drawing is in January 2022. If you need more tickets they are available at the Parish Office. Thank you to everyone who has turned in tickets so far.

Qualified Charitable Distributions to the Parish

If you are over 70 ½, consider making charitable donations from your IRA using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charity. This would be a great way to grow the parish endowments, help with a special project, or pay your weekly giving in one lump sum. While a QCD does not generate a charitable deduction, you do not have to report the income. This is a great option for people to still get a tax benefit even though they are not able to itemize deductions.

Charitable deduction rules can be very complicated, and you should work with your tax advisor to ensure you are maximizing the tax benefit of any donation.

Mass Schedule for January 1-9

Saturday, January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 8:00 am † Frank Kiesel † (Holy Day)
5:00 pm † Sarah and Albert Paul † (Sunday Obligation)

Sunday, January 2- Epiphany of the Lord

- 7:00 am † Kim Garst †
10:00 am † Bernie and Mary Sue Spindler †

Monday, January 3

- 6:30 pm † Bob Schmitt †

Tuesday, January 4

- 6:00 am † Special Intention

Wednesday, January 5

- 6:00 am † Jerry L. Lamey Family †
8:00 am (School Kids Only) † Shirley Riedford †

Thursday, January 6

- 6:00 am † Charlie Sheridan †

Friday, January 7

- 6:00 am † Goerge and Vanna Dunigan †
8:00 am (School Kids Only) † Marcus Wassmer †

Saturday, January 8

- 5:00 pm † Armon and Rosalind Sensmeier †

Sunday, January 9- Baptism of the Lord

- 7:00 am † Charlie, Betty and Scotty Hoefling †
10:00 am † For the Parishioners of Holy Cross,
St. James, and Sts. Peter & Paul

Liturgical Ministry Roles for January 8-9

Rosary Leader

- 4:35 pm Jason Spindler
6:35 am Joe and Janith Goedde
9:35 am Sarah Rigg

Servers (Senior Server in BOLD)

- 5:00 pm **Jude Bender**, Claire Spindler, Collin Spindler
7:00 am **Jarrett Kiesel**, Abigayle Steckler,
..... Madalynn Steckler, Elizabeth Steckler
10:00 am **Sam Parmer**, Brayden Campbell

Lectors

- 5:00 pm Sue Hoefling
7:00 am Kirsty Kruger
10:00 am Keith Dewig

Accompanist / Cantor

- 5:00 pm Helen Kiesel/Nicole Bittner
7:00 am Jason Kruger/Helaena Pfeiffer
10:00 am Drew Wilson/Adult Choir

Ushers

- 5:00 pm Tom Kramer, Don Rhodes, Jane Rhodes,
..... Kevin Schmitt
7:00 am Kelly Maurer, Terry Maurer, Phillip Weber
..... Keejia Weber
10:00 am Bob Anslinger, Barb Anslinger, Tim Dutkiewicz
..... Rebecca Weber

Traveling Chalice Mark and Renea Anslinger

Home Communion-January 7 Priests

Bereavement Team #2 Brenda Helfrich

Cleaning Team Andrea Michel

Wedding Anniversaries

- † Congratulations to Terry and Joann Maurer who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on January 8.

Sts. Peter & Paul Stewardship Offering

December 19, 2021	\$33,547
Weekly Budget.....	\$22,808
Deficit/Gain (Year to Date)	(\$15,797)

Numbers for December 26, 2021 were not available at time of printing. Thank you for your donation!

End of the Year Donations

All donations to Sts. Peter & Paul, for tax records, MUST be received by January 1 and dated December 31. Anything received after Jan. 1, will be recorded as a 2022 donation.

Catholic Parishes Campaign (CPC)

We have turned in \$163,971 in pledges from 447 families. Our assessment is \$186,610. Pledge cards may be put in the collection basket or mail to the parish office. Online giving is available at www.evdio.org and click on "DONATE NOW" (there is a service fee for online giving). Thank you to those who have already given.



Thank You

- † Deacon Bill and Alicia would like to thank everyone for all the Christmas cards and gifts. It was so thoughtful of you!
† Irene Wolfe would like to thank everyone for the wonderful Christmas cards & wishes. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Parish Office Closing on Thursdays at Noon

Due to staffing, the parish office will close at 12:00 pm on Thursday afternoons through the end of January. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

2022 Calendars

New calendars are available in back of church. Thanks again to Stodghill Funeral Home for providing these!

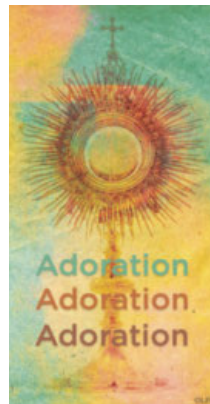
New Parishioners

If you are a new parishioner and have not yet registered, please call the parish office at 812-768-6457 or e-mail Jane at jrhodes@evdio.org, or fill out the new parishioner form on our website at www.stsppchurch.com. Welcome to our parish family!



