

South Gibson Catholic



Holy Cross
Saint James
Saints Peter & Paul

May 2022

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER CHRISTOPHER



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In music composition, a **movement** is a musical piece that can be performed on its own but is part of a larger composition. Movements can follow their own form, key, and mood, and often contain a complete resolution or ending. Complete musical works contain several movements, with three or four movements being the most common in a classical piece. Typically, each movement has its own name. Sometimes, the movement's name is indicated by the tempo of the movement, but other times, composers will give each movement a unique name that speaks to the larger story of the entire work.

Not knowing the entire work, I'm hesitant to give the most recent movement in my life a unique name, but if I had to name it according to its tempo, it would be **allegro ma non tanto (fast but not too much)**. This is a difficult movement that often requires a diligent group ready to move with each other deftly and leaves the audience with an uplifting sense of joy. This is a wonderful way to summarize my experience of my time

here as pastor of our three neighboring parishes. And it's ironic, because this name also characterizes the movement of history we're living in!

Like our fast but not too much time together, I'm confident that our deftone era of history will pass in a similar manner and leave us joyful whenever it reaches its end. Why do I believe this? Because our hope is in the Lord, and thanks to the Risen One we can be certain that our movement in the course of the world's history will end happily ever after if we embrace it with the heart of Christ. The end of the Angelus captures and expresses this passage of time in every era, therefore I leave you in prayer:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O LORD, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Fr. Christopher

FROM FR. LUKE



Dear Parish Families,

I have often said in my homilies that the key to any kind of joy we are looking for can always be found in gratitude. In fact, I have found that it is not joy that brings gratitude but gratitude that brings joy. As I reflect on my last three years here as one of your priests in South Gibson, I look back with great joy! I must say that since I found out about my assignment change it's been a bit of an emotional roller coaster for me: fear, anxiety, excitement, grief, being overwhelmed by love and affirmation. At times I have felt totally exhausted. However, amid these feelings, the one thing that has remained constant is the feeling and awareness of deep gratitude in my thoughts and prayers.

I am so grateful that God's providence brought me here to South Gibson in my first 3 years as a priest. The dedicated staff members of all three parishes have taught me a lot about the behind-the-scenes work that goes on to make the parishes function well. The volunteers that make parish events successful are well known and revered throughout the diocese. Whether it was worrying about pulling off a fish fry during the start of a pandemic, failing at dealing blackjack at a casino night, or even dressing up as a cow during a parish auction. I have many stories to tell about my time with you all.

To the youth and young adults, I really enjoyed getting to spend so much time with you all and I was so proud, watching you all succeed on the football field, on the theater stage, in the classroom, and most importantly in our local community. It was a pleasure guiding you and mentoring you as you continue to discern God's plan for your life. While I may not be able to dodge a ball, I hope that my jokes were not too cringe worthy.

Lastly, to Fr. Christopher, you taught me a lot about what it means to be a priest and really helped me to build confidence in my teaching ability, preaching, and pursuit of Truth in all things. Godspeed as you continue your ministry at St. Boniface.

Know that you all will always be in my prayers, and I am excited for the future of Holy Cross, St. James, and Sts. Peter & Paul.

I would like to close with a Scripture passage from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Luke Hassler

STS. PETER & PAUL NEWS

The Annual Die Kirche Auktion Fest was another big success, thanks to all of YOU!

The net profit was \$135,415! Thank you for all of your donations, purchases, work on the various committees and prayers.

Here is a breakdown by categories. Some line items are included in the live auction total but also listed separately for your information.

Priests' Skits.....	\$16,050
Labor of Love Quilts	\$2,450
Classroom Projects	\$14,600
Classroom Theme Baskets	\$1,900
Free Dress Coupons	\$1,710
Road to Riches Raffle	\$3,006
Treasure Chest Raffle	\$7,870
Quilt Raffle.....	\$1,060
Heads R Tails Raffle	\$460
Chinese Auction	\$801
1/2 Pot	\$619
Giant Bake Sale	\$840
German Meal.....	\$4,297
Sunday Food Stand.....	\$3,053
Ice Cream Stand	\$729
Auction Booklet Sponsors	\$2,800
Cash Donations	\$23,724
Booklet Sales	\$290
Live & Silent Auction, Bidding Frenzy..	\$55,267
Funded item (Haiti).....	\$20,956



Thanks a Million!!!!

