

A quarterly publication of the  
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



Christmas at  
the Cathedral  
*Page 4*



Trunk or  
Treat Photos  
*Page 6*



# *the* Parishioner

## What's Inside

All Saints Day  
*Page 5*

Fall Cleanup Photos  
*Page 6*

Spotlight on Jack Padgett  
*Page 8*

Honor House Blessing  
*Page 9*

Tri-Parish Mission  
*Page 9*

Youth Group Photos  
*Page 10*

Arts at the Cathedral  
*Page 10*

*and more!*



## Reach for the (5) Stars

By Cathedral Preschool Staff

The Cathedral Preschool, located within the McRaith Catholic Center on the campus of St. Stephen Cathedral, was recently awarded the highest honor of 5 STARS through the Kentucky ALL-STARS quality education rating system. The Kentucky ALL-STARS is the Kentucky Department of Education's five-star quality rating system based on early childhood education standards and researched-based indicators of educational quality.

Cathedral Preschool was awarded 5 STARS overall and was recognized as having one of the highest scores in the State based on overall educational quality and individual classroom score.

This award is normally awarded to publically funded centers. However, Cathedral Preschool, a privately funded preschool, was honored to receive one of the highest scores in the state for their high rating and recognition for their commitment towards higher quality early childhood education and programming. As a result of Cathedral Preschool's outstanding scores, the Kentucky Department of Education has asked the preschool to be a training site for the State's ALL-STAR rating personnel.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Reach for the (5) Stars

*(Continued from page 1)*

Cathedral Preschool was awarded its 5 STARS based on the system's extensive requirements and classroom observance of the following programs:

- 1) **Curriculum** – LITERASCI - Nationally recognized and proficiently executed.
- 2) **Environment** – Multiple centers for exploring, science, blocks, art, sensory play, music and movement.
- 3) **Scheduling** – Well managed educational, social and physical activity time.
- 4) **Interactions** – Staff & children, staff and parents, children among themselves.
- 5) **Supervision** – Address and assist in child to child social encounters and relationships.

It was stated that the main qualities that allowed Cathedral Preschool to earn among the highest scores in the State is the everyday passion, love, effort, teamwork and professionalism of the entire staff.

## National Catholic Youth Conference

By Haley Fitzgerald

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) was a wonderful experience, not only for the youth who attended, but also for all adult chaperones. It reminded us that the Lord always calls us to more, calls us to listen, and calls us to serve. As chaperones, we would like our Cathedral family to know how respectful, responsible, reverent, and mature our youth were while participating, making our job painless and undemanding. It was a pleasure to be their chaperones. We thank all of you who supported us, either financially or prayerfully. The Lord is so good to us.





## NCYC: Give It a Try

By Caitlin Sullivan

Walking into the Lucas Oil Stadium at the National Catholic Youth Conference is a once in a lifetime experience. We heard helpful and entertaining testimonies from several people, including one from a teenage girl with whom we could relate. We also enjoyed concerts held every night that were very fun. The many events planned helped deepen our faith in Christ. Seeing so many people the same age as myself come celebrate our faith was eye-opening and inspiring. I enjoyed meeting kids from other places that share the same values and beliefs



as I do. It gave me the courage and affirmation to continue my journey in the Catholic faith. NCYC also gave me the opportunity to meet other Catholic youth in Owensboro. During our fundraising and planning activities, I made friends with many, and I became closer to those I barely knew when I first started. I enjoy seeing them when I go to Mass and attend other church events. For these reasons, NCYC was a great experience, and I encourage all Catholic youth in Owensboro to give it a try.

