

...the home must continue to be the place where we learn to appreciate the meaning and beauty of the faith, to pray and to serve our neighbor. Faith is God's gift, received in baptism, and not our own work, yet parents are the means that God uses for it to grow and develop..."

Pope Francis, The Joy of Love



AUGUST 2016



Mary, Mother of the Holy Family and Mother of our families, pray for us.

SOLON IOWA

St. Mary Parish
Faith & Family

1749 Racine Ave NE
Solon, IA 52333
319-624-2228
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A Note From Fr. Tim for K-12 Families

As a priest and as a man, I need to be fed by God's word in Holy Scripture and by His body and blood in the Holy Eucharist. They are food for my journey on Earth, food that leads me to heaven, food I cannot live without.

Parents, help your spouse and children know and love Jesus in His Word and in His Eucharist. There, Jesus is so eager to feed you and your family. I pray that all parents will be intentional in making sure their children are fed by these great gifts given to us by God.

In his recent exhortation, The Joy of Love, Pope Francis recognizes that: *"...handing on the faith is made difficult by a frenetic pace just to survive.*

Even so, the home must continue to be the place where we learn to appreciate the meaning and beauty of faith." If your family life has gotten busy and Sunday Mass is not part of your routine—please be deliberate in putting it back on your schedule.

And I ask you to consider joining me at the Christ Our Life Conference in Des Moines on September 24-25.

I am touched by the many couples in our parish who are currently making arrangements for their children, so they can get away for a weekend of renewal. Just come, listen and be inspired by world renowned speakers.

Fr. Tim



Receive the light of Christ. Parents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. Your child has been enlightened by Christ. Your child is to walk always as a child of the light. May your children keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts.

UPCOMING DATES:

August 27 & 28 Backpack Blessing following all Masses

August 28 Young Family Picnic following 10:30 Mass

September 7 5-12th. Begin

September 11 Harvest Festival, serving lunch 11:00-1:30

September 14 5-12th 8th Confirmation Parent Mtg.
September 18 K-4th Grade Family Gathering after Masses

September 24-25 Christ Our Life Conference-Des Moines

September 28 5-12th

October 5 5-12th

October 6 2nd Gr & Parent
October 12 5-8th Grade, 9-12th NET Retreat 6-9:30pm

October 16 K-4th Grade Family Gathering after Masses

October 19 5-12th and 9th gr. Confirmation practice

October 20 2nd Gr & Parent

October 23 Confirmation



K-4th Grade Monthly Family Faith Gatherings

This year's theme is
Raising Christian HEROES

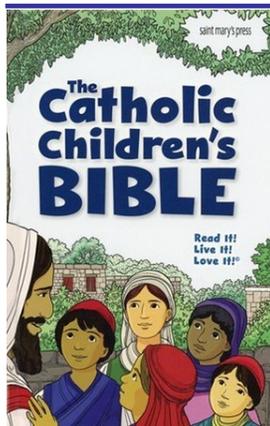


Each month we'll focus on a Christian Virtue and Christian Hero (Saint) along with Jesus' teachings in the Gospels. Families receive resources to help their children understand & live the virtues that lead us on the path of holiness.

*"...Parents are responsible for shaping the will of their children, fostering good habits and a natural inclination to goodness. The **family is the first school of human values**, where we learn the wise use of freedom. It is where we learn to relate to others, to listen and share, to be patient and show respect, to help one another and live as one*
Pope Francis, The Joy of Love

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE MONTHLY GATHERINGS:

- ◆ K-4th Grade Families join us for **90 minutes** once a month (seven gatherings) Parents & Children do activities together & separately.
- ◆ **Choose a Session:** 9:30-11:00 or 11:30-1:00 (Families attend either the 8:30 or 10:30 Mass and then join us for the Faith Gathering.)
- ◆ This takes place in the **parish hall**.
- ◆ Families **sit together** for a light breakfast/brunch meal.
- ◆ **Childcare is provided** for younger siblings, if needed.
- ◆ Through a **variety of activities**, families learn about the monthly virtue, saint and Gospel stories.
- ◆ Families **make a plan** to grow in that virtue using resources to help them pray, serve, learn and live their faith.



