

January 2016

Peer Connections

St. Mary Star of the Sea Youth Ministry



New Year Resolutions

January is filled with New Year Resolutions. These resolutions are using about things we want to either add or remove from our lives. They can be about physical, mental or financial health but what about our spiritual health. This year instead of making multiple resolutions which, if we are honest probably won't make it past January, trying make a commitment to your spiritual health. You may find that by making more of a commitment to church and God other parts of your life will also become healthier. Make 2016 the year that you choose to grow your faith from a mustard seed to a mountain.



Peer Connections 2016

Starting on January 23, 2016, Peer Connections is unveiling a new youth ministry format. This is how its going to work. We'll attend mass together at 4:30pm on Saturdays. Then we'll have dinner together and parents are welcomed to joined. At 6:00pm the middle and high school groups will split and participate in their own activities or small group discussions. This new format will give us a chance to be united as a group but also give you a chance to become a leader within the youth ministry program.



College Retreat 2016

This renewing retreat for college students will explore God's mercy, which is at the heart of Jesus' teaching. We will explore ways of cultivating mercy amid life's inevitable challenges and examine the central spiritual insights necessary to share compassion, patience, kindness and forgiveness with the world. The retreat includes: dynamic teaching, home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, original music, free time to rest and walk the labyrinth, and workshops. Cost: \$75, scholarship are available.

Upcoming Events

- End Hunger Farmington — 1/16, FVAMC
- Middle & High School Night — 1/23 @ 5:30pm, Church
- College Weekend Retreat — 2/21- 14, Holy Family Retreat Center
- Lenten Series for Parents — 2/18 @ 7pm or 2/21 at 12pm, Church
- Middle & High School Night — 2/27 @ 5:30pm, Church

Youth Ministry isn't for just kids

Coming in 2016, St. Mary's Peer Connections will be offering programs for a group of people that have been missing out on the fun for years. Parents! Have you ever wished that you could attend a youth ministry meeting or event not as a chaperone but as a participant? Of course you have! Youth ministry events are amazing! In 2016 Peer Connections will be offering meetings and events for parents and there is no better time to start than Lent. Join other parents as we discuss the book *Rediscovering Jesus* by Matthew Kelly. You probably grabbed the book at Christmas with every intention of reading it but then didn't. Or you did read it and want to discuss some of the topics with another adult. Over the course of three meetings you'll have a chance to hang out with other adults and talk about your faith. Now I know what your thinking, I don't have time to do that or I have x, y and z to do. But try and make this your new years resolution or your goal for Lent. As the makers of the Best Lent Ever program say, "Don't give up chocolate this Lent. Do something life changing." You can attend one session or all three. You also have an option about which day to attend, Thursday evening or Sunday morning. So what are you waiting for? Put it on your calendar, read a chapter or two before bed or while waiting for your child to get out of practice, rehearsal or class and make a commitment to rediscover your faith. Also can sign up for the Best Lent Ever from Dynamic Catholic : dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/#signup

Here are the dates of the sessions: Thursday February 18, March 3, and March 17 or Sunday February 21, March 6, and March 20

Facts About Ordinary Time

The days of Ordinary Time are perfect for growing closer to Christ

- 'Tempus Per Annum' - The Latin term for Ordinary Time is translated as the 'Time throughout the year.'
- Begins with a short span of time between the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent
- Ordinary Time Readings - Resume the day after Pentecost for weekdays and, for Sundays, after the three great feasts of Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
- The Number of Weeks - The actual number of complete or partial weeks of Ordinary Time varies every year between 33 or 34.

