



# Reflecting on the Savior's coming

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled" (Luke 2:1). With those words begins one of the most beautiful stories of all time, the story of the birth of Jesus, a story that remains ever fresh, never growing old for more than 2,000 years. We could never count how many words have been written, how many songs have been sung, about the precious birth of the Christ Child.

There is one verse in the story,

however, that is sometimes overlooked. Once the shepherds have come and gone from the birthplace of Jesus, Mary and Joseph are alone once again with their child and "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

The Blessed Mother is captured in silent reflection. Imagine Mary and all she has experienced. From the announcement of her being chosen by God as the mother of the Savior, through the hurried pilgrimage to Bethlehem, to the birth of her Son with strangers

coming to visit him and with angels on site. Mary takes a deep breath and drinks it all in — not missing a single moment of the beauty of her Son's birth.

This Christmas, we should all take that breath like Mary. To pause and think and pray. To reflect on what the story of the birth of Jesus truly means to us and for us; to reflect on how we can and must live our lives differently because of Jesus as "God with us;" to make sure that we truly take this story to heart, as Mary did in that little town of Bethlehem.

Together with Deacon Mike Keller and all the office staff of St John, I wish you a joy-filled, merry, peaceful, grace-filled — and reflective — Christmas. It is my hope that you can steal away a few moments of quiet time at Christmas so that, like Mary, we all can keep this great day close to our hearts. It is my prayer that you and I can live each day in 2016 grateful for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God."

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Allan Frederick

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church • 507 Fifth St., Carrollton, Ky., 41008 • (502) 732-5776**  
**Transfiguration of Our Lord Mission • 260 Inverness Rd., Perry Park, Ky., 40363 • (502) 732-9062**

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Fr. Allan Frederick, Pastor (Ext #1) Cell: (502) 930-5341

Don Wright, business manager (502) 514-1033

Elvira Pacheco, Hispanic Ministry (Ext #3)

Deacon Mike Keller (859) 485-1488

Misty Buchanan, Director Religious Education (Ext #2)

# Welcome, Deacon Mike, to St. John the Evangelist

By Kristin Beck

Just like so many others who serve God, Mike Keller was summoned by the Holy Spirit to become a deacon.

“It was a constant call,” he said. “It kept coming back to me.”

Keller was appointed July 6, as Permanent Deacon to St. John Catholic Church to assist the Rev. Allan Frederick in his ministry to the Carrollton community.

Keller was a “cradle Catholic,” attending Newport Central Catholic High School and Thomas More College. When he and his wife, Susan, married 43 years ago, they moved to Boone County and became members at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Union. They moved to Walton-Verona 25 years ago, where they currently reside.

Keller attended a Cursillo—a



leadership retreat—and spoke with Deacon Frank Estill about what it was like being a deacon. Keller said the Holy Spirit kept

bothering him and pestering him, until one day he was sitting in his office and made the decision to call the diocese.

Keller graduated from the Permanent Deaconate Program through the Diocese of Covington, which entails five years of extensive studies in theology, Sacred Scripture and Church history and its teachings. He became a deacon on April 21, 2007, and served three years at St. Timothy. However,

because the church had several deacons, he left to serve at St. Cecelia in Independence.

At St. John’s, Keller said his role is still being defined. Fr. Allan allows him to give the homily about every other week “which is an honor to do,” Keller said.

Keller attends parish council meetings and is in charge of the extraordinary ministers and lectors. He also is the Virtus training coordinator. Keller said he expects his role to expand, but Fr. Allan has been cognizant that he lives out of town.

Keller and his wife have three daughters and eight grandchildren. They are both retired. He is active in community organizations, including more than 20 years with the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District and is a volunteer Chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Florence.

## Food Pantry of Carroll County, Inc.

Looking around our community on a beautiful seasonal day, you might not see those children and families with grumbling stomachs. It’s a real problem when children worry about when they’ll get their next meal.

Fortunately, St. John the Evangelist is a tremendous supporter of the Food Pantry of Carroll County, with donations of foods and, most importantly, volunteers.

The Food Pantry relies on about eight active members of St. John’s, volunteering on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3-5 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities range from sorting and storing foods to directly assisting hungry families. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers from St. John’s and other local organizations, we’re making a dent helping about 3,000 hungry people this year.

We need more help! We’re always in need of food donations, but if you’re looking for a great way to directly impact your community, volunteer your time! We need as little and as much time as you can spare!

Contact Mike Gardner if you have any questions at (502) 480-7215.



Photo by TIM HENDRICK

# 2015-2016 CCD Program

By Misty Buchanan, DRE

The 2015-2016 CCD Program is up and running and we are having great success. The program meets 34 Sundays from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and we currently have 140 students from grades P4-12th grade. Our families pay a \$50 fee as a family, for their children's participation in the program and this offsets our costs for a First Communion retreat and Confirmation retreat as well as supplies and curriculum materials for the classes themselves.

