

SAINT MARY PARISH, MILTON

Parish Education Commission Meeting

November 28, 2017

Chair: Joyce Albright
Recorder: Sabrina
Prayer: Deb Krausse

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Ark

Minutes

Present: Joyce Albright, Deb Krausse, Rod Montanye, Mike Sessler, Mary Kay Sitter and Sabrina
Excused: Lori Schrank

- I. Deb led us in Prayer
- II. Minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting were approved.
- III. **Administrative Reports. (See report)**
 - A. Baptism Prep.
 - B. Seeds Preschool. Perhaps send a postcard to children of preschool age letting them know Seeds is available for all children attending Mass...not just those registered.
 - C. Family Ministry. Jane Graves (former director for St. William's Faith Formation) creates the monthly Family Faith newsletter and then Paul and Sabrina add to it. This can also be found on the parish website's Faith Formation blog.
 - D. Elementary. Preparing for "no practice" Christmas program with the kiddos.
 - E. Youth Ministry
 - a. Middle School. 8th graders invited to decorate cookies for the Cookie Walk
 - b. High School
 - c. Post-Confirmation. Sent out another FlockNote seeking juniors and seniors interested in starting this program.
 - F. Parish Involvement
 - G. Registration 2017-2018. 2 new families this past week!
- IV. **Policy Development**
 - A.
- V. **Discussion**
 - A. Baptism – Preschool Years There are some family programs available in which parents receive mailings after baptism which provide encouragement and guidance. One will be ordered to review in January. The subscription cost is around \$20...maybe the parish pays half and the parents pay the other half for this resource.
 - B. Meeting Time. Our meeting time will be changed to 6:00 p.m. beginning in January.
 - C. The Pastoral Council had positive comments on the "We Believe" Family Faith newsletter from Family Ministry, created by Jane Graves, Paul and Sabrina. This document and more can be found on our Faith Formation blog that Paul updates weekly.

VI. Task Assignments for Next Meeting (January 22, 2017)

Chair: Mike Sessler
Recorder: Sabrina
Prayer: Lori Schrank

VII. Adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

SAINT MARY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
FAITH FORMATION
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

To: Education Commission
Date: November 27, 2017
Re: Administrative Report for November

FAITH FORMATION

Baptism

Baptisms continue to be in high demand. Most are celebrated on the first Saturday of the month, but Fr. Dave is great about making accommodations for alternate dates as needed.

Seeds

There is a rotation of four women who assist Mary with the children. Each Sunday, children receive a special item symbolizing the gospel lesson of the day. This past Sunday, they received hickory nuts in and out of the shell as a reminder that God gives us puzzles to figure out...under the hard shell hides a small nut! Apparently, hickory nuts are very hard and not easy to chop up...in case you were wondering.

Elementary

Explore Being Catholic: There were about 25 children that attended class on Halloween. The children learned that the Holy Spirit used to be called the Holy Ghost. We watched a video about the Holy Ghost (Spirit of God) inside of us. The Nicene Creed, Prayers of the Faithful and Offertory were taught this month.

Time with God: The children had a chance to bring up the Gifts and stand around the altar for an up close and personal view of what Fr. Dave does during the Offertory.

Faith-Filled People: Zebedee was left to take care of the family fishing business when his sons chose to follow Jesus. "He" gave the children tips on how to hold the net hoping to find a new employee. Last week, Mary, was back to tell the children about a wedding she attended with Jesus and they ran out of wine! Jesus performed his very first public miracle by turning the water in great big jugs into wine!

Sharing God's Story. The parables continue: Ten Virgins were represented by ten battery-operated candles in the classroom. Only five had batteries representing those prepared for the bridegroom. The Parable of the Talents reminded the children to be sure to use their talents God has given them.

Christmas Reflection. This year's Christmas program, "Journey to the Manger: Shared by those Living as Missionary Disciples" will be very simple on Tuesday, December 12 and Wednesday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m. in Church. The program will feature animals from kindergarten and 1st grades, angels (girls in grades 2-6), shepherds (boys in grades 2-6), the Holy Family, three kings and a star (5th & 6th graders). Seeking out babies (Jesus) from the parish, too.

Family Ministry

See attached newsletter. Classes are going well. We also collected more than \$40 for the Women's Care Center in Madison which is located directly across the street from the Planned Parenthood in which abortions are performed. The Care Center provides ultrasounds allowing mothers to "see" their babies for the first time.

Youth Ministry

Confirmation retreat was great! It was a bit cold outside, but the accommodations at Camp Wakonda were a great fit. We began with Mass in the main lodge with the candidates and sponsors. They had breakfast and an exchange of questions regarding Confirmation. The sponsors left and much of the afternoon was spent indoors focusing on everything-you-need-to-know-about-Confirmation. We had time later in the afternoon to

go outside and talk about Reconciliation. There is a giant cross on the grounds, Fr. Dave set out a bowl of holy water for each to bless and sign themselves. We did feed them lunch, too.

Post-Confirmation. We still have youth interested in a program for post-Confirmation, however, it's been a challenge to get it started. Hoping in December or January we can get the curriculum together.

Advent Adventure. On Saturday, November 18, 2017, there were about 40 kiddos and youth in attendance for this year's adventure, "Journey to the Manger." The journey began with an Advent Wreath made of pipe cleaners and beads. The holy family were introduced next and kiddos painted wooden Joseph, Mary and Jesus figurines. Remember there was no room in the inn, so they tiled a rooftop of an inn with mosaic squares. The family was invited to stay in a stable for the night...painted brown. The shepherds were alerted of the birth of Jesus by singing angels, painted and glued-on feather wings. The shepherds spread the word of Jesus' birth with their decorated megaphones covered in stickers. Children had hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. After lunch, a very special friend came to visit, Saint Nicholas...Santa Claus! The children had about 15 minutes to ask him any questions. Hayden Lee did a great job and then...it happened again. He panicked a bit when the children kept moving closer and closer and finally Santa made a run for it! One group of children ran after him to the right and the other half ran to the left...and was ultimately surrounded and his identity was compromised. Fortunately, parents arrived to pick up their children. It was a good day.