## It's Not About Who You Are, But Whose You Are

By Jade Flaherty

"It's not about who you are, but whose you are." This is the single quote that struck me most during NCYC. These words embody the theme of NCYC 2017, which was "Called." 20,000+ youth from all backgrounds came together in Indianapolis because we all have at least one thing in common: our Catholic faith. Each of us is made up of a unique set of gifts and talents, but we are all children of God, and He calls us by name. We learned through a talk given by Mark Hart that we are all called to more, called to listen, and called to serve. We have taken away this lesson and so many others from our time at NCYC that we are now putting into practice at home. It was an experience I will always remember. The

nourishment of our souls is essential. NCYC gave us a myriad of opportunities for this including daily Mass, Reconciliation, breakout sessions, concerts of praise and worship, and fellowship of peers stretching from our diocese to every end of the nation. We are deeply appreciative of our chaperones Jacob Fischer, Meghan Payne, and especially Haley Fitzgerald for planning and organizing. Thank you so much to everyone that made the pilgrimage possible by donating to our pancake breakfasts and car washes. We are so thankful for your monetary support and invaluable prayers. By your responding to God's call of fostering the youth, you have helped shape faithful, active members of the Body of Christ.



# Christmas at the Cathedral



From left to right: Carson Lewis, Leo Padgett, Max Kurtz, Corey D. Bruns, Landon Reffit, Jacob Warren, Lindsey Warren



Jim Duffy helps decorate the Church



Children's Choir



Fr. Jerry with Santa



Cathedral Rectory Decorators



Samantha & Duncan Kaai, Kelsey & Ben Rhodes, Nick & Carrie Warren at the Pastoral Council Christmas Party



The Three Kings (Tom Kurtz, Christopher Lewis, and Carson Lewis)



Christmas Eve Blessing of the Children, by Fr. Jerry



The Magi Arrive

## All Saints Day



Wade & Nina Gaynor along with Mark Howard are received into full communion in the Church. Pictured with sponsors, Charlie Hardesty, Suzanne Caudill and Rob Abney

## Welcome New Parishioners!

James & Sharon Adwell  
Sherry Ballard  
Tammy Ballard  
Phillip & Debbie Bell  
Bryan Bland  
John & Suzanne Caudill (Jackson, Sarah, & Katherine)  
Misty Chancellor  
Mark & Grace Ebelhar (Ellen & Emily)  
Dennis & Linda Fentress  
Yvonne Fulenwider  
Wade & Neena Gaynor (Josey & Wiley)  
Nancy Greenwell  
Lisa Gulino  
Duane Harper  
Byron Hartz  
Stephen Harvey & Michelle Harris  
Misty Leistner (Joseph & Scarlett)  
Alix Lung  
“Buddy” & Sarah McCarter (Charlie Mac)  
Troy & Sarah Mills (Savanna, Emma, Kennedy, & Harper)  
Len Paden  
Caleb & Amanda Payne (Felicity, Benjamin, Ava, & Veronica)  
Nate & Natalie Payne  
Michael & Donna Richard  
Evan & Allie Riney  
Glen & Sarah Robinson  
Patrick & Meghan Rykwald (Fiona & Anita)  
Kent & Katie Short (Paisley)  
Darrell & Joan Smallwood (Jan & Zophia)  
Thomas & Laura Smiley (Logan)  
Paul & Kamille Stich (Sailor)  
Katie Ward (Keegan)  
Mike & Mary Wade

*Welcome back from Evansville*  
Antonio & Vicky Montalvo (Maya, Gabriel, & Leonardo)

*Since May 2017*



## Trunk or Treat



## Fall Cleanup



*More volunteers are always welcome to help take care of our church campus*

# How Do You Know If You Have Encountered Christ?

By Fr. Jerry Riney



At the beginning of this liturgical year, December 3, 2017, Bishop Medley kicked off a “Year of Encounter” for the Diocese of Owensboro. This is the first of a four-year process to reflect upon “Living as Missionary Disciples.” Living as a missionary disciple has everything to do with evangelization (proclaiming the Good News of Jesus) AND re-evangelization (those who have been baptized but have no idea what it means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ).

The focus this first year is to personally encounter Jesus Christ. Have you/have I had a conversion experience? Do I know what it means to be transformed by God’s grace?

