

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Lots of Exciting Things for Our Youth

May has been and continues to be a busy month for our parish youth! There are many things to celebrate as we hold our youth and teens in prayer as they grow up as Catholic disciples. Last weekend, Bishop Brennan offered the annual **8th grade Altar Server Awards** to servers throughout the Diocese. Here in Hardin County, we congratulate the following 8th grade Altar Servers who were nominated for this award: from Kenton: Shaidyn Hughes, Riley Hunt, and Jillian Kearns; from Ada: Kyle Mattson and Robby Waters. As Bishop Brennan said at the Cathedral awards ceremony last Sunday, serving Jesus and the parish community at the holy altar is a great privilege and opportunity to model the central importance of our faith, and our servers make a great impact. He also encouraged them to discern the Lord's vocation for them as they continue to grow up. May we encourage them, too, as we conclude today the **Week of Prayer for Vocations!**

Also, we take joy in the **First Communion Masses** for our second graders which have just taken place in our parishes; thanks to all who made them wonderful celebrations! The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is the central focus of our Catholic faith, and our Lord desires all the human race to know and love Him in this most blessed sacrament. As I explained to their parents as I met with them to get to know them and to encourage them in their family spirituality, Jesus wants to be the central part of our children's lives, and they will need the graces of the Eucharist at Mass to help them to be protected from the challenges soon to face them in the real world in which they are growing up. Also in need of protection and prayers are our cluster's **Confirmation** candidates, who will be confirmed this coming Wednesday evening at Ada by Bishop Brennan. It is a courageous thing in our contemporary culture to be known as a teen who follows Jesus with commitment. They are taking a stand which is not always popular. Please pray that they be truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit in a powerful way with the two principal graces of this sacrament: 1) to go deeper in holiness, and 2) to evangelize and share the joy of knowing Jesus with others. We finally want to say "congratulations" to our parish **high school senior graduates**, as they take the next step in their lives! May they have a great impact on our world as they serve God and neighbor; may they also find in their relationship with Jesus and the Holy Eucharist the source of their purpose, direction, and fulfillment!

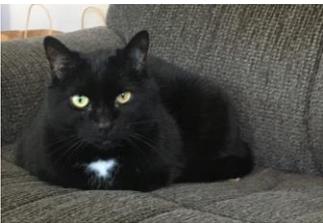
Fr. Ferguson is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have; please contact him at hamilton.college@outlook.com or at 419-634-2626.

DID YOU KNOW? A Note From Your Parish Finance Council

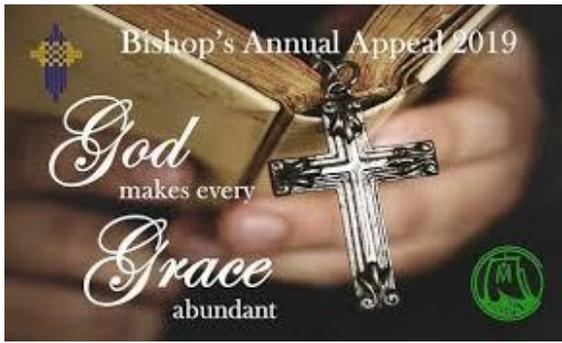
[As indicated earlier, we will periodically be placing "blurbs" in the bulletin to make everyone aware of our practical, parish stewardship needs:]

The last fiscal year at Our Lady of Lourdes, we spent \$5,961 on insurance. This is a required expense based on the calculations of our Diocese, and our premiums our kept lower due to the Diocese being "self-insured", and also by our efforts locally to keep the lowest risk hazard assessment rating we can obtain. However, we are still running short in covering our parish expenses. We thank those who have already been giving sacrificially. But if you have not been giving as much as you could to share in supporting our parish family, please consider an increase in your Weekly Offertory, which provides the vast majority of our needed parish income. Thanks for your generosity and support of our parish family!

