

# Peer Connections

St. Mary Star of the Sea Youth Ministry

# AUGUST 2016

## Vacations and Planning

We've entered that peculiar part of the summer. Some of you are still on vacation while others are starting to prepare for the start of a new school year. Hopefully, our tips from the July Newsletter helped you to stay in touch with your faith this summer. The **Ministry Planning Teams** are working hard to prepare for the return of all the Peer Connections ministries and the launch of some new programs. Returning this fall will be our **Little Stars** Preschool Faith Program for ages 3-6, **Middle School Ministry** for grades 5-8, **High School Ministry** for grades 9-12 and **Parent/Adult Ministry** for any adult. New programs coming this fall will be a **Little Stars Mass Group** for children in First Grade to transition from Little Stars to attending Mass full time. The goal of this group is to introduce First Graders to the Mass while still maintaining the familiarity of Little Stars. And a **Young Adult Ministry** for adults ages 18-30. The 2016-2017 focus will be journeying through the bible in a way that is fun but educational but social but ... well, you'll just have to come and find out more. You can find out more about all of our programs during our Kickoff Weekend, September 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

## Kickoff Weekend

September 10-11, 2016

A ministry made up of so many amazing people and as awesome as ours deserves a Kickoff Weekend of

epic proportion. After all the Masses, our team will be in the Gathering Space to assist parishioners by answering questions, helping with registration for events, and completing surveys and questionnaires. Current members of a Peer Connections ministry should visit the table and update your contact information in order to receive all the latest and greatest news about our ministries. If you would like to become a volunteer for the Kickoff Weekend, please visit [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a5ab2ba0fa7-kickoff1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a5ab2ba0fa7-kickoff1) for more details and to register.



## July's Shout Out goes to St. Mary's Altar Servers

**Natalie, Lauren and Julia** will be leaving the ministry after many years of service as they have graduated high school and will be entering college this fall. Congratulations ladies and good luck!

**Jack and Nicholas** completed the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring along with their classmates. Congratulations gentlemen and thank you for your service!

Please join us in welcoming our newly trained servers **Erin, Tara and Jake**.

Thank you to all of our teams for your flexibility and cooperation during the summer months.

IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY INFORMED, PLEASE CONSIDER THIS OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT YOU ARE AWESOME.

## Upcoming Events

- Soul Fest – August 4-August 6 – Gunstock Mountain Resort, New Hampshire
- Little Stars Team Meeting – August 9 @ 5:30pm – Location: Hospitality Room
- Ministry Planning Team Meeting – August 15 @ 6:00pm – Location: Hart House
- Kickoff Weekend – September 10-11 – Location: Fr. John Golas Gathering Space
- Middle School Ministry – September TBD – Location: Fr. John Golas Gathering Space
- High School Ministry – September TBD – Location: Fr. John Golas Gathering Space

## High School Ministry—Small Group Leaders

Our High School Ministry is seeking Small Group Leaders to help facilitate discussions of faith. A small group of people talking about their faith is a deeply rooted tradition in our faith. We find examples of this practice throughout both the Old and New Testament along with most of Jesus' teaching that were done in a small group setting with Him teaching the people about God. No prior experience is needed! You already have all the tools needed; an open heart and a willingness to share your faith and with others. We will provide all the other necessary training and materials. High School is a time of exploration as our members are slowly transitioning from a beginner in the faith to a full time practitioner of Catholicism. With your help they will be able to more fully learn about a God that has the ability to completely transform lives through small acts of love and service.

## Middle School Ministry—Activity & Group Leaders

Our Middle School Ministry is seeking Activity and Group Leaders to help facilitate activities and games. In the story when Jesus walks on water, He invites Peter to join him. Jesus probably knew Peter would learn more about the need to have always faith from doing rather than listening. In a similar way, Middle School students learn more through action than lectures. Therefore, leaders are needed to guide them through their faith journey which may include messy, sticky, damp or dirty situations, Have no fear, you may go home covered in glitter but the students, and you along with them, will have learned so much more about the faith then you can imagine. Middle School Ministry is only for the brave of heart but luckily we have many brave people in our parish.

## Song Suggestions - August 2016 - Soul Fest 2016

This month's suggestion isn't for just one song or one group; it is for all of Soul Fest 2016. Check out our Facebook page or [thesoulfest.com](http://thesoulfest.com) for a complete list of our suggestions.

## Summer Family Fun

Each Friday during the summer, we've posted an activity for families to do together. There is still time to gather the family and complete one two or all of the activities. Spending time loving your family is one of the most important acts of faith you can do. The Pope has asked many times to pray for families and we are following his example by offering examples of fun ways to build relationships with family members. In case you missed a post or don't follow our page (and we suggest you do, go right now and Like St. Mary's Peer Connections), here is a complete list:

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| #1 - Go Bowling         | #8 - Cookout dinner          |
| #2 - Go to the beach    | #9 - Play mini golf          |
| #3 - Go to the zoo      | #10 - Make ice cream         |
| #4 - Go fishing         | #11 - Go to a Music festival |
| #5 - Blow bubbles       | #12 - Go to a Drive-in movie |
| #6 - Have a water fight | #13 - Go for a bike ride     |
| #7 - Make popsicles     | #14 - Go on a day trip       |



## Parent's Corner

New Program Coming Soon! - Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls is coming to St. Mary's parish.

Please see a description of both below and if you are interested in more information and/or joining please contact Danielle Frissora at [dfrissora@gmail.com](mailto:dfrissora@gmail.com) or 860-508-7188.

- ★ **Trail Life USA** is a Christ-centered outdoor character development adventure program open to boys and young men aged 5-17. Boys will love the fun and adventure! Parents will love the commitment to a Christian worldview and moral consistency. [www.traillifeusa.com](http://www.traillifeusa.com)
- ★ **American Heritage Girls** is open to girls and young women aged 5-18. It allows girls to experience new challenges, serve others, make new friends and have tons of fun, all in a safe, faith-filled environment. [www.ahgonline.org](http://www.ahgonline.org)

Both groups meet bi-monthly for a meeting at the church and then once a month on a weekend for outdoor adventure experiences.



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