

Our kids need YOU!

Will you help make our Faith Formation program AWESOME?



Virtus Session on Thursday, Mar. 21, 6 - 9 pm

Our parish has made a commitment to keeping children in our church safe, and part of that commitment is ensuring that everyone who volunteers with children and youth has had a background check and attended adult safe environment training (Virtus). **We are in need of more parents who will assist in class or act as hall monitors. Would you be willing to help?** Julie will train you, and you can choose which days you are available. Our goal is to have EVERY parent volunteering in some way, so that together we can work to help our children grow in their faith.

To make it easier, we've scheduled a **Virtus session here at Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, March 21 from 6—9 pm**. Once you've attended this live training, you'll only need to update with a short online training every three years. To sign up, go to www.virtus.org and sign up for this session (there's also one at St. Pascal's on February 4, as well as other sessions in the area). You can submit information for the background check on this website as well.

Thank you so much for doing this for our children! If you have any questions, please contact Julie at jtaylor@blessedsacramentsp.org.

Opportunities for Prayer



On Wednesday evenings...
press pause
in the presence of God.
Be restored.
Be refreshed.
Be renewed.

- Come join other parents for a *pause* from your busy lives.
- Reflect on the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday Mass and what they mean for your life.
- Prayer and sharing, as well as coffee, tea, and treats!
- Wednesdays from 6:45 - 7:45 on Faith Formation evenings.



Sunday, January 20, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Blessed Sacrament Church

All too often it is challenging to find peace and rest in our day-to-day. There is always much to do and our lives seem to be continually busy. There is a peace that only the Lord can give and He wants us to rest and abide in Him.

We invite you to a special hour of prayer and music on the third Sunday of the month. Experience the joy that comes with gathering together to lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer of all that He has done for us and who He is!
For old and young and everyone in between.

3rd Sunday of every month 6:30 - 7:30



Faith Formation News

A newsletter for families of Blessed Sacrament
January/February 2019

Carrying Christ Out Into the World

by Julie Taylor



We have a lovely Christmas tradition here at Blessed Sacrament of having a child and family carry in the Baby Jesus at the beginning of Christmas Masses and lay Him in the manger. This year it was so moving for me to watch this happen at each of our three Christmas Masses, each child excited and expectant as they held the wooden Baby Jesus.

It got me thinking about how our amazing families carry Christ not only into church at Christmas, but also in their homes and out

Continued on Page 2



Coming Up:

Sunday, January 20:

- Gr. 8 - 10 Attend & serve at 10:30 Mass
- **Confirmation Gr. 10 Presentation of Candidates at 10:30 Mass**
- **Confirmation Sponsor Mtg. 11:30am**
- **Sunday Night Praise 6:30 - 7:30** (Page 12)

Wednesday, January 23:

- Faith Formation class 6:30 - 7:45 and **"Press Pause"** for parents.
- Grades 6 & 7 head to Oak Meadows to play **Bingo** with seniors.

Wednesday, January 30:

Parish Night of Service 6—8 pm
Family dinner included! (Page 4)

Wednesday, February 6:

Faith Formation class 6:30 - 7:45 and **"Press Pause"** for parents.

Thursday, February 7:

Women's Club Movie Night 6:30
"I Can Only Imagine" (Page 4)

Friday - Sunday, February 8 - 10:

Gr. 10 Confirmation Retreat at the NET Center

Saturday, February 9:

Cana Dinner for married & engaged couples 5—9 pm. FREE CHILDCARE! (Page 8)

Wednesday, February 13:

Faith Formation class 6:30 - 7:45 and **"Press Pause"** for parents.

Sunday, February 17:

- Gr. 8 - 10 Attend & serve at 10:30 Mass
- **Sunday Night Praise 6:30 - 7:30** (Page 12)

Wednesday, February 20:

Faith Formation class 6:30 - 7:45 and **"Press Pause"** for parents.

Wednesday, February 27: Getting Ready for Lent Family Night 6—8 pm

Carrying Christ Out Into the World *(continued from Page 1)*



into the world every day. I see this in happening in so many of our families: you parents, teens, children, and grandparents who by your words, prayers, kindness, and faithfulness to the Gospel shine a light in the darkness. When it's easy to lose hope, you remind me that Christ is our light, and our job is to carry that light, one little prayer or word or act at a time.