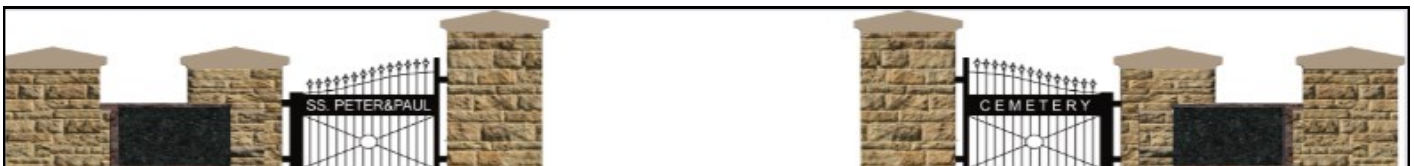
The Auction Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and extraordinary generosity this year and in the years past. The success of the auction was because of YOU! Thank you so very much. Together we continue the Sts. Peter & Paul tradition of Fun, Family, Fellowship, Food & Fundraising!

Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery Entrance Project has been approved. We will be working with Timeless Columbaria from Pella, Iowa for the niche bank cabinets as well as the limestone column and wall caps. ECI from Wadesville, Indiana will be handling our concrete and stone work. If you would like to learn more about Timeless Columbaria, you can visit their website at www.timelesscolumbaria.com.

Our niche bank cabinets will have a height of 44 inches and a width of 128 inches. One cabinet will set on each side of the cemetery main drive. The cabinets and stone work were designed specifically for our cemetery to blend with our parish campus. The niche bank cabinets have 12 inch by 12 inch niches which will inter only cremations unlike a mausoleum which has 32 inch by 26 inch crypts that inter caskets. A mausoleum is significantly taller than our columbaria and would not sit in the front of a cemetery.

We ask that you watch the bulletin for times when the cemetery will have limited access or will be closed. We will be removing our current entrance structure as well as having concrete work done to prepare for the arrival of the cabinets. The cabinets are projected to arrive in mid August/early September 2022.

Niche pricing and the opportunity to purchase a niche will be available once the project is complete. If you have an interest and would like to be placed on a list to be contacted, please call Kim Goedde at (812) 768-6457 or email kgoedde@evdio.org.



HOLY CROSS NEWS

Information on Holy Cross moving under new Pastor Fr. Gary Kaiser

On May 11, Fr. Christopher, Fr. Luke, Fr. Gary, Fr. Andrew and Joe Hopf held meetings to discuss several of many items that will need to be addressed as things move forward. Coming out of our meeting here are several areas that were discussed specifically and agreed upon by Fr. Gary, Fr. Andrew and Joe. Please understand that during our discussions we always took into account what we felt was best for parishioners, students, staff and the parish. What we don't want to have happen is disruption in areas that could negatively impact what has been and continues to be successful if we made changes at this time. In the following areas we will continue to operate as we currently do with Holy Cross St. James & Sts. Peter & Paul, using shared resources.

- ♦ Religious Education (Wednesday evening)
- ♦ SMG Youth Group (All activities) including St. Bernards
- ♦ School Music Teacher (Shared by Holy Cross, St. Joe, Sts. Peter & Paul)
- ♦ Director of Sacred Music (Music Ministries)
- ♦ School Sacraments (First Reconciliations, First Communion, Confirmation at this time would stay with one shared date for Holy Cross/Sts. Peter & Paul. St. James will have their own date.
- ♦ Vacation Bible School (As is for this year June 20 - 24)

A few other items

- ♦ Finance & Accounting, Jane Rhodes and Joe Hopf will work with Angie Paul from St. Joe to develop the 2022/2023 budget. Develop a transition plan to move finance/accounting responsibility to Holy Cross.
- ♦ Sacraments of Marriage & baptism will be transitioned to Lisa O'Neal at Holy Cross beginning July 1, 2022
- ♦ Bulletin for the weekend of July 2,3, will change to St. Joe & Holy Cross sharing one bulletin.
- ♦ Potential Mass time changes for Holy Cross will come at a later date, but before the July 2,3 weekend.

There will be more information to come as things develop.

