Bishop Iffert celebrated his first midnight Christmas Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, and shared a message of great joy. Bishop Iffert began his homily with six fundamental questions that some may remember from school assignments. Who, what, when, where, why, and how? He then used those same fundamental questions to explain what is celebrated on Christmas.

“In my first Christmas message to you, in my first Christmas homily … I want to zero in tonight on one question, Why? Why, the Christmas gift beyond compare? Why, the self-emptying love of God?” Bishop Iffert said. “The two words, that answer the question why, they are simple, they are short, they might be overlooked – they are “FOR YOU.”

Bishop Iffert compared the shepherds of the Gospel reading to “you and me.”

“The people who need a Savior, the ordinary people who need saving,” Bishop Iffert said. Every miracle God performed here on earth — from Abraham to Jesus being born in a manger — is for you.” The Christmas mystery is for you,” Bishop Iffert said. Reminding all that peace of mind and heart is so important to God that he sacrificed his only Son.

“For you the Savior came into the world — for you,” said Bishop Iffert.

The mystery of the Incarnation is summed up in two words spoken by an angel

Tom Ziegler
Staff Writer

For you the Savior came into the world — for you.
Broadcast of the Cathedral’s Sunday Mass moves to the CW

**Messenger Staff Report**

The broadcast of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption's Sunday Mass has found a new home.

Beginning Jan. 9, 2022, the Cathedral’s Sunday Mass will be televised on Local12’s subchannel The CW, Sundays from noon to 1 p.m. Viewers can tune-in on the following channels: antenna 117 or 25; Cincinnati Bell 17 or 517; and DirectTV 25. Local12 and The CW are affiliates of Sinclair Broadcasting Group.

After 20 years of faithful broadcasting on WLWT, the Sunday Mass broadcast is funded through the generosity of St. Elizabeth Healthcare and other benefactors for their financial contributions that make this broadcast possible.

“We offer our thanks to WLWT for providing the broadcast of the Sunday Mass to our local communities for the last two decades,” said Father Ryan Maher, rector, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. “I am grateful that we were able to enter into an agreement with Local12 so that the Sunday Mass could continue to be broadcast locally. The Sunday Mass broadcast is especially beneficial for those who, due to illness or infirmity, are unable to attend Sunday Mass in person. I have personally heard from viewers how grateful they are to be a part of the faith community in this way. I am especially grateful to St. Elizabeth Healthcare and other benefactors for their financial contributions that make this broadcast possible.”

The Cathedral began videoing its Sunday Mass for livestream and broadcasting in 2002 when renovations to the Cathedral included the addition of cameras and recording equipment. The Sunday Mass broadcast is funded through the generosity of St. Elizabeth Healthcare and viewer donations.

The Sunday Mass is also streamed live and recorded for future viewing from the Cathedral’s website, covcathedral.com.

March for Life and Day of Prayer and Penance, time to grieve lost generations

**Laura Keener**

**Editor**

With the beginning of a new year, the Pro-Life Office is making last minute plans for its annual pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. for the 48th annual March for Life. The March for Life will be held Jan. 21. Each year it is held near the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which made abortion legal, essentially on demand, in the United States.

This year Bishop John Iffert will join the pilgrims of the Diocese of Covington at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The pilgrims include groups from several Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Covington, a contingent of about 50 adults traveling with the Pro-Life Office and individuals traveling on their own who have notified the Pro-Life Office of their plans to be there.

This will be Bishop Iffert’s first pilgrimage to the national March for Life and he will celebrate Mass at St. Dominic Church for the diocesan pilgrims the morning of the March.

“I am looking forward to gathering with the people from the diocese and celebrating Mass in the morning,” said Bishop Iffert. “I am looking forward to walking with those folks who want to give witness for the dignity of life and to call on our leaders to make policies that promote the dignity of human life and that respect and protect human life from conception to natural death... to give that witness and raise that voice.”

In the Diocese of Covington, for those who are not traveling to Washington D.C. for the March for Life, Bishop Iffert has declared Jan. 21 a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life.

“I invite everybody to be part of this day to, to mark this day as a day of penance for our country,” said Bishop Iffert. “Not in a punitive kind of way, but in really allowing ourselves to experience the grief of the wound of lost generations; really experience the grief and the wound that comes from aborting our children; really experience the grief and the wound that comes from the spreading of what John Paul II called the Culture of Death... to take that in and remember who we are called to be and let that change us.”

Legalized abortion, Bishop Iffert said, affects our basic moral mindset — both individually and collectively as a nation — into thinking that because something is legal it is also, somehow, moral.

“So it’s really important to take some time, to spend the day remembering that we really are grieved by what has been happening in our country,” Bishop Iffert said. “We are grieved every time somebody makes a decision against life, against the respect for life. We are grieved every time a woman feels like she has to make the decision for abortion. Take some time to reevaluate ourselves to making other options available for those women, to make other options available for those children, so that we can be the witness to God’s gift of life.”

On that day all students in the diocese will pray a rosary for life during the school day, all parishes will set aside some time for Eucharistic adoration (the Messenger will publish a schedule next week) and a Holy Hour for Life will be held at 7 p.m. at 30 designated churches.

“The diocese we have 10 churches where people can gather to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament, where people can ask the Lord to change our hearts, to change the hearts of mothers and fathers who are making this decision — to help them know that they’re supported, to help them know that they’re loved, that they’re not going to be abandoned and that someone wants them and that we want to be there to sacrifice for others. That’s really important,” Bishop Iffert said.

Many people participating in this year’s March for Life have been praying every day and marching every year since the 1973 Supreme Court decision that the law will be reversed and that the right to life will be restored as a basic human right in the United States. This year they are especially hopeful that those prayers will be answered.

Currently the Supreme Court is deciding the case Dobbs vs Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the decision in this case could overturn Roe v. Wade, returning the abortion decision to State governments.

In Kentucky voters will decide whether or not the Kentucky Constitution supports the right to abortion. The “Kentucky No Right to Abortion in Constitution Amendment” is on the ballot, Nov. 8, as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. A “yes” vote supports amending the Kentucky Constitution to state that nothing in the state constitution creates a right to abortion or requires government funding for abortion.

These upcoming legal and political decisions make it even more important for people to pray, reflect and be a voice for the unborn.

“It makes it the more important that we participate in our local governments; that we make our values known to our neighbors; that people see the reasonableness of our faith,” said Bishop Iffert.

It’s important, he said, that “people see the thinking behind protecting life; that people understand that we believe that every life is a gift from God — given for the benefit of the common good — and that every time a life is cut short, every time a life is taken, that somehow, we lose something that is necessary for life together. We lose a gift that God has given us.”