We are, most certainly, blessed with a Catechetical Team who possesses strong faith and spirituality and have much passion for educating, guiding, and supporting our precious children in their religious journey. They are as follows:

P4/K	Rosada Harr (Patsy Brown, assistant)
1st Grade	Loretta Dawson
2nd Grade	Donna Burns (Blanca Gomez, assistant)
3rd/4th Grades	Beth Rylatt (Lorrie Hon, assistant)
5th/6th Grades	Roger Rylatt (Lorrie Honn, assistant)
7th/8th Grades	Karen Martin
9th Grade	Tom Buchanan
10th-12th Grades	Terri Mounce
Director of Religious Education	Misty Buchanan
DPAA	Elvira Pacheco

If you would love to join our team as a Catechist or an assistant, we would be more than happy to have you. We are always actively seeking those who have a passion to provide guidance and support to our precious children.

## Are you smarter than a Catholic fifth grader?

### What is an annulment?

- A. The canon law equivalent of a divorce under the civil law.
- B. A Church-authorized dissolution of a marriage which has failed through the infidelity of one of the spouses.
- C. A declaration that no valid marriage existed in the first place, even if there are children born during the relationship.
- D. A declaration that children born in a failed marriage are not illegitimate.
- E. None of the above.



# Pot luck

Parish Council held its first pot luck event Oct. 25.



Photos by KRISTIN BECK

# Catholic Questions

*Why do Catholics have statues of Saints in their Churches? Isn't this idolatry?*

This is a good question and illustrates a common misunderstanding.

The Catechism in section 2132 tells us: "The Christian veneration of images is not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols. Indeed, the honor rendered to an image passes to its prototype, and whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it. The honor paid to a sacred image is a 'respectful veneration' not the adoration due to God alone."

Since the Saints have been declared by the Church to be eternally in the presence of God their lives become an example for us to follow as we live our own lives. We honor

them but we don't worship them. These statues and images serve as reminders of their lives. We look at statues of Washington and Lincoln, Mount Rushmore and thousands of monuments and statues of our civil heroes as well as the photos of our family we carry in our wallets, or have on our desks in much the same way. We hold them in high esteem but we don't worship them.

But there is an important difference. Since the Saints are in the presence of God the Catechism section 956 tells us that they intercede with God on our behalf. But we understand it is God who answers our prayers, not the Saints.

## Where are they now – Prayer Garden builder–Ted Strohmeier

The St. John Rosary Prayer Garden was the Eagle Scout project for Ted Strohmeier, the son of Kim and Francie Strohmeier and grandson of Bill and Eva Jo Hill, parishioners of St. John Catholic Church.

Following graduation from Owen County High School, Ted attended Transylvania University, majoring in German and Studio Art. While an undergrad, he spent a semester abroad at Regensburg University near Munich, Germany.

Following graduation from Transy, Ted lived in Ludwigsburg, Germany (near Stuttgart in Baden-Wuerttemberg) for a year and a half and became fluent in the German language. While there, he had the opportunity to travel extensively, visiting 17 European countries. He made use of some of his Scouting



skills by backpacking, among other places, in Medjugorje (in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Fatima (Portugal.)

Ted received a double Master's from the University of Kentucky in German Studies and International Higher Education. He is currently an Adjunct Professor in German at Transylvania University and a Study Abroad adviser at UK.

## Fair Trade Coffee

Here at St. John's parish we now serve Fair Trade coffee at Parish events. What is Fair Trade? It is a program developed by Catholic Relief Services that supports farmers in third world countries that grow coffee, tea, chocolate, various kinds of nuts, etc. They do this by offering the growers a fair price for their products.

CRS also provides financial and technical assistance allowing the farmers to adapt agricultural best practices that increase their production and



improve their standard of living. This assistance also helps develop healthy and safe working conditions and opportunities for local employment.

Pope Francis told us: "Every economic...action must set about providing each inhabitant

of the planet with the minimum wherewithal to live in dignity and freedom, with the possibility of supporting a family, educating children, praising God and developing one's own human potential."

The CRS web site states:

"Our faith calls us to live out our Gospel values on a daily basis. The Catholic social teaching principles of respecting the dignity of work and caring for the poor are key ways in which we can do this. Through fair trade and ethical purchasing, we can use our economic power to contribute to the common good and live out these values."

The coffee we serve tastes great. We hope you like it.

For additional information go to [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org).

# Loss of a loved one: Common sense for survivors

By Rob Riley

Nearly everyone who experiences the loss of a loved one, be it a family member or dear friend, suffer the same dilemma of the "Who, What, When, Where and How."

## Who ... do I call first now that the death has occurred?

In most cases the first call you make is to you funeral provider. They are knowledgeable in local requirements such as, if it is necessary to notify the coroner or hospice. Then they will make arrangements to have the body of the deceased picked up and transported back to the funeral home. During this time the funeral home staff will set an appointment for you to visit the funeral home to make arrangements and discuss with you whether there is a need or desire for embalming. The will also likely instruct you as to the items you will need to bring with you, such as, insurance papers, military discharge documents, social security card/number, cemetery deed and obituary/vital statistic information.

