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A NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOR OUR ADVENT DELIGHT FOR OUR CHRISTMAS JOY-FOR OUR EASTER LIVING

Spend some time thinking, reflecting, meditating, reading, learning, talking more about John the Baptist! Our namesake! Our Advent/Christmas prophet! THE Voice, Our Voice of Advent/Christmas! A man who left his family and friends to live in the desert where something happens within him...that he eats food and wears clothes that are different, not ordinary, not the traditional lifestyle of his father and mother. He did his thing or God's thing down by the riverside, not in the Temple.

At some point he was transformed and called others to be transformed. A man with little or

no ego always pointing to One who is to come! He did this with a passion - at least that is what it sounds like in the ancient texts. He had a passion, a fire burning within him. He is clear that he is a messenger for the One to come.

My friends, that role belongs to each one of us, to our community that bears his name, by our baptism in the Spirit that is Christ! WE are now THE voice, THE prophets calling all to a joyful hope in God's constant presence among. The fire burns within each of us, within our St. John the Baptist Community to proclaim Christ in our ministries, in our compassion, to be prophets of justice, to reflect the light of Christ in our mercy, in our commitment to welcome all to our community life!

Fr Attila and I, along with the Pastoral Staff, wish each of you a delightful Advent, a joyful Christmas, a life centered on Easter living!



Fr Tom & Fr Attila



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STJB STUDENTS LEARN THE VALUE OF GIVING

Students at St. John the Baptist Catholic School learn the value of giving at an early age. From preschool on up, the students participate in a variety of projects and activities designed to teach them service and compassion. And never is this more evident than at Christmas time – the season of giving.

This year, the students kicked off the season with the annual Canned Food Drive. Each week of this project had a different goal. The first week, students were asked to collect cans (or money) for the House of Bread and Peace, a shelter for homeless women and their children. The goal was 6,000 pounds of canned goods. This is enough to feed residents at the House of Bread and Peace for an entire year!

Students had a special incentive to give – if they reached their goal, they had permission to duct tape Father Attila to the wall of the Parish Center! For every three cans (or \$3) collected, a student received one piece of duct tape. When it was said and done, students exceeded their goal and



3rd graders (from left Kayton Day, Ketelyn Heiss, Josey Herr, Kate McAtee, Anna Niehaus) prepare to put duct tape on Father Attila.

earned enough duct tape to fasten Father Attila to the wall! The project culminated in the 7th graders visiting the House of Bread and Peace to deliver the donation and stock the shelves for them.

The school is now embarking on the “Giving Project” December 2-6. During this week, students are asked to donate or collect a minimum of \$4 to purchase presents for a family in need. (Information on the family’s needs is provided by Catholic Charities.) On Monday, December 9, the 2nd graders will visit Wal-mart in Newburgh and use that money to shop for the family. The entire school then comes together on December 10 for a “wrapping party” to wrap presents for the special family.

“It is such a blessing to be able to see the excitement, joy, and genuine compassion our students have when asked to help those in need,” said Principal Elizabeth Flatt. “Service projects are part of who we are as a Catholic School. We are called to be disciples to all of our brothers and sisters. I am very proud of our students and the work they put forth to help those less fortunate.”



Students at St. John Kinder Kountry Preschool collected cans of green vegetables for the needy as part of the preschool’s charitable giving project. Mrs. Kunce’s 5-year old afternoon class personally delivered them to the Newburgh Food Pantry.



Father Attila reacts with amazement as students take turns taping him to the wall. Father was duct taped to the wall on November 21 as a reward to the students for collecting over 6,000 pounds of food for the House of Bread and Peace.

YOUTH MINISTRY GROWING!

By Adam Willis, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

I was nervous. I was afraid I would be alone with trays of cookies and boxes of Capri Sun as the hour got closer and closer for our first youth group gathering here at St. John the Baptist. I have never been more pleasantly surprised than I was, and continue to be, by your youth! Numbers hold little value for me, but enthusiasm is incalculable. And these youth are enthusiastic! Whether it be lame games, the reflection time, or even tree removal, there are dozens and dozens of youth ready and willing to join in.