**Day of Prayer and Penance for Life**

In solidarity with the pilgrims who are travelling to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., Bishop John Iffert has called for a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life, Jan. 21, throughout the Diocese of Covington.

Each church is to be open for prayer and to schedule at least one hour of Eucharistic adoration. Eucharistic adoration hours will be published in next week’s Jan. 14 Messenger.

**Holy Hour Locations**

Bishop Iffert encourages the faithful of the diocese to join together in prayer for a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life, Jan. 21, 7 p.m. Ten parishes throughout the diocese have been designated.

**Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington**

Blessed Sacrament Church, Fort Mitchell

Divine Mercy, Bellevue

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Burlington

St. Edward, Alexandria

St. Patrick Church, Maysville

St. Patrick Church, Taylor Mill

St. Paul, Florence
CareNet Pregnancy Center: a ministry of compassion

Tom Ziegler
Staff Writer

CareNet Pregnancy Center — founded in 1975 — is a Christ-centered organization to educate, support and empower men and women before, during and after an unplanned pregnancy while uplifting the sanctity of human life. This nonprofit organization empowers men and women considering abortion to choose life for their unborn children and find abundant life in Christ.

“I feel that the whole success of saving lives revolves around if the people who are serving them are engaged,” said Lyndi Zembrodt, executive director, when describing her volunteer staff.

CareNet Pregnancy Center is one of three local life-affirming organizations that will be honored at the upcoming Life’s a Ball hosted by the diocesan Pro-Life Office. Life’s a Ball will be held Feb. 12 at the Airport Marriott, Hebron. Tickets are available by calling Faye Roch, director, Pro-Life Office at (859) 392-1500. The other two honorees are New Hope Pregnancy Center and Rose Garden Home Mission, Covington.

“Every client that comes in receives the same information,” said Ms. Zembrodt.

CareNet’s staff is dedicated to educating, supporting and empowering men and women while protecting the sanctity of life. (above) CareNet staff, Covington. Ms. Zembrodt said.

It is important, she said, to use the sourced medical information to make sure moms understand the medical aspects of every option. CareNet also provides a free ultrasound to allow moms to determine where they are in their pregnancy.

“Education is our greatest tool, because once people are truly informed, 90 percent of people will not choose abortion,” Ms. Zembrodt said. “If we can do the things like pay for an obstetrical ultrasound. CareNet is funded entirely by donations and, Ms. Zembrodt said, “the community support demonstrates that they want us here.”

That support has allowed CareNet to be one of the most accessible organizations in Northern Kentucky offering a 24-hour help line for those in need.

“If they call us one of our staff will answer that phone and take care of their need,” Ms. Zembrodt said.

CareNet does acknowledge that women do sometimes choose abortion and some have had a previous abortion. Ms. Zembrodt described this work as the business of compassion.

“We understand that there are women who have chosen abortion and we want to reconnect them to God, we want them to accept the forgiveness that he has to offer.” Ms. Zembrodt said.

CareNet offers 19 different programs to help couples with not only the pregnancy but also parenthood and their relationship with each other.

Ms. Zembrodt has been working at CareNet for 15 years and has been active 38 years in pro-life ministry

“I don’t get tired of it because of the fact that I get to see people overcome and become great parents,” Ms. Zembrodt said.

Cost $70 per person.
Contact Faye Roch, director, Pro-Life Office (859) 392-1500, froch@covdio.org

Information provided to couples includes an explanation on fetal development and the development of their child based on the time of pregnancy.

“We do have to answer questions like ‘What type of abortion is available to me?’ With that we delve into our sourced medical information about what each abortion option does,” Ms. Zembrodt said.

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CareNet’s staff is dedicated to educating, supporting and empowering men and women while protecting the sanctity of life. (above) CareNet staff, Covington.

Google ads that offer a free service, such as an ultrasound to determine their gestational age, and they come in our doors where we are able to offer them service, they will choose life 90 percent of the time.

Ms. Zembrodt said offering parenting education is her favorite part of her job.

“My favorite program is the Fatherhood Program because it is so cool to see a guy start to bond with his unborn baby.” Ms. Zembrodt said, explaining that fatherhood does start before the child is born.

CareNet’s vision is a culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and an abundant life for their families.

The organization currently has three locations: Cold Spring, Florence, and Williamsport.

“Two of the three are medical and Williamsport is going medical in January so we are very blessed,” said Ms. Zembrodt.

CareNet’s staff has expanded from 12 to 17 in the last year. They offer an internal training program for their RN’s to gain the skills of limiting and ending pregnancy.
Spiritual ecumenism—the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” is a traditional period for common prayer in the intention of Christian unity. This privileged time of eight days of intensified prayer for the restoration of Church unity is customarily observed from January 18 through January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Although the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” has been celebrated intentionally since the 1860s, such was not always the case. Widespread observance was not reached until the mid-20th century. Historically Father Paul Couturier (d. 1953) in the United States and Abbe Paul Couturier (d. 1903) in France were the two principal ecumenical pioneers who are associated with the creation of this contemporary ecumenical movement. The year 2008 marked the one-hundredth anniversary of this important movement of ecumenical prayer. Father Paul Couturier, his originator in the U.S., had implemented the first observance in 1908. Known initially as “the Church Unity Octave,” the practice was later named “the Chair of Unity Octave.”

As Episcopalians, Father Wattson and Mother Lurana Couturier (1891-1953), taught. “We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him” (Mt. 2:2) is the theme for the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was selected by the Middle Eastern Council of Churches and originates from the churches in Lebanon.

The theme is the Epiphany when the Church recalls the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, highlighting God’s invitation to all of humanity to a new encounter in the Incarnation of Christ. In the Eastern Churches, Epiphany is joined to the mystery of the Baptism of Christ, a baptism all Christians hold in common as testimony to their faith in the Son of God.

—Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute

Msgr. Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episcopal liaison to the Messenger and theologian in residence at Thomas More University.

