

June 2016

# Peer Connections

St. Mary Star of the Sea Youth Ministry



## Celebrate Good Times!

June is a month of celebration. Students and teachers rejoice as the end of the school year approaches, graduates of all ages celebrate a tremendous accomplishment, and families are excited about vacations. Similarly, our parish community celebrates the achievement of our newly Confirmed and those who made their First Communion. During these times of celebration let us pause and thank God for all He has given us. You may be celebrating today but it took a lot of hard work, dedication, determination and preparation to arrive at this moment. Congratulations to all and God bless you as you continue on your journey through life.



## Teen Weekend Retreat

Friday June 17—Sunday June 19

It's that time of year again when our friends at Holy Family Retreat Center get excited because the Teen Weekend retreat is almost here! All incoming freshmen to outgoing seniors are invited to attend. The retreat kicks off on Friday night ends with a Family Mass on Sunday. During the weekend there is plenty of time to pray, play and make new friends. All workshops and activities tie into this year's theme "Into the Heart of Mercy" which goes with Pope Francis' declaration of the Year of Mercy. The cost is \$175.00 but there are scholarships available.

## Kids Carnival

Saturday June 11 @ 1:00-3:30

St. Mary's Little Stars (children ages 3-6), their older siblings and their families are invited to attend a special afternoon filled with fun, faith and friendship. Little Stars work hard every weekend learning about God, so we are giving them a party! There will be face painting, games, snacks, music and a special service project for our resident friends at Apple Rehab in Plainville. Our Little Stars are also encouraged to invite a friend to come to the Carnival with them. This is a FREE event sponsored by the Little Stars program.

## Upcoming Events

- Kid's Carnival — June 11 @ 1:00 pm (Little Stars)
- Trip to Lourdes Shrine in Litchfield — 6/12 (more details coming soon)
- Teen Weekend Retreat — 6/17-6/19, cost \$175.00 (8th grade and up)
- Ministry Planning Team Meeting — June date TBD
- Soul Fest — 8/4-8/6

## Why I Go To Church Even When I Don't Feel Like It (excerpt)

Read more at [www.relevantmagazine.com](http://www.relevantmagazine.com)

"... It was more like a refuge where all sorts of people could gather to remind each other of the story we were all in—the one about how God loves us, and is renewing our world and our souls in spite of all the damage that's been done. It was more like a school for conversion where we were all stumbling through basic lessons on how to love....

... I've slowly learned that going to church can be about something other than moral requirement, fear of punishment, social connection, getting spiritually fed, or even looking for likeminded people with whom to pursue justice in the world. Going to church can be about holding this space in which to experience the grace of God together, learn together, fail and forgive and stumble forward together.

I've benefitted from the sacrificial commitment and consistency of countless people who have welcomed me into community over the years, and now I recognize the invitation for me to do the same thing for others: to hold that space even on days when I don't seem to personally benefit from it. When the songs don't do anything for me, when I don't want to talk with people about the difficult week I've had, or when I'd rather sleep in instead—it is then that I am invited to go to church anyway.

Not because God or anyone else is judging me by my attendance, but because it is a chance for me to be church to the people who are sharing this journey with me. It is an opportunity to hold space for others to encounter God, and to open space in myself to encounter, even when I least expect it, God in the midst of the people who are my church."



### Song Suggestions

St. Augustine said "he who sings, prays twice." Listening to music is a wonderful way to help you pray. Each month you'll find a suggestion here or our Facebook page.

June 2016 — Because He Lives (Amen) by Matt Maher

### Graduation Prayer

Father,  
I have knowledge, so will You show me now,  
How to use it wisely and find a way somehow  
To make the world I live in a little better place,  
And make life with its problems a little bit easier to face.  
Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days,  
And show me how to serve Thee in effective ways.  
So my education, my knowledge and my skill  
May find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will.  
And may I ever be aware in everything I do,  
That knowledge comes from learning,  
and wisdom comes from You. Amen.



### Parent's Corner

[Are you being called to volunteer?](#)

Believe it or not we have the perfect volunteer position for people in all walks of life.

Open Positions — Ministry Planning Team Members (various roles), Little Stars Teacher & Assistants, Middle & High School Ministry Adult Leaders, Parent Ministry Book Study Team (various roles)

[The more you read \(or listen\), the more you know](#)

The Lighthouse Kiosk has brand new CD's and books, check it out. There are great ones on Saints, as well as some old favorites for the kids to listen to in the car.

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