

**SAINT MARY of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Education Commission Minutes**

October 24, 2017

Chair: Joyce Albright
Recorder: Sabrina
Prayer: Rod Montanye

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

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

- I. Rod led us in prayer.
- II. Minutes from the September 26, 2017 meeting were approved with the change that Mike did not lead us in prayer, rather, it was Lori.
- III. Administrative Report for September
 - A. See attached report. See below for additional reports
 - a. Four adults have come forward to help Mary Kapheim with the Seeds preschool program.
 - b. Elementary children have been signing/making cards for other children who have lost loved ones, most recently, grandparents. They also signed a card for Angie McNally who lost her husband the middle of October. Children are also beginning to decorate cards for baptisms. Children from both Tuesday and Wednesday classes made two fleece tie blankets. We put together two "We Believe" baskets, each including one of the blankets, for a Harvest Festival raffle.
 - c. Teaching moments. The fresh aroma of incense from my father-in-law's funeral lingered in church during the Wednesday elementary class. I told the children to try and guess what happened in church earlier in the day by using their sense of smell. Julie Miller, station leader for Time with God, gave the children insight into what to say to someone who has lost a loved one, "I'm sorry for your loss." After the first station rotation, one of our new children came right up to me and said, "I'm sorry for your loss." Something so simple...and yet extremely touching for me. At the end of class in church, together the children prayed three "Hail Mary's" – one for my father-in-law, one for Tom McNally, and one for one of their loved ones.
 - d. Youth Ministry.
 - i. Today, Marie Wallace, Director of Religious Education (DRE) at St. Patrick in Janesville, stopped by St. Mary. The Janesville directors/coordinators meet monthly. We talked about opportunities for the church leaders in the area to come together to plan some youth events and trips.
 - ii. One of our youth, a high school senior, had to undergo a surgical procedure. The elementary children wrote inspirational cards to her and I put together a basket of goodies (mug, cocoa, "We Believe" t-shirts, and a couple of other little items. Another high school senior dropped off the basket at the girl's home where she was recuperating.
 - iii. CYO. A parishioner expressed interest in starting a CYO (Christian Youth Organization) basketball team. I gave them the contact information of the man involved from St. John Vianney.
 - B. Registrations and new children continue to arrive.

IV. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A. Not at this time.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Baptism – Preschool Years. Hoping to begin a ministry for young families beginning at baptism. Perhaps pairing up families for mentoring.

B. Remembering those who have died. Maybe we have prayer time for the first 5 minutes of class for the youth including music, candles, specific intentions for prayer. Cards from kids for kids.

C. Praise and Worship. Doreen Houge, St. Mary Music Coordinator, let me know that her praise and worship group, Joyful Noise, will be coming in January or February to do the music for a Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass. After Mass, they will remain for a praise and worship gathering with contemporary songs from Breaking Bread.

D. Outreach to families in need. Why is Faith important to us? Eternal life. The belief that one day we will all be reunited in heaven and greeted by our loved ones who have gone before us.

VI. **Task Assignments for Next Meeting (November 28, 2017)**

Chair: Lori Schrank

Recorder: Sabrina

Prayer: Deb Krausse

VII. Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Administrative Report on next page

**SAINT MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
FAITH FORMATION
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

To: Education Commission
Date: October 19, 2017
Re: Administrative Report for October

FAITH FORMATION

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the first Saturday of each month. In preparation, first-time parents meet with Sabrina to watch and discuss a video on Baptism using *Formed* which gives parents a better understanding of the sacrament and the process of the rite: <https://formed.org/study/5602e34a2c360d300a308892>

Seeds

Mary Kapheim received some volunteers to help on Sunday mornings. She usually has 10-12 children attend class during the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Elementary

Explore Being Catholic: The Penitential Rite prepares our hearts for receiving Jesus. The Penitential Act gives us a chance to say how sorry we are for things that we've done to hurt God, ourselves and others and the things we should have done. When we say "through my fault..." three times, it means we're really, really, really sorry. Kind of like when Peter denied knowing Jesus three times and again when Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved Jesus! We also learned some Greek: Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison.