Community Action Thanksgiving Baskets. After a quick scene change from Advent Adventure, the Parish Center was converted into a giant Michael's clearance extravaganza (Halloween, Christmas, houseware, crafts, flowers, ribbon and more) in the first part of the Center for Sunday, November 19. Several families and youth assisted clients with their bags and boxes of goodies along with their Thanksgiving dinner baskets put together by the FFA.

Registration 2017-2018

Registration is going well. We continue to welcome additional children.

“We Believe” Family Faith News

December 2017

12-10-2017

Bible Ideas

Christmas symbols

Evergreen Tree: Titus 1:2
Eternal Life

Star & Lights: Matthew 2: 9-10
Star that told of Christ's birth

Candy Cane: Luke 2: 8-9, John 10:11
Staff of shepherds who visited the Christ
child/Christ is the good shepherd

Bells: John 10:16
Ring out to bring lost sheep back to the fold

Holly & Berries: Titus 1:2, Luke 22:44
Green = Eternal life, Red = Blood of Christ

Gift: Matthew 2:1,11, John 3:16
Wise men's gifts to the Christ child/God's
greatest gift to us was the Savior



We Believe

20 Random Acts of Christmas Kindness

- * Give up your spot in line.
- * Donate money to an organization you participate in.
- * Pay for someone else's coffee.
- * Send cards to service men and women.
- * Tell jokes to make someone smile.
- * Donate food to your food bank.
- * Donate pet supplies to the shelter.
- * Help someone do a chore or other job.
- * Do yard work or shovel for a neighbor.
- * Donate books you no longer need.
- * Pick up litter.
- * Donate to a charity (last year we picked Alzheimer's Cures)
- * Leave a popcorn surprise for strangers to find.
- * Donate toys to a children's hospital.
- * Donate a pair of new pajamas for foster kids.
- * Put money in the Salvation Army bucket.
- * Make get well cards for someone who needs them.
- * Bring coffee to your favorite teacher

FAMILY

Live nativity at Cargill United Methodist Church (2000 Wesley Ave) - Tonight from 5-7 p.m.

Things we can do in the month of December

1. St. Adelaide - Feast Day: December 16th- patron saint of princess, parenthood, abuse victims, in-law problems, step parents
2. On December 26, we honor St. Stephen, who was the first of the disciples to be martyred for Christ. He was one of the first seven deacons ordained by the Apostles, and was known for his wisdom beyond his years. As he was being stoned to death, he begged God not to punish his murderers and then said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

Each candle of the Advent wreath symbolizes one of the four virtues Jesus brings us.

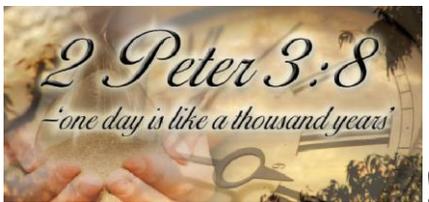
Littlest Believers

Gathering with Jane to work on the basics of the Catholic Faith

-today we will search for signs of Advent by visiting different stations and enjoying activities with your family. Enjoy the many things you will be taking home and find a special area to display them in order for you to keep Advent alive.

saintmarymiltonfaithformation.weebly.com has this newsletter, plus bonus material to enhance your family's faith!

Everybody wearing our shirt will be winning a prize. Don't forget WE BELIEVE!!



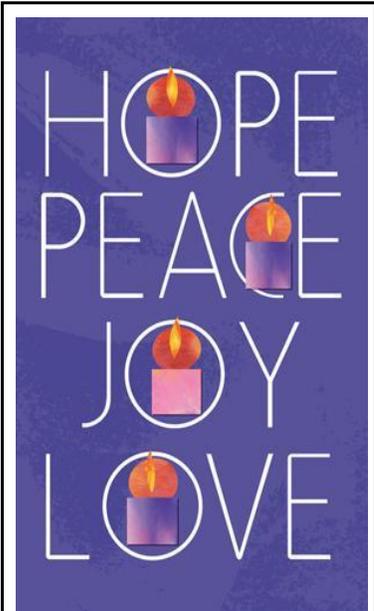
Blossoming Believers

Last month we learned about *psalms*, which are a collection of sacred hymns used in Jewish worship, and how they are quoted in the New Testament.

This weekend's second reading is an example of that. Jesus promised to return after he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. This is something we believe and we profess it every time we say the Creed together during Mass, right after Father's homily.

"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end."

But this return wasn't happening fast enough for some people, so the writer of the Second Letter of Saint Peter reminded them that "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day" meaning that God works outside of time and just because Jesus hasn't come back yet doesn't mean he won't. The writer was referencing **Psalm 90:4**. Can you find it in your Bible?



Week 1: Hope

Name: Prophet's candle
Reminds us... all the holy people who spoke about the coming of Christ the Savior

Week 2: Peace

Name: Angel's candle
Reminds us... the message of the angels: "Peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased."

Week 3: Joy

Name: Shepherd's candle
Reminds us... the joy first experienced by the shepherds at the coming birth of Jesus and the promise it fulfilled

Week 4: Love

Name: Candle of Love
Reminds us... God's bound- less love for us all