

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR IMPORTANT MASS TIME CHANGES AT ADA!

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Update on Our Most Urgent Project

As I've mentioned a few times over the past year, the most urgent maintenance project we have had here at Immaculate Conception since I started here as pastor last summer has been the issue of the roof of St. Anthony's Center (our social hall and PSR building). The top floor, the gymnasium, has been unusable and off limits per the order of the Fire Department for quite a while. Some of the inner ceiling had collapsed, some of the wooden gym floor had rotted, and several pans were collecting rainwater. Over the past year of my serving the parish, we have been making some good progress, and I wanted to update you on where we currently stand. The roof consists of a flat rubber portion, surrounded by four shingled sides. The flat portion was replaced earlier this summer (what I call "Phase I") with good-quality material approved by the Diocese, at a cost of \$7,700. I applied for a grant from the Catholic Foundation, and we were awarded \$6,110 of the cost. This Phase I work seems to have solved the majority of the leaks into the gym. But there is serious concern about the south and west slanted shingled sides. Because these sides bear the brunt of the weather, the shingles are very worn and some have been patched in recent years. They will not last much longer. So, "Phase II" has been enacted, whereby we (at the advice of the Diocese) have just contracted to replace the shingles on those two sides. The work is slated for September (weather permitting) using "35-year shingles", and it will cost **\$10,800**. I will apply for a grant, but there is no guarantee we will have one awarded. So, please be generous in donating to our Capital Fund for this cost. After this, we will look at how to repair the inner gym ceiling and floor, possibly during the winter. It would be great to have the gym re-opened for use by our children and by the Festival next summer. We will then have to decide when to complete the other slanted roofs ("Phase III"), but most likely, before then, we will next finish the needed tuckpointing and plaster repair at the church. Thanks for your ongoing support of our church facilities!

DON'T FORGET: 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 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! Oooh! Oooh! I am really excited! This week is the County Fair! That's right! I love going to fairs. I sometimes sit for hours watching the Ferris wheel (we cats love watching things go around in circles); I love to walk by the chicken pens to taunt and scare them (don't tell Father; I know that's not nice!) and I love to indulge in the great food: things like deep-fried tuna and sugar-coated mouse ears! Yum! I hear they even have a cat show. I would enter it, but as the most famous cat in Hardin County, I might have an unfair advantage. I want to give the other cats a chance! There's even a place where our Catholic churches will tell folks how wonderful our parishes are! What do you like most about the County Fair? It's a great chance to hang out with your family and friends and favorite cats and to take joy in all the blessings God has granted to our local community. Have fun at the Fair! Have a "purr"-fect week!