

The Cluster Chronicle

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



History

In 2016 three parishes, Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Campton Kentucky, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Jackson, Kentucky and Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Hazard, Kentucky, previously served by the Franciscan Friars took on a new structure of leadership, collaboration, and sacramental ministry, and became known collectively as the “Cluster”. Transitioning from a Pastor to a Parish Life Director, from a resident priest to traveling sacramental ministers, and moving towards greater collaboration between the three parishes has offered both challenges and new promises for vibrant faith communities.

The Cluster Chronicle is being started to help the three parishes know more about one another and make connections in the broader Eastern Kentucky community.

Holy Cross - Jackson

Holy Cross Week is here!

We will be celebrating our feast day, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, by participating in Holy Cross Week through these virtual and in-person events!

Sunday, September 13: Power Hour 7-8pm (in person)

Come spend time with Jesus during this special time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Monday, September 14: Word and Communion Service 6pm (in person)

Reading of the Holy Cross Prayer 6:30pm (on Facebook Live)

Monday, September 14 is our parish feast day: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Join Holy Cross in person to listen to the Word and receive Holy Communion on this special day! The Word and Communion Service will end by reading the Holy Cross Prayer enclosed with this schedule. There will also be a virtual reading of this prayer on Facebook Live at 6:30.

Tuesday, September 15: Day of Action:

Do an ordinary thing with extraordinary love today!

The sacrifice of the Cross reminds us that we must sacrifice of ourselves in service to God, God’s kingdom, and our brothers and sisters. Individually or as a family, do an act of service today! Maybe send a card to someone who you know has been alone during this pandemic, surprise a busy friend with a homemade meal, or pick up trash along your street! Consider calling your elected officials about an issue that is important to you as a person of faith or donating to an organization that is doing the Lord’s work! Possibilities are endless!

Wednesday, September 16: Discipleship Sing-A-Long 6pm (on Facebook Live)

Tune in on Facebook Live to sing your favorite discipleship and mission-themed songs!

Thursday, September 17: Come and See... Virtually! 6pm (on Facebook Live)

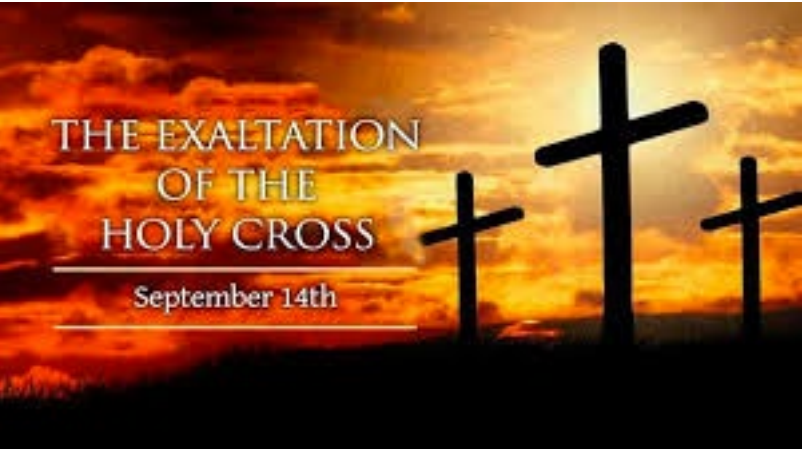
Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Do you have a friend who is seeking to grow in their relationship with God by joining the Church? Join on Facebook Live as Josh and Ellen explain the RCIA process with a walk through the sanctuary.

Friday, September 18: Stations of the Cross 6pm (on Facebook Live)

Tune in to Facebook Live to join with Stations of the Cross and walk in prayerful union with our Savior as He carries his Cross out of love for us.

Saturday, September 19: Saturday evening Mass 5pm (in person)

Close off this special week with our regular Saturday evening Mass.



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Mother of Good Counsel - Hazard

The Grateful Bread & Care for Creation

The Catholic Church and other Christian denominations are participating in an ecumenical celebration called the Season of Creation (September 1 - October 4). This annual celebration of prayer and action for our common home, the earth, takes place during the liturgical season of ordinary time in the Catholic church. Ordinary time is represented by the liturgical color of green, one of health, compassion and growth. Ordinary time makes up the majority of the liturgical year and it is the time we are called to be growing in our faith life, whether that be in prayer, community or action. 2020 has provided all of us, the opportunity of growth as we have all faced uncertainty and had to adjust to new ways of living because of the pandemic.