May 2019 be a year in which we continue to strive for holiness, to be a light in the darkness, and to carry Christ out into the world!



Blessed Sacrament Church has Purchased a Gift For You!

Enjoy a free subscription to FORMED.org — an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place! With FORMED, you can:

- Prepare for Sunday Mass by watching an insightful five-minute video by renowned Catholic teachers
- Enjoy a movie with your family that is both nourishing and entertaining
- Enrich your marriage with the award-winning video series Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage
- Help your children grow in character and embrace the beauty and wonder of the faith

FORMED provides amazing content 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. It's EASY and FREE to Register! Content is available on the website or on the mobile app.

- Go to blessedsacrament.formed.org (access code is XHMTMH)
- Click on "Register"
- Enter your name, email, and desired password
- You're all set to enjoy the engaging and inspiring content on FORMED!

Folks are calling FORMED the "Catholic Netflix."

Classroom Update

Grade 6

Catechists: Cathy Shannon and Carrie Stout

The 6th grade students continued their Advent journey by learning more about this liturgical season and in preparing their hearts to welcome Baby Jesus through the sacrament of Reconciliation. The class also participated in the required Safety Lessons which focused on safe use of the internet. In January the students are exploring God's Plan for Salvation, both in history and in their own lives. They have learned that God has a plan for all of us if we can take the time to listen to His voice. They will put their faith in action by going to Oak Meadows Nursing Home to play bingo with the Seniors. In February the students will begin learning about Jesus the Christ.

Grade 7

Catechist: Jacob Beers

In the past couple of months we've been focusing on Christian morality through the lens of the Ten Commandments, including a combined class on social justice with the 5th graders on January 9th. On January 16th we'll be preparing and performing a play for the 4th graders on the Ten Commandments (which they are studying, too) and on January 23rd we'll get to go play Bingo with the seniors at Oak Meadows.



Grade 8 & 9

Catechists: Tom Regan and Jennifer Tuckner

In December we heard a report on the pornography talk at Hill Murray by three 9th graders who attended. We've also been learning that Jesus existed, as His life in the Gospels is historical fact as shown by contemporary non-Christian writers and archeology. This Jesus who lived some 2,000 years ago is the meaning of human history. Only Jesus claimed to be God. And proved it. We learned some proofs for His Resurrection and talked about why be Catholic. In January and

February we'll be studying the meaning of friendship and love according to Jesus.

Grade 10

Catechists: Luke Mulderink, Sarah Kalonick & Sydney March

In November and December we learned about and practiced different ways to pray, including lectio divina and journaling. We've just completed writing papers about our Confirmation saints, and will be learning about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This Sunday at 10:30 Mass there will be a presentation of our Confirmation candidates, followed by a meeting with sponsors and candidates.



Sunday CGS Level I (Preschool/Kindergarten)

Lead Catechist: Renae Kuettel

Asst. Catechist: Sally Strasser

In December we worked with the children on the infancy narratives of Jesus. We spoke a lot about how it is good to wait, especially for something as important and exciting as Jesus being born. We also spoke a lot about light, which was a beautiful, tangible thing for them to experience each week as we were able to light more and more advent candles. We are so happy to have a few weeks of Christmas in January for the children to keep thinking about how important it was for Jesus to be born here on earth, as our King. We will be using the time before Lent to talk about a number of parables as well as different gestures used at mass.

Sunday CGS Level II (Grades 1 - 2)

Lead Catechist: Julie Taylor

Asst. Catechist: Sally Strasser

After learning about salvation history in the beginning of the year, we're now learning more about the books of the Bible and how to find things in it. We're also writing Bible verses into our own special book of prayers that we'll later write the words of the Mass in. In January and February we'll start looking closer at the parables of Jesus and the maxims He gave us to live by.

