

Family and Youth Initiatives Meeting

October 17, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Purpose: To support the Religious Education program and provide Catholic formational opportunities for youth and families.

Present Committee Members: Kari Mathys, Jenny VandenLangenberg, Mitch Peterson, Loren Vandenplas, Tara O'Donohue, Katie Fameree ~ Staff Members: Theresa Williams, Neil Saindon

Joan Huntoon informed us that she is stepping down from the committee. We are sorry to see her go, and thank her for the time she dedicated to the youth and families of our parish.

1. RE update

- Theresa has provided her report/update in advance of the meeting. RE is going well. The 2nd graders recently had their First Reconciliation/Communion meeting. She is still looking for RE and Gospel Time leaders. Gospel Time may need to take a break from January-May when offices are moved into Fellowship Hall due to construction.

2. Middle & High School Update

- Neil as provided his report/update in advance of the meeting.
- Babysitting Ministry and Youth Group updates: The Babysitting Ministry cannot start until after the church renovation. Tara is getting paperwork done regarding the requirements needed for babysitters and making a registration process. She's also making a list of needed items for the future kids' babysitting room (toys, rocking chair, etc). .
- Jenny updated on contact form for minors/parent proxies. 12 or so have been received so far per Red.
- Update on the creation of a Grad Pack Ministry (Yet to be officially named - Fan the Flame seems to be the winner so far) - This is where we would need to collect the addresses of young adult POP members that have moved on from RE classes, and mail them cards/goodies/invites to let them know that POP cares 😊. Jenny shared via Flocknote a communication draft that Red created for Neil, Theresa, and the Committee to talk through. Theresa will talk to Red about some updates to the communication. Mitch and Jenny said they are interested in assisting to get this ministry going. They will work with Neil to get it off the ground.
 - The Young Adult Committee has lost several members and needs to recruit more. The small core group has ideas and plans made, but Neil needs to confirm if they have been submitted to the Parish Office. A representative from this committee needs to be chosen to represent them at the Parish Council.
 - Confirmation is at 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 21, at St. Mary's in Ledgeview.
 - Neil is looking for more leaders for the Youth Group Core Team.

3. FYI Committee Events & Initiatives

- Pet Blessing October 7th Recap- this year's event was very successful! There were roughly 25 pets and 51 people. We had dog, cat, and people treats available, and also took pictures of

people with their pets. We made picture frames with them and people can pick them up in the gathering space.

- Pumpkin Carving October 22nd 11:00-1:30 - Committee Members who will be there: Kari, Jenny, Mitch, Loren.
 - Pumpkins carving tools, paint supplies are downstairs. We have rolls of white paper in the basement for tablecloths. Provide markers, utensils for participants. Kari will coordinate.
 - Mitch will get pumpkins.
 - Gift Cards for prizes- 10 cards bought with Scrip for \$10 each - Joan will organize.
 - Food- 5 dozen donuts, candy, fruit, string cheese. Kari will buy.
 - Drinks- pitchers water, coffee, cider, lemonade. Loren will buy.
 - Music- use church Spotify list. Jenny will work this out with Kody.
 - Put up our FYI sign. Jenny will take care of.
 - Mitch will organize the categories and get paper bags, scrap paper for voting. Mitch will also speak on the microphone during the event.
 - Kari will make pumpkin seeds.

- Breakfast in Bethlehem, Magi Market - December 10th - Knights of Columbus will be able to provide the breakfast again. Kari will lead the Magi Market. Jenny will plan the story/short nativity play and costumes but is looking for some helpers to assist in this planning. Theresa is going to see if any RE parents are interested.
- Children's Collection Disbursement - Box of Joy-Cross Catholic Outreach, is a program that fills a shoe box size box of goodies for kids to enjoy around Christmas time. We will order 50 Boxes of Joy which are, \$9 each. They are to be filled with various items like small toys, school supplies, candy, hygiene products, etc. Theresa will order the 50 boxes and the Gospel Time kids will stuff them during Mass on November 5. Supplies will be bought by Kari, Loren, Katie Fameree. They will spend around \$200 each. The total cost of this project will be around \$1,000 total. Mitch will deliver them to Appleton by the mid November due date.
- New Parish Member Dinner on October 21st at 5:30. No one from our committee is able to attend.
 - We again discussed the purchase of a logo photo op background that we can use at our events, such as the Pet Blessing or Pumpkin Carving Event. The committee members agreed that we should look further into it and if we find a good option, we should send it to the group, then work with Red on the images, then place the order.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 16th at 6:00