We have so many examples of people who have been changed by encountering/meeting Jesus: the Woman at the Well who had five husbands left her jug at the well and ran back to tell others about this Jesus who knew everything about her (John 4:1-42); Zacchaeus, the crooked tax collector who made his money off the backs of the poor, nearly fell out of that sycamore tree when Jesus asked to come to his house for dinner (Luke 19:1-10); most recently the lowly and stinking shepherds were the first to encounter and worship the newborn King of the Jews (Luke 2:8-20); the Magi, or astrologers, who looked up into the dark sky to see the star which led them to the Light of the Nations, encountered this newborn King as unbelievers but returned home as believers, arriving as seekers but returning their countries as followers of Christ (Matthew 2:1-12).

Closer to home, we all know addicted people who hit rock bottom because of alcohol, drugs, sex, or gambling, then reluctantly went to an AA meeting, came to grips with their weakness, accepted the support of the AA community, and experienced a conversion, a change in their life because of their Higher Power. I am impressed by a searching young man who bravely walked into our RCIA session and is absorbing like a sponge all he can about the Church Jesus

Christ founded. He is encountering his Savior, and his life is being changed in the process.

We encounter Jesus by getting to know who Jesus is; we can know a lot ABOUT Jesus (we can know every doctrine and law of the Church and still not KNOW Him). We will encounter Jesus only if we are open to God’s extravagant, amazing grace. Grace, the very life of Jesus (John 15:1-12), is mediated through personal prayer, family prayer, the sacred Scriptures (a tried and true discipline of reflecting on the Word of God: <http://www.livingtheeucharist.org/learnlectiodivina/>) and the Sacraments, especially Eucharist and Reconciliation. Someone defined grace as “the divine gift that makes people attractive.” Grace can be experienced directly but most often is mediated through other people--parents, friends, neighbors, children, even strangers--people who are not afraid or reluctant to share their faith.

“All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity” (Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium*). Recently I shared in a homily a story of a lady I met in the hospital who said to me, “I wish I had faith ... the kind of faith my husband had. He would share his faith, talk about God. I miss him ... I was lifted up and fortified by his faith.” This woman’s husband had encountered Jesus.

Each of us is called to be a person of prayer and action, to strive to live in deep intimacy with God, and from this deep intimacy to respond to the message of the Gospel, by loving our neighbor--even the stranger--and spreading the Good News of God’s mercy and love. You may be the only Bible some people read!

Have you encountered Jesus in your personal life? Let’s help one another, by example and spiritual discipline, to encounter Jesus who wants more for us than we want for ourselves.



## Spotlight on Jack Padgett

Thanksgiving and Christmas have quickly passed us, and many people wondered how they would “survive the holidays” with all the familial obligations. Jack Padgett addresses that stressor in his play *Make Merry (or How to Survive Your Family on Holidays)*. A creative writing major and theatre minor, Jack is the son of St. Stephen parishioners Pat and Suzanne Padgett and is a junior at Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

Jack has always had a passion for writing and found his calling with theatre his junior year in high school when he acted in Owensboro Catholic High's production of *Almost, Maine*. While at Berry, Jack has had the opportunity to participate in several theatre and creative writing endeavors. In February of 2016, the Berry College Theatre Company approached Jack to write a Christmas show after he received a theatre scholarship for a previous play he had written. Fifteen months later, Jack had a story about a “family whose members have been apart for a while coming together over the holidays for one meal. When a sudden snowstorm traps them together, they are forced to confront their problems and grievances with one another.”

*Make Merry* premiered the first weekend of December with nearly 500 people coming to see it. When asked about the experience, Jack stated, “It was an incredible experience. I was very involved in everything from casting to set design, and watching it happen before my eyes was amazing. I worked with an incredible director and six fantastic cast members, and the whole process took only a few months.” Jack got to sit down with a professional playwright from DC after the production who was very complimentary and provided constructive criticism. One of those criticisms was revising the play to add an additional 30 minutes to make it more accessible to other theatres.

His biggest hope after graduation is to move to a larger city, such as Atlanta, to pursue a writing career. Many people have echoed similar, negative sentiments – “You can’t make money writing. You need a day job.” But Jack does not let the negativity get to him. He says he used to believe those types of people, but once he decided not to listen to them, he began to see his path take shape.

Jack’s hope is that his stories enable people to see the world around them from different perspectives and lead them to become better. While Jack may not be a “household name” on our book- or DVD-shelves, I can promise you that eventually the world will know one of our own. And we will all be better people because we know Jack.



