

Did you know?

The Twelve Days of Christmas refer to Christmas Day through Epiphany. In England when practicing Catholicism was prohibited (1958-1829), the song was used to teach Catechism. "True Love" refers to God, "me" refers to every baptized person who is to receive the gifts. And the rest: 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, the Son; 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments; 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues; 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists; 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace; 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation; 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments; 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes; 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit; 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments; 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles; 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

<http://www.byrum.org/misc/christmas/origin.html>

Did I know that about the Catholic Church?

LIFE Nights during the fall semester centered around the Catholic Church.

There were on average 30 teens meeting to discuss their faiths, their beliefs and their questions about the Church and its teachings.

We began by discussing why we were Catholic and what it meant to be a Catholic Christian. As members of the Body of Christ, the Church, the

Word and Sacraments have been entrusted to us for our salvation and the Church gives us the fullness of truth and the means to salvation.

We also spent some time discussing how the Catholic Church was founded by Christ, and sustained by the Spirit. As a gift from God, it was planned by the Father, instituted by Christ, and

revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Our "Amazing Journey" took us to discover the Four Marks of the Church. ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC. An evening of deep discussion was the night about the Author-

ity of the Church. There were questions of how the Church could be involved in events in history, and where in Scripture teachings are found. We discussed how the Church tran-

scends history and yet is part of history and the Church preserves and hands on Christ's teachings of salvation. We touched on the structure of the Church given by Christ, from the College of Bishops in union with the pope as its head, The Holy See, Individual diocese, Parishes, and the domestic Church: EACH FAMILY.

We spent an evening talking about vocations: the married life, the single life, a religious life and priesthood. Vocations in life, no matter what it will be, must include God and prayer is the way to hear where you are being led. This led us to Evangelization. And the best way to evangelize the Good News to others is to live the example of your faith, let others see you being Christian. Have you told others that we will pray for their needs? Meet the challenge.

After our New Year's Countdown, and Advent lesson by candlelight, we ended our year with sinners and hypocrites in the Church, the need worshiping as a community, and the unity of the Church despite our differences.

What will next semester bring? Let's see what God has done for us through his Son. What is the Paschal Mystery, and what is entailed in living as His disciple?

See you at LIFE Night!



St. Peters Basilica, Vatican City

Give it away, now!

Give it away, now! was a national LIFE TEEN project where teens donated, gently used clothes they were no longer wearing. As an Advent/Christmas project, our LIFE TEEN youth group set a low goal to collect 50 pounds of clothing to give to the Caring Center. Well with just one week before the break 42 pounds have been collected.

Why Give it away, now!? Well, we looked at the needs of everyone: Shirts, pants,

undergarments, shoes, and toiletries. And talked about the wants on our Christmas lists, that weren't necessarily needs. So to make room for the new gifts, lets clean out our closets and see if we can come up with some clothing that others can use. You have until January 4th to check out what is no longer being worn to help us meet our goal! Good rule of thumb: not worn in a year, maybe someone else could use it.

LIFE TEEN LOCK-IN

January 24-25, 8pm-noon

Don't be stuck in the cold.

Spend some time with your Youth Group and guest locked in the Church.

Fellowship, fun and faith are all in store for those who enter and partake.

Strongly suggested for Confirmation Candidates.

Christ Reigns — National Catholic Youth Conference, November 19-21, 2009

“Attending Mass with 20,000 teens from across the nation.” “Seeing others who have the same faith as I do.” “The music and the energy are amazing.” “The sessions and the keynote speakers are cool.” “You can attend a session on just about anything.” (And get the Catholic view). “Trading stuff and meeting teens from all over the place is awesome.” “Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, Nuns, Priests, and Popes, - ‘Bishops you dummy!’ - I mean Bishops.” “It’s hard to put into words. Everyone should experience it. That’s why my husband is going.” - **Reasons to attend NCYC.**

The diocese is planning on being one of the largest group of pilgrims to travel to Kansas City in November. The first planning meeting was held last month and we are looking forward to a life changing trip. Are you planning on going? It is a long ways away, but we need to plan things to make this an easy trip for everyone who wants to attend. The cost will be approximately \$500 per person and we would like to fund raise most, if not all of the cost. We will probably leave



late Wednesday evening arriving to a Kansas City Hotel (yet to be determined by the conference arrangers) in time to get a good rest and ready for the opening ses-

sions Thursday afternoon. At the present we have 24 spots for St. Joseph and those who were at the meeting have been counted. If you did not attend the meeting and plan on attending, notify norma in writing or email. Yes you will have to miss school and if you participate in a winter sport, be aware. Plan ahead, it is will worth it. N-C Y-C God is good All the time

LIFE TEEN MASS
5:30 SUNDAYS

LIFE Nights
6:30-8:15

ONEIGHT SESSION
3:30-4:45
Twice a month

Winter Calendar 2009

Epiphany party	Jan 4
ONEIGHT/LIFENight	Jan 11
LIFE Night	Jan 18
LIFE TEEN Lock-In	Jan 24-25
Winter NCYC Raffle	Jan 25
Souper Bowl Party	Feb 1
ONEIGHT	Feb 8
Valentine Dinner	Feb 8
Destination Jesus retreat	Feb 13 -16
LIFE Night	Feb 15
Confirmation Retreat	Mar 21 -22