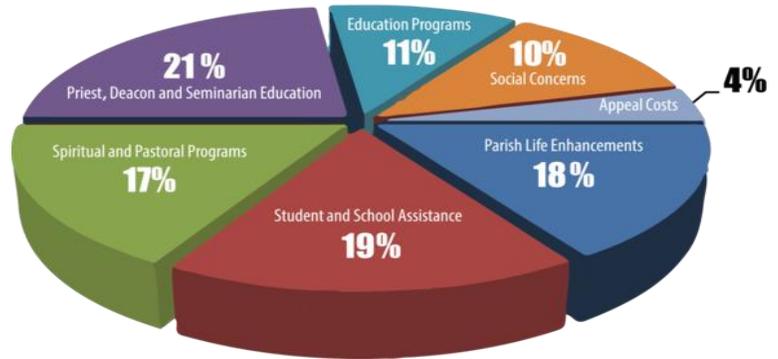
THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by "Jackie", the Pastor's Cat



Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie", and as you know, I am Father Ferguson's cat. Did you know that some of the big kids in our parish are going to receive a special sacrament this week? That's right! It's called "Confirmation!" That's when the Holy Spirit gives the big kids two special helps (called 'graces'): The first is to become more holy (it's a lot tougher to stay holy as a grown-up!). The second is to share our faith with others (sometimes grown-ups are more shy than young kids to talk about Jesus with others, but Jesus wants everyone to know about Him!). It's an exciting sacrament. Just like in the Bible, the Bishop (the head priest of our area) will come and anoint the big kids with oil, as a sign of the Holy Spirit! We cats can't get confirmed, because we would immediately lick off all the oil! Oh well! Why not pray for our big kids this week, that they stay strong and brave as followers of Jesus as they continue to grow up? Have a "purr"-fect week!



... Every Gift Matters



COOKBOOKS are available for purchase (\$7 each) – call or email the office (634-2626 or oll@wcoil.com) to place your order!

Vacation Bible School 2019

S'more Stories with Jesus!

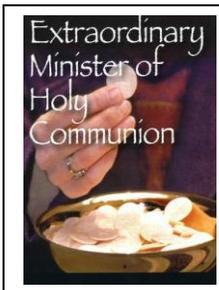
Monday, July 29 to Thursday, August 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

We have filled our leadership spots and now need to fill in with helpers!

Adults and young people Grade 5 and older who would like to volunteer to help with VBS are invited to fill out and turn in a VBS registration form ASAP so we can have one more meeting with the full VBS staff.

We accept children ages 4 years to 4th Grade as regular participants; older children can participate AND help! Children younger than four may attend but only as long as a parent or guardian can stay with them the entire time. *Many of our helpers are also parents of younger children!*

We handed out VBS Registration Forms in PSR May 12th; extra forms will be left on the table in the vestibule. Return forms via the collection, by mail to the office, or in the basket labeled “Return Registration Forms” in the vestibule.



Please consider serving as an **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion!** Training will be provided at your convenience – email the office at oll@wcoil.com or see Deb to set up a training. We will be setting up ONE STATION to offer the Precious Blood on Sunday for those who feel very strongly about receiving Communion under both kinds. The station for the Precious Blood will be on the east side of the church, near the baptismal font. This will enable people from the hall and the church to access the station. If we can get enough volunteers to be trained as an **EMC** the schedule can easily be modified to reincorporate all the stations for the Precious Blood. Normally, it is required that the EMC is an active, Confirmed Catholic 16 years or older; we will accept Confirmed Catholics younger than 16 if they display a suitable maturity for the ministry. *If you are confirmed but younger than 16 ASK to be considered!*

Oh Heavenly Father, I thank you for calling upon me to serve you and your people.

Help me to be worthy of this extraordinary honor.

Let me nourish your people with the witness of my life while I feed them with the Body of Christ.

Grant your strength and holiness to all Your Ministers of the Eucharist and make them worthy to bring Christ to others. Amen.