Classroom Update



Grade 4

Catechist: Michelle Slaughter

Asst. Catechists: Jen Cortilet, Nichole Sandberg, Jamie Joyce

One of the goals in our fourth grade class is to learn the Ten Commandments and what they mean for us in our daily lives. Just before Christmas we studied the first commandment, and are moving onto the rest of the commandments week by week this winter. We also had an opportunity to have some fun together at our class Christmas party at our last class before the break. We attended the Christmas Novena, and then played some festive games - Advent True or False, Christmas Scattergories, and a few Minute To Win It Games.



Wednesday CGS Level I (Preschool/Kindergarten)

Lead Catechist: Jill Kleidon

Asst. Catechist: Deb Tillges

In November and December the children worked on some of the prophecies surrounding Jesus' birth, the Annunciation of Mary by the Angel, the Nativity and the Adoration of the Shepherds. We started the new year with the Epiphany. We will be working on Psalm 23 and a number of the parables in January and early February.



Wednesday CGS Level II (Grades 1 - 3)

Lead Catechist: Sally Strasser

Asst Catechist: Kathy Donovan

In December we talked about Advent and preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. We did this by going through the prophecies and the infancy narratives. In January we continue to celebrate Christmas through Adoration of the Magi and the Flight into Egypt. We are also working on our prayer books and saying the rosary at the beginning of each class.



Grade 5

Catechist: Ryan Noorae

We're continuing to study the Bible. The first couple of months were spent on the events in Genesis, and now we've started to learn about the patriarchs of the Old Testament: Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Moses. We also got to learn about social justice on January 9th when we did a combined class with the 7th grade.

Photos from December



St. Nicholas Brunch on December 2



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration on December 12

Youth & Family Ministry



Parish Night of Service Wednesday, January 30 6 – 8pm

This January the Women's Club and Faith Formation are joining forces to sponsor a special night of community service for families and all parishioners.

We'll start with dinner together at 6:00, and then we'll

- Make sandwiches for The Sandwich Project
- Tie fleece blankets for Project Linus for children in hospitals
- Put together snack bags for the Listening House, which serves homeless people
- Make Valentine's Day cards for our homebound seniors

We are collecting snack items like tuna, granola bars, etc., as well as fleece for tying into blankets (call Julie in the parish office). Sign up for this great evening of service and fellowship near the office in the Gathering Area.

Sponsored by the Blessed Sacrament Women's Club



Movie & Popcorn Night "I Can Only Imagine"

Thursday, February 7th
at 6:30 pm

All are welcome, and bring a friend! Join us for a free showing of the movie *I Can Only Imagine*, the inspiring true story of Bart Millard, lead singer of the Christian band MercyMe, and their beloved chart-topping song "I Can Only Imagine." The movie is rated PG and is best suited for older children, teens, and adults.

**Sponsored by the
Blessed Sacrament Women's Club**



Youth & Family Ministry

Tickets & Busing:
CatholicsAtTheCapitol.org

Join us for Catholics at the Capitol 2019!

Come join your fellow parishioners as we learn about how the legislative system works, what the issues are, and what Catholic social teaching has to say about them. Catholics at the Capitol is a day filled with prayer and inspirational speakers including actor Jim Caviezel from *The Passion of the Christ*, and Archbishop Charles Chaput, a leading voice on living out our role as faithful citizens. You'll meet other Catholics from your legislative district, and together you'll learn about policy issues before meeting with your legislators. Register by February 3rd! Contact Sarah to learn more.

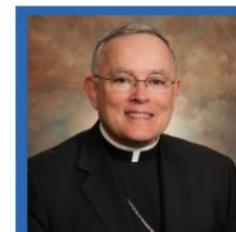


**St. Paul, MN
RiverCentre &
the State Capitol**

Join over 2,000 MN Catholics for a day of education and advocacy, connecting our faith and our citizenship!



**Inspirational Speaker
Jim Caviezel**



**Keynote Speaker
Archbishop
Charles Chaput**



**Emcee
Gloria Purvis,
EWTN**

Premium Sponsorship By:
**RPR
NETWORK**

Your Family of Faith and Hope



**Music Missionary
Danielle Rose**

Hosted By:



Youth & Family Ministry



CANA DINNER Saturday, Feb. 9, 5– 9 pm “A Romantic Evening in Mexico”

TOP TEN reasons you and your spouse should come to the Cana Dinner:

1. To celebrate your love and your marriage in a fun and romantic way.
2. FREE childcare! That’s a huge savings right there.
3. This year’s speaker, Fr. Al Backmann, is tremendous, and can speak about marriage as a husband and a priest. Not many folks who can do that!
4. A chance to renew your marriage vows and have your marriage blessed - because we need all the grace we can get, right?