ONEIGHT — CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Twenty of your peers are preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation in May 2009. They have debated the existence of God, discussed the Mass and the creed and talked about scripture. They will be meeting twice a month the next five months awaiting the

Holy Spirit to seal them with grace and be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. They will participate in a service project this spring. On March 21-22, there will be a confirmation retreat for them to retreat from eve-



ryday life and concentrate on the commitment they are making. Please pray for them as they continue to dive closer to Christ on their faith journey and let them know you are supporting them. Holy Spirit, guide them.

VALENTINE DINNER, SILENT AUCTION, LIFETEEN RAFFLE

All of our fundraisers provide fellowship as well as funds for pilgrims to NCYC and other activities. This month, we will have a Winter Raffle selling tickets and drawing for a flat screen TV and a \$500 gas card on 25th of January.

We will again host a Valen-

tine dinner on Sunday, February 8th. This has been a great way for adults to see who we are and get to know us, while helping us out.

But the biggest fund raiser we have is the silent auction, held in June in conjunction with the Women's Club Chicken Barbeque. This event is successful because

many parishioners donate items to the Auction. Maybe your family can provide a donation: a service or a gift certificate. Anything will help the cause.

And in the summer there will be a carwash or two.

What fun!
Mark your calendars.

MEALS AT LIFE Nights?

Some have asked, "Why do we have a meal for every LIFE Night?" LIFE TEEN suggest light snacks for every evening. We did that until teens began to run to McDonalds or wherever to get food with the intention of returning to Youth Group. Some never made it back. Sometimes this was a car full of teens. So since we fast one hour before receiving Eucharist and we



plan on being here for an hour and a half, we thought we would come up with more nutritional options and not worry about teens driving quickly on icy roads to get food and return.

Best made plans have to be modified at times and so we are modifying. **We need families to sign up to bring the main dish for a LIFE Night. If we are sure we have this, then it will be easier to arrange sides. If this is something you can provide in January**

or February, please sign up with NORMA. You let us know when and what you wish to bring and then others will be called to bring sides. Since we have more teens, if everyone else fills in with sides and desserts we should have everything covered. Our hope is that everyone helps out by bringing something this semester. If you cannot bring a large amount or the week is not a good week for you, please let us know. We can choose another



week or have two families bring the same item. If you don't confirm that you can or cannot bring something, we are unsure if we should call someone else or will have enough. Your calls are necessary. As you know growing kids eat plenty. And anytime food is present teens will eat (and come)! We pray we can continue to feed our teens with food and faith. Thanks for everyone's help.

CORE MEMBERS FIND INSPIRATION FROM YOUR TEENS

CORE members of this years LIFE TEEN have drawn inspiration from your teens. We have been discussing in small groups more this year which are led by CORE members. The CORE team helps the discussions stay on tract. After most sessions, there is surprise or realization that the dis-



cussions, knowledge and needs of teens are so deep. This is happening in LIFE Nights and ONEIGHT Sessions. This years CORE members are Aaron Goedde, Caleb Edwards, John Schwier, John Clyne, Natalie Clyne, Margaret Jackson, Marvin Jackson, Nancy Stults, Debi Sti-

vason and Sarah Dugan. Impressed by the questions, comments and participation, it is a joy to see your teens deepen their faith. If you would like to join the CORE team and help out on a Sunday evening or two, please join us.

"What God is to the world, parents are to their children." —Philo of Alexandria

Thank you all for your help and support or our LIFETEEN Program. Our evenings have been great experiences because of your teens and your support.

St. Joseph parish has a great love for the Youth and that is because of the examples you are providing to your child and their friends. They are showing their interest in their faith and seem to feel comfortable asking questions and helping others.

All of this could not be possible without your help and support. The Haney Family and the Brand Family have hosted Cuppa Joe this year and breakfasts and discussions have been a great way to start the day. If your teen is interested and coming and just needs a ride to school, we can make those

arrangements. Ginny Smith was instrumental in cooking our Italian dinner this fall. Jackie Edwards organizes our meals for Sunday



Evenings and Carmel Brand helps Jackie set up and tear down our meals. There many others have helped with certain activities or projects this semester.

We have a couple of events coming up where we will need chaperones. You probably can't wait to sign up to spend some time with 30

teens, since you rush to sign them up to send them to us, but we cannot have events if we don't have chaperones. The first one is a lock-in. Yes it is an all nighter, but if several people give one or two hours, then we don't all have to stay up all night. We were considering bowling night, but we would also need drivers. Yes, many teens can drive themselves and their siblings, but we have others too. A second spring social would be nice, but we need help making

those arrangements. Contact Norma to help out and keep our teens and connected to good social activities while having fun.

LIFE TEEN
Leading
Teens Closer
to Christ