

August 2015

Peer Connections

St. Mary Star of the Sea Youth Ministry



End of Summer

Here we are in the middle of Ordinary Time and summer is coming to an end. As the saying goes "all good things must come to an end". Summer may be ending, but Peer Connections is just getting started. Members of the leadership team met over the summer to plan and are excited to get started. In the spring, Little Stars was introduced for preschoolers and this fall we are starting two new ministries for young adults and parents. Keep reading for more details .



Soul Fest 2015

Courage to Love was the theme this year. In the Gospels, Jesus issued a challenge to His disciples and to us, to love our neighbors and enemies but that isn't always easy. Through amazing activities, artists and speakers, our members got to recharge & reflect. We also had great weather, enjoyed some interesting food, did some terrible dancing , worshiped at mass & through music and had a lot of fun. Join us for Soul Fest 2016. Details will starting appearing this fall for early bird ticket prices. The earlier you buy tickets the more you save.



Catholic Youth Spectacular

Anyone in 7th grade to 12th grade should sign up for the Catholic Youth Spectacular! This amazing day long event is held on the beautiful ground of St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT on September 20th. The day is filled with outstanding workshops, opportunities for prayer and service and a chance to participate in mass with Archbishop Blair. Provided in the cost is lunch and snacks all you need to bring in a open heart and mind. Sign up ASAP!

Upcoming Events

- Parish Picnic—8/30/15, 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus
- Kickoff Weekend—9/5/15-9/6/15, after mass, Gathering Space
- Catholic Youth Spectacular—9/20/15, 11am-7pm, Bloomfield, CT

Why is the Youth Ministry program is developing a ministry just for parents?

It's a logical question. Isn't the youth ministry for youth? Yes and no. Confusing isn't it? Peer Connections will start holding regular meetings for parents on the first Friday of each month in October. The reason for this new ministry is that the youth ministry program encompasses a lot more than just teens running around and having fun. Peer Connections is made up of families and should provide a faith based ministry for all members of the family. Just as the high school and middle school groups are designed for those specific age groups, the parent ministry will be created in the same way. Each month there will be a theme but the theme may be fluid depending on what the members would like to discuss. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss their families and their faith. And no youth ministry event would be complete without snacks. There will also be child-care provided for parents of young children. We'll entertain the kids while you can talk to other parents.

This ministry will be more social than educational but we will attempt to provide you with helpful materials throughout the year. For a few hours once a month take this opportunity to recharge your faith, which in turn will help you strengthen your family.

Look for more details in the bulletin and Peer Connections Calendar.

Make 'Ordinary Time': Extraordinary! - excerpt from Seton Magazine

As Catholics, we enjoy our own special calendar—the Catholic Liturgical Calendar—celebrating the seasons of *Advent*, *Christmas*, *Lent* and *Easter* as well as 33 to 34 weeks of *Ordinary Time*.

It's a name really, that it's called ordinary, because it's filled with plenty of Feast Days and celebrations that are quite extraordinary! It's also a great opportunity to establish Catholic family culture that strengthens our love and knowledge of our Faith.

Throughout the year, the Mystery of Christ is revealed. Beginning after the Feast of Our Lord's Baptism, Ordinary Time focuses on Christ's Baptism and then delves into His Preaching Ministry. The Scripture readings at Mass focus on Jesus' Teaching through parables and His Miracles. Ordinary Time is intended to remind us that Jesus is with us throughout all of our daily trials and triumphs. We should be striving to reflect Jesus' Teaching with our actions every day. I like to think of Ordinary Time as a time to focus on faith and family...brushing up on Catechism, building our repertoire of prayers, delving into Scripture and forming habits that can carry us through all the Seasons!

Sunday Gospel's

8/2/15

John 6:24-35

8/9/15

John 6:41-51

8/16/15

John 6:51-58

8/23/15

John 6:60-69

8/30/15

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