Commentary

“Prayer in common is recommended for Catholics and other Christians so that together they may put before God the effects of poverty, hunger and violence, etc. The same Christians so that together they may put before God the experience of the unity already binding Christians together in a real, albeit imperfect communion. For this reason, “Ut Unum Sum” beseeches prayer for unity “to gain the courage to face all the painful human reality of their divisions, and they will find themselves together once more in that community of the Church which Christ constantly builds up in the Holy Spirit, in spite of weaknesses and human limitations.” (UUS, n. 22)

In addition, common prayer enables those who regularly gather before Christ in prayer “to gather together in the Holy Spirit for the service of the Christian mission and credibility.” Through common prayer for unity, brothers and sisters in Christ, still separated from full communion, encounter Christ in a way that instills hope, “entrusting to him the future of their unity and their community.” (UUS, n. 26)

In the “Exhortation,” the concluding section of “Ut Unum Sum,” St. John Paul II summons the Church to ask the Holy Spirit and for the grace of unity. “Let us make it grow towards full communion with other Christians.” (UUS, n. 102)

The means to obtain the grace for Christian unity are threefold. Prayer holds the first place in seeking the grace for unity. Giving thanks is an essential aspect of that prayer. Finally, hope in the Holy Spirit is integral to that process because the Spirit “can banish from us the painful memories of our separation” as well as being able to gift us with “clear sightedness, strength, and courage to take whatever steps are necessary that our commitment may be ever more authentic.” (UUS, n. 102)

With clarity and conviction St. John Paul II asserted that the Church’s common prayer in unity expresses the unity unity reflects that “the Holy Spirit is active in this endeavor and that he is leading the Church to the full realization of the Father’s plan, in such a way that we may make it grow towards full communion with other Christians.” (UUS, n. 102)

Ecumenical initiatives are a call to realize the will of Christ for unity: “This will was expressed with heartfelt urgency in the prayer, which, according to the Fourth Gospel, is uttered at the moment when he entered upon the saving mystery of his Passover. Just as he did then, today too Christ calls everyone to renew their commitment to work for full and visible communion.” (UUS, n. 100)

Msgr. Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episcopal liaison to the Messenger and theologian in residence at Thomas More University.
GO AND GLORIFY

Father Gregory Bach

At the origins of our universe — Jesus and the Big Bang

Recently NASA launched the James Webb Space Telescope into space, the biggest and most expensive telescope ever built. It will take six months for it to travel a million miles from the earth to a permanent place in space, and then start transmitting pictures back to earth. Those pictures will be so much as never before seen.

The hope is that it will enable us to see much farther into space than we’ve ever seen before, ideally to the very ends of our still expanding universe, right to the first particles that issued forth from the original explosion — the Big Bang — that began time and our universe.

Scientists estimate that our universe began 13.8 billion years ago. As far as we know, prior to that there was nothing in existence, so we understand that today (except for God), Then, out of this seeming nothingness, there was an explosion (the Big Bang) out of which everything in the universe, including our planet was formed.

As with any explosion, the parts that were the most intimately intertwined with the erupting force are those driven furthest away. Thus, when scientists try to determine the cause of an explosion they are particularly interested in finding and examining those pieces that were most closely tied to the original force of the explosion, and generally those pieces have been blown furthest away.

The force of the Big Bang is still going on and those parts of our universe that were most intimately intertwined with its beginnings are still being driven farther and further into space. Scientists are investigators, probing that original explosion. What the James Webb Space Telescope hopes to see is some of those original parts from that unimaginable explosion that gave birth to our universe because these parts were thrown very, very far away, at the origins of everything that exists. By seeing and examining them, science hopes to better understand the origins of our universe.

Looking at the excitement scientists feel around this new telescope and their hopes that it will show us pictures of particles from the beginning of the universe, can help us understand why the Evangelist, John, has trouble restraining his enthusiasm when he talks about Jesus in his first Epistle. He is excited about Jesus because, among other things, Jesus was there at the beginnings of the universe and indeed at the beginnings of everything.

For John, Jesus is a mystical telescope through which we see the origins of our universe. Jesus is a mystical telescope through which we might view that primordial explosion that created the universe, since he was there when it happened.

It’s a New Year

well that it’s time of year again when people start their pursuit of New Year’s resolutions. By the time this is published, most of us have already broken those resolutions. The reasons why we fail are pretty simple: people reason why. For the most part, resolutions don’t work. In fact, they tend to set us up for failure as opposed to success. I’ve learned that the hard way, so I stopped making them quite a number of years ago. It’s a good thing because events like COVID will ruin anybody’s chance of success.

Years ago, when I was in the fitness business, I would see people come into the gym at the beginning of the year and tell me they are going to get in shape this year. I probably shouldn’t have, but I reminded them already they had a shape. It might not be the one they want but I needed more clarity from them to help define what they were looking to accomplish. I can tell you for a fact that those who didn’t start with a clear plan were destined to fail. They would work out, they would exercise, they would do a little this, do a little that. They would work for the Olympics only to burn out two to three weeks later. Instead, I tried to teach them a system that seemed to work for me.

I use an acronym, even to this day called A.C.T. That means assess, challenge and trust. It works if done properly. The first step is to assess where we are in our life. It might be related to fitness, but it also might be related to our marriage, our faith life or our career path. The key to assessment is to be honest with yourself. It doesn’t work if we don’t look closely at where our life is heading and where we want to go.

If we’re honest with ourselves, we’ll discover that we can always do better. This is especially true in our faith walk. If I want to draw closer to God, closer to the life I’m called to live, then I must be willing to accept my shortcomings and strive to discover how to move closer to the will of God in my life.

Challenge means to look at the way we see things and try to find a more efficient way to accomplish what I’m seeking. In the example of faith, it doesn’t mean I challenge God or the Church. It means that I am challenging myself to more clearly understand how God through his Church helps me to be. That requires time dedicated to prayer, Scripture study and knowing more deeply the teachings of the Church. It turns the focus on me to get better; to strengthen in my faith and to acknowledge my failures. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is so critical in the process because it helps clear the hurdles that keep me from achieving the progress I want.

Trust is the lynchpin in all of this. If I place my full trust in God, I will be moving forward and that is the critical measure of success. To get further down the path I want to go means that I am moving in the right direction. It doesn’t mean I’ll ever fully accomplish what I hope in this life, but it will get me a lot closer than when I started.

I also must trust myself in that I am making the right effort to move forward. Yes, I will fail at times, but failure doesn’t constitute the final outcome. I lose it if I pack myself up and keep striving to be the best I can be. We are created in the image and likeness of God and that...
January

Bishop Roger Foys and Dale Henson, diocesan chief financial officer, release the diocesan annual report for year ending June 30, 2020.

After three weeks of virtual learning mandated by Governor Andy Beshear, students return to the classroom. Increased student cases sent two classrooms at two schools back to virtual learning and classes among faculty sent two schools back to virtual learning.

Bishop Foys and Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools, meet with principals to share information on COVID-19. The CDC and KSMD begin to offer a 7-day and 10-day quarantine option for close contacts.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky supports bills promoting Education Opportunity Accounts in the upcoming General Assembly.

Catholic schools resume in-person classes for prospective students and their parents.

St. Anne Retreat Center begins to host retreats again since criminal justice and school choice at General Assembly.

A vehicle crashes into the front window of the Rose Garden Home Mission Center for Hope and Healing, Covington. The Center was closed at the time of the crash. Damage was sustained to the reception area leaving the clinical areas intact, allowing the Center to reopen after only one day of cleanup.

