



# CHUCK'S CHATTER



ISSUE 6, October, November, December 2013

[www.stcharlesperu.org](http://www.stcharlesperu.org)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

58 W. 5th Street, Peru, Indiana 46970

Phone: 765-473-5543

**October 5, 2013**

Feast of St. Francis  
Blessing of animals,  
10:00 a.m.

**October 19, 2013**

Euchre & Pinochle Card  
Party, 6:30 a.m.

**October 31, 2013**

Trunk or Treat, 5:00 p.m.

**November 4, 2013**

St. Charles Borromeo  
Feast Day dinner,  
6:00 pm

**November 16, 2013**

Turkey Bingo, 6:00 p.m.

**November 23, 2013**

Euchre & Pinochle Card  
Party, 6:30 p.m.

**November 28, 2013**

Thanksgiving, Mass is at  
9:00 a.m.

**November 29, 2013**

Parish Office Closed

**December 24, 2013**

Christmas Vigil Masses  
at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00  
p.m.

**December 25, 2013**

Christmas Day  
Mass is at 9:00 a.m.

**December 25-27, 2013**

Parish Office closed

**December 31, 2013**

Solemnity of Mary Holy  
Day of Obligation Vigil  
Mass, 5:00 p.m.

## It has truly been a YEAR OF FAITH!

Pope Benedict XVI kicked off the Year of Faith on October 11, 2012 and Pope Francis will close out this historical and important year on the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 24, 2013. It has truly been a momentous celebration of the Anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Second Vatican Council. We have witnessed so many things culturally, economically, and world-wide. We have experienced the changing of the guard in the Seat of St. Peter and the unusual experience of seeing a retired Pope stand beside the current one. We have had countless opportunities to ponder our relationship with God and to grow as Christians. It truly has been a Year of Faith!

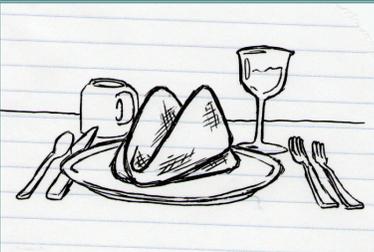
At St. Charles, our life of faith continues to be sparked by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In addition to the many wonderful prayer, study, worship, social, and outreach activities that continually fill our parish calendar — this Year of Faith has promoted involvement in new and exciting ways. It began with a simple letter, refrigerator magnet, and brochure in your homes. Accompanied by the bold banners attached to the pillars and exterior of the Church, we are constantly reminded to place God FIRST!

I was reviewing all that we did to make this truly a different year, and this is what I found: Prayer for Busy People; Catholicism DVD Series; Jesse Tree Outreach to local needy families; Teen involvement in outreach; Vatican 2 Presentations on the Church, the Liturgy, and the Bible; A Lenten Series—Crossing the Desert; Mass in Slow Motion; Children’s Masses; Father’s Day Cookout; Looking Ahead through Strategic Planning; Parishioners inviting their friends and family back to Church; School Cleanup Week; Fireside Chats for Teens & College Students; Catholic Annulment Workshop; Michael O’Brien Concert; and our very own Catholic Vacation Bible School. Every one of these Year of Faith activities was a success — because each of you were a part! And, our faith development never ends. We must keep learning and growing in our relationship with God... with eyes fixed on Eternal Life in Heaven!

As the Year of Faith comes to a close, we have an opportunity to celebrate with other Catholics in this part of our Diocese. Bishop Doherty will offer an “End of the Year of Faith” Mass for the parishes of the Logansport Deanery on **Monday, November 18th at 6:30pm. It will be held at All Saints, Logansport.** If you are able, please plan on attending this special Mass.



**Stay Tuned for SOMETHING SPECIAL in 2014!**  
**St. Charles’ Family Formal Dining Experience**  
 Every registered family will be invited to one!  
**Great food — Great company — Great Experience**  
*After this...*  
**You’ll never look at Mass the same way again!**



## Catholics Returning Home:

Do you know someone who has left the Church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, but we don't know how to help them. Many of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home?

First, we need to pray for them. We need to personally invite them to "Catholics Returning Home" sessions. All six sessions are from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the school building, room 9.

- Session 1: Jan. 15, 2014, Welcome/Overview
- Session 2: Jan. 22, 2014, Sharing Stories of Faith
- Session 3: Jan. 29, 2014, The Church Today
- Session 4: Feb. 5, 2014, Explanation of the Mass
- Session 5: Feb. 12, 2014, Explanation of the Sacrament of Penance
- Session 6: Feb. 19, 2014, What Catholics Believe

These sessions are for nonpracticing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. If you know someone who has left the Church, please invite them to join us. For more information, call Kimberly Hawkins at 765-473-5543.

