

Family and Youth Initiatives Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2024

Committee Members Present: Kari Mathys, Jenny VandenLangenberg, Mitch Peterson, Tammy Malach

1. Backpack Blessing Quick Recap - Aug. 24/25. There were 5 kids each at 4:30 and 8:00 Masses, 25-30 kids at 10:00 Mass, and 10-12 kids along with 10 teachers, aides, etc. that came forward at the 6:00 Mass. Next year, we need to have more helpers at the 10:00 Mass and we also recommend a name change to Back to School Blessing and have all the teachers, aides, bus drivers, helpers, etc. along with the students to come up for blessings.
2. The group finalized the details for the Sunday, September 8th-Grandparent Event Celebration. Here is the planning document:[Grandparents Day Celebration](#). We emphasized a greater push on advertising this weekend because it was missed in the announcements and the sign up sheet was not set out the weekend of 8/24 and 8/25.
3. Child Care Ministry Update - Tara and Jenny spoke at the Parish Council meeting about concerns our committee has over the room that is designated for children. We are asking for a meeting to talk about the ideas and possibilities of a dedicated children's room, and the leadership of the Parish Council will be in touch to discuss next steps.
4. Pet Blessing - Sat. Oct. 5 9:00 a.m. We touched base on details and will finalize them at the September meeting. Here is the planning document: [Pet Blessing 2023/2024](#)
5. Boxes of Joy - Cross Catholic Outreach-October will be the collection month. Mitch made an advertising poster and will make 2 boxes with sample items for display in the back of church. Theresa ordered 100 boxes, which is the goal we would like to pack. Boxes will be packed on November 3rd during and after 10:00 Mass. Jenny will create a list of volunteer opportunities for Confirmation and RE Students to help with our upcoming events including this one.
6. Pumpkin Carving Event-October 27th We Started to coordinate the details. Here is the planning document:[Pumpkin Carving Event](#)

Save the Dates:

- Date for Breakfast in Bethlehem and the Magi Market - Dec. 15 (Gaudete Sunday). We briefly discussed how we will modify this even now that we have more space. We'll continue to brainstorm and are open to suggestions for how to make this even bigger/better.
- Thurs. Dec. 12 Parish Lectio Divina Event - Child Care Request by Discipleship Committee.
- Epiphany Celebration - Jan. 6th.

FYI Committee Events & Initiatives for 2024 See working document here: [FYI Events and Initiatives 2024](#) Please feel free to add in your ideas and updates as we move along through the year.

Next Meeting: October 14th at 6:30 (We are being highly encouraged to schedule our meetings on the first or second Thursday of each month. We'll try to get on this track as long as it works out for the majority of the committee members to attend.)