Jubilarians for 2021

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February

Bishop Foys celebrates Catholic Schools Week Mass at the Cathedral with a small contingent of school representatives; the Mass was livestreamed into classrooms. In his homily Bishop Foys acknowledged and thanked the school communities for navigating the changes brought on by the pandemic—"in person and virtual classrooms, parents being asked to assist with learning at home, but he said, "Our Catholic schools have not changed because the faith has not changed. If we are rooted in the faith, such as this will make us even stronger in the faith because they will bring us together. It is our faith that can sustain us in any crisis. It is as looking to the Lord and holding onto our faith that we can make a difference; that we can accept whatever comes."

Bishop Michael Comer begins an eight-week video series "Beguiling to Pray"

February 1

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul opens a food pantry in Campbell County on Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights. Neighbors Church of Christ was unable to open the pantry in April. 2021 DPD kicks off at parishes with a goal of $2.6 million.

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, the report that 25 of the 38 sisters at the monastery have tested positive for COVID-19 with three sisters dying; the Sisters of Notre Dame report two COVID cases resulting in the entire St. Joseph Heights community to quarantine; the Franciscan Daughters of Mary report that all six nuns have recovered from COVID, suspending operations at The Rose Garden Home Mission from Jan. 7 through Jan. 28.

Bishop Foys installs 16 candidates for the permanent diaconate to the ministry of acolytes, Feb. 7 — 13 from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati; three from the Diocese of Covington; Kevin Cramer, Adam Fransauer, and Eric Ritchie. A Boone County juvenile is arrested after making a threat of violence, Feb. 17, against Holy Trinity School, Bellevue. Law enforcement increased its presence around the school campus and officials investigating determined that the school was not in any danger.

Feb. 17-21, nearly all Catholic school personnel in the Diocese of Covington who had received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, Jan. 28-31. St. Edward School in Harrison County received vaccinations Jan. 26 and in Mason County. St. Patrick School personnel received theirs Jan. 21. "I am so grateful that our school personnel and those associated with our schools were able to receive the much anticipated vac- cans," said Bishop Foys. "I am likewise grateful to our St. Elizabeth Hospital for making the experience so positive and for their pro- fessionalism. We are so blessed to have a health-care facility like St. Elizabeth."

Vaccinating school personal is Phase 1B of Gov. Beshear’s plan to dis- tribute vaccines to Kentuckians and an important effort to safely maintain in-person instruction.

Bishop Foys and Kendra McGuire, superintendent of Schools, meets with the Diocese of Covington’s collection of the year. The Cardinal calls to us now, in this time and in this day; to once again go into the desert where we can hear His voice. His call in each one of us. We can, if we choose, can choose what really matters most in our lives, what we truly cherish, what is important.

Feb. 17-21, nearly all Catholic school personnel in the Diocese of Covington were vaccinated.

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Cathedral’s façade.

holy water at the blessing and dedication of the

sin and the bond of death,” through Christ’s death and resurre

Bishop Foys celebrates the Sacred Triduum at the

Child Abuse Prevention Month events are suspended; parishes may resume in-person meetings and prayer groups; processional and recessional and greeting pastor after Mass all return; masks and social distancing continue. Additionally, parishes may resume in-person meetings and prayer groups; vaccinated Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may visit homebound — all with safety protocol of mask wearing. Society of St. Vincent de Paul celebrates the blessing and opening of its Highland Heights thrift store, the society's fourth in NKY.

Bishop Foys blesses the Serra Club for Vocations Server Awards; the awards will be distributed at parishes again this year.

Kendra McGuire announces that graduations will be in-person this year, with protocols.

Thomas More University Institute for Religious Liberty hosts a virtual speaking event with Dr. Paul Gaston on the topic, “Reclaiming the ‘Publick Happiness,’ America’s Higher Education Legacy.”

Villa Madonna Academy celebrates Pam McQuinn for her 25 years as principal.

Stephen Enzweiler investigates “What happened to Pontius Pilate after the crucifixion?”

St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, uses DPAA rebate to restore church’s stained-glass windows.

Father Hainsey uncovers the etymology of the name “Joseph.”

The annual Scouting Awards are again this year distributed to Scout leaders so that scouts can be awarded at their parish. Scouts are recognized in the Messenger.

Father Eric Boelescher, pastor, blesses and dedicates the new playground at St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs.

Official assignments

Father Jordan Hainsey to Custos of the Holy Relics of the Diocese of Covington.

Deacon Brian Con, Sr. to Chaplain, Knights of Columbus Council, Northern Kentucky University.

Deacon A.J. Gedney to St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, John Baumann to St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring; Michael Emlinger to St. Paul Parish, Florence; Justin Schwartz to St. Augustine Parish, Covington; Joshua Heskamp to St. Timothy Parish, Union; Brandon Whitley to St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright; Michael Schulte to Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell; Henry Bischoff to St. Pius X Parish, Burlington; Zacharias Schoen to Immaculate Heart of Mary and Chaste Heart of Joseph.

The Pro-Life Office announces winners of its annual Pro-Life Essay Contest: Maddy Kring, Villa Madonna Academy High School, Villa Hills, is awarded first place for her essay on marriage, encourage and enable families to become active participants in leading the diocesan effort by providing practical, spiritual and formational resources and events to accompany families.

The diocesan Pro-Life Office begins to implement the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “Walking With Moms in Need” initiative asking parishes to complete a simple inventory of resources currently available in their local area, identify gaps, and plan and implement a parish response.

Year of St. Joseph feature: Father Hainsey explains the devotion to the “Three hearts” — Sacred Heart of Jesus, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Chaste Heart of Joseph.

Villa Madonna Academy kicks off its “Treasure Our Tradition, Transform Our Future” capital campaign for the renovation and restoration of two buildings — the historic Center Building and its Main Building.

In his apostolic letter “Antiquum Ministerium” Pope Francis institutes the “ministry of catechist.” Bishop Foys explains what this means for the Church and the Diocese of Covington.

Bishop Foys, Msgr. Gerald Reinsemann, pastoral administra
tor; Dan Ridder, principal; and the school community celebra
ted the blessing and dedication of the Bishop Brossart High School Marian Meditation Garden at the Mustang Athletic Complex.

Gov. Beshear lifts the mask and social distancing mandates for fully vaccinated persons; consequently, Bishop Foys lifts masking and social distancing for Massgoers.

Bishop Foys celebrates the Thomas More University has calaverate Mass killing off the 2021 graduation season. “Our life is a series of new beginnings and the Lord gives us the grace to begin again — always to begin again,” he said.

