

September
2015

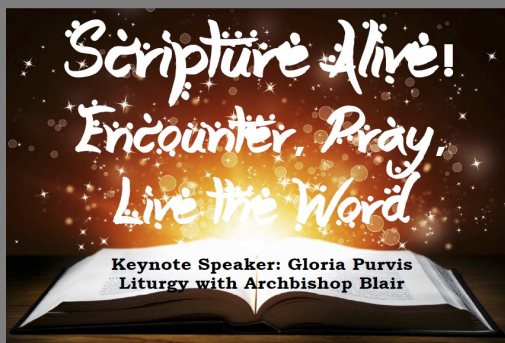
Peer Connections

St. Mary Star of the Sea Youth Ministry



New Beginnings

As a new school year begins, Peer Connections is starting a new year by making some big changes. First, we will no longer be using the names LEAP! and DIVE!. While the names served us well for a long time, we are no longer just a high school ministry and this change will reflect our expansion. Next, we will have regularly scheduled meeting times, check the calendar. Last, we need more people on the leadership team. If you have a great idea or just want to help organized become part of the team.



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!



Catechist Retreat & Workshop

Teaching the teacher. Sounds strange but even teachers need to continue their education. This free day long retreat will allow new and current catechists an opportunity to come together to learn and share teaching tips, develop a sense of community with fellow catechists, strengthen their own faith formation skills and celebrate Mass together. Lunch and snacks are included. Don't come alone, bring a friend. If you pre-register, you will receive a free resource bag.

Upcoming Events

- Kickoff Weekend—9/5/15-9/6/15, after mass, Gathering Space
- Catechist Retreat & Workshop—9/19/15, Gathering Space
- Catholic Youth Spectacular—9/20/15, Bloomfield, CT

Making Time for God (excerpt from MinistryToYouth.org)

We all have some really busy schedules. From the time we wake up to the time we go to bed, we have to go-go-go to get it all done. Do you ever feel like you're going to forget to do something you're supposed to do or be somewhere that you're supposed to be? Do you ever get tired? All of these things are good things. We have to do chores around the house, go to school, eat, and shower (hopefully)...right? And it's a great thing to be able to play sports, play an instrument, spend time with friends, and all those things right? These are all good things, but something we get so busy with good things that we miss out on some great things.

In the Gospel of Luke (Luke 38-42), there is a story about two sisters, Mary and Martha, who are friends of Jesus. While Martha is working hard cooking and cleaning, Mary is sitting and listening to Jesus. Martha yells and says that Mary should be helping her but Jesus answers "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the better thing, and it will never be taken away from her."

Jesus understood why Martha was so upset. He understood why she was working so hard to make everything right. But Jesus wanted Martha to see that there was something more important. She was doing good things, but she had missed out on the most important thing. The most important thing is spending time with Jesus. Just like Martha, we can get so busy with other things that we miss out of the most important thing, spending time with Jesus. In our busy lives we need to focus on spending some time with Jesus. You still need to do those other things, especially the things you're asked to do by parents or teachers. However, we need to be sure that we make time in our schedule to meet with God. He loves us and wanted to speak to us, so we need to take the time to listen.

Just like we put all our other activities on the calendar, we need to set a time to meet with God. Whether it is in the morning or evening, in the car or in our room, with our parents or by ourselves, find time to spend with God and grow in your relationship with Him.

Tech Savvy

Peer Connections is looking for ways to become more tech savvy? For instance, using live chats, Twitter, Instagram, etc. What are ways that we can stay connected between meetings and fun events?

Sunday Gospel's

9/6/15

Mark 7:31-37

9/13/15

Mark 8:27-35

9/20/15

Mark 9:30-37

9/27/15

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

For daily readings visit
usccb.org



God of knowledge & wisdom, bless all students young & old, as they begin a new school year. Help them discover & develop the gifts you have given. As they grow in knowledge, help them to also grow in kindness & compassion, learning respect for themselves & others.

We ask your blessing on parents & all those who care for students. Strengthen them to surround our students with encouragement, support, & love.

Remind us that wherever we go, you are always with us. Fill us with the joy of learning so that we may be better equipped to be your servants.

Amen

