

A quarterly publication of the  
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



2015 Men's  
Conference  
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Photos from  
Easter Vigil  
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# *the* Parishioner

## Come Holy Spirit

*Enkindle the  
Fire of Your Love*

Transform all that is fearful  
into Boldness of heart.

Inspire Your servant with  
Wonder and Awe at the  
Mystery of Your Presence.

Confirm Your friend in  
Compassion and Forgiveness.

Whisper Discernment in the  
midst of confusion:

Be Wisdom in time of trouble;

Reverence in the face of  
diversity;

Patience with the unfolding of  
life,

And forever anoint Your  
messenger with Joy.

Amen.

## Tapping the Pentecost Gifts

By Fr. Jerry Riney

Are you baptized? Have you received your First Communion? Been confirmed? If you have received any or all of the Sacraments of Initiation, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours to claim.

A story is told of a man named Yates who owned a sheep ranch in Texas during the Great Depression. He became unable to make payments on his mortgage and, like many others of that time, was forced to live on government subsidies to survive. Each day as he tended his sheep, he worried about how he would pay his bills. One day a seismographic crew arrived to tell him that that they believed his land contained oil. A lease was signed and test drilling began and at 1115 feet a huge oil deposit was struck! Subsequent drilling revealed even more oil.

And Mr. Yates owned it all—the land, the oil, and the mineral rights! He had been living on relief, worried about his very survival, but was a millionaire, unaware!

How often are we just like that—poor and helpless, unaware of the extraordinary power available to us, unaware of gifts which lie just below the surface, in our minds and hearts? Pentecost is the true culmination of the Easter Season—the trials and challenges of Lent overflowing into the Triduum and the triumph of Easter. Pentecost is the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit, upon the early Church, and upon our Church today. What gifts of the Spirit are needed to live in our contemporary world? What gifts need to be activated? What deep spiritual resources need to be tapped in our life?





Brenda Clark, Brenda Kelley, Mary Alice Wethington,  
Cissy Sullivan



Dn. Dirck Curry, Chona Curry, Cissy Sullivan, Donna Murphy,  
Sr. Sharon Miller, Cindy Bornander, Mary Ann O'Bryan, Fr.  
Suneesh, Sue Gough, Rita Roberson, LaWanna Brand

## *Ministers of Care: They Minister to Me*

By Brenda Clark

I have been involved in various Ministries at St. Stephen Cathedral over the years, but recently I have joined the Ministers of Care, visiting and bringing Communion to members of our parish who are ill or physically unable to attend Mass at the Church.

While busy raising five children I seldom gave much thought to this Ministry, believing that it was one for those who had a lot of spare time on their hands. However, with a little prodding, I volunteered with the expectation of participating one Friday a month, two at the most. As it has turned out, I have volunteered almost every single Friday morning since, trading my morning exercise class for this amazing spiritual

exercise of visiting with and bringing communion to our homebound parishioners.

Along the way, I have discovered that it is I who is being ministered to by each of them, their joy at receiving the Body of Christ and their gratitude they show that the St. Stephen community cares and takes the time to visit them in their home.

I feel it is an honor and a blessing that I GET to be a part of this Ministry of Care. There is no greater feeling of humility and gratitude that fills my heart when carrying and sharing the Body of Christ with others.