On the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, Bishop Foys message for the Year of the Family, “we must renew our efforts to announce the precious value of the sacrament of marriage, encourage and enable families to become active agents of the Gospel in society and stress the importance of formation in the truth of love and in the gift of self to people of all ages,” charging the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization to lead the diocesan effort by providing practical, spiritual and formational resources and events to accompany families. On the solemnity of Pentecost, Bishop Foys confers the sacrament of confirmation on 21 candidates from parishes across the diocese.

Madonna Manor breaks ground for its latest expansion, two

(Covered on page 10)
As we begin this new year, I thank God for each of you and to His Apostles and which we endeavor to carry out each day. It is that faith and love that sustains the Church. We invest each of you has for the kingdom of God here on Earth. Thank you for that faithful example!

The Diocese of Covington and the related affiliates. An unmodified opinion that the statements fairly present, in all material respects, the financial position of the Diocese of Covington are audited by the certified public accounting firm. During this past fiscal year, total revenues increased from the prior year by 5 percent. This was mostly due increased investment returns experienced during the current economic market. Total expenses decreased by 7.4 percent, primarily due to decreases in programmatically Curry and the related affiliates. The financial information presented herein includes the Diocese of Covington Curia offices which are fiscally responsible to, and under the direct control of, the Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. This includes the central administrative offices, program offices and departments of the Diocese. This includes the central administrative offices, program offices and departments of the Diocese.

January 7, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I give thanks to God for you and for your continued support of the Church. It is generous support that makes parish ministries possible and enables the Diocese to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of all God’s people.

I want to affirm that professionalism and good stewardship are the cornerstones of our fiscal responsibility. It is with this in mind that we present our financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

The Diocesan Finance Council has reviewed and accepted the financial statements. It is our turn to review these statements for you.

Our fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. This is when the financial activities of the Diocese are audited by an independent public accounting firm. The financial audit is an annual process to ensure that the Diocese’s financial statements are free from material error. The financial audit is an annual process to ensure that the Diocese’s financial statements are free from material error.

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brownstones to accommodate an additional 48 independent living residences.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul begins its Summer Breeze program providing fans and air conditioners for the medically vulnerable.

TMU student, Olivia Staverman, begins a summer missionary internship in Angleton, Texas, with Adore Ministries.


Year of St. Joseph: Father Hainsey reflects on St. Joseph as patron of Happy Death in the Messenger’s grief supplement.

The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization announces the year’s catechetical awardees: Catechetical Leadership Award — Benedictine Sister Eileen O’Connell, Emily Schepel, Kathy Wallenfield, Yvonne Dahms and Maria Humphrey; Outstanding Youth Ministers — Noah Sheeder and Susan Stewart.

The Department of Catholic Schools and Bishop Foys congratulate the Class of 2021; in-person graduations were held for all nine high schools.

Bishop Foys celebrates the annual Memorial Day Mass at St. Stephen Cemetery. “Let us keep in our minds and hearts, first of all, those who gave their very lives so that we might have freedom. Let us also remember our family and friends who have gone before us, commend them to the Lord, pray for them, that one day where they have gone, we will follow,” he said in his homily.

Official assignments

Rev. Michael T. Grady to Board of Directors, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington.

June

The Parish Kitchen opens its doors for in-person dining for the first time since its move in July 2020. Due to the pandemic the Parish Kitchen has been serving grab-and-go lunches since March 2020.

Over 300 people attend the blessing and dedication of the completed façade of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Bishop Foys presided June 6.

The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization launches a website dedicated to the Year of the Family. Parish festivals resume in the Diocese of Covington.

Bishop Foys announces that the dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass will be lifted Saturday, 12 June 2021.

Two temporary exhibits: “Speaking for Centuries” a series of images with accompanying narrative journeying through the construction of the Cathedral at St. Mary’s Park; and “Maes: The Builder” a display of personal effects belong to Bishop Maes at the Maes Chapel inside the Cathedral Basilica, open for viewing June 1 through 10.

For The Year of the Family Isaac Isaak, co-director Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, reflects on the importance of families talking about the faith.

Bishop Foys and the priests of the diocese gather to celebrate the 2020 and 2021 jubilarians.

Father Ross Kelsch is installed pastor at St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas.

Several Curia employees retire after decades of service: Tom Ward, archivist; Margaret Shack, director, Safe Environment Office; Monica Wannam, editorial assistant, Messenger; Divine Providence Sister Fran Moore, vicar for Religious; and Clare Quigley, executive secretary, Chancery.

Father Daniel Schomaker, vicar general, accepts a ceremonial check from Gov. Beshear for highway safety project benefitting BBHS and St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright.

Official assignments

Rev. Eric L. Andriot to leave of absence

Rev. A. Conor Kunath to Vocation promoter, Diocese of Covington

Rev. Joseph C. Riada to parochial vicar, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood

Rev. Jacob R. Strum to part-time instructor, Covington Latin School

Rev. A. Conor Kunath to chaplain, Serra Club of Northern Kentucky

Rev. Raymond Rzewieler to full-time faculty, Thomas More University

Rev. Ross Kelsch to pastor, St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas

Rev. Conner Kunath to parochial administrator, St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill

Juan Aviles to Development Advisory Board, ACUE

Obituaries

Father Clarence Heitzman, June 8

Notre Dame Sister Marjorie Ann Thiel, June 29
The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is broadcast locally on The CW, Sundays, noon to 1 p.m. Viewers can tune in on the following channels: antenna 12.2; Spectrum 117 or 25; Cincinnati Bell 17 or 517; and DirecTV 25.

The NKU Catholic Newman Club Knights of Columbus have weekly meetings Tuesdays, 6 p.m., at the Newman Center. Contact manzos1@mymail.nku.edu if you’re a Catholic man interested in joining.

Do you have family or a friend in jail or prison? Are you looking for a safe, welcoming community where you will be accepted without judgement? Come to Catholic Charities, Latonia, the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Questions, contact Dave Capella at dcapella@covingtoncharities.org or (859) 581-8974 ext. 117.

Come and celebrate first Friday Mass at Bishop Brossart High School, Jan. 7, 6:45 a.m. in the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel.

Children’s Messiah Choir Concert featuring choirs from Prince of Peace Catholic Montessori and St. Cecilia Schools; free and open to the public, Jan. 8-9, 2 p.m., St. Oecilia Church, Independence and Jan. 9, 9 p.m., St. John Church, Covington.

Our Lady of Providence alumnae are invited to attend the Newport Central Catholic girls varsity basketball game versus Highlands High School, Jan. 14, 7:00 p.m. Free admission, free t-shirt (while supplies last) for ANDP/OLP Alumnae. RSVP at www.ncchs.com/news.

Martin Luther King Discussion Breakfast. Our Savior Church, Covington, Jan. 15, 9:30-11:45 a.m. Call 491-5872.

