

Peer Connections Newsletter

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

As we celebrate our nation's Independence Day let us remember all who have made the sacrifice to ensure our freedom. We remember those who fight to protect our country both home and abroad, for those who fight to ensure equality for every citizen, for those who govern with wisdom and patience and for those who bring God message to everyone they meet through random acts of kindness each day. I hope that you and your family have a wonderful Independence Day and continue to have a blessed summer!

Calendar of Events

Peer Connections

- ★ *July 4 - Independence Day*
- ★ July 12 – New Britain Rock Cats Game (FAMILY OUTING)
- ★ July 20 – Service Team Meeting
- ★ July 27 – Altar Server Summer Session
- ★ July 27 - Final Meeting for Soul Fest

- ★ August 7-10 - Soul Fest 2014

- ★ *September 1 – Labor Day*
- ★ September 8 - Parent Meeting
- ★ September 12 – LEAP!
- ★ September 13 – DIVE!
- ★ September 21 – Catholic Youth Spectacular (Grades 7-12)

- ★ October – Doubt
- ★ October – Service Project
- ★ October 18 – Haunted Mini Golf

- ★ November – LEAP! /DIVE!

- ★ December – Advent Open House
- ★ December – Christmas Celebration
- ★ January – Broomball
- ★ January – Laser Tag

ATTENTION:

All events now have a RSVP deadline box. The deadline information will be in RED. Please pay close attention to the due dates to ensure that you are guaranteed a spot or to get the Peer Connections discount for tickets and events.

Summer Social Follow-Up

Fun, faith, family, friendship and food!
That statement nicely sums up our Summer Social this year. Thank you to everyone that brought a dish to share, participated as a team captain & helped with clean up.

If you missed the Summer Social, check out the end of the year video here

<http://animoto.com/play/ld06lfyVyfilKETVFAkwdGQ>

New Britain Rock Cats Game

July 12, 2013 @ 6:30 pm



Bring the family and join us for a night of baseball with the New Britain Rock Cats. Contact st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com to order your tickets today!

This event is open to ALL St. Mary's families and friends, so invite ALL of your family and friends!

DEADLINE: Tickets must be paid for by July 1, 2014. Any additional tickets that need to be purchased will NOT get the Peer Connections discount rate.

RETREATS & CONFERENCES

Weekend Teen Retreat Review

Once again Holy Family Retreat Center welcomed over 50 high school students for the annual Teen Weekend Retreat. This year 5 teens from St. Mary's attended and got to participate in activities such as...

- Scavenger Hunt – great job to all of the teams for searching all over the Holy Family grounds for the clues!
- Making blankets for the Linus Project – each and every member of LEAP! assisted to make blankets that will be given to children and teens in need.
- Participating in the “world famous” talent show – Leah did an amazing performance by signing to “Bohemian Rhapsody” and everyone had a great time dancing.

The weekend ended with a wonderful slideshow and Mass celebrate by Bishop Rosazza with our families attending.



Doubt

3 – Week Program for High School Students

Coming soon!

We will be looking more closing at three biblical figures that experienced doubt at one point during in their faith journey.

Soul Fest 2014

August 7-10, 2014



There will be a mandatory meeting on July 27th at 7:00pm for everyone attending Soul Fest 2014.

DEADLINE: All payments are now due!

Catholic Youth Spectacular 2014

September 21, 2014

“Working in the Vineyard: Called. Chosen. Sent”

Peer Connections members in grades 8th-12th are invited to spend a day with other Catholic teens from all over the state. There will be workshops, service projects, outside games, lunch, snacks and Mass. Last year we hosted the sidewalk art and bubbles stations. In addition, one of our members was interviewed about the Spectacular for the radio. Sign up today to get the early bird discount.



DEADLINE:

Early bird discount – July 31st \$5
Peer Connections discount – August 31st \$10
Regular Price - \$15



DIVE! (Divinely Inspired - Visualizing Eternity) For members in 5th to 7th Grade
LEAP! (Life Everlasting – Awakening Possibilities) For members in 8th to 12th Grade
CALLED! (Confirmed Adults Living & Learning Every Day) For members in 11th

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE...

Happy Birthday

Lauren, Julia and Michelle

**Congratulations to all of our
graduating seniors!**



**Emma, Brianna,
Audrey, Leah & Katie**

Happy Independence Day!



Design the 2014 T-Shirt



Design the official 2014 Peer Connections t-shirt. Over the summer (that means July and August) create a design and submit it by midnight August 22, 2014. Then during the last weekend of August 2014 vote for your favorite design. Winners will be announced on September 1st.

The RULES

1. Create an awesome design (the shirt will be ONE color and the design will be printed in ONE color, you can pick the colors)
2. DEADLINE: Midnight on August 22, 2014. Email st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com to submit your design. Any late entries will be disqualified.
3. VOTE for your favorite!
4. WINNERS
 - ★ 1st Place: Movie Package including \$25 AMC gift card
 - ★ 2nd Place: Music Package including \$10 iTunes gift card
5. Wear with pride!



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Are you interested in taking a leadership role or do you have a specific talent? There could be a committee or team listed below that needs your unique gift.

Creative Crew

Photographers - "A picture is worth a thousand words" Love taking pictures? Want to attend events for free? Sign up to be an official Peer Connections Photographer.



Designers - Tired of the same old images on the t-shirts and info cards? Join the design team to create new & exciting products for the group.



Writers/Reporters - Have an idea that you want to share about your faith journey or do you love reporting on interesting stories. Sign up to become a member of the Peer Connections Writing Team.



Artists - "The Earth without art is just eh." This year will begin the start of the Peer Connections Art Gallery. For each season artists are needed to create pieces to display in the Fr. John Golas Gathering Space.



Musicians - "Singing is like praying twice" Lend your musical talents to help our faith community worship through song.



CALLED!

(Confirmed Adults Living & Learning Every Day)

This is a new group for Confirmed teens and adults. This new group will work closely with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry. High School and College students that are interested should contact st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com

Leadership Team

Both teens and adults are needed to staff this team. This group of people will plan events, lead small groups and attend workshops and meetings.

Teaching Team

The first task for this group will be to create, organize and carry out four (4) educational and fun events for the children in the parish per year.

Altar Server Training Team

This group of current or recent retired high school altar servers will assist with training new altar servers as well as creating a training program and manual. **Summer session training will be July 27th from 4:00-6:00pm.**

Service Team

This group will be made up of teens and adults to coordinate service projects locally and abroad. **There will be an introductory meeting on July 20th at 7:00pm**

Children's Liturgy

This group will organize four (4) Children's Liturgy masses during the year. The goal of this committee would be to encourage children to participate in the mass through various roles and create liturgical appropriate themes for that mass.

Confirmation isn't the end of your journey...



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