The Gloria is made up of three parts. The first part is the song the shepherds heard sung by angels at Jesus' birth. The second part praises God by recalling all his attributes. The third part prays to Jesus asking us to save us from our sins.

The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Old and New Testaments. We sing "Alleluia" before the Gospel reading because we're happy! Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote the four gospels in the New Testament. Matthew, a tax collector, and John, a teenager, were friends with Jesus. Mark, a scholar, and Luke, a doctor, learned about Jesus and wish they had met him, but they knew some of Jesus' friends and they believed, too!

Time with God: During the Penitential Act, we sit. When we say "through my fault," we make a fist and touch our chests three times, too. "Gospel" means "good news." When Fr. Dave says, "A reading from the holy Gospel according to ____ (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)" then we make the sign of the cross with our thumb and quietly say, "God be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart."

Faith-Filled People: We learned from Mary about when Jesus was born. The people waited 8 days before naming their babies. Mary and Joseph already knew their baby was Jesus, because that's what the Angel Gabriel told them! There were some very special people, Simeon and Anna, who believed Jesus was God's Son! Mary also told the story of the Magi coming to her home with gifts for Jesus. The family had to move to Egypt because King Herod was coming after Jesus.

Mary taught about the Passover and told a story of when Jesus was accidentally left behind on their trip. They found him in the Temple. John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin and he ate bugs. Paul made locusts and wild honey for our snack...very yummy. I hear it's the "chips and salsa" of those times long ago. The children made baptism cards.

Sharing God's Story. The parables continue: A Father and Two Sons, Tenants, Wedding Feast. There was also an argument about taxes between Jesus and some people.

Family Ministry

See attached newsletter.

Youth Ministry

We started a make-up link for middle and high school youth on our Faith Formation page on our website. Paul, CRE from St. Joe's, came to St. Mary for a visit about programs. They were invited to join us for our Confirmation retreat. Retreat is on Sunday, November 5 at Camp Wakonda again. Fr. Dave plans to be there for the day.

Parish Involvement

Joyce Albright and Mary Kay Sitter joined us for Tuesday classes.

Registration 2017-2018

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

"We Believe" Family Faith News

November 2017

11-12-17

ACTS PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

The ACTS method of prayer involves four steps: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. When this method is used by adults, it results in a lengthier prayer time, as several moments are spent in reflection on Bible verses that support each part of the prayer.

Most young children won't understand what each letter of the ACTS acronym means, so instead, use it as a guide to take them through the prayer time as follows, pausing after each step for a minute or so to allow time for prayer. This is another activity that is easy to use at home or in Sunday School.

Adoration: First, tell God how much you love him.

Confession: Then, tell God about what you have done wrong and tell him you are sorry. He will forgive you, but he asks that you don't do this thing again.

Thanksgiving: Think about all the good things in your life and thank God for these blessings.

Supplication: Pray for something you need help with, and for other people who need God's help.

We Believe

PRAYER

CATHOLICFAMILYFAITH.ORG

Thankfulness



I Can Be Thankful and Grow in My Catholic Faith by Doing These Simple Things.

Thank God for all the blessings I receive, even if I don't quite understand them or don't think they are a real blessing at the time - like not getting a present I wanted or catching a cold.

Share extra food from your garden with neighbors, your pastor, or other families in your parish.

Give an offering to God, no matter how small, at holy Mass.

Write a thank-you card for a gift I received or when someone does something nice for me.

Tell someone "thank you" when they have helped me or served me in some way.

Eat the meals my parents and family prepare for me, even if it isn't my favorite food.

