

Year In Review! St. Mary & St. John Faith formation!

2017-2018

September



We had a great start to the year beginning with Father Paider celebrating Holy Mass! The catechists, this year were phenomenal. Their love for Jesus was very evident as they ministered to our youth. We have been blessed! They take their roles as catechists very seriously and it shows in the class. God bless our catechists!

The office was covered by Betty Leopold each Wednesday night to sell SCRIP, give directions, and take care of anything that came her way! It was great having that part of the night taken care of. Thank you Betty!

“Feed Your Soul”

Each Wednesday before class we are so blessed to be able to stop in to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Alice Peeters and Jim Olszewski have been here each Wednesday of Faith Formation to set up for Exposition in the Marietta Chapel. This allowed for anyone to come and have quiet time with Jesus. It also provided for a great experience for our middle and high school students with Brianna leading them. The youth have expressed how much they enjoyed this time.



“Feed Your Body”

What a blessing having Russ and Kathy Brumm head up

the meals before the FF class. There is a wonderful group that come to help prepare, serve, set-up and clean-up. We even had the youth come each week to help with this meal. The menu is awesome and the connection to the saints added another element of catechesis for all of us! We have also added prayer before class in the cafeteria to help to promote family prayer and also different prayer forms.

Youth Ministry

Brianna Trifiletti here has been such a positive experience for our youth. Though she is leaving to be married and moving to Michigan, the support will be remain with Rene’ Martinez stepping in. She has developed a core team of students that help to develop other activities and act as role models for the others. Her addition of prayers experiences and activities that capitalize on forming Disciples, is very apparent in the youth that are involved. Brianna and Rene’ will be working together to make for a smooth transition.

Spiritus and Mount Tabor

The Spiritus Team has been amazing. We had the 1st Communion Retreat and also the confirmation class going to Mount Tabor for overnight retreat. We are blessed to have MT and the Spiritus group right next door!

October

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation has begun with the Candidate/Sponsor gathering and the Rite of Enrollment and their first class with Steve and Vicky Siegel. Another good class with some deep spiritual insight.

Adult Formation

Judy Dvorak has been leading the Wednesday night Adult Formation group. The topics are chosen by the group. All are welcome to attend. We are always called to learn more about our faith and Jesus.

Bible Blessing



Each year the 6th grade class receives a Bible. Deacon Rick with a visit to the classroom explained the reverence for the Bible, Blessed them and handed them out!

Protecting God’s Children

One of the sessions required each year by the Diocese. Reach Counseling Service has been wonderful coming each year to go through safe environment with our students and catechists.

November

Each year the Youth Ministers of the Fox Valley put on a High School Evangelization Night in the beginning of November. This year it was held at St. John in Little Chute. It is always an inspiring night with a Church full of High School students. Awesome!





“Church Search”

Parents and first reconciliation candidates gather in church for the “Church Search.” Everyone loves coming to explore Jesus House! This event gives students and their parents the opportunity to see what and where things are located. Parents are intrigued as much as their child. This group also made their 1st Reconciliation the end of November. This night was open to parishioners for Advent Reconciliation.

Confirmation

Steve and Vicky Siegel have been making the confirmation preparation such a positive experience. Though the weekend Bishop Ricken was to come, we had the major snowstorm and all was cancelled, Father Seidl from St. Gabriel invited our three parishes to join them. It really was an awesome experience to see the Neenah and Menasha parish candidates all being confirmed together.



December

December is all about Advent and preparing for Christmas. Again this year we tied fleece blankets for the area shelters. This activity is loved by the students and the shelters are so thrilled to receive them. We did have Carol Porsche from the Haiti group, talk about just what they have accomplished and what they have experienced there. We did collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. for the people



of Haiti. What a wonderful birthday gift to Jesus!

January

First Communion

Preparation begins for the 1st Communicants. Parents met with Father Paider who spoke to them about the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and their responsibilities as the primary catechists of their children.



February

First Communion Parent and Candidate gather for the “Mass Explained”. We are never finished learning about the Mass. The Mass is an amazing gift. The more we can learn about the Mass the better understanding of the wonderful gift of the Eucharist.

March

Ash Wednesday Mass is the beginning of Lent and prepares us for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Paschal Mystery.



“Hour with Father”

Father Paider took on doing the “Hour with Father” for two weeks on Wednesday nights.



A question and answer time for our students, and adults to ask the questions. Amazing questions and great answers!

ACRE Assessments

March is also the time for our 5th, 8th, and 11th grade to take the ACRE Assessment. This assessment gives us a handle on what is working and where we lack. Small

adjustments in our time here can make a difference in the results.

First Communion Retreat

Put on by MT and the Spiritus team. Parents and candidates gather for the morning retreat. The real presence of Jesus is a concept especially difficult for us to understand. The team does great giving experiences of salvation history and the real presence.

Family Night Reconciliation

is a gift for our families to come and experience the sacrament of Confession before Easter. This year we were blessed with five priests to help!



April

Stations of the Cross

Deacon Don came to give the students the opportunity to experience the Stations of the Cross. Perfect timing right before Holy Week!

First Communion

Communicants were prepared and now have experienced receiving Jesus for the first time. God bless the parents that worked with their children and God bless St. Mary’s 2nd grade teacher Ann Corsmeier and catechists Joel and Sharon Kuplack for bringing this gift of the Eucharist to our children.

RCIA for Children

We have had several children coming back to continue learning about the Catholic faith. You will notice as they are ready they will make their 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion. How wonderful is that!

BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR NEXT YEAR!!