

# 2016 *CROSSROADS*



## **St. John's Future Home Update**

The committee members that support the St. John Future Home project have been very busy this year. Key activities have been focused on church design, church approval, and the financial campaign.

Many activities have occurred relative to church design. Since our last Crossroads update, key third parties have been chosen for the project: Entheos Architects (Architect), Maxwell Construction (General Contractor) and Bayer Becker (Civil Engineer). The Future Home Committee (overall church planning) and the Liturgical Design Committee (interior furnishings and artwork) have been focused on designs and furnishings for the church. To assist them in their efforts, visits have been made to a number of other churches to view design alternatives.

Relative to church approval, the City of Harrison has had a number of formal sessions discussing the overall plans for the church. Both the Planning Committee of the council and the City Council reviewed the plans for the full project and approved it, based on us providing them with more detailed plans at the start of each phase of the project. The key phases are: One, the church and gathering space;

(continued on next page)

## St. John's Future Home (continued)

Two, the Parish Hall, including administrative offices; Three, the school. The other entity involved in formal approvals is the Archdiocese. Father Jeff reviewed the church design plans with representatives of the Archdiocese and those representatives had some feedback, but were very supportive of our current plans.

Lastly, we continue to focus on our financial campaign. To-date, total pledges equal \$6.28 million, with actual contributions to-date being on track. That said, there continues to be a gap in pledges compared to the total project costs. Therefore, if you and your family have not yet made a gift to the campaign, please prayerfully consider it. Also, it is important to note that if you are 70 ½ or older, you can reduce your 2016 taxes by making a gift directly from your IRA to the Future Home Campaign prior to December 31, 2016. Such donations can also count toward your IRA minimum required distributions.

The current Future Home timeline has us targeted for breaking ground for the church in 2017. We will continue to provide you updates on this very exciting project. We thank those who are donating to this project and to the many parishioners actively involved in project planning.

### Meet Mike Newton, St. John the Baptist Business Manager



Mike Newton is the new Business Manager for St. John the Baptist Church. He lives with his wife Mary Katherine in Oldenburg and they attend St. Louis Church in Batesville. Mike's wife is a cradle Catholic and Mike became Catholic through the RCIA process in 2001. He loves the universality of the church. His previous employment took him all around the world and he has experienced the Mass in 7 different languages. He found this to be very rich and life-giving. They have two sons, Benjamin (26) and Andrew (23). Mike's hobbies include golf, running, reading, taking care of his 8 ½ acre yard, and visiting other churches.

Mike completed his under grad work at Western Kentucky University and received his MBA from Indiana University. Prior to St. John the Baptist Church, he was employed for 10 years as Vice President of Operations at Standard Textile in Cincinnati.

Mike began as our new Business Manager on June 6, 2016. He jumped in right away and was very visible at our Summer Festival, and was eager to meet the people and see how we do things. He was very impressed with what a big undertaking our summer festival is and how well the people work together. He was quickly corrected when he initially called our summer festival a "picnic."

When asked what he liked so far about St. John's he said, "There is a great group of people here, both on staff and in the parish. Working under Father Jeff is positive, relaxing and enjoyable. This is very different from the corporate world."

He prays St. John the Baptist will continue to grow and be a vibrant church and school community, and trusts that building our new church will be critical in making this happen. Mike made a conscious choice to leave the corporate world and seek employment in the church.

Mike sincerely expressed, "I want to contribute to the church and to society. I have been blessed by the Lord to make this move." You can contact Mike at 513-367-9086 ext. 211. We are grateful that the Lord called Mike to help us build & grow His church in Harrison. Welcome to the family!

## Farewell From Hub Martini

Farewell! It is with anticipation and anxiety that I utter those words. After more than 25 years of youth ministry efforts at St. John's, the first 3 as a volunteer and over 22 on the Parish Staff, I am bidding all of you a fond farewell. I wish to thank each of you for your support over those years, financially and most importantly, prayerfully. Without God's will and your prayers youth ministry could not have thrived at our parish. When I began this journey in 1994 I prayed then, and thousands of times since then, for God's will to be done.