The Pro-Life Office is organizing a trip to Washington, D.C., for the Annual March for Life, which will take place Jan. 21. Included in the trip is round-trip airfare, one night’s hotel accommodation and ground transportation to and from the airport and hotel. Limited seating available. Depart late morning, Jan. 20, return evening Jan. 21. Cost per person, double occupancy room is $412. Rooms are also available for those providing their own transportation. The Marriott Metro Center is located centrally in downtown Washington, D.C. Cost of room: $210. Limited availability. Contact Peggy Piccola in the Pro-Life office, at 392-1500 or ppiccola@covdio.org.

Newport Central Catholic High School inducts its twenty-first class of inductees to Athletic Hall of Fame: Michelle Bowman Atallah ’08, Danielle Hausfeld ’11, Eric Gearding ’86, Jake Giesler ’11, Terry Mann ’66, Jeff Martin ’81, Courtney Sandfoss ’10, and Jeff Smith ’02. Also honored “Teams of Distinction” 2009, 2010 & 2011 Girls State Champion Track Teams. Ceremony is Feb 19, 2022 in the Newport Central Catholic Gymnasium. Social hour at 6 PM, dinner and the induction ceremony at 7 PM. $20.00 cost and reservations and payment will be accepted prior to Feb 11. For more information contact the NCC School Office at (859) 292-0001.

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January 7, 2022

It's a New Year
(Continued from page 3)

means we are all called to be authentic to that image and likeness, to be fully human and acknowledging that all gifts come from God.

A.C.T. is not a once-a-year tool to be used. We should use it every day as a means of assessing where we are in our journey. It is somewhat of an Ignatian way of thinking. Assessing each day and measuring it against where we want to go. Those using this tool to improve their physical well being, tend to take the longer-term view of how they are going to achieve the results they want. You can’t make up 20 or 30 years of bad living in a couple of months. The goal is to never stop improving. I used to tell people in the gym that the goal is to never have to start from ground zero again. That same thing is true in our faith journey.

I would encourage you to try A.C.T. this new year. It does work if you do it with honesty and integrity. Be true to yourself whether you’re trying to get better at faith, fitness, family or career. But remember, it’s a lifetime journey. Assess where you want to go, challenge yourself to get there and trust in God and yourself that you can achieve all you want for your life. May God bless you this year with an abundant year of grace, peace and joy.

Deacon David Profitt is director of the St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne and is assigned to Holy Spirit Parish, Newport.

It’s a New Year
(Continued from page 9)

HOUSE CLEANING
Isn’t it time you come clean? We don’t cut corners, we clean them. Insured and bonded. Discount for senior citizens and first-time clients. Call (859) 760-6408.

EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION
Now hiring full-time reservationist 2nd shift
From $15.00/hr (Salary based on experience. No experience required.)
Reservationist job tasks include: Answer phone calls and emails from clients while providing them with superior customer service. Communicate clearly and accurately with clients, managers, Dispatchers and teammates. Giving clear directions when needed. Input all trip details into reservations in a timely manner.

Skills Required: Organization, Multi-Tasking, Clear and Strong Verbal and Writing Skills, Customer Service Motivated

Apply at www.executivetransportation.org/careers or 1810 Monmouth St. Newport, KY 41071.

GOOD JOB REMODELING LLC and Handyman
Now accepting small to large jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and Insured.
Call Steven at (859) 801-9925.

Music Director
St. Catherine of Siena parish in Ft. Thomas. 3 Masses per weekend and other occasional services such as holy days, penance services, etc. Must be a good general musician, have good vocal and keyboard skills (prefer organ and piano), and be able to direct our adult and children’s choirs. Familiar with the Catholic liturgy, or be willing to be educated in it. Please direct inquiries or resumes to Fr. Stef Bankemper, at 1803 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, 41075, or e-mail to sjbankemper@stcatherineofsiena.org.

SCHOOLS
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Covington are seeking to fill a number of immediate openings. These include classroom teachers, counselors, instructional aides, and substitute teachers. Many positions need to be filled beginning in January through the end of the 2021-22 school year. Visit the “Employment” page on the Diocesan website, under “Teacher Openings” and “School-Related Openings” to view the postings and for information on how to apply:www.covdio.org/schools/employment

Now hiring full-time reservationist 2nd shift
From $15.00/hr (Salary based on experience. No experience required.)
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Skills Required: Organization, Multi-Tasking, Clear and Strong Verbal and Writing Skills, Customer Service Motivated

Apply at www.executivetransportation.org/careers or 1810 Monmouth St. Newport, KY 41071.

CAREGIVER FOR HIRE
Caregiver for your loved one’s needs. Graduate of Mount St. Joseph College with 17 years experience specializing in elder care. If you need a break from caregiving please contact Angie Garrison. $18 per hour / min. 25 hrs week. References and police check available.
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

GUNDERES CONCRETE & MASONRY
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Messenger advertisement since 1963.

PRINCIPAL
Saint Mary Academy (SMA), a National Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence in Louisville, KY, is searching for an experienced Catholic principal for the 2022/2023 academic year. A parish ministry of Saint Bernadette, SMA seeks to build a foundation for lifelong learning by opening hearts to faith, minds to knowledge, hands to service, and eyes to the world so as to achieve extraordinary lives. We are a growing Catholic school community with strong parental support. Our current enrollment is 490 students from Pre-school through eighth grade.

Inquiries and resumes may be sent to Principalsearch@saintmaryacademy.com.
The deadline for applications is January 21, 2022.

ASSEMBLER
A small company in Florence, KY with more than 30 years’ experience producing medical products for veterinarians is seeking workers for permanent part-time or permanent fulltime positions, up to 40 hours per week. This production position involves the assembly and packaging of lightweight items in a clean room environment. Candidate must be detail oriented, able to handle small parts, and dependable.
Please email resume or work history to Renee Murphy at Renee.Murphy@milaint.com

Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 392-1500

COLLISION TECHNICIAN
is hiring for professionals in the installation department for blinds, closets & garage flooring. Regular hours starting at 9AM to approx. 5:30 PM, Mon-Fri. Salary is based on experience. Range of salary is $32-$57/hr. Pay increase after probationary period and an insurance stipend, dental & a bonus in December after employees first full year of employment. Position requires the ability to lift, move & install products up to 50lbs. Must be able to operate small hand tools. Training of installation processes are provided. Valid driver’s license and a good driving record a plus. Drug testing required. Interested candidates are to call extension 2 at (859) 488-0078, at any time. Please leave a message with your name and number, if no one answers calls will be returned.