## **St. Stephen Fish Fry 2015**



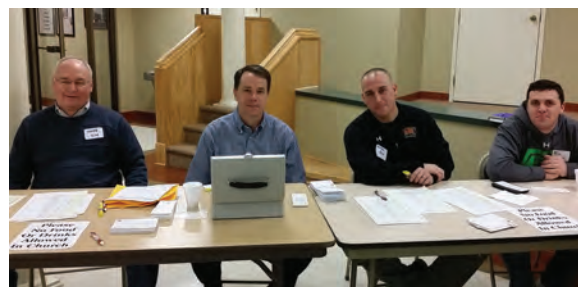




## 2015 Men's Conference

By Pat and Jack Padgett

Having attended the Diocese of Owensboro Men's Conference for multiple years, we have been exposed to many outstanding speakers and thought-provoking speeches. However, this year, the conference was an even larger success, having invited such Catholic superstars as Matt Fradd and Hector Molina. The results of the gathering were staggering; one could almost feel the power of God flowing from these world-class evangelists and into the hearts and souls of the faithful men gathered. The church was brimming, transformed into a sea of men eager to hear witness to the saving power of God; they weren't disappointed. Every year, it is a joy to see the fiery faith of the men gathered and to hear the testimonies of those who've experienced what the Catholic faith is truly about, and this year was the best in the diocese's history. The talks were powerful, and both of us brought home a deeper sense of appreciation for our families, our Catholicism, and our manhood. The world needs more men who respect the people they are supposed to love, and the 2015 Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Men's Conference provided an incredible stepping stone towards that goal.



## Oh the places Fr. Suneesh has been...



Fishing with John McNulty



Helping with the Fish Fry  
(Not the fish he caught with John)



Skiing with Teresa and Terry Brown



With the Youth Group before Youth 2000

## *Happenings at Cathedral Preschool*

By Pam Weafer

Things got fancy at the preschool on March 14th! We hosted a Mother/Daughter Tea Party at the Campbell Club. "Fancy Nancy," from the popular book series, attended and taught us proper tea party etiquette. Several of the preschool teachers served the food.

Each year the preschool puts together Easter Treat Bags for the Sisters at Mount St. Joseph. The items are all donated by families at the preschool and parent volunteers put the treat bags together. Our very generous families donated so many items this year that

we were able to also treat 33 homebound parishioners at St. Stephens and 25 for the Backpack ministry. Several families went to the Mount with us to treat the Sisters, some wearing bunny ears and all singing "Here Comes Peter Cottontail!"

Our next big project will be to replace the playground equipment. We will have a pancake breakfast after Mass soon to begin raising the money for the equipment. Watch the bulletin for more information and dates.



# Ash Wednesday

**Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish  
would like to welcome the  
following new parishioners since  
June 2014**

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Adam & Ashley Bittel

Ryan, Ali & Marie Crowe

Bryan & Heather Dant

Vickie Davis

Jackie Gentry

Bruce Gray

Ashley & Lexie Hardison

Glenn, Kristine, Danielle & Isabella Henning

Cassie Head & her sons Patrick, Alexander & Parker

Bo Ivey

Mary Lou Kapfhammer

Chad McGarvie

Antonio, Vicky, Maya, Gabriel & Leonardo Montalvo

Agnes & Andrew Reynolds, Jr.

Andrew Reynolds

Ben Rhodes

Ed & Mary Riney

Kathi Skidd

Patrick & Alison Serey

James & Jimmy Stiveson

Russell Vaughn

John, Rowella, Kate, Travis & Nathanael Weafer

Charles David, Stephanie & Kathryn Young

Chris, Sheryl, Kirsten & Mick Zoglmann





# Adult Faith Formation

By Haley Fitzgerald

As part of the Adult Faith Formation (AFF) committee, our goal is to engage the particular needs and interests of our Church parishioners. Many surveys within the Catholic Church indicate that many adults desire a better knowledge of our faith and why we believe what we believe. After our years of Catholic education or faith formation, I believe if we do not put forth effort in continuing to learn and understand our faith, to catechize ourselves, we are simply standing still in our faith. There is no growth. There is no change, and the problem is that the average Catholic only has an elementary understanding of the faith. When we go through the motions, we become desensitized to the beauty of Catholicism. As a result, complacency sets in; we can become too comfortably a part of the modern secular culture, and this comfort can result in a dangerous complacency toward our faith. Isn't sloth, or spiritual indifference, one of the seven deadly sins?

The AFF committee, therefore, comes together to brainstorm various events, series, discussions, etc in order to provide opportunities to better help educate our adult parishioners and avoid this dangerous complacency. Just as the Catholic Church's mission aims to help the faithful of all ages to grow in Christian maturity, we, too, hope to grow in our own faith by nourishing our needs as God's people in his one, true Catholic Church.