## YOUTH—YOUTH—YOUTH

There are activities for middle school, high school, and young adults. Please see the weekly bulletin for details.

## TURKEY BINGO



Don't buy your holiday turkey yet! You just might win one at Turkey Bingo!

Join us on Saturday, November 16th at 6:15 p.m. in the school gym.

There will be frozen turkeys as well as many other great prizes to win. You must be **18 years old** to participate in the adult bingo. However it is our intention to have children's bingo, and babysitting if we have enough volunteers. Check the Parish Bulletin for more details.

There will also be a variety of food to purchase during this evening. All proceeds will go to our Parish Interior Building Fund.

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We welcomed many new parishioners: Mary McCormack & John McCormack, Yesenia & Francisco Gonzalez & family, Cinda Elrod & Candice Elrod, Richard, & Margaret Lukas, Kipp & Alexis Arnold, and Shanea Headrick.

We welcomed Adeline Michelle Watkins, Delilah Ann Hagan, and Mary Diane Davis through the waters of baptism.



DO YOU LOVE  
TO PLAY  
PINOCHLE OR  
EUCHRE?

IT'S A  
CARD  
PARTY!!!

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN IN  
THE SCHOOL GYM  
BRING A SNACK TO SHARE!!

Be sure to  
sign up in the  
Parish Office  
the Friday  
before the  
card party  
night.

Play begins  
at 6:30 p.m.  
October 19th  
November 23rd  
January 18th  
February 15th  
March 15th  
April 26th

Walk-ins  
will be  
accepted if  
there is an  
open space.

You are cordially invited to our  
*Epiphany Brunch*  
Sunday, January 5, 2014  
Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass  
In the school gym!  
*Please mark your calendars!*

Do you want to know more about the  
ministries our Parish has to offer?

January 5th  
10:00 a.m.  
School gym

Parishioners will be able to stop  
at the various tables and discuss  
ministries more in depth with  
other  
parishioners.

Start the new year out  
practicing your stewardship  
by sharing your gifts of time  
and talent.



# "LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME"

When Jesus said, "Let the children come to me," there is no doubt, he meant ALL children. For families with a special needs child, it can be a challenge to heed Jesus' command. It can also be a challenge for parishioners to know how to embrace a family that is different than the "norm." There are several such families in our parish, and we would like to highlight one of them. The key to understanding special persons is often in coming to know them and their special needs, and to appreciate their strengths.

Mary Jo Fritz was born and raised in Peru. She went to St. Charles Borromeo Church as a child and attended the school, as well. In high school she met her future husband, Rick Glassburn. After graduation, they kept in contact even though each moved away from Peru: Mary Jo to Indianapolis, and Rick to Terre Haute to attend ISU. Eventually, both ended up in Indianapolis. It was after Rick graduated ISU that he was drawn to the Catholic faith, and he converted in 1984. They married in 1988 and moved back to Peru in 1990 because they thought it would be a great place to raise their children.

The Glassburn's first son, Richard Evan, was born on January 1, 1991. Evan also attended St. Charles School. Then on May 24, 1994, their second son, Austin, made his entrance into the world. They noticed early that things were very different with Austin. He was delayed in achieving many of the normal milestones, from sitting up, to learning how to talk. The doctors had no answers for them until May of 1997 when they took him to Riley Hospital. The diagnosis: Autism. They were devastated. Yet, when life brought them to their knees, they found that that was where they needed to stay. They realized that it was only God's grace that would give them the faith and hope they needed to raise their special son. Attending Mass each week has always been important and it gives them the love and strength they need to embrace their challenges.

Austin enjoys many different kinds of activities. He loves watching Disney movies, bowling, music, concerts, video games, riding his three-wheel bike, swimming, and watching and playing (in the Challenger League) baseball, among other things. Austin also loves EWTN, especially when Mother Angelica prays the rosary, and he will often kneel in front of the TV when Mass is being offered.

Because Austin doesn't talk, many of his other senses have become more acute, so he is often bothered by things like bright lights, loud noises, and touching or being touched. He also likes doing things with repetitive motions. How does this translate to his behaviors at Mass? Sometimes Austin hums or claps, although the Glassburns try to repress these behaviors in church. Little noises may annoy him because he is unable to filter them out like most people. Therefore, things like gum cracking or someone jingling change in their pocket may cause him to cover his ears. He loves turning the pages of the Hymnal, and may do so during the entire Mass.