Looking for a New Year's Resolution?

Adoration is held every Friday at Sts. Peter & Paul after the 8:00 am Mass until 8 am Saturday. Additional adorers are needed at the midnight and 3:00 am Holy hours. Please contact Annlee at 812-768-6180 or ejbot1@gmail.com with the hour that works best for you. This would be a wonderful New Year's resolution and help bring you closer to Christ!



JOB POSTING

Office Manager Position

We are currently looking to fill the position for Office Manager at Sts. Peter & Paul's parish office. If you have an interest in this position please contact Joe Hopf at the parish office or send him an email at chopf@evdio.org.

With this resignation there will be times until the position is filled that we may have to close the office for a few hours here and there or for a half a day when the rest of the staff is not available to cover the office. This will be temporary and we ask you for your patience.

Sts. Peter & Paul School News

We will return to school from Christmas Break on Monday, January 3

2022-2023 Sts. Peter & Paul and Kinder Haus Applications

Sts. Peter & Paul School and Kinder Haus applications for the 2022-2023 school year will be available in the school/parish office or online beginning Friday, December 17th. You can submit applications beginning Monday, January 3rd at 7:30 AM.

Kinder Haus: Child must be 3 years old by August 1, 2022 to be eligible to enroll in Kinder Haus.

Kindergarten: Child must be 5 years old by August 1, 2022 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten.

All Kinder Haus and Sts. Peter & Paul School applications will be marked with the date and time received with active parishioners having priority in the application process until Tuesday, February 1st. Visit www.stspps.school.com for more information on our preschool and grade school programs! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Howington at mhowington@evdio.org or 812-768-6775.



The Week Ahead

Sunday , 01/02/2022

8:15 AM- No RCIA at SPP
 8:15 AM- Catholic Scripture Study in
 SPP parish center rm C
 9:30 AM- NO RCIA in Holy Cross Parish Center
 10:00 AM- Baptism (Jarman) at SJ Church
 4:00 PM- SMG Open Gym/ Girl Time in FLC
 4:00 PM- SMG PLT Meeting in Youth Room
 6:00 PM- SMG Rock Life in Youth Room

Monday , 01/03/2022

8:00 AM- Morning Quilters in SJ Quilt Room
 5:00 PM- Evening Quilters in SJ Quilt Room
 5:30 PM- Basketball Games in FLC

Tuesday, 01/04/2022

6:30 PM- Catholic Scripture Study in
 SPP parish center rm C
 6:30 PM- Catholic Scripture Study in
 HC Parish Center Main

Wednesday, 1/05/2022

9:00 AM- Catholic Scripture Study in
 SPP parish center rm C
 12:30 PM- Senior Sunshine Club in
 SPP parish center basement
 6:30 PM- Religious Ed at SPP
 7:00 PM- WELCOME in HC Parish Center Main
 7:30 PM - St. James Men's Club in School Cafeteria

Thursday, 01/06/2022

8:00 AM- Quilters in Holy Cross Parish Center
 12:00 PM- SPP Parish Office Closes at Noon

Friday , 01/07/2022

8:00 AM- SPP January Birthday Mass in SPP church
 9:15 AM- SJ Eucharistic Adoration until 8 am Sat.

Saturday, 01/08/2022

8:00 AM- SMG Kuchens
 11:00 AM- RCIA Retreat in
 SPP parish center basement
 5:00 PM- 50th Anniversary Blessing -
 Terry and Joann Maurer
 5:30 PM- Baptism (Holder) at HC church

Sunday , 01/09/2022

8:00 AM- SMG Kuchens
 8:15 AM- RCIA church tour in SPP church
 8:15 AM- Catholic Scripture Study in
 SPP parish center rm C
 10:00 AM- WELCOME Core Group in
 SPP School Cafeteria

Knights of St. John Christmas Party

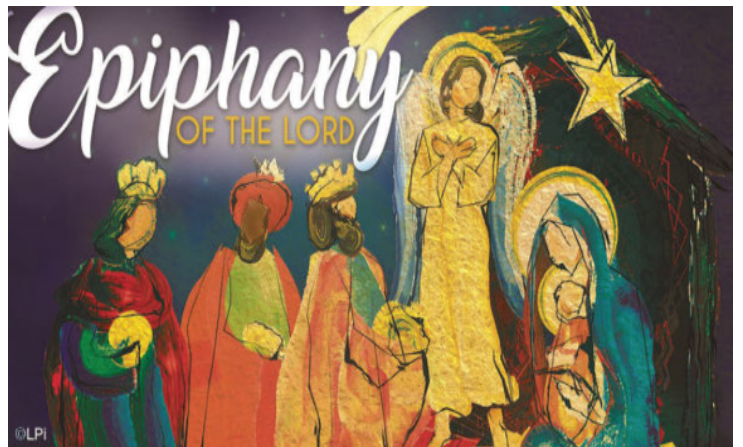
Knights of St. John men's and women's Christmas party will be January 15, 2022. Social hour will begin at 5:00 PM and meal at 6:00.