Budget Blinds & Tailored Living

2021-22 school year. Visit the “Employment” page on the Diocesan website, under “Teacher Openings” and “School-Related Openings” to view the postings and for information on how to apply:www.covdio.org/schools/employment

Call (513) 221-5600, ext. 0241

SCHOOLS
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Covington are seeking to fill a number of immediate openings. These include classroom teachers, counselors, instructional aides, and substitute teachers. Many positions need to be filled beginning in January through the end of the 2021-22 school year. Visit the “Employment” page on the Diocesan website, under “Teacher Openings” and “School-Related Openings” to view the postings and for information on how to apply:www.covdio.org/schools/employment
July

July 1 marks the official retirement date of three principals: Ron Dawson, NOCHS; Nancy Maraco, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington; and Dan Ritter, BHSHS.

A Year of the Family: The Family Office of Catechesis and evangelization focuses on grandparents and the Church’s first upcoming celebration of “World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.”

The first in a series on youth ministry in the diocese by junior correspondent Emilie Zengel focuses on St. Mary Parish, Alexandria.

Bishop Foys celebrates Mass opening the Year of the Family, July 10, in the Diocese of Covington. “Families are precious to the Lord,” Bishop Foys said in his homily. “Jesus … born in a family so that, in his humanity, could experience the love of a mother and a father in a family.”

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announces, July 12, that Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Foys and has appointed Father John C. Iffert, from the Diocese of Belleville, United States, announces, July 12, that Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Foys and has appointed Father John C. Iffert, from the Diocese of Belleville, Covington’s 12th bishop. A press conference introducing Bishop-elect Iffert to the Diocese of Covington is held. Bishop Foys is appointed apostolic administrator of the diocese.

The second in the series on Youth Ministry highlights the St. Agnes Parish Youth Group. St. Charles Community celebrates 60 years of faithful care to children and children.

By motu proprio Pope Francis restores limits on the celebration of the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite Mass (aka Tridentine Mass) to designated parishes.

Final feature by Emilie Zengel shows how through sports and social outreach initiatives, the Diocese of Covington and Covington’s 12th bishop, Bishop-elect Iffert, can provide a safe environment for children in an age of unbelief.

To begin the school year Bishop Foys commissions 80 new teachers and six new principals: Michael Jacks, St. Catherine of Siena School; Jeanneta Kathman, St. Cecilia School; Claire Therese Henry Prince of Peace School; Theresa Guard; Kim Hauer, St. Thomas School; and Chris Hiltz, Bishop Brossart High School.

Dancing the Rite of Candidacy, Joshua Hochkamp and Justin Schwartz declare their intention to commit themselves to seriously discern a priestly vocation.

Nine seminarians lead to seminaries to begin or continue formation. By executive order, Aug. 10, Gov. Beshear mandates the use of masks for all students and school personnel when indoors for all public and private schools in Ky. The diocese updates its protocols accordingly.

The St. Henry District High School Future Problem Solvers team wins second place at the International Global Issues Problem Solving competition; Eganfanger mayor proclaims Aug. 14 “St. Henry Future Problem Solvers Day.”

At Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, the paternal feast of the Cathedral Basilica, Bishop Foys in his homily that where she has gone, the faithful will follow. (Continued on page 14)

Protecting God’s Children for Adults

For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington who in any way provide a safe environment for children.

Step 1: Contact parish/school institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and request a background check. 

Step 3: Join the virtual VIRUTS session. The day before the session, you will receive an e-mail with 4 documents attached to print. On the day of the session you will receive an invitation to join the session. No children, please.

Step 4: Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRUTS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive a reminder at the system@episcopaldioceseofcincinnati.org unless your computer program blocks them.

BULLETIN:

- January bulletin: posted Sunday, Jan 2, due Tuesday, Feb. 1

If your Virtus account is inactivated please contact your primary location for assistance.

To login: www.virtus.org, enter user id and password.

 VIRUTS Training:

Empowering God’s Children High School Teachers, DRE/CRE’s only

- Tuesday, Jan. 18, 9 a.m.–11 a.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

Elementary School Teachers, DRE/CRE’s only

- Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1 p.m.–3 p.m., Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington

For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 701-2500 or msteffen@dioc-ky.org.

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“The Difference is Love” 111

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Loving, Compassionate Care Sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.
January 7, 2022

Bishop Foys blesses and dedicates a new elevator at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria. “...this is literally a concrete expression of your faith...it’s important that we make provisions for everyone,” he said.

At its August business luncheon, the Serra Club for Vocations Northern Kentucky thanks and celebrates Bishop Foys; their gift to him — bobbleheads of vicar generals Father Ryan Maher and Father Daniel Schomaker.

At their quarterly meeting, the women religious superiors thank Bishop Foys for his years of service and support by making a donation to the Parish Kitchen.

DPAA leadership team celebrates the success of the 2021 DPAA with $3.5 million in gifts and pledges and distributes $260,000 in service grants.

Father Ivan Kalamuzi is installed pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Aug. 21.

At Covington Catholic High School opening school year Mass, Bishop Foys encourages students to reflect on the past, live well the present, and prepare for the future; Bob Rowe, principal, promises Bishop Foys on his retirement and announces a $10k donation in his honor to the Most Rev. Roger J. Foys Scholarship fund.

Mother of God Parish, Covington, celebrates its 150th anniversary, Sept. 12.

In a letter to parents Superintendent McGuire says that following diocesan data leads to mandatory masking in school; asks for prayers for unity and peace so teachers/children can focus on learning.

On Founders Day at Mass at the Cathedral, Sept. 12, TMU kicks-off its yearlong centennial celebration. President Joseph Chillo announces the “Second Century Campaign” and the launch of the 2021-2026 strategic plan — “Lifting the Way.”

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky is part of a new group — the Yes for Life Alliance — that aims to raise awareness and build support for the proposed amendment to Kentucky’s constitution related to abortion.

The Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing earns a top-tier ranking in the Quality Standards Program of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics.

Bishop Foys dedicates and consecrates the Relic Shrine of St. Paul, Aug. 23, located in St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica. Over 300 relics are displayed in the Shrine.

Knights of Columbus Councils of Northern Kentucky donate funds for the purchase of a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine for Care Net Pregnancy Services, Cold Spring.

In recognition for his more than 30 years of service, the SHDHS Athletic Department honors retired principal David Otte by dedicating the gym floor “David M. Otte Court.”

Obituary

Divine Providence Sister Bertha Berling, Aug. 30.
Sister Therese Marie, Oct. 2. witnesses the first vows of Franciscan Daughter of Mary fulfillment.”

Iffert said, “St. Joseph’s vocation is unique, but we all share his call to defend and foster life … exhausting ourselves for the love we free,” he said.