That first week we had 57 youth at our gathering, and the very next week we had 73. That's 73 youth hearing the word of God. That's 73 youth building community. That's 73 youth coming together and praying together. Soon that will be 73 youth fasting for 30 hours to raise money for the poor, going skiing, caving, and going on Mission Trips. And I am confident that more and more youth will come.

This parish is eager for youth ministry. The parents and the youth both want to have a vibrant community of believing youth that gather together consistently to grow nearer to God...and that is what we are doing one lame game, one sledgehammer, one marshmallow at a time! Youth Ministry is a parish ministry. If you have a youth that has yet to join us, I encourage you to mention youth group to them. I ask you never to lose sight of the fact that these youth are YOUR youth. They bring glory to God through YOUR parish. They are an extension of us and they represent us when we leave campus. As we grow older, they will soon be leading our community here.



Youth director Adam Willis (left) leads the Youth Group in a series of fun and messy games. Overflow and 608 Youth Groups include a combination of weekly scripture message, games and activities.

What we do with them now makes a difference and leaves an echo for years to come.

As the group grows, it will develop a set of needs. I can see many of these needs now. Ministry has costs. It needs people, prayer, and finances. I need all three. Desperately.

If you have a passion for youth ministry (or just thousands of dollars laying around that you just can't seem to find a use for) please give me a call! If you know a youth that needs a youth group, please let me know. If you see a need that the youth ministry is not meeting, I encourage you to alert me to it. The worst thing for any youth group is the "other guy" approach. The belief that someone else will fill the need, donate their time or give of their treasure will create endless problems. In many churches, 10% of the people give 90% of their time and treasure, and I am determined to not have that problem with the youth groups here at StJB.

We have embarked on a great journey here. We are building something that can change the lives of our youth forever. I was changed by youth group, and over the years I have seen thousands others changed as well. If we all give a little, sacrifice a little, then the burden will not fall on so few. It takes a parish to build a youth program, and I am convinced that St. John the Baptist Parish can do it. Let us grow together and show our youth how very important they are to us and how vital they are to our church! I need you and so do the youth.

Adam can be reached at awillis@evdio.org or 490-1000. To sign up to receive youth text alerts, please text [text@sjbyouth](text:sjbyouth) to (260) 205-5485.



Middle schoolers at Overflow Youth Group hold their breath as Maddie Wilson (front) and others crack eggs on their head.



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Baptisms

Lauren Elizabeth,
daughter of Keith and Elizabeth Scheessele,
baptized July 13

Grace Marie,
daughter of Chad and Samantha Milewicz,
baptized July 14

Kash Norman,
son of Kurt and Erin Wildeman,
baptized July 21

Katelyn Marie,
daughter of Brandon and Jennifer Sitzman,
baptized August 10

Destiny Michelle,
daughter of Brandon and Jennifer Sitzman,
baptized August 10

Gabriel Michael,
son of Dennis and Mary Elizabeth Barnett,
baptized August 11

Harper,
daughter of Michael and Kelly Ann Keown,
baptized August 18

Miles,
son of Travis and Emily Goodman,
baptized August 25

Charlotte Helene,
daughter of Charles and Diana Burch,
baptized August 31

Camryn Faith,
daughter of Nicholas and Laura Mayes,
baptized September 14

Braxton Thomas,
son of Thomas and Ashley Beck,
baptized September 29

Emmelia Grace,
daughter of Aaron and Courtney Dewees,
baptized October 6

Carley Renee,
daughter of James and Jennifer Scott,
baptized October 13

Ella,
daughter of Anthony and Natalie Oxley,
baptized October 20

Addison Claire,
daughter of Brandon and Amy Bagby,
baptized October 26

Amilya Mae,
daughter of Brandon and Amy Bagby,
baptized October 26

Elizabeth Jane,
daughter of Jason and Jennifer Long,
baptized November 2

Mark Gregory,
son of Christopher and Alexandra Folz,
baptized November 3

Graham Alan,
son of Nicholas and Keri Folz,
baptized November 3

Reagan Harper,
daughter of Seth and Katylene Deloach,
baptized November 9

Adeline Claire,
daughter of Casey and Jennifer Rasche,
baptized November 10

Henry James,
son of Brian and Erin Pope,
baptized November 16

Eleanor Jeanne,
daughter of Jedd and Amanda Willis,
baptized November 17

Stewardship Notables

Thank you to **Charles Scherrer** of our parish who made and donated the small crosses that were presented to the RCIA Candidates at the Rite of Acceptance. Charles has done this for a number of years and they are always deeply appreciated.

