

# NETWORK *... With the Church of the Holy Cross*

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## Kind Hearts in Every Age

A few times each month, you may run into Holy Cross youth at a nearby nursing home. Responding to a parish-wide call to reach out to our age-advanced neighbors, two groups – one made of families from our religious education program, and the other of students from Holy Cross School – regularly visit Bickford of Overland Park.

“A lot of our families are immigrants and don’t have grandparents nearby,” says Bridget Turello, Holy Cross Director of Religious Education. While Bingo cards are filled, Bridget is struck by the natural fit that this ministry is for some children, allowing their kind-hearted natures to shine. The kindness flows both ways as residents who win Bingo prizes often happily re-gift them to the visiting children.

Holy Cross School parent, Melissa Hyder, has seen relationships form and life stories emerge over repeated visits to Bickford. Whether playing Connect Four or crafting fleece blankets with the residents, “our activities lend themselves to conversation,” Melissa says. One resident, a former one-room schoolhouse teacher from Wahoo, Nebraska, enjoyed a connection with a knowledgeable 6th grader who could share details about a WWII submarine memorial in her tiny hometown.

A little time and cheerful companionship yield gifts of increased acceptance, understanding, and compassion for those outside the children’s usual circles. As is the case with most deeds done with compassion in mind, our youth receive at least as much as they give.



Families from our parish Religious Education program visit residents at Bickford Place.

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- Support for the Bereaved
- Get to Know Saint Patrick
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## A Safe Place To Grieve

In 2009, Holy Cross parishioners, Lou Sheehan and Pete Obert realized the need for a bereavement group which would provide support for parishioners grieving the death of a spouse. This Bereavement Support Group is still active today and is facilitated by Pete Obert and Kay Spaniol.

The group meets monthly on each first Friday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass downstairs in Room 8. This is an open-ended group rather than a time-limited course. Each meeting lasts about 90 minutes and there are usually 10-12 people attending each month.

It is a safe place to talk about a loved one, about how you are feeling, to just listen to others who have “been there,” and to pray with one another. At the beginning of each meeting, introductions are made, helping new participants feel welcome and comfortable. Often someone will bring up a topic for discussion, or a review of normal grief reactions may be helpful.

People may seek out this group when they want to learn if they are grieving the “right way.” Those who have continued in the group since the beginning are able to share that there is no right or wrong way to grieve and that there is no time frame for grieving. It may bring comfort to hear just that.

Asked “why do you still attend a grief group after all this time”? one person said: “I keep coming back because I want to help someone who is experiencing a recent loss. I feel I can now be there for someone else to let them know while the loss is permanent, the intense sadness will ease”. The group process allows the more experienced members to see how far they have progressed and the new member to realize that moving on will be possible, accepting that moving beyond the loss, finding laughter and a new life is possible. It is so powerful when someone shares a story; perhaps a happy memory or an example of trying a new activity that has helped them move forward, comforted in the knowledge that their loved one is with God, safe until they meet again.

## A Place to Create and Have Fun



Holy Cross School rosary making day with faith families.



Mrs. Carney gets “sundae’d” after students donated over 1,000 can goods for Catholic Charities.

***Let's Journey Through  
Lent to Easter Together!***

*Pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent on Fridays at 5:30 PM.*

*Share in Lenten Dinners following the Stations in Lickteig Hall: Mar 10 & 17—Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, Mar 24—Hispanic Community Fish Tacos, Mar 31—PTO Fish Dinner at the school, Apr 7—PTO Soup & Salad Dinner.*

*Participate in Operation Rice Bowl and help support Catholic Relief Services.*

*Embrace God's Mercy. The sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.*

***Join us for Holy Week Services!***

*Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 13, at 7:00 PM (Bilingual).*

*Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, April 14, at 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM (Spanish).*

*Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection (Easter Vigil) on Saturday, April 15, at 8:00 PM.*

*Easter Sunday Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM (Spanish).*

# Have You Met Saint Patrick?

We celebrate St. Patrick's Day in March. Test your knowledge of this man and his life.

**TRUE FALSE**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Patrick was born in Ireland during the Protestant Reformation.                              |    |    |
| 2. It is believed that his birth name may have been Maewyn Succat.                             |    |    |
| 3. Patrick was very proud of his education growing up.   |    |    |
| 4. When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by Irish pirates.                            |    |    |
| 5. Patrick had a vision that led him to spread the Gospel throughout Ireland.                  |    |    |
| 6. Patrick was ordained a priest in France after escaping slavery.                             |    |    |
| 7. Patrick spent his entire life as a missionary priest.                                       |    |    |
| 8. Scholars agree that Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland.                                |    |    |
| 9. Patrick is known as the Apostle of the Irish.   |    |    |
| 10. Patrick used the shamrock to illustrate the concept of the Trinity.                        |  |  |
| 11. Patrick is renowned for coming up with the Celtic cross.                                   |  |  |
| 12. Patrick was never officially canonized a saint.  |  |  |
| 13. Patrick is the only prominent saint of Ireland.  |  |  |
| 14. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, because it is believed to be the day he died. |  |  |



- Quiz Answers
1. False. Born in Britain around 386.
  2. True.
  3. False. He was embarrassed by his lack of an early education.
  4. True.
  5. True.
  6. True.
  7. False. Ordained a bishop in 431.
  8. False. Legend came later, plus Ireland didn't have snakes.
  9. True.
  10. True or False. This legend is likely false, but it's unclear.
  11. True.
  12. True.
  13. False. Brigit of Kildare and Columba are both prominent Irish saints.
  14. True.

# A Message from Fr. Mike

Have you heard about the pilgrimage this fall to Italy? We will focus upon Rome, where we will participate in the diaconate ordination of two Kansas City seminarians in St. Peter's Basilica. We will attend an audience with Pope Francis. While in Rome, we will also celebrate Mass at a catacomb and visit other significant churches. Outside of Rome, we will tour Ostia Antica, ancient Rome's answer to Pompeii. And on our way to Orvieto, we will stop at a vineyard to sample its wines, then pay our respects at the cathedral, which enshrines the miraculous corporal of Bolsano. We will then proceed on to Assisi, the city of St. Francis, and to Florence, the city of art. I hope you will be able to join us.

## Este Boletín en Español

Para recibir este boletín en español, envíe un correo electrónico a [churchoffice@holycrossopks.org](mailto:churchoffice@holycrossopks.org). Por favor, ponga "Boletín" en la línea de asunto.

Stay current at [www.HolyCrossOPKS.org/news/calendar](http://www.HolyCrossOPKS.org/news/calendar)



Holy Cross—Overland Park, KS

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.HolyCrossOPKS.org](http://www.HolyCrossOPKS.org)

### Join us for Sunday Mass

5:00 PM Saturday

7:00 PM Saturday in

Spanish

7:30 AM Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday

11:00 AM Sunday

1:00 PM Sunday in

Spanish



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