

## **PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR IMPORTANT MASS TIME CHANGES AT ADA!**

### **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: It's Fair Time! Let's Be Welcoming!**

'Tis Fair Time! The Hardin County Fair will be happening the first week of September. I found it to be a fun experience last year during my first year in town. I was also very happy to see (and to help out with) our Hardin County Catholic Church information fair booth! I think it is very important for our parishes to have a presence at the Fair and to show that we have very active and inviting faith communities open to welcoming new folks (or returning folks). Thanks to our Knights of Columbus, we are in the process of organizing the County Fair Catholic Booth once again. It's a booth that is meant to benefit and showcase BOTH of our Hardin County parishes. But we need you to help staff the booth! It's a fun and friendly way to show the members of the general public all the things we have going on at both Our Lady of Lourdes and Immaculate Conception. The booth will already be set up to offer pamphlets, brochures, and other materials about the Catholic faith and about our specific parishes, including cards on how to enroll in RCIA. So, don't worry: you won't be expected to answer deep theological questions, and we are not there to "hit people over the head" with the Catechism. But your presence with a smiling face and helping those who ask to learn about the activities of the parish and what great parishes we have, is a huge help. So, sign up in the narthex of either parish; shifts are two-hour blocks. Passes for entry can be arranged by contacting Kathy Klingelhofer in the Kenton office. This is a great opportunity to witness to our positive faith in the Lord Jesus as His disciples!

### **ONE MORE WAY TO BE WELCOMING: The RCIA: Let's Invite Folks to Come!**

In a few weeks, our Hardin County parishes will once again offer the "RCIA" program. "RCIA" stands for "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults." It is a process for non-Catholics who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith to do so in a friendly, prayerful, environment. The "RCIA" seeks to invite inquirers into a deeper relationship with Jesus as disciples in the context of the community of believers that goes back to the Apostles, known as the Catholic Church. The RCIA incorporates several important elements of being disciples: coming to know Jesus more personally through prayer and the sacraments, learning more about His teachings on God and a life of virtue and holiness, and learning how to give worship to God in the Holy Mass. The RCIA strives to meet people "where they are", and we recognize that different inquirers come with different faith backgrounds and life experiences. Logistically, the RCIA will meet at each parish on Sunday evenings beginning in September, and will continue until Easter. Typically, at the Easter Vigil Mass, an inquirer then receives Baptism (if not already baptized in another Christian community), Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. But a longer process of discernment and preparation can be arranged if needed. Again, the RCIA strives to help people enter the flock of the Catholic Church in a way that best suits their needs, as they come closer to the Good Shepherd.

I am making our parish aware of the RCIA because we need your help with an important task: please encourage those you know who have expressed curiosity about the Catholic faith to take part in the RCIA. Let them know that it is a wonderful opportunity to come, to learn, to ask questions, to pray, and to meet others who are undergoing a similar journey of faith. If they wish to talk to me or to our parish RCIA directors privately ahead of time regarding any questions or concerns, they are welcome to do so. But as parishes called to evangelize and to spread the faith here in Hardin County, we are counting on all parishioners to encourage someone you know who is seeking a deeper faith experience with Jesus, to check out the RCIA. For more information or questions, any person is welcome to contact me or our RCIA directors (Desiree Tosatto at Ada, and Stacey Stacklin at Kenton) by calling the respective parish office. Thanks for your support of the New Evangelization!

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

### **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. I hear that many of you are going through a tough time right now: summer vacation has ended, and you are having to go back to school! And there's also a lot of new big kids coming to our parishes who are starting their first year at the special school nearby called a "University"! I know it can be tough to see summer end, and have to make so many changes. As a cat, I don't like change very much. I sleep on the same couch and I stare at the same trees out the window at the same times every day. It was hard for me to start Kitty School when I was a kitten. But soon, I discovered that learning is fun, and it's also fun to get to know other kittens...err...kids when you start back to school (or University). So, don't be sad or anxious: make the most of the new school year! And, every day after school, don't forget to be like us cats, and take your nap! Have a "purr"-fect week!