Thank you to **Linda Hesson, Debbie Buchanan, Bill Wallace and the crew at Mother Teresa Treasures** for organizing another fantastic Customer Appreciation Days! Also thank you to volunteer coordinators **Mary Titzer and Mary Gray** – and to the many, many volunteers who work hard at Mother T's day after day. We couldn't do it without you!

Special thanks to the **Kaylor, Kuykendall and Tillman families** for helping fund the cameras for church that allow people (including our shut ins) to watch services remotely.

Many thanks to **Kathy Jennings**, chair of this year's Autumn Escape, and past chair **Millie Haughn**. We appreciate your hard work and dedication!

Thanks to **Bill Okey and the Knights of Columbus** for coordinating the International Brunch.

Special thanks to **Bereavement Meals coordinators Pat Krack and Janet Schmitt**...and the many volunteers who stepped forward this year to help. We have held over 35 funerals at our parish this year and this group has done a wonderful job preparing meals for families who have lost loved ones.

Special thanks to **Evi Slaby** for organizing project "Angel Hugs." On October 19, dozens of parishioners came together to paint silk scarves for chemo patients. Dubbed "Angel Hugs" in honor of Emma Slaby and Sam Featherstone, this project allowed parishioners to learn the art of silk painting, while creating silk scarves for a great cause. The scarves (close to 70 total) were blessed by Father Tom at the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, November 10. Thank you to all who participated in body, spirit, and prayer...and thank you to all the wonderful volunteers.

Welcome New Families

July

Jonathan & Candice Floyd
3733 Katalla Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

Jennifer & Jason Long
7866 Meadow Lane
Newburgh, IN 47630-2844

Scott & Tracey Spaeth
6388 Oak Grove Road
Newburgh, IN 47630

August

Michael & Denise Baer
933 Red Brush Road
Newburgh, IN 47630

Linda Cirillo
443 Beachfront Drive
Evansville, IN 47715

Phillip & Stacy Frey
5322 E. Sherwood Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

Travis & Emily Goodman
8135 Cedar Point Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

Kirk & Hillary Limacher
6704 Hensley Court
Newburgh, IN 47630

Shawn & Helen McElroy
7722 Woodland Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

Brent & Whitney Sandberg
28 Noahwoods Trail
Highland, IL 62249-2824

Chris & Linda Whitaker
6000 Summit Pointe Way
Newburgh, IN 47630

Gary & Leah Wilburn
2111 Pebble Beach Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

September

Nick & Jamie Leitem
7422 Tying Road
Newburgh, IN 47630

Mark & Karenrose Martinez
2290 Long Cove Circle
Newburgh, IN 47630

October

Kimberly Bailo
6999 Russel Place
Chandler, IN 47610

Edwin & Cassandra David
5433 W. Sherwood Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

Ashley Marie Eberhard
7777 Ridgemont Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630-2819

Samuel & Kirsten Genson
4333 Bell Road #1214
Newburgh, IN 47630

Michael & Patricia Koch
6996 Stonewick Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

Judith Pickersgill
5654 Maple Lane
Newburgh, IN 47630

Jedd & Amanda Willis
912 Nottingham Court
Evansville, IN 47715

November

Roger & Lana Ballard
527 E. Water Street
Princeton, IN 47670

Robby & Brenda Dyer
7800 Crystal Court
Newburgh, IN 47630

Marjorie Ferrero
5733 Maple Lane
Newburgh, IN 47630

Gary & Susan Gilbert
5888 Riceland Drive
Newburgh, IN 47630

Matthew & Tamara Warfel
4333 Bell Road # 1114
Newburgh, IN 47630



NEW MEMBERS



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CHRISTMAS GIVING AT StJB

There are a number of opportunities here at St. John the Baptist to help those in need! Please keep the poor, homeless and suffering in your prayers this Christmas season. Following are charitable contributions that you can make. Thank you for your compassion and caring!