As I ponder those 2 ½ decades it brings joy to my heart! There is much joy in serving the Lord! There is much joy in serving his people! There is much joy in serving with hundreds of volunteers! There is much joy in serving our youth! There is much joy in continuing to serve! There will be much joy as I continue my journey at St. John's as a regular parishioner and volunteer.

Often in my discussions with youth here and elsewhere, I refer to my former life as a diesel truck mechanic. In the future those discussions will have reference to a former life in youth ministry. My former lives in both have been blessed with many memories and life-long friends. I pray that my future life will be filled with many new friends and memories. As I move on in life I am not moving out! I plan on remaining at St. John's.

Every day of my life has been a blessing, but each day of the past 25 years has been an added blessing while serving our church and community. Words cannot express my sincere gratitude for this parish allowing me to serve your children, some of whom have children of their own that I am serving currently. Thank you!



## Friends in Faith 2016

Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, was our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Friends in Faith Day. God was in charge of the weather and it was warm, dry and breezy under the tent. The Harrison Fire Department blessed us by filling the water barrels to anchor the tent! As I watched them fill the barrels, I was reminded of the story of the wedding feast at Cana. The water didn't change to wine but they were full of grace.

There were 14 Vacation Bible School Kids to open the day with three songs. Thank you Carrie Roell and the volunteer moms! The clowns, Snuggly and Dottie, took the kids with Mrs. Gemperline to the cafeteria for a show and crafts.

Willisa Redford, the children's pastor at the Legacy Church down the street, talked about the Whiz Kids, a mentoring-tutoring opportunity in Harrison. How just one hour a week changes lives!

At 2:00 p.m. Father Jim Schutte from St. Leo's and Eric Hollis took the stage for tag team preaching on God's grace and mercy. Their real life stories of grace and mercy captivated the crowd.

At 3:15 p.m. everyone had the opportunity to hear the parable stories in the church presented by Joy Gemperline, DRE, students and teachers. Every person received a symbol of each story to keep as a reminder of what they heard and learned. My grandson, Vinny Rizzo, couldn't believe how tiny a mustard seed really is! Thanks to Father Jeff, Father Shine, and Father Dormmann, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was also available from 3:15 p.m. until the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Michael Johnson, our Music Director, led a choir of 12 persons in a very lively liturgy at 4:00 p.m. with Father Jeff presiding. How appropriate that the readings were about faith, and where your heart is there also lies your treasure.

From 4:30 - 6:15 p.m. Monk's pizza and salad dinner was offered & topped off with donated desserts by the ladies of the parish. Margie Kunze, Cookie Fox, Peggy Rahe and Debbie Barker chopped a fresh salad complete with Lucille Roell's homegrown tomatoes. Jim Davis popped popcorn and grilled hotdogs all day long. Drinks and snacks were abundant throughout the day. Dave and Abby Bochenek, and friends, had a bottled water ministry on the sidewalk in front of the tent. Huisman's Eggs and Poultry kept us supplied with ice.

Zoey Eagan, a young friend of just 8 years old from St. Michael Parish in Sharonville sang "Change My Heart, O God" and wowed the crowd. She has shared her gift of music every year since the beginning of Friends in Faith in 2013. This song was the perfect lead-in to Rosanne Moore, the Director of the City of Refuge. Rosanne spoke about "Celebrate Recovery" at the City of Refuge. This program helps people with addictions of any kind. Rosanne's personal testimony and witness to "Celebrate Recovery" was amazing. Anyone who needs help with an addiction of any kind can go to "Celebrate Recovery." Zoey capped off Rosanne's presentation with another song, "He will Carry You." The Holy Spirit was moving!

Ron Miller, our Music Director from 2001 to 2005, also took the stage and played and led us in praise and worship songs from 7:15 - 8:00 p.m. It was like leading a choir of 50!

Thanks to the generosity of Jim and Jan Wolterman, Hiatt's Florist, Minges/Lohman's Greenhouse & Feed Store, Jim Davis, Pam Reiter and Nancy Tiemeier, there were many lovely and free door prizes and raffles.

Friends in Faith ended with Taize' Prayer in church led by Michael Johnson. Taize' is sung ecumenical prayer and very fitting for the day. The candlelit church and reflective soft music ended the day in God's peace.