For reservations call Sandy Hausenour 812-483-8411 or John Karges 812-768-6453 or KSJ hall 812-768-6761 by January 6th.
 Thank you!



Holy Cross Half Pot Raffle

The Holy Cross Half Pot Raffle tickets are now on sale. The half pot amount is already off to a strong start! Tickets may be purchased through any Holy Cross Parishioner, at the Parish Office, or tickets are always available in the back of Holy Cross Church. Half Pot drawings will begin on February 1 and will continue daily through the entire month. Daily winners will take home \$500 and a grand prize drawing on February 28, will be at least \$10,000! Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Prizes are based on \$47,000 in total sales. Last year's grand prize winner took home \$36,200!!! Good Luck to All!
 License #001286. For official rules, go to www.holycrossparish.info



Bulletin Sponsor

We encourage our parishioners to patronize our sponsors. It is through their generosity that our weekly bulletin comes to you at no cost to the church. Our sponsor this week is:

Ft. Branch Rural Health Clinic

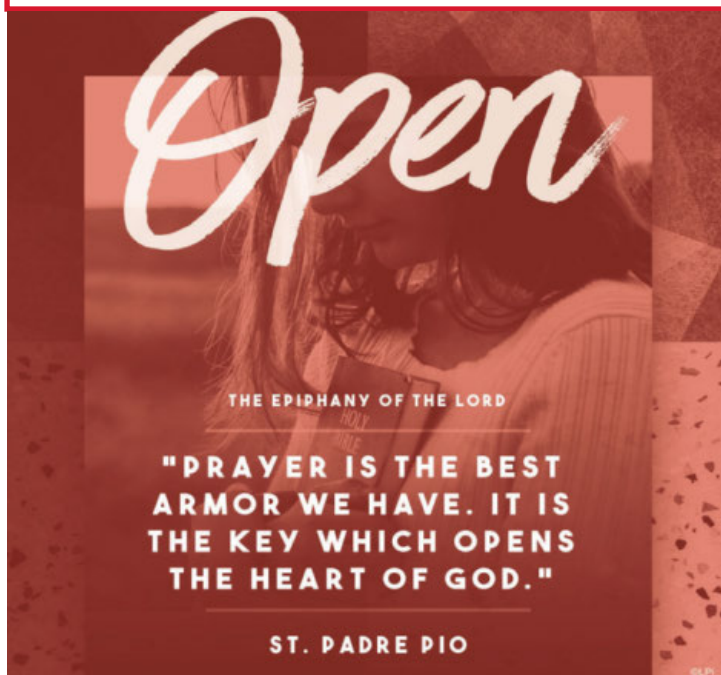
Thank you to all the businesses who sponsor our bulletin.

JOB POSTINGS

Office Manager Position Available

We are currently looking to fill the position for Office Manager at Sts. Peter & Paul's parish office. If you have an interest in this position please contact Joe Hopf at the parish office or send him an email at chopf@evdio.org.

With this resignation there will be times until the position is filled that we may have to close the office for a few hours here and there or for a half a day when the rest of the staff is not available to cover the office. This will be temporary and we ask you for your patience.



2022 WELCOME Retreat

WELCOME, formally known as Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) is a spiritual renewal weekend designed to help you develop a closer personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Take a break from your daily routine and join other parishioners from our linked parishes for this rich and extraordinary experience.

Women's Weekend is March 5-6.

Men's Weekend is March 12-13.

Contact Cynthia Owen (812-760-6359) or Jacob Hirsch (812-457-0144) to participate or to learn more.

Sign ups are in the back of each church.



DONATIONS

Tornadoes Relief Donations

On behalf of Bishop Siegel, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Evansville would like to provide some guidance for individuals, parishes and other groups that would like to support the recovery and relief efforts for those impacted by the tornadoes and severe storms that devastated many areas, including Western Kentucky. We would prefer that individuals, parishes and other groups contribute to the relief efforts through one of the below channels.

Catholic Charities USA is currently raising funds to help those Catholic Charities agencies impacted by the tornadoes. Donors may donate online at www.catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051

or by mail to:

Catholic Charities USA
2050 Ballenger Ave. Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314

Please note Tornado Relief on the memo line of the check.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro has also established a tornado relief fund to assist tornado and storm victims in their Diocese. Donors may donate online at www.owensborodiocese.org/give

Or by mail to:

Catholic Charities Diocese of Owensboro
600 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY 42301

Please note Tornado Relief in the memo line of the check

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your parish office.