ST. JAMES NEWS

As of summer 2022, St. James will be using an exciting new automated phone system called "One Call Now". The One Call system will give our Parish the capability to use multiple formats such as texts, emails, and phone calls to easily send alerts, routine notifications, and general communications to all St. James Parishioners. For example, if Mass is cancelled due to severe weather, this system is an ideal tool to get the word out broad and fast. Another great feature of this system is that the parish office can work with individual groups such as Men's Club or Altar Society to use the subcategory feature and send out direct messages to their group members. The One Call System can be utilized for everything from volunteer reminders, Mass notices, meeting times or emergency call alerts! This is a great opportunity and service being provided to keep our community involved and in contact!

St James Social 2022 will be held Sunday, August 7! We are accepting monetary donations, as well as basket raffle items, Chinese & silent auction items, kitchen tile sets, or anyone who is willing to donate homemade items for the woodshop! We look forward to seeing you all there!

Fr. Kenneth Betz celebrates his Anniversary of Ordainment upcoming! On May 27, 1965, our beloved Fr. Betz was ordained at Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral in Evansville. That's 57 years we have been blessed with his commitment of Holy service, leadership and guidance, and friendship he has dedicated his life to. What an extraordinary service.

Bless you Fr. Betz!

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

It's all out of control. Inflation, the economy, violence, oppression, greed, morality, and tensions are all escalating as people scurry about for a sense of stability and well-being. Power seems to win the game and self-aggrandizement appears to be the order of the day. Love gets watered down to tolerance and accepting whomever and whatever is presented. The axis around which meaning and truth are found is twisted. Human beings appear to be engaged in an identity crisis of vast proportion, not certain whether standard, acceptable, and appropriate protocols exist any longer. We are lost. When one nation feels entitled to the goods of another and feels justified using any means possible to obtain them, we are in trouble. While this is happening most explicitly in Ukraine, there are other parts of the world where greed, exploitation, and violence are regular occurrences. Even in the United States, violent carjacking and general theft are becoming common place and a blatant disregard for human life seems more evident. We often act as if our journey of life is simply a random occurrence, that we are here on this planet for no known reason and accountable to no one. Norms and protocols, appearing to cater to personal preferences, become a matter of what protects each other's rights and space. Benchmarks and standards for growing, maturing, perfecting, and refining human thought and behavior no longer exist.

The world needs the Good News of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis tells us, "The Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is now in the Lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us." If God is present in every space and time, then he is actively involved in what is happening in our lives. He works through both the positive and negative experiences we encounter, bringing us to a renewed and more focused place. The Ascension allows us to see this truth about ourselves and it enlightens our hearts. Christ, who was most perfectly, vividly, and brilliantly transfigured before the very eyes of the disciples will be our destiny.

Faith brings resolution to humanity's identity crisis. Faith corrects our misunderstandings of love. Faith seeks non-violent solutions to humanity's many conflicts. Faith removes our self-focus and deepens our vision. Faith provides the benchmarks we need to properly grow and mature. Faith provides the centering axis we need to order our lives. And only faith can give us real hope. Perhaps the cause of humanity's identity crisis is nothing other than an absence of faith. How can we believe that God takes a real interest in our lives if we do not believe in God in the first place? The answers to all that plagues us are not easily found. However, before we can even think of repairing and constructing, we need to have solid plans and build a secure foundation. The Ascension reminds us of who God is, who we are and who we are meant to be. All we must do is believe in what God promises. In this way, we acquire our anchor for proper self-knowledge and a benchmark for judging actions.

When people are so angry, hurting, displaced, confused, and broken it is hard to convince them that there is a better way. The rise in addiction and mental health issues are indicative of social structures that are failing. When the inability of society to care for a child who is unwanted justifies the right to take that child in its mother's womb something is incredibly wrong. It is only faith that can tell us, without doubt, who we are. Any decisions made without that secure and foundational reference point are subject to serious error. There is no doubt that our lives can become unsettled and empty. When we rely too much on the things of this world to please us, we can easily lose our excitement, enthusiasm, wonder, and joy. No worldly thing, no matter how great, can satisfy the longing of a human heart. Only God does that. Imagine how different life would be if everyone approached each moment as a creative opportunity to see what God will do. When encountered with faith, even darkness has great potential to become light. The neighbor who gets under our skin, the demanding coworker we see every day, the person at the supermarket who is rude to us, the elderly person we met on our daily walk who seemed so disheveled, the perfect sunrise that greeted us in the morning, and the wonderful aroma and taste of our first cup of coffee can all be used by God to awaken us, humble us, and bring us to a heightened sense of His presence. If people really understood the power of faith, they would have a better sense of who they are and where they are going. It would be harder to take some

thing from someone that doesn't belong to us, strike out in vengeful violence when we are hurt, allow greed to override the basic sanctity of human life, justify behaviors that are blatantly sinful and wrong, give in to the whims of desire and passion, and live life as if we are the only ones that matter. The world needs the Good News of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Do not be reluctant to preach and accept the truth!