All who attended were blessed, and if you weren't, we prayed for YOU too! Thank you to all who came and to anyone who contributed in any way, but could not be here. You are a friend in faith!

## The Summer of '16

This past summer has been a busy one indeed. The Vacation Bible School (which, contrary to rumors, next year will NOT be Chevy Chase's Vacation Bible School) the festival, the Friends in Faith day, and the beginning of school and PSR programs, all of which—I am glad to say, have been very successful. Thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways. I never cease to be amazed at the commitment people make to this community of faith, and thank God for it. We, of course, urge and invite every member of the parish to grow in Christ by learning the faith, coming together in prayer and Mass, and serving others, as their time allows.

I am happy, too, to report that the Future Home Committee and its subcommittees have been very busy working on the plans for the church and continuing to work on follow-up to the Capital Campaign. All is going well, and now we are at the point of looking at costs and deciding what we can and cannot do. As I have said from the start, we can only build a church that we can afford to pay for. If you did not donate or pledge to the capital campaign earlier, or if you feel you can donate more, your offering will help us build a beautiful church. I was very pleasantly surprised to find out that a new family registered and made a pledge of over \$12,000. God blesses us when we bless others with our time, talent, and treasure. May the Lord continue to bless us in all our endeavors. — *Father Jeff Kemper*

## St. John the Baptist School

What does it look like when Catholic Education and technology come together? Dynamic classroom experiences at St. John the Baptist School! We have been gradually increasing our technology with the intention of moving our students to one-to-one devices, and this year all students in grades three through eight are using assigned Chrome books. Although only those students in grades six through eight have the privilege and responsibility of taking their devices home each evening, all teaching staff have made a significant shift in the use of technology in all areas of their planning, instruction, and assessment practices. In some cases, textbooks are online, as are modeled lessons, science experiments, homework assignments, and classroom quizzes. Chrome books are used to keep track of grades and assignments, as well as for taking notes, creative writing, and previewing instructional videos, as well as for submitting work to teachers.

Our teachers have committed many hours during the spring and summer months to becoming familiar with the potential capabilities of the Chrome books as a teaching tool and have been enthusiastic about their implementation this fall. We feel the benefits are already apparent as students are displaying increased enthusiasm for learning and are showing a new interest in taking more responsibility for their own progress. One new staff member, Mrs. Amy Griffin, says of her Chrome book experiences with her 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts' students, "They have brought the students into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Using them every day has destroyed our old fear about technology and replaced it with excitement for learning. I really believe this to be true for the teachers as well as the students."

Funding for technology has become a priority, with parents paying a technology fee as part of their child's tuition and using a larger percentage of available state funding to purchase student technology. St. John's major school fundraiser, the fall Walk-A-Thon, takes place on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and much of the profit will be used for additional technology purchases. When our St. John Jaguars ask for your pledge, know you are doing your part to help increase our use of these valuable instructional tools. As always, we thank our Technology Committee members who have worked tirelessly to bring this goal from dream to reality. From making sure our infrastructure would support our technical needs, to setting up Chrome books, to downloading programs and arming our teachers with the skills and confidence needed to implement this new program, this team has been a true blessing to St. Johns.

# Vendor/Craft Show Registration Form

Sunday, November 13, 2016, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the School Gymnasium



Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a brief description of what you will be selling: \_\_\_\_\_

- Cost of each table will be \$15.00. Table and chair is provided.
- Each vendor/crafter is asked to donate an item for our raffle (approx. \$20 retail value).
- Please make check payable to St John the Baptist Church.
- Mail check and signed registration to:

Pam Reiter  
9794 Howard Rd  
Harrison, OH 45030  
(513-738-1710)

## Guidelines and Waiver

1. Set up will be, at least, one hour before start of the show. I have also scheduled the gymnasium in the afternoon the day before for set up, if preferred, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. If you plan to set up the day before, please indicate that on the registration, or let me know before that day, so I know who to expect.
2. Vendors cannot share spaces. One vendor per registration please.
3. Your space needs to be cleaned of all trash and spills before leaving.
4. Children in attendance need to be respectful of other vendors/crafters. No playing or excessive noise.
5. Payment is due with registration to reserve your space.
6. Signature is required on registration form (see waiver below).

