

Date: September 2024
To: Board of Education
From: Tammy Huss
Re: Monthly Report

National Youth Ministry

- NCYC will take place in November of 2025

Diocesan Youth Ministry

- Cassie Klimek is coordinating our youth ministry events with the diocese and local.
- Our first diocesan sponsored event is the High School Youth Day which takes place October 27th at Lake Geneva Christian Center here in Alexandria. It is our 3rd year hosting.
- We have 5 students serving on the Diocesan Youth Council. Three of our returnees made the Central Minnesota Magazine – Flynn Cash, Kylee Sagedahl, and Olivia Zollner.

<https://thecentralminnesotacatholic.org/have-you-heard-about-the-diocesan-youth-council/>



Parish Youth Ministry/Faith Formation

- Confirmation students met for the first time this fall on Wednesday, September 11. Their Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on December 1 at 2:00pm.
- Grades 6-10 FF starts Wednesday, September 18 with Jodi Vanderheiden coordinating.
- Lori Mayer-Perowitz is offering a Young Women of Grace study for our HS girls on their off nights.
- Cassie has been busy this summer with a small group of high schoolers forming a peer ministry team who have been helping her plan events.
- Upcoming for MS: movie night on September 13 in the GH.
<https://www.stmaryalexandria.org/religious-education/youth-ministry-middle-school/>
- Upcoming for HS: Lifeline (she is taking a small group to a NET event in the cities), Bonfire coming up on September 29, and has started interest forms for next summer's Steubenville Rochester.
<https://www.stmaryalexandria.org/religious-education/youth-ministry-high-school/>
- P&W nights open to all – next one is September 15.

Inter-Denominational Youth Ministry (Young Life)

- Fall Wyldlife starts September 30 @ the YMCA 6:17-7:17. Cassie has done some training with them and is attending some of the evenings. Amanda K is still very active with YL.
- Fall Young Life is also starting September 30 @ the YMCA following WL.

- We had several MS kids attend camp this summer. Fall Camp takes place December 6-8 at the Castaway Club.
- Coterie meetings just started up. Will meet monthly. This ministry brings together faith leaders of the community to pray together and learn from each other. Next meeting October 10.
- Dessert Frenzy Fundraiser – Monday, October 7 @ Crooked Willow starting at 6:30pm.

Young Adult Ministry

- They did not meet weekly during the summer, but are hoping to start up soon.
- There is a diocesan event, *Theology on Draft* scheduled for September 26 from 7:00-8:30pm @ The Depot. There will be a speaker and appetizer provided.
- Dance scheduled for Saturday, October 19 here at St Mary's.

Adult Faith Formation

- RCIA starts up on September 17. We have 3 joining us so far.
- REBOOT with Chris Stefanick takes place Sunday, October 20 from 6:00-8:00pm
- *Men's Retreat* coming up on October 26 from 8:00 – 11:30am – Bishop Cozzens speaking
- Monday afternoon apologetics study – open to all – Connee Thorstad coordinates
- Mike Sponsler – Tuesday evening Zoom Bible study – open to all
- Russ Craigmile – Wednesday afternoon Men's Bible Study
- Tammy Huss & Lori Mayer-Perowitz – Women's Bible Study Wednesday & Saturday mornings – just started with Revelation.
- Mike Sponsler – Thursday early morning Men's study

Report to the Board of Education – September 2024
Laurie Bienias, Coordinator of Grades 1-5 Faith Formation

Baptism Prep

- Cami Huss has taken over the Baptism Prep classes with new parents and Brenda Becker has been handling communication, scheduling and recording.

Family Faith Formation (Grades 1-5)

- The first session was held on September 11th.
- Registration:
 - 84 Children
 - 61 Families
 - 17 Childcare Children (ages 1-5)
 - 48 RSVP for dinner and we served more.
- Overall, the night went very well. Fr. Dan was on hand to welcome and speak with parents then was involved with the energy was high and both children and adult sessions had lots of conversations. Comments from the children's leaders was the lesson was wonderful and very engaging.
- Julie Desautels is planning the children's lesson plans and working with leaders.
- I am overseeing the parent sessions.
- Our next session is planned for September 25th.



Blessed Sacrament Prep (Grade 2)

- Mary Gorghuber will lead the Sacramental Prep 2024/2025
- Families will have four classes at church and two lessons will be done at home.
 - Dates have been set for First Communion
 - Saturday, May 3rd at 5pm (rehearsal Thursday, May 1st at 6pm)
 - Sunday, May 11th at 10 am (rehearsal Saturday, May 10th at 10 am)

Rise & Shine Little Saints:

- Julie Desautels is coordinating this new monthly family formation which replaces the Sunday School program that was held during the 10am Mass.
- The program will be held the first Sunday of the month (October-May) after and 8 & 10 Mass.
- Geared for families with children ages 4-K. Siblings are welcome to join in.
- Program will set up in the back of the Great Hall. Families can enjoy coffee, juice, and rolls while parents move through a series of parent led learning stations.
- No Cost and No Registration families.
- Large posters will be set out near the North and South doors on the first Sunday of the month to remind families to join us in the Great Hall after Mass.
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