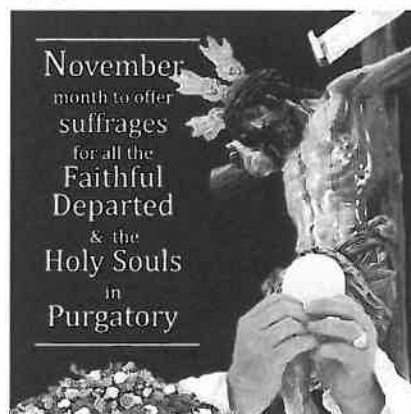
Take care of my belongings to show I am thankful for having them and also to show my parents I appreciate the sacrifices they make for me.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for all the blessings that I have been given - even those things that don't really seem like a blessing right now. Help me to remember that ALL gifts come from You because of the love that You have for me. The greatest gift that I was ever given, was Your Son, Jesus. Let me show my thankfulness to You by helping and loving those around me, especially my parents and family members. Amen.

Image © EWTN Publications

© 2012 Catholic Family Faith



November
month to offer
suffrages
for all the
Faithful
Departed
& the
Holy Souls
in
Purgatory

FAMILY

Thanksgiving Table Talk-
(vibrantfaithathome.org)
Ideas to inspire sharing conversation around the dinner table.

THINGS WE CAN DO IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

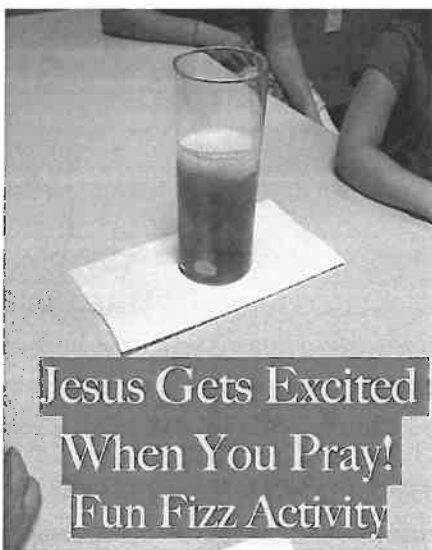
1. Have a family sing-a-long and dance party to honor **St. Cecilia**, patron saint of music (Nov. 22)
2. Bake bread together and deliver to friends or neighbors (especially ones in need of some extra) in honor of the feast of **St. Elizabeth of Hungary** (Nov. 17)
3. Do a family science experiment to honor the feast of **St. Albert the Great**, the patron saint of scientists. (Nov. 15)

LITTLEST BELIEVERS

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

-today we will learn how exciting prayer can be by a science experiment.

We are honoring St. Albert the Great, the patron saint of scientists.




SAINTMARYMILTONFAITHFORMATION.WEEBLY.COM has this newsletter, plus bonus material to enhance your family's faith!

BLOSSOMING BELIEVERS

Gathering with Paul in a small group to learn what **psalms** are and the three main types: *thanksgiving*, *lament/complaint*, and *praise*.

PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING




PSALM 69:30
I will praise the name of God with a song,
I will magnify him with thanksgiving




PSALM 100:4
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him, bless his name!



PSALM 106:1
Praise the Lord!
Oh give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good
for his steadfast love endures forever!



PSALM 75:1
We give thanks to you, O God,
we give thanks, for your name is near
We recount your wondrous deeds.



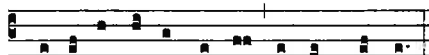
PSALM 44:8
In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name forever



PSALM 86:12
I give thanks to you, O Lord my God with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever

www.mamouthhills.org

Plus, we'll learn where **psalms** appear in the Mass!



My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Creative Commons Copyright © 2010
The Saint Noel Chabanel Responsorial Psalm Project - <http://chabanelpsalm.org>

PARENTS- THE TEACHERS

Gathering with Sabrina...

Prayer is essential to our survival as Christians.

The first form of prayer for the family is for us parents to build a strong foundation of prayer for ourselves.

The second form of prayer for the family is to teach the children how to pray.

The third form of prayer for the family is "Family Prayer." Parents and grandparents need to set times for prayer in their households - "domestic churches."

Begin every morning with a prayer prior to leaving home. This routine can be handed down from generation to generation reminding them that their ancestors believed.

We can keep faith in the world when our children believe and when...

WE BELIEVE!

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