**Registration and fee are due back no later than October 23<sup>rd</sup>**, to assure your space. **Fees are non-refundable.**  
You will be sent a confirmation of receipt by email.

**Waiver:** I, the undersigned will participate in the activity described on the Activity Information form and release from all liability and indemnify the Archbishop of Cincinnati ("the Archbishop"), both individually and as trustee for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and all parishes and schools within the Archdiocese (the "Archdiocese"), agents, representatives, volunteers, and employees of the Archdiocese, from any and all liability, claims, judgments, cost and expenses, including attorneys' fees, arising out of any injury or illness incurred by me while participating in or traveling to or from the activity and further agree not to bring or prosecute or allow to be brought or prosecuted (including but not limited to prosecution through subrogation) in my name, any claims, lawsuits or actions against the Archbishop, and the officers, agents, representatives, volunteers and employees of the Archdiocese. I also understand that my registration fee is non-refundable.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** A turkey dinner will be held in the cafeteria on the same day from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. You may bring carry-out to your table, or you could enjoy one of the dinners before or after the vendor/craft show.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

# ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER & VENDOR/CRAFT SHOW

Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Dine-in or Carry-out

Adults \$10, Seniors \$9, Children \$5, Under 6 Free!

Vendor/Craft Show Hours:  
12:00 PM - 5:00PM

509 Harrison Ave, Harrison, OH | 513-367-9086

\$500.00 Money Raffle (Christmas Cash)

Raffles ♦ Split the Pot ♦ Family Fun ♦ Good Food

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Please bring your donations of cakes, pies, cookies and candy to the cafeteria on Saturday (11/12), or Sunday morning (11/13).

Thank you!

St. John the Baptist  
Fall Festival/Turkey Dinner  
Sunday, November 13, 2016  
11:00 am – 6:00 pm

**\$500 CASH**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle Tickets:  
\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00  
Drawing at 6:00 pm  
Sunday, November 13, 2016  
(Winner need not be present to win)

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Fall Festival/Turkey Dinner  
Sunday, November 13, 2016  
11:00 am – 6:00 pm

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**\$500 CASH**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

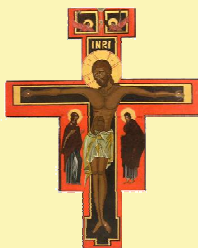
Raffle Tickets:  
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Sunday, November 13, 2016  
(Winner need not be present to win)

You may return raffle tickets to the Parish Office:  
509 Harrison Avenue  
Harrison, OH 45030

## IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZÉ

2016 - 2017

November 11<sup>th</sup>  
January 13<sup>th</sup>  
March 10<sup>th</sup>  
May 12<sup>th</sup>



**All evenings begin at 7:30 PM**

Take part in a method of prayer that has nurtured the hearts of Christians throughout the world and across denominations!

*"When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols, when it is not smothered by too many words, then prayer with others, far from exuding monotony and boredom, awakens us to Heaven's joy on earth."*

~Brother Roger of Taizé

**SONG ❖ SCRIPTURE ❖ MEDITATION**

<http://www.stjb.net/taize.html>

St John the Baptist Catholic Church

## "Trunk or Treat"

**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

*Trunk or Treat is a free event which will provide a safe, fun alternative for Trick or Treating. Children will have the opportunity to walk through the parking lot full of decorated automobile trunks and fill their bags with lots of goodies.*





## Memorial Prayer Service

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7:00 p.m. in the church.  
We'll remember all those who  
passed from October 1, 2015 to  
September 30, 2016.

Following the service, there will be  
light refreshments in the  
Community Room.

If you'd like to remember a loved one at the service who  
passed away during the above timeframe and who's  
funeral did not take place at St. John's, please call Jessica  
at the Parish Office, 513-367-9086 ext. 217, with your  
loved one's name and how many will be attending the  
service and reception by Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Mass at Shawneespring

This annual Mass will be celebrated in their second floor  
chapel on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 p.m.  
Following the Mass, Christmas Carols will be sung in the  
lobby around the piano. All Are Welcome!