Those things (that hold us prisoner) and claim Christ who sets low him … Calling us to holiness in life so we can let go of all retreat. The weekend ended with Mass celebrated by Bishop Iffert presides at the annual deacon rededication.

The Curia celebrates with Bishop Foys as he prepares for his retirement, in honor they make a donation to the Margaret Cisela Scholarship Fund. “I don’t want this to be a sad thing,” Bishop Foys said about his retirement. “Thank you for your support and all your love.”

Blessed Sacrament School and St. Henry District High School are recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools 2021.

For Pro-Life month and the Year of St. Joseph, Bishop John Iffert said, “St. Joseph’s vocation is unique, but we all share his world.”

His homily that, “God’s mercy can convert the heart of the same light in others. As you do, be assured of one absolute truth . . . ‘There is a light that can overcome the darkness. There is no darkness that can overcome the light,” Bishop Iffert said in his message.

The Department of Catholic Schools host its annual Educational Leadership Conference for principals with speaker Chris McElrath, founder, Protect Young Eyes. The topic is mental health, technology and students. St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, award posthumously for speaker, Father Mario Tiziani, its Cecilian Award and names the gymnasium built under his leadership Father Mario Tiziani Memorial Court.


Obituaries

November
The Messenger recognizes vocations awareness with its annual Vocation Slogan: “Relax, it’s not all on your nature,” he said in his homily. In a letter to Bishop Roger Foyes, and copied to Bishop John Iffert, Stonesthridge Business Partners found the Diocese of Covington “compliant with all noticed Articles with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” for the audit period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

The diocese recognizes couples celebrating milestone wed-ulings anniversaries in 2021. Office of Catechesis and Evangelization initiate the “1000 Prayer Corner Challenge.”

A record crowd of 450 people attend the Seminary Ball. “We are here tonight to help provide for the formation of men who will we send out to parishes and to schools; who will help make possible … the sacrament of matrimony and the mission leader-ship of a Church whose strength and faith is rooted in the era of terror,” said Bishop Iffert as he thanked attendees.

As Halloween approaches, Steve Enarweiler shares the mys-teries behind the Cathedral’s gargoyles and chimera. And what they remind us of our broken nature. TMU Institute for Religious Liberty welcomes David Harris, CEO of the America Jewish Committee to speak the Holocaust. An image of St. Joseph’s Chaste Heart by Leah Patchell, freshman, St. Patrick School, Maysville, is selected by Bishop John Iffert for the cover of the 2021 DPAA Thanksgiving card.

At Mother of God Church, Bishop Iffert celebrates the Red Mass for judicial workers. “Thank you for the time you take to protect the dignity of the human person in everything you do, in every judgment you make,” he said.

At the Cathedral Basilica, Bishop Iffert celebrates a White Mass for healthcare workers. “Thank you for your service, to my family and to the many; many families you serve every day. And of course, in this fire situation — the pandemic — which has cost so many of you so dearly — thank you,” he said.

Bishop Iffert presides at Cemetery Visitations at St. John, St. Mary and St. Stephen Cemeteries honoring and praying for those who died in 2020 and 2021.

School COVID protocols are updated to include a Test to Stay option to help reduce quarantines for close contacts. TMU’s Campus Ministry invites Bishop Iffert for dinner, games and Mass on Halloween night.

Outside’s St. Joseph the Worker Sister Margaret Mary Denise Perez, Oak, 26. Benedictine Sister Rose Rauen, Oct. 21.

OCTOBER
The Messenger dedicates its Oct. 8 edition to introducing young people to the Counter-intui-ction behind the Cathedral’s gargoyles and chimera. and how are here tonight to help provide for the formation of men who will we send out to parishes and to schools; who will help make possible … the sacrament of matrimony and the mission leader-ship of a Church whose strength and faith is rooted in the era of terror,” said Bishop Iffert as he thanked attendees.

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(Continued from page 15)

Garden Mission 16th annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway.

Official Assignment
Rev. A. Conor Kunath to chaplain, Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Couple to Couple League.

Obituaries
Divine Providence Sister Rita Brennan, Nov. 6.

December
The Retirement Fund for Religious collection is held in parishes. Divine Providence Sister Georgia Marie Messing schlager said she is “recycled not retired” about her ministry post-retirement.

David Cooley and Jamie Schroeder welcome parish synod coordinators to training sessions.

A Christmas tree decorated with ornaments made by school children is displayed at St. Mary Park. Bishop Iffert blesses the tree on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Iffert acknowledges employees who have achieved milestone years of service at the annual service award lunch.

Al and Shirley Bricking celebrate 70 years of marriage.

At the priests continuing education day, David Cooley discusses the Synod.

Parts of Western Kentucky in the Diocese of Owensboro are devastated by tornadoes, 77 people die making it the deadliest in Ky; Gov. Beshear declares a state of emergency. President Joe Biden offers federal assistance; Bishop William Medley is heartbroken as he visits two parishes that have been impacted, and Bishop Iffert asks pastors to take up a collection for disaster relief to be sent directly to Bishop Medley for aid.

Cristo Rey Parish celebrates Las Manañitas on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Year of St. Joseph ends, now what? “I think the real takeaway from the Year of St. Joseph is not what new prayers we’ve learned or even what new devotions we’ve discovered … it’s that Joseph’s story can be our story. Or, better yet, is our story.”

When we have faith and trust in God … Jesus can be revealed and manifested to us and in us,” Father Hainsey writes.

In honor of the Year of St. Joseph, American Heritage Girls at St. Timothy Parish earn the St. Joseph Patch.

Bishop Iffert works alongside the Franciscan Daughters of Mary at the Rose Garden Home Mission annual Christmas Toy Giveaway.

The relics of the Holy Family are featured in article on the Relic Shrine of St. Paul.

In his Christmas message, Bishop Iffert said, “At Christmas, the Word of God is born into the world as the light who drives back the darkness of sin and sadness. We are at our holiest and best, when — because of Jesus — we are that light and healing for one another.”

Seminarians home for the holidays gather with Bishop Iffert to celebrate Christmas.

Bishop Iffert celebrates Midnight Mass at the Cathedral.

Seminarians home for Christmas
Bishop John Iffert welcomed the seminarians home for the holidays, Dec. 22, with a Christmas gathering at his residence. Pictured from left are: Justin Schwarz, Michael Elmlinger, John Baumann, Deacon A.J. Gedney, Bishop Iffert, Brad Whittle, Hank Bischoff, Joshua Hoskamp and Michael Schulte.

New Year, New Choices
Prioritize your health in 2022 when you review your Medicare plan options. New plans include a variety of wellness benefits.

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- Grocery gift cards
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- Preventive care

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Chief Operating Officer Kevin P. O’Bryan and his family.