Jack Padgett, 2nd from right, with the cast & crew of *Make Merry*



Proud Parents Pat and Suzanne Padgett with Jack's siblings





## The Aging Mastery Program at St. Stephen Cathedral

By Deacon Richard Murphy

It is possible to “master” the aging process as we did in our studies, rearing our families and building careers. One thing is sure, if we do not try to get better at it, aging and premature death will master us sooner than we would like. This is what 25 participants and facilitators learned in the course of 10 weeks of study (September 12 to November 14, 2017) in the Aging Mastery Program developed by the National Council on Aging. Topics addressed included: financial planning, exercise, fall prevention, nutrition, medication, sleep issues, final arrangements (living will and health directives), companionship and social involvement, and volunteering. The course will likely be offered again next year, either here or at another Parish in Owensboro.

## Honor House Blessing

Blessing of the new Honor House for Veterans located on 11th Street. This project was given birth through St. Benedict Shelter for homeless men.



## Tri-Parish Mission



Fr. John Judie draws together the parishioners of Blessed Mother, Sts. Joseph and Paul and the Cathedral Parishes for renewal. The theme was “Living Fully for Jesus.” Header should read “Tri-Parish Mission – October 23-25, 2017

## Youth Group



Christmas caroling at Regina Lewis' home



Christmas caroling at the home of Martha Kramer



Caroling with the Immaculate Youth Group at the Wendell Foster Center



Modeling homemade blankets for the homebound

## Arts at the Cathedral



Kentucky Youth Choir



The Festival of Lessons and Carols by the Kentucky Wesleyan Singers under Director Dennis Jewett  
Thursday & Friday, Nov. 30 & Dec. 1.



# Parish Celebrations



Meredith Noelle Taylor, daughter of Sean & Rachel Taylor & granddaughter of Ed & Gloria Cecil, was baptized into the Church.



Linda & Jim Ivey celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in December 2017!



Bo & Jodi Ivey's daughter, Elleanor Katherine, was baptized Thanksgiving weekend with with godparents Jay Ivey and Jennifer Stevens.



On Thanksgiving weekend, Wiley Jay Gaynor, son of Wade & Neena Gaynor, was baptized into the Christian community at the Cathedral.



Evelyn Claire Pierce, daughter of Aaron & Lauren Pierce, celebrated the sacrament of Baptism on November 25, 2017.



Sylvia Kate Payne & Vera Helen Payne, with grandparents Joella & Mike Baker, were baptized December 31, 2017.



Lucy Catherine Carrico, daughter of Aaron & Stephanie Carrico, was received into the Church on December 30, 2017.



610 Locust Street  
Owensboro, KY 42301-2130

NONPROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OWENSBORO, KY  
42301  
PERMIT 900

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### ***Newsletter Contributors***

#### **Writers**

Haley Fitzgerald  
Jade Flaherty  
Mary Beth Hurley  
Deacon Richard Murphy  
Fr. Jerry Riney  
Caitlin Sullivan  
Cathedral Preschool Staff

#### **Photographers**

Rob Abney  
Corey Bruns  
Donna Duffy  
Hayden Ivey  
Vicky Montalvo

#### **Proofreader**

Haley Roby

#### **Editor**

Katie Pagan

#### **Layout Designer**

Taylor West

## **Let the Children Come to Me**

By Mary Beth Hurley

Children's Liturgy of the Word is an age appropriate ministry offered for all children ages four-eight at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. Just before the Liturgy of the Word begins for the assembly, the children are invited to go with an adult leader and teen assistants to the Children's Liturgy room in the Community Center of the church. During this special time, the children are lead through prayers, singing, and simplified readings. They learn about the same scripture readings as the rest of the assembly, are taught a simplified message, and are encouraged to share it with others.

Leaders are provided with training and necessary materials. All adults must complete the Safe Environment certification and a background check. Please consider being part of this wonderful ministry for the little ones of our parish.



**Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
served 200+ Thanksgiving  
dinners on November 19,  
2017 in gratitude for God's  
blessings to them!**