Various events we have held have been teaching Masses, Jeff Cavins' Bible Studies, Fr. Robert Barron's *Catholicism* series and *7 Deadly Sins and 7 Lively Virtues* series, Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* Lenten book series, Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* (with 42 people having graduated our first class), movie nights, etc. Upcoming events will include the new series by Ascension Press: *Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed* DVD series, a parenting class, *Symbolon* DVD series, and a *Les Miserables* movie night. We have also established providing childcare for all events now for parents of small children who are interested in attending. Additionally, we will start to have some showings/events in between the 9:00 and 11:00 masses for convenience while families are already present at church on Sundays. Please refer to the bulletin with details of these upcoming events.

As part of the Adult Faith Formation committee, we welcome any comments, suggestions, and concerns of how we might better serve you, either as members of the Cathedral, or as part of our larger Diocese. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact us! Let us pray for one another and our Church.





## RCIA

In front of Fr Jerry Riney and the congregation, Jeanette New, Kelsey Napper, Deloris, Whitney Carroll, Sarah Michael, and their sponsors participate in the Rite of the Call to Conversion for the Candidates. They professed their readiness to proceed toward the Sacraments of Confirmation/Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Congratulations on your journey!

## First Reconciliation

*Front row (left to right):* Calvin Padgett, Evan Hurm, Nathan Goldbach, Matthew Payne, Meghan Kyle

*Second row:* Travis Weafer, Peter Palmer, Luke Reffitt, Ethan Gough, Sofia Sorley, Ashlynn Carman

*Top row:* Romer Gonzalez, Dustin Gonzalez, Vincent Carrico, Michael Lyon, Ambrielle Norris, Ashton Millay

*Staff:* Fr. Jerry, Donna Murphy, Fr. Suneesh



## First Communion

*Front row (left to right):* Matthew Payne, Evan Hurm, Peter Palmer, Ashlynn Carman, Meghan Kyle, Calvin Padgett, Luke Reffitt, Nathaniel Goldbach

*Second row:* Ashton Millay, Travis Weafer, Sofia Sorley, Romer Gonzalez, Dustin Gonzalez, Michael Lyon, Ambrielle Norris, Vincent Carrico, Ethan Gough

*Back Row:* Fr. Suneesh Mathew, Fr. Jerry Riney, Donna Murphy

## Owensboro Symphony Orchestra

The Owensboro Symphony Orchestra graced St. Stephen Cathedral with their presence on Sunday, April 19. It was a beautiful concert!





# EASTER VIGIL





# Blessings



Fr. Jerry's 66th Birthday Party



Sarah and Zac Roby with their new son,  
Jackson Andrew



Matt and Jessica Weafer with son  
Dominic and daughter Kennedy Marie



Peter and Whitney Carrol got married on April 1st



Fr. Jerry's Dad, Joe Riney, celebrated his 91st Birthday



## Youth 2000

On March 12-14, St. Stephen's Youth Group attended Youth 2000, a Eucharistic-centered retreat at Brescia University. Here are a few of their experiences!

### *By Jade Flaherty*

Youth 2000 is a Eucharistic-centered retreat for the youth of western Kentucky which starts on a Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. I've been to Youth 2000 twice, and I've absolutely loved it both times! This retreat helps us to get closer to God and realize how much He truly loves us. One reason why I love it is because there are so many amazing people who come for this retreat. I've met some of the nicest people and built friendships with some that are in our own parish too. Singing and dancing to praise God with friends brings pure joy.

At this retreat the importance and the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation was explained to us, and we were strongly encouraged to make our confessions. I always feel so much grace after I make my confession. During the retreat, the monstrance is placed on the "burning bush" in the center of the room. On Saturday night during adoration, the lights are turned down, and all the candles on the burning bush glow as they lead our eyes up to Jesus. At the end of the night everyone sings and sways with their arms around their neighbors. Everyone just hugs everyone! It doesn't matter if you know them or not because, "We are one Body in Christ

and we do not stand alone." This is my favorite part of Youth 2000. It's truly an amazing and indescribable experience.