“CHRISTMAS ANGELS” HELP LOW INCOME FAMILIES

Please consider giving the gifts of warmth and caring by participating in the Angel Tree Program. This annual program, sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, benefits low income families in Warrick County, as well as clients of the St. John – Bellemeade soup kitchen (there are 150-200 homeless or near homeless people served by the soup kitchen.)

St. Vincent de Paul works with these families and individuals to determine their needs. These are then written on colored tags and hung on the Angel Tree displayed in the Narthex. The tags are specific to the need, such as “car seat for four-month-old or “shoes, size 7, for female.” *Many gifts cost less than \$10.*

Parishioners and their families can choose the tag of their liking, and purchase the gift. Gifts (new, unwrapped, and with tag attached) can then be dropped off in the decorated drop box in the Narthex. The deadline is December 8. St. Vincent de Paul will present the gifts during a Christmas dinner at the soup kitchen, and to the Warrick Welfare Office.

STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS NEED ESSENTIALS

Evansville State Hospital is in need of the following items for Christmas -- fleece throws, 2014 calendars, men’s socks, shampoo/conditioner, men’s body care products, batteries (AAA), wordsearch puzzle books, journals/composition books, sweatshirts (XL, 2X),

team t-shirts, (XL, 2X), gift cards (restaurants/stores). Any item or items you can donate will be greatly appreciated. Please bring donations to the Parish Office to attention of Bev Okey by December 11. Thank you for your support!

CLOTHE A CHILD! GIVE TO SANTA CLOTHES CLUB

St. John the Baptist Parish’s Youth & Young Adult Ministry is collecting donations for the Santa Clothes Club. *YOU CAN HELP CLOTHE NEEDY CHILDREN!* \$100 will completely clothe one boy or girl with an outfit from Wal-Mart, which includes 1 pair of jeans, 1 shirt/top, 9 pair of underwear, 10 pair of socks, gloves, gym shoes and hooded coat. The goal this year is to raise \$250,000 which will clothe approximately 2,500 needy Tri-state school children. The money collected at StJB will be presented during the Annual Santa Clothes Club Telethon at Washington Square Mall on December 8, 2013. The telethon airs from noon—6 p.m. on WEHT. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office or in the collection basket. Please mark the envelope “Santa Clothes Club.” For information, visit www.santaclub.org.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ADVENT OFFERINGS

Deanery Penance Services

Sunday, December 8
St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, IN, 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 15
St. John the Baptist, Newburgh, 3 p.m.

"Leave the Light On"

Reconciliation
Wednesday, December 18
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. St. John the Baptist

Journey Into The Light

Was Held
Wednesday, Dec. 4 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
It was an evening of quiet reflection and prayer

Coffee with Father Tom

Tuesdays of Advent
December 10 and 17
9 a.m.- 10 a.m. Elizabeth Room

Advent Materials

Various Advent materials are available in the Narthex for parishioners, along with Advent candles and Children's Advent calendars

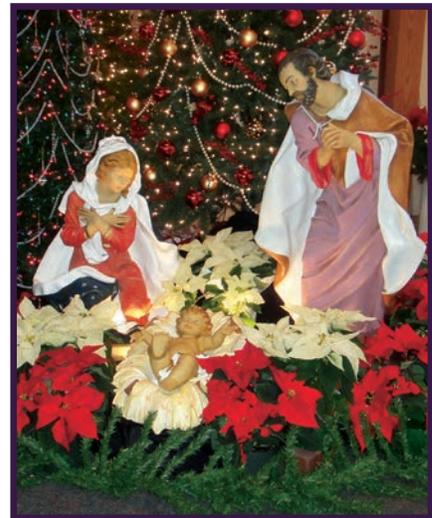
Little Blue Book

Six-minute reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Year A. The booklet is based upon the writings of Bishop Ken Untener, Diocese of Saginaw Michigan

St. John Parish Library - Zachary Room

Wonderful books to borrow on all topics! All are easily labeled on the shelves for your convenience.