Christ is our destiny and our hope. It's that simple. Alleluia!

Fr. Mark Suslenko

AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC GIVING PROGRAM

The electronic giving program allows you to electronically have funds transferred directly into the parish's account for your Sunday giving. It is convenient, no cost to you, & helps you stay current on your Sunday giving. You may increase, decrease, or suspend your transfer any time by calling the parish office. Please complete the form below & return to the parish office. Please contact Jane at 812-768-6457 or jrhodes@evdio.org with questions. Thank you.

Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 211 N Vine St, Haubstadt IN 47639

Direct Debit Authorization Form

I hereby authorize Sts. Peter & Paul Church to initiate debit entries for tithing to my/our account as indicated below and the financial institution named below to debit the same to such account. I/We acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my/our account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

(Financial Institution Name)	(Name(s) on the Account)
Transfer Amount \$ _____ for Sunday collection _____	
Type of Acct: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings	(Routing Number) _____ (Account Number) _____
Frequency of transfer: Weekly _____ every Friday	
Biweekly _____ every other Friday	
Monthly _____ on the 5 th of each month (or next business day)	

This authority is to remain in effect until Sts. Peter & Paul has received written notification from me/us of its termination in such time and manner as to allow Sts. Peter & Paul and the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

(Print Name)	(Signature)
(Print Spouse Name) (if joint acct)	(Spouse Signature) (if joint acct)

(E-mail Address)	(Date)
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PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF VOIDED CHECK TO THIS FORM

You may continue to receive your Sunday collection envelopes if desired but it is not necessary.

Please check one: ☐ Yes, please send Sunday envelopes ☐ No, do not send Sunday envelopes.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WITH ELECTRONIC GIVING

One drawback is that you do not receive the special collection envelopes in the envelope packets. We would like to offer you the opportunity to give to these special collections electronically, if interested.

For the Parish -- Includes Maintenance, Cemetery, St. Vincent DePaul, The Lord's Pantry, Haiti School Lunch Program, Christmas, & Parish Endowments.

For the Diocese -- Includes missions, both local & abroad (see list below).

If you would like to donate to any of these funds, please fill in the amount that you would like to give **YEARLY** to each specific fund. For administrative purposes, the total of all special collections will then be divided equally (either weekly, biweekly, or monthly according to your wishes) & deducted from your account.

I would like to give YEARLY the amounts designated below to special collections.

<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Latin America	<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern European	<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Relief Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Places	<input type="checkbox"/> The Lord's Pantry	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Home Mission
<input type="checkbox"/> Peter's Pence	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious Retirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Mission Sunday
<input type="checkbox"/> Rice Bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Black & Indian Missio	<input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Vincent De Paul	<input type="checkbox"/> Parish Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> Haiti	<input type="checkbox"/> School Lunch Program
<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Tony Vocational Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> School Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> Ray & Marilyn Kartasuk Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Schroering Endowment			

CHIEF OF PARISH OPERATIONS POSITION

The parishes of St. James & Sts. Peter & Paul announce a search to fill the Chief of Parish Operation position. We had this position posted previously and had some interest, but only had one really interested individual discuss with us in detail about the position itself. No one has officially applied. After the announcement of Fr. Andrew Thomas being named Administrator of St. James & Sts. Peter & Paul and Fr. Gary Kaiser being named Pastor of Holy Cross, I had a meeting with Fr. Andrew on May 11 and Fr. Andrew wants to move forward filling this position.

I would like to share a few thoughts with you about this position. I will have been in this position for five years at the end of this July, and without question this position is needed and easily justified even going down to two parishes and schools. Without this position the burden of managing the operation and administration of our **PARISHES AND SCHOOLS** would fall back to Fr. Andrew and an already small staff. This additional burden for Fr. Andrew would take away a significant amount of his time to spend on the ministries he is here to provide for all of us.