5. Delicious Mexican food - who can resist?
6. Wine, beer, pop, water - and a delicious signature cocktail.
7. The wonderful decorating by the Cana Dinner Committee. Last year it was the Eiffel Tower. What will it be this year?



8. A whole hour before dinner to enjoy each other’s company and get to know other couples from the parish. With appetizers, beer, and wine. All included with your ticket. Wow!
9. And dessert. Really amazing dessert. Because you can never have too much dessert. Well, actually you can, but that’s another story.
10. And the final reason you should bring your spouse to the Cana Dinner: because you love them.



Cost: \$40.00 per couple
Engaged couples free.
Scholarships available - just ask!
Free childcare available, but must be reserved.
No tickets will be sold at the door.
To purchase tickets or for more information,
call Julie Taylor at 651-738-0677, ext. 14 by Feb. 6.



Co-sponsored by Blessed Sacrament and St. Pascal Baylon

Teen Christmas Party



Our teens in high school and college got together on Friday, December 28th to celebrate Christmas together. They made “Breakfast for Dinner” with pancakes and bacon, played some pretty silly games, opened dollar-store presents, and in general enjoyed each other’s company. It was especially nice for the college students who’d gone away to college this past year to be able to catch up with each other and with their high school friends.



Coming Soon: Summer Faith and Fun!



Blessed Sacrament Church Youth Hiking Retreat on the North Shore July 22 - 26, 2019

Join us for hiking retreat that's all about *interior and exterior adventures*. That means exercising our **minds and hearts** by asking and contemplating the big questions – but not leaving our bodies unchallenged on the sidelines. Praying and hiking through God's original **cathedral** of the outdoors can be a catalyst for engaging, challenging, and integrating **body and soul**. Allowing conversations to unfold naturally around a fire and over the course of several days gives the heart and mind time to mull things over and go deeper. This hiking trip retreat will engage the whole you.

Launching from basecamp at Tettagouche State Park on the North Shore of Lake Superior, this entry-level hiking retreat is open to young men and women in high school and early college. It will be led by Jen Messing, founder of Into the Deep. Since 2012, Jen has led several outdoor retreats per year for youth and adults. Jen received a Master of Theological Studies from Ave Maria University's Institute for Pastoral Theology and is a graduate of the NOLS Pacific Northwest Outdoor Educator course. She will be joined by a team of young adult leaders and our own Sarah Kalonick.

Where: Tettagouche State Park in northern Minnesota

When: July 22–26, 2019

Who: Youth currently in Grades 8 and up

Cost: \$400 (let us know if you need help with the fee) (includes transportation)

For more info, contact Sarah Kalonick, Youth Minister, at skalonick@blessedsacramentsp.org or 651-738-0677, ext. 17.



Catholic Youth Camp on Big Sandy Lake

in McGregor, MN for Grades 1 - 12: With the help of our Christmas Wreath sale and the Men's Club can recycling, our parish is able to provide partial scholarships for our parish youth to experience a week of fun and faith in a beautiful setting. Week-long sessions from June 30 - August 17 cost between \$350 and \$545. We'll have more information on scholarship amounts soon. Register online at www.cycamp.org, and then contact Julie by June 1st.

EXTREME FAITH CAMP Big Sandy Camp, McGregor, Minnesota

June 15 - 19,
2019

High School Students: Talk to Sarah about coming on Prayer Team or Extreme Team

Current 6th–8th Graders (for the 2018 - 19 school year) from the metro area come for a week of extreme fun and faith. Rock climbing, fishing, swimming, Wacky Olympics, small groups, archery, Adoration, Mass, awesome people, and more!
Registration coming soon.



Photos from December



Christmas Novena December 16 - 24



Parents Night Out on December 21