Come and enjoy browsing through the shelves and CD's that are available for you!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SPIRITUAL FORMATION NEWS

59 CANDIDATES CONFIRMED NOVEMBER 16

On Saturday, November 16, during the 5:00 p.m. Mass, 59 candidates (high school sophomores) were sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Thompson presided at the Mass, alongside Father Tom and Father Attila. Confirmation Mass for current high school freshmen will be celebrated November 22, 2014. Preparation will begin next August. If you have questions, contact Adam Willis at 490-1000 or awillis@evdio.org.

RCIA RITE OF ACCEPTANCE CELEBRATED NOVEMBER 17

The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) Rite of Acceptance was held on Sunday, November 17 at the 8:45 a.m. Mass.

The Rite of Acceptance celebrates the Church's acceptance of these individuals who are seeking to understand the grace of God acting in their lives, as they realize that God has called them to a deeper relationship with him in the Catholic Church. Please continue to keep them and their sponsors in your prayers - Derrick McDowell (sponsor, Craig Goebel), Amber Stanley (sponsor, Maria Janney), Amie Maslanka (sponsor, Millie Haughn), Seth Stanley (sponsor, Stuart Janney), Patricia Hughes (sponsor Karen Ubelhor), Debra Elkins (sponsor, Libby Scheessele).

OTHER RCIA NEWS - The Community of St. John the Baptist also welcomed **Gerald Stanley** into full communion with Catholic Church on Friday, November 8, 2013. Gerald had been baptized previously and was received by his Profession of Faith by Fr. Tom

after completing his studies of the Catholic Church through Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. On Sunday, November 10, 2013 he received Eucharist for the first time at the 11:00 am Mass. We celebrate with Gerald and his wife!

"GOD-INCIDENCE" BOOKLETS DISTRIBUTED

During the weekend of November 23/24, St. John the Baptist parishioners received the last of the three God-Incidence booklets that marked the Year of Faith. This booklet contains stories from StJB parishioners of how God worked in their lives. Thanks to all who contributed and helped with this spiritual formation project. Extra copies are available in the Narthex and Parish Office. Please feel free to give a book to a friend, relative or shut-in.



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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Non Profit
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PAID
Permit # 3007
Evansville, IN

625 Frame Road
Newburgh, IN 47630-1604

Change Service Requested

Mass Times:

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m.,

11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.



PLEASE SCAN THIS QR
CODE WITH YOUR SMART
PHONE TO ACCESS OUR
WEBSITE.

PHOTOS AROUND THE PARISH



MOTHER T'S CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS

For the 4th consecutive year, Mother Teresa Treasures Thrift Store customers were treated to a special event in their honor – Customer Appreciation Days. On Nov. 22 and 23, everyone who entered the store received a special gift, and multiple drawings for gift baskets were held. Guests were also treated to cookies and punch, and received a special blessing (a scripture quote) to take home with them. Pictured here (from left) are volunteers Anna Lee Haas, Bill Wallace, Mary Kleeman, Norma Young, Linda Hesson, Jim Schoultz, Debbie Buchanan.



INTERNATIONAL BRUNCH

Pictured at right are the family of Anthony and Priscilla Uvieghara at the International Brunch. At left, parishioners enjoy the wide variety of food shared by fellow parishioners. The International Brunch was held Nov. 10 in the lower level. Parishioners were invited to share a dish, and celebrate and enjoy the beauty of the diversity of our parish. Close to 80 attended this event...and many commented on the wonderful variety of food - and the stories behind the dishes that made them unique.



TRUNK OR TREAT

St. John the Baptist School's Middle School Teen Power group organized a Trunk or Treat event for all parishioners on Oct. 24. Children were invited to participate in a number of activities including trick or treating, face painting, costume contests and more. Admission was canned goods or a monetary donation to the Newburgh Food Pantry. Pictured here (from left) are teachers Sara Schneider and Rhonda Hoover in costume.