## New Year's Day Masses Solemnity of Mary

**December 31<sup>th</sup>**

4:00 p.m.

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m.



## Thanksgiving Masses

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.



## St. John the Baptist SCRIPS

As you are making your holiday list for gift giving and  
shopping, remember St. John the Baptist SCRIPS!  
They're available for many local businesses as well as  
larger department stores and restaurants. SCRIPS carries  
and spends just like cash, and the proceeds benefit our  
entire parish. You can place orders, and pick up your  
SCRIPS, after the Sunday Masses, excluding the 1 & 7  
p.m. Masses.



## Advent Reconciliation Service

Several priests will be here to celebrate  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation on  
Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00  
p.m. Let us "prepare the way of the  
Lord!"

## Christmas Masses

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 p.m.

3:15 p.m. in the gym

5:30 p.m.

12:00 a.m. (Midnight)

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m.



## Mike Davis Returns For Advent Concert

As part of your Advent preparation to receive Christ at  
Christmas come to the Advent Christmas Concert with  
vocalist Mike Davis. Come and enjoy a spiritual evening  
of music, scripture and prayer. It will be held in the  
church at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**All are welcome!**

# St. John the Baptist Christmas CAROLING

## Mother Margaret Hall

December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Sisters of  
Charity Motherhouse in Delhi.

## Shawneespring

December 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Mass at 2:30 p.m.  
Followed by caroling around the  
piano in the lobby.

## Harrison Area

December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Meet in the parish parking lot  
and visit the homebound.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



The RCIA process is a fruit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council from the 1960's. The RCIA is more than a program. It is a conversion process. It is very personal and very individual. We initiated the RCIA Team here at St. John's under the leadership of Father Edward Shine and Deacon Christopher Lack in 1989. So, it has been 27 years that we have seen the blessings of the RCIA. Over 400 persons have embraced faith in the Catholic tradition at St. John the Baptist since the RCIA began. Not to mention the impact that it's had on the families & friends of those new members and even the broader community. You probably know someone yourself!

The RCIA process is a team effort. There is a coordinator and catechist, Laura Noyes, as well as a group of catechists (teachers) Father Jeff, Deacon Don Meyer, Kat Lang, Tom and Nancy Gruber, Diane Brockman, Diane Detmer, Eric Hollis, Lynda Noel, Steve Dahman and facilitators, Don Hodges, Don Meiners, Mike Re, Mike Noyes and Jim Davis. Team members have come and gone over the years. We've even had RCIA participants join the team after they have been initiated into the church.

The team models the Christian Community in the early days of the church and walks with the person on their journey. If you, or someone you know, would like to inquire about faith in the Catholic tradition, please contact:

**Laura Noyes**

513-845-4607 | [lauranoyes@roadrunner.com](mailto:lauranoyes@roadrunner.com)

**Lynda Noel**

513-367-9086 ext. 216 | [lnoe@stjb.net](mailto:lnoe@stjb.net)



## We flocknote. Do you?

Stay current on parish news & events, funerals, cancellations and more! Simply register using the link below and sign up for the ministries you'd like to hear from.

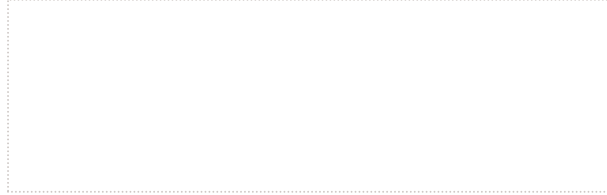
[www.flocknote.com/stjb](http://www.flocknote.com/stjb)

St. John the Baptist Church  
509 Harrison Avenue  
Harrison OH 45030

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Lawrenceburg, Indiana  
47025  
PERMIT NO. 115

Parish website: <http://www.stjb.net>  
School website: <http://www.sjbharrison.org>



*CrossRoads was established to promulgate knowledge, educate and unite St. John the Baptist parishioners in supporting the Parish mission in its efforts to respectfully and positively report the good news. To accomplish this goal, we will focus on the positive happenings in the Parish, in our place in the Community, and the church at large. We seek not to editorialize, but to inform and entertain.*