## What ... do I have to "do" and "not do?"

You have to make some type of arrangements to allow final disposition of the deceased's earthly remains. There are various methods of accomplishing this, such as earth burial, entombment, cremation or donation to a body bequeathal program at a major university/college. A very common question is "do I have to have the body embalmed?" Embalming is not required by any Federal or State law, unless under certain special circumstances, such as shipment of the body by commercial airline or to foreign countries. Unless you plan a funeral service with the body present for viewing, you "do not" have to have the body embalmed. If you choose a service with the body placed in a gasketed casket, embalming is not required, but there will be no private or public viewing in most cases. You do not have to purchase a casket to have cremation performed. The container requirement of the crematory is all that has to be fulfilled, which is usually a plywood tray with a

cardboard covering. You do not have to purchase an "outer burial container," commonly referred to as a "burial vault." Although, most cemeteries require some form of "outer burial container" to place the casket in, inside the grave to maintain the "structure" of the grave. The type of container may vary from cemetery to cemetery.

## When ... do I have to ...

Notify Social Security.....in most states, the funeral director notifies the Social Security Administration by mail or fax with a form SSA-721. In many states, the notification is done electronically when the social security number is verified while preparing the certificate of death. It is often recommended, especially when there is a surviving spouse or a dependent child/children for the family to contact the SSA by phone to begin the process of obtaining benefits that may be available.

Notify the Life Insurance Company..... may funeral homes still assist families with filing life insurance claims,

primarily because this often how they are paid for their services, etc.

Probate the Estate.....generally within the first couple of weeks following the funeral you need to engage the assistance of a competent attorney to file all the necessary probate court documents to settle/administer the decedents estate, even if there is not a valid will. Some estates are simple to probate and others are complicated due to varying factors. Having things spelled out in a will makes probate much easier.

Credit Card Companies, Banks/Credit Unions, Health Insurance Companies, Labor Unions, Cable T.V./Satellite/Internet Companies, Retirement/Investment/401-K Plans.....can all be done when you go through the probate process. Many, if not all of these will require a "certified" copy of the death certificate which can be obtained through your funeral director or ordering direct from the state Vital Statistics office.

*Please see ARRANGEMENTS, Page 7*

## Arrangements

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Monument Company.....this can be done anytime it is comfortable for the survivors to take the time to design/select a monument/grave marker. There is generally no rush and most reputable monument dealers like to wait a short period of time before setting a monument/grave marker to allow time for the grave to settle. If a monument/grave marker already is in place then usually all is needed is the “date of death” inscription. This can be coordinated through the funeral home or monument company and is usually performed in the spring prior to Memorial Day or in the fall close to the end of October.

### Where do I ...

Have the funeral/memorial service?

The funeral/memorial service can be held almost anywhere you choose, funeral home chapel, at church, local park or any other location as long as you are not violating any local ordinances and have proper permission/authority.

Purchase the casket/outer burial container/

urn?

Caskets, outer burial containers and urns can be purchased through your funeral provider. There are some internet companies that you can purchase from, but, beware of the quality and hidden factors, such as, additional shipping/delivery charges. Remember, your local funeral provider is a part of your community. They live and shop locally and they usually support the local events and activities, where the internet providers couldn't care less about you or your local community.

### Bury, cremate or entomb my loved one?

In most communities there is at least one cemetery and the choices are sometimes limited. In larger communities there may be multiple locations for burial. It is best to try to choose a cemetery or mausoleum (for entombment) that is privately/locally owned as opposed to one that is owned by a cemetery/funeral home acquisition company. Nearly all cemeteries/mausoleums are going to have rules and restrictions, but the privately/locally owned are usually easier to work with.

Crematories are usually located in larger metropolitan areas and

funeral providers in smaller communities contract with those companies to provide cremation services. There are cremation societies in the metro areas and their cost and their ability to serve smaller communities varies. Again, it may be lesser expensive to use a cremation society, but you won't get the personal service and attention that you receive from your local funeral provider.

### How ... Do I get through all of this?

You should engage the assistance of a professional and reliable funeral director who is dedicated to helping you set in motion your plans and wishes for a funeral/memorial service for your loved one. All the items mentioned in the sections preceding, can all become less burdensome and confusing with the assistance of your funeral director.

Do I make this easier for “my” family when my death occurs?

Talk with your family. Inform them as to the certain things you wish in regards to your funeral/memorial service. Let them know what your preferences are regarding, embalming/viewing, casket type, outer burial container type, cremation, etc.

Meet with your local funeral provider and let them record your wishes and instructions so it's available when your death occurs.

If you are able to do so, pre-pay/pre-fund your expenses. This can be accomplished in a couple of different ways.

aa) You can purchase life insurance that will cover the amount, making the funeral home beneficiary for their interest and a family member or friend for the balance.

bb) You can pay the funeral provider by cash, check or credit card for the amount and it will be placed in a “funeral trust” account. This account will earn interest, which has to remain in the account and becomes part of the principal amount. The accrued interest is used to offset any inflationary increases to your expenses. Depending on your funeral provider, they may guarantee your expenses not exceed the amount available in the trust and some may only charge you additional for increases of the “outside” charges, ie: grave opening/closing, flowers, minister honorariums, monument engraving, etc.

cc) Call your funeral provider and ask questions, it cost nothing.



# All Saints Day

Photos by TIM HENDRICK