We pray that those impacted by these storms find peace, comfort, and hope.

KY Tornado Victim Help Needed

Samaritan's Purse is a wonderful organization where you can volunteer to help KY Tornado victims. They are set up to have people volunteer on 1/2 day, full day, or multiple days basis. Please visit their website www.spvolunteer.org for detailed information. Tim Hasenour has also been there with Samaritan's Purse so you may contact him at 812-549-8638 for information.

FORMED.ORG

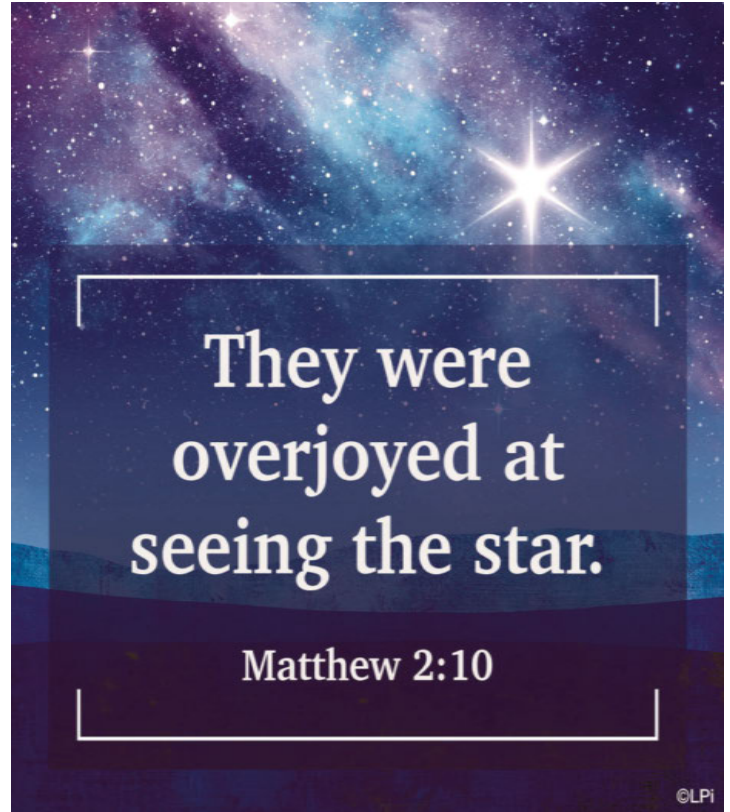
Audio Book

Peter: Keys to Following Jesus by Tim Gray

Renowned scholar Dr. Tim Gray masterfully guides you through the tumultuous and inspiring life of Peter—from his call to discipleship to his eventual martyrdom in Rome. Using Sacred Scripture and tradition, Dr. Gray highlights important lessons from Peter's life, including

- How to become a trusting disciple and "cast into the deep"
- The pitfalls of living discipleship at a distance and the eventual denial that will come
- How to recover from sin and accept God's mercy
- How to become a bold witness to others of the love of Jesus
- Come to know, love, and follow Jesus better through the Rock on whom he built his Church.

Upcoming Dates:
Jan. 5 - Religious Ed Classes Resume



St. Maria Goretti Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events

- Jan. 2 – Boys Open Gym / Girl Time (grades 8-12)
- Jan. 2 – HS RockLife



Girl Time grades 8-12

For the next gathering on Jan. 2 we'll be making macramé keychains! All girls in grades 8-12 are invited to join us for girl hangouts, one Sunday of the month from 4:00-5:30pm in the youth room. Bring a waiver and a friend!

Open Gym for Boys grades 8-12

Our next Open Gym will be on Jan. 2, from 4:00-5:30. This time it will be at Sts P&P gym

Peer Leadership Team

St. Maria Goretti Youth Ministry has a team of young leaders (HS age) that we call the Peer Leadership Team.

The purpose is to better serve the needs and interests of our youth by having the youth make more decisions as to what we do and how we do it. We usually meet about once a month to discuss ideas for youth activities and events. At this time, we are looking to add 4 more youth to the team. If you are interested please write a letter of interest to Bryan Macke and the SMG Youth Board, explaining why you would like to be on the team and turn it in to any parish office by January 12th. We'll review the letters and choose 4 youth towards the beginning of the new year.

Any questions/concerns about youth events please contact Bryan Macke at 664-7992 or bmacke@evdio.org. Diocesan Event Waivers can be found in the back of each church or on our webpage at www.smg youth.com

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The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life." If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?" That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
 -LPi

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