Throughout the weekend we listened to various speakers, and one sentence that struck me most was, "The greatest love story ever written is contained in a tiny white host." And it's undeniably true, Jesus Christ loves us so much that he died to save us and is present with us always, most especially in the Eucharist. I don't know of anyone that has gone to Youth 2000 and not enjoyed the experience. I strongly encourage you to go if you get the chance. You'll never receive Jesus the same way, I know I won't!

### *By Kevin Gonzalez*

Before I went to Youth 2000 I thought that it was going to be about learning different stories of the Bible and relating them with life. Or even how to act or make decisions so that we would be better people. I also thought we would learn about different saints and what they are patrons of. Then we would go into groups and learn about different things like our faith, the history of famous saints, and cathedrals.



During Youth 2000 we would pray and sing some songs in the morning. During prayer time everyone would stay quiet and say the rosary. Then, we would talk about things that we could do or try to do to make the world a better place. We would eat lunch and hang out with our friends and then go into a group and ask a priest some things about the world or about being a priest. Some questions were “Why can’t a priest get married?” or “How do you become a bishop?” We would have Mass and pray in the dark around the monstrance. During this time someone would read a story from the Bible and talk about what they feel during that time or compare it to something.

I enjoyed being at Youth 2000 and having some prayer time and learning about different kinds of things. It did have some things that I expected. Before Youth 2000 I did pray, but I wasn’t always good about praying a lot. After Youth 2000 I started praying more. When you are there, you don’t feel like you’re just in some building praying or saying the rosary or sitting and listening to the speaker. I got the feeling of joy and a feeling that I was just glad to be there. I just sensed that Jesus was there watching me. I would recommend this to anybody that liked this kind of thing.

### *By Sarah Murphy*

I was really excited to go to Youth 2000 this year because I had been before. I was looking forward to seeing friends I had seen last year. I also anticipated growing in my love of Christ.

The best part of the Youth 2000 for me this year was going to Confession. It was a unique experience when the priest prayed for me. He explained that he had a rather special way to pray for people and when he did, I felt a deep sense of peace.

Youth 2000 is a great way of strengthening your understanding of God, understanding yourself better and growing closer to God. If you are thinking about going to Youth 2000, this is a wonderful way of meeting friends and growing in your faith.

## Youth Group



On the 5th of March one of St. Stephen parishioners called the church to see if someone could come and clear the snow out of her driveway so she could go to the hospital. A few of St. Stephen’s youth came forward to clear the snow. Pictured above are George Kurtz, Lucy Kurtz, Will Clark, Kevin Gonzalez and Fr. Suneesh



On March 1st the Youth Group visited Malco to watch the movie *McFarland, USA*. It was a great movie about seven school kids trained by a coach to run the cross country running competition. Everyone enjoyed the movie and discussed it at the youth house afterwards. Pictured are Adam Hayden, Dn. Dirck, Anna Atkins, Sarah Murphy, Kevin Gonzalez, Samantha Steckler, Natalie Ellis, Clayton Rhoads, Paxton Jenkins, Christian Leigh, Clayton Lewis, Max Kurtz, George Kurtz, John Henry Booth, Meghan Payne, Andrew Ellis, and Brenda Clark



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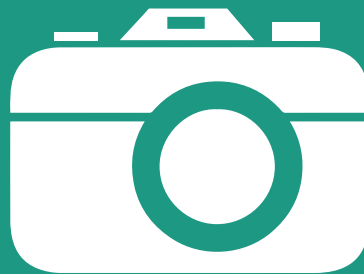
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**We are always  
looking for pictures of  
parishioners at work.**

Please email them to  
[ststephencathedralnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ststephencathedralnewsletter@gmail.com).  
Include names of people in the pictures  
and a brief description of the event!