

Family and Youth Initiatives Meeting Minutes 11.14.24

Committee Members Present: Kari Mathys, Jenny VandenLangenberg, Tara O'Donohue, Katie Fameree, Tammy Malach, Connie Davister. Deacon Jeff was also in attendance.

1. Boxes of Joy Recap
 - a. This event went very well and all gifts were donated this year! Parish kids packed 100 boxes during Gospel Time at 10:00 Mass on November 3rd and Mitch brought them to Appleton. \$882.00 from the Children's Collection was used for shipping the boxes. If we do this again next year, a suggestion is to sort the toy and item donations as they come in, that way there is less time spent organizing later.
2. Pumpkin Carving Event Recap
 - a. Add your comments to the planning document: [Pumpkin Carving Event](#). This was another successful event. We will tweak some details for next year that are noted in the document but overall it was well attended.
3. Breakfast in Bethlehem and the Magi Market Event-December 15
 - a. Magi Market Set up: Jenny, Kari and Tammy will be at Saturday morning set up. Sunday committee help is Katie, Kari, Jenny, Tammy. Kari is busy organizing gifts for Magi Market, Jenny is working on the advertising/promotion for the event, and crafts are ordered.
 - b. Breakfast-Knights of Columbus have confirmed they will make it 😊
 - c. Nativity Play during BIB Update-The goal was instead of a book reading at BIB to have a play acted out by the kids. Connie tried recruiting kids for parts and did not get much interest. The committee discussed options and decided to not do a play this year, and will switch to The Grumpy Ox book reading. We'd like to consider working proactively with Theresa Williams on getting a play/concert on the calendar for next December as a Together in Faith event. Another idea is to work with her and Neil on a Living Stations of the Cross program this Lent.

4. Blessing Bags Update-Tammy is taking care of cleaning and restocking the Blessing Bags. This has been a nice addition to our Masses and they are being used more and more.
5. Child Care Ministry Room Update-Tara reported that teen Tessa Demuese will paint a mural in the Carlos Acuitis teen/kid room in the lower level. Tara and Neil will discuss and decide how to furnish the room, and work with Tessa on the mural. Tara got a donation of some childrens tables and chairs. A camera has been installed in the room as well. Childcare is not going to be needed for the Lectio Divina event in December.
6. Movie Night in February? We mentioned showing the movie Father Stu in winter since we could not watch it at the June Movie Night. We will further discuss it at the next meeting.
7. Survey to parishioners about needs/ideas for 2025? The committee will think about sending a survey out to parents to find out more about their family spiritual needs, and if they have input/suggestions on events offered to families.

Next Meeting: December 9th from 7:00-8:00. There is Mass at 6:00 that evening for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception that we can attend before the meeting.

Looking ahead:

Check on the amount in the Children's Collection-Jenny

Possibly disperse Children's Collection money for local people in need? Theresa has suggested the CHOW program in Denmark which provides food for students on the weekends.

Winter Carnival Event? Sock Hop? Bingo? Movie Night in Community Room-Father Stu and Children's Movie downstairs?

Living Stations/Palm Sunday event? Ceramic Easter Egg project?

Movie Night in June?

[FYI Events and Initiatives 2024 Document](#) - This will be updated for 2025