Mother of Good Counsel has been challenged to grow this year, whether that be how ministry is happening, more virtual ministry than in person and more porch sittin’ instead of pew sitting but we continue to provide a vibrant ministry here in Eastern Kentucky and care for each other and our neighbors.

In June, we welcomed Ben Braman into full communion after he completed the RCIA process. At the end of June and beginning of July Mother of Good Counsel welcomed the Borremeo and Gonzaga families to the Sacrament of Baptism as they baptised their children, Mary Catherine and Mateo Chase. It was a joy to celebrate all of these sacraments during this unusual time.

In July, Dan Helfrich began The Grateful Bread ministry as he turned his interest in bread baking, into an opportunity to raise money for Mother of Good Counsel and our outreach ministries. Dan bakes bread each week to be sold at the Perry County farmer’s market. His bread baking will continue after the market season ends, with him taking orders each Monday. This bread ministry is a new way to connect the church to the greater community and help continue our ministries to those who are most vulnerable, especially with regards to food. (cont. on pg 5)

Church of the Good Shepherd - Campton

The Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd has a number of outreach ministries, but perhaps the one that touches the most lives in Wolfe County every month is our food pantry. Housed in a free-standing 25’ x 25’ climate controlled shed, our pantry serves an average of 170 households each month! The only other consistent source of food available to Wolfe County residents who find themselves in need of a little extra to get by each month is a Commodity Program administered by our County Extension Office; Only senior citizens are eligible.

Theresa Sullivan, also a homeschooling mom of five, serves as our pantry supervisor about 75% of the time with some additional assistance from another parish employee, Norma Berger. The pantry is open from 10 AM to 2 PM at least 6 times each month (first two Wednesdays and the rest of the month on Tuesdays and Thursdays). Prior to the Covid-19 restrictions, once a month pantry clients were encouraged to attend a 30 minute class on Nutrition and Healthy Eating that is taught in the parish hall by the SNAP worker from the County Extension Office. All attendees are then able to pick up one additional large item on their next visit to the pantry. At least for the foreseeable future, our pantry volunteers are wearing masks and all clients remain in their vehicle where their order is taken and then brought out to them. All the volunteers are getting lots of steps in these days!

Because we see so many people through this ministry, we also let them know about other events going on either at the parish (like monthly Bag Sales/giveaways) or perhaps in the community. For example, we reminded all our clients of the importance of filling out their Census form earlier this year.

We could not operate this ministry in our small parish without consistent help from faithful community volunteers. For the most part, our volunteers have come to us through our monthly “Women Together” gatherings and most of them are members of other churches in Wolfe County. Babe Allen, from Good Shepherd, helps out whenever she feels up to it (she’ll be 93 next month). In a future edition of the Cluster Chronicle we will talk about where all the food comes from....till then, know that anyone is welcome to stop in and see us in action. Our volunteers have a good time together and are a wonderful example of the unconditional love of Christ for all.

S. Susan Marie



Pantry Volunteers in Campton.

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“We could not operate this ministry without consistent help from faithful community volunteers.”



R : Mary Catherine Borromeo and her parents Waldo & Hazel. M: Ben Braman was received into full communion on Fathers Day. L: Mateo Chase and his parents Mark & Karissa Gonzaga. Grateful Bread made for Fresh Stop Market.

The Season of Creation is one where we are called to growth and small changes to help the earth. “The ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion...an ‘ecological conversion’ (Laudato Sí 217). We are called to transform the way we relate to our Creator, all of creation and our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. What can you do to help your health or the health of others, where can you offer compassion to someone, or how might you be called to growth in your faith life?

May we continue to pray for each other and continue to connect so that this time will be one of growth and hope not isolation and fear.



Church of the Good Shephard - Campton, KY

Parish Life Director : Sr. Susan Marie Pleiss

Mass : Sunday 9:00 am



Holy Cross Catholic Church -Jackson, KY

Parish Life Director : Joshua Van Cleef

Mass : Saturday 5:00 pm



Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church -Hazard, KY

Parish Life Director : Lori Helfrich

Mass : Sunday 11:30 am

Sacramental Ministers: Fr. Bob Damron & Fr. Livinus Uba

Cluster Humor



Draw and created by Dan Helfrich.