What this position has given back to me over these past five years more than outweighs what I have been able to give to our parishes. It has brought me closer to my catholic faith and closer to our God than I have ever been in my entire life. It gave me the opportunity to work with a great and knowledgeable staff, to work with great priests, Fr. Christopher, Fr. Luke, Fr. Betz, Fr. Tony, Fr. Ambrose and all of you, our parishioners.

I ask each and every one of you to think and prayerfully consider this position either for yourself or someone you think would be a great candidate. The right person may just need a little nudge to find out additional information about this vital position.

This isn't about you or me, this is about our Lord and Savior and providing what talents he has given each of us to be here to support our priest, staff, faculty and our parishioners. When Fr. Tony hired me in July 2017, he told me he felt that the Holy Spirit was at work that day when we first met in his office to talk about the Graces of God's Capital Campaign and ended with him discussing this position with me before I left his office. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will once again provide.

If you are interested in this position please reach out to myself or send your resume to chopf@evdio.org

You can also find the Chief of Parish Operations job description on our parish websites.

God Bless,
Joe

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a year it has been! Our school year began with many restrictions. We are extremely thankful for the support we received from our school and parish families as we transitioned in and out of unprecedented times. We were able to end our year with many wonderful gatherings such as Grandparents Day, our annual field day event, and open Masses for special occasions like 5th Grade Graduation and May Crowning.

As we end this school year, we have two staff members who will be retiring. Mrs. Mary Anne Feller will be retiring after eight years as our elementary science teacher and over forty years of being in the field of education. We are excited for Mrs. Feller to enjoy her retirement with her husband and family but will miss her smile and great knowledge she brought to our school and science lab. Mr. Don Rhodes will be retiring at the end of the school year as well. We will sincerely miss all of the outstanding work Don has done to keep our school clean and in the best working order. His time and talents will be hard to replace! Ms. Lauren Rapp has been hired as our new elementary science teacher. Ms. Rapp comes to us with three years of teaching experience. She is excited to join our Sts. Peter & Paul School family and will be trained by Mrs. Feller to continue incorporating the Foss Education program in our state of the art science lab. Summer break will give our students, staff, and families a chance to recharge our batteries and before we know it, we'll be beginning a new school year. Plans are well underway for an exciting 2022-2023 school year. We are looking forward to what lies ahead!

--Blessings,
Megan Howington
Principal

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
211 N. Vine Street
Haubstadt, IN 47639

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NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Parish Office Summer Hours

The Parish Offices be closing at Noon on Fridays through out the summer. This will begin on Friday, May 27. Happy Summer!

Red Cross Blood Drives

The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Mark your calendars for upcoming blood drives.

- ♦ June 3 and August 9 at Sts. Peter and Paul
- ♦ June 22 and December 8 at Knights of Columbus Hall.

Watch the bulletin for sign up information.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be part of the prayer chain or have an intention for someone who needs extra prayers, contact one of the follow:

Holy Cross - Phyllis Schmits 812-635-0318

St. James - Cathy Spindler 812-479-8650,

Laurette Faraone 812-774-5423,

Joanne Lames 812-768-6385 or Jo Phelps 812-867-2991

Sts. Peter & Paul - Jenny Hirsch 812-768-6597

Anna Mae Seib 812-774-7324

Eucharist Procession

Join Fr. Christopher, and our Parish Community as we give the town of Fort Branch public witness to our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist by processing in Adoration.

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Mass at Holy Cross, 8:30am

Procession Immediately Following Mass.

"Let us pray that participation in the Eucharist may always be an incentive: to follow the Lord every day, to be instruments of communion and to share what we are with him and with our neighbor. Our life will then be truly fruitful." -

Pope Francis

We will celebrate the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ and honor the **Real Presence** of our Lord in the Eucharist. The procession will be through the town of Fort Branch, less than a mile long. Please invite friends and family to join us, all are Welcomed! Wear your walking shoes and bring your strollers. Those that can't walk may stay in church for the Benediction after the procession. The bulletins, announcements and our Facebook page (South Gibson Catholic) will continue to have updates and new information leading up to June 19.

WALK WITH JESUS