**Continued on page 4**

## Ministry Reports

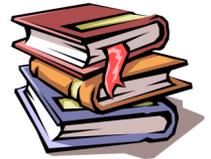


**Fan the Flame!**  
Inspiration through Religious Enrichment

**FIRE** is the acronym chosen by the Diocese for Catechist training workshops. We are offering two of these workshops in our parish this year, but they will be open to anyone in the parish who would like to attend. **The first workshop is "Spiritual Plan of Life" and is on Wednesday, October 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and will be taught by Fr. Underwood.**

This course will cover the importance of having a spiritual plan of life to aid the individual's growth in holiness. Practices that foster personal piety and encourage sanctification will be discussed. The next FIRE workshop will be in the early part of next year, so look for it in the next newsletter.

**The Monday night Book Club** is presently reading "The Seven Secrets of the Eucharist" by Vinny Flinn.



Come join us in the school meeting room at 6:30 p.m.!

**RCIA** will be starting October 1. We are offering a series of classes on various topics and we will be meeting most Tuesdays from then until Easter from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. in the school. We would like to invite anyone in the parish to attend who is interested in refreshing their knowledge of the faith. Your presence will also give our Catechumens and Candidates an opportunity to meet more people in our parish. The topics for October, November, and December are as follows:

- Oct. 1 Church Structure & Hierarchy—Fr. Underwood**
- Oct. 8 Prayer & Meditation—Rita Cook**
- Oct. 15 The Old Testament—Fr. Underwood**
- Oct. 22 The New Testament—Fr. Underwood**
- Oct. 29 Blessed Virgin Mary & The Rosary—Rita Cook**
- Nov. 5 The Apostles & Saints—Fr. Underwood**
- Nov. 12 Liturgical Year (Calendar)—Rita Cook**
- Nov. 19 Walk Through the Mass—Fr. Underwood**
- Dec. 3 The Trinity—Tammy Nystrom**
- Dec. 10 The Incarnation—Tammy Nystrom**
- Dec. 17 The Holy Spirit & Grace—Rita Cook**

## FAMILY NIGHT

Too often today's families end up going various directions...soccer practice, gymnastics, football games, etc., etc., etc! Family night was designed to give families a chance to be together, do something fun, and learn a little about the Catholic faith all wrapped into one. The next few Family Nights are:

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Peru, Indiana 46970  
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Austin also loves high fives, so at the Sign of Peace, you can include him by offering a high five. It is also important to note that Mass has become an important part of Austin's routine. He knows when it is time to go and he is upset if they miss.

Raising a special needs child has indeed been a challenge for the Glassburns, but it also has its joys. Austin has a pure spirit, so when he expresses himself, it is always genuine. When he jumps up and down and claps with excitement, it is gratifying because it is real. They also appreciate each tiny milestone he achieves and focus on his accomplishments.

As fellow parishioners, what can we do? We can embrace Austin by treating him like any other person. Talk to him, even if he does not respond. Say anything like "Hey Austin, how are you doing? I hope you have a good day." Embrace that he may worship in his own way, but also realize that being at Mass and being a part of it is very important to him. Wouldn't it be great if we all attended Mass with the same enthusiasm? He may hum at the wrong time, but think what it would sound like if we all sang the hymns with the same eagerness. Above all, ask yourself, how would you want someone to treat Austin if he was your child? Let us enfold him and his family, and all families in the parish who have a member with special needs. It IS what Jesus would do.

### **Family Night continued from Page 3**

**October 31—Trunk or Treat in the school parking lot**

**November 24—Giving Thanks**

**December 15—Christmas Caroling**

Trunk or Treat promises to be a lot of fun again this year! All you need to do is call the office to reserve your spot and buy candy or other treats, and you are good to go. Of course, you CAN dress up to greet the Trick-or-Treaters, or even decorate your car...that part is optional. Trick- or-Treat hours are from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Plan to be in the parking lot NO LATER than 4:50. If you arrive later than that you will need to park along Fifth Street in order to insure the safety of the children who will be walking through.

In November we will give thanks for our many gifts. Besides playing some fun games, we will make little sugar cone cornucopias and fill them with lots of treats. The fun will begin at 5:00 p.m. with supper.

Christmas caroling is another great activity that is also rewarding. Participants will be treated to pizza, cookies, and hot cocoa, and then they will travel to area nursing homes and the senior citizen center to entertain the residents. Watch the bulletin for more details!