K-4th Grade families will receive "the Catholic Children's Bible"

"God, like a good father and a good mother, wants to give good things to His children. And what is this hearty food that God gives us? It is His Word: His Word makes us grow. So you, parents will help these children to grow well if you give them the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus. And also give it with your example! Everyday, children, see their father, mother reading the Word of God."
Pope Francis

2016-17 Gatherings:

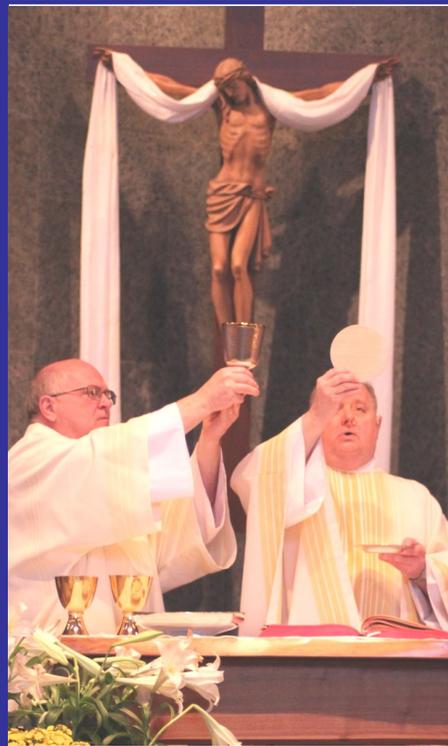
September 18
October 16
November 20

December 18
January 15
February 26
April 30

2nd Grade First Communion & Reconciliation



2nd Grade-First Communion & Reconciliation



"The Eucharist is such a great gift.

*That's why going to Mass is so important. Going to Mass not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. He saves us, forgives us and he makes us one with the Father. **How beautiful!"***

-Pope Francis

FORMATION for First Communion & Reconciliation

- ◆ Participate in the **Sunday Eucharist**
- ◆ Attend the K-4th Grade **Family Faith Gatherings**
- ◆ Attend **five parent/child sessions** on the Mass
- ◆ Attend the **Eucharist & Reconciliation Retreats**
- ◆ Participate in the Lenten **Celebration of Reconciliation**

Children learn through the observation of the most important people in their lives—their parents. What is meaningful and life-giving to the parents becomes the same to their children. What is your child's observation of your family's celebration of Mass?

...gathering regularly at the table of the Lord

...reverently receiving our Lord in the Eucharist

...living and sharing the message of the Gospel

If you've been away, Jesus invites you to His table, join him, join us.

2nd Gr. Schedule:

5 Parent/Child Sessions

THURSDAYS

6:30-7:20pm

in the church

October 6

October 20

November 10

December 1

January 12

Eucharist Retreat:

Sunday, **January 29,**

11:30-1:00

lunch & childcare provided

Reconciliation Retreat:

Sunday, **March 26,**

11:30-1:00

lunch & childcare provided

Lenten Reconciliation

Wednesday, **March 29,**

6:30pm

1st Communion Practice:

Thursday, **April 20,** 6:30pm

First Communion Mass:

Families will choose between:

5:00pm Saturday, **April 22**

10:30am Sunday, **April 23**

5-6-7th Grade



5-6-7th Grade Small Groups



We know that no program or textbook can help a young person meet Christ, turn one's heart to Christ and live in Christ's love. Formation for a life in Christ takes place at home. We want to provide support for parents by continuing to involve them, but also support young people in the form of small peer groups with adult mentors.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS, 6:30-7:40:

- ◆ We form small groups based on age and gender.
- ◆ This provides an environment, serving **the needs of this age group** to have a place where they can be themselves and feel safe to question and discuss faith & life issues.
- ◆ Throughout the year, **parents are invited to join us** for large group events, such as our Advent & Lenten gatherings, so they too can grow in understanding of our Catholic faith and share this at home with their middle schooler.
- ◆ The small groups become **faith communities** in which they can share about daily issues that concern them, grow in friendship with Jesus, receive practical and relevant advice on living their faith, recognize distractions which can lead them away from God's plan for them and receive support and encouragement to live their faith in confidence.
- ◆ **Each week**, they share about their week, pray together, reflect on the upcoming Gospel and use a book-designed for their age-to help them live as God's Sons & Daughters.

Mentoring

**6:30-7:40 on
Wednesdays:**

September 7

September 14

September 28

October 5

October 12

October 19

October 26

November 2

November 9

November 16

November 30

December 7

December 21

January 11

January 18

January 25

February 1

February 8

February 15

February 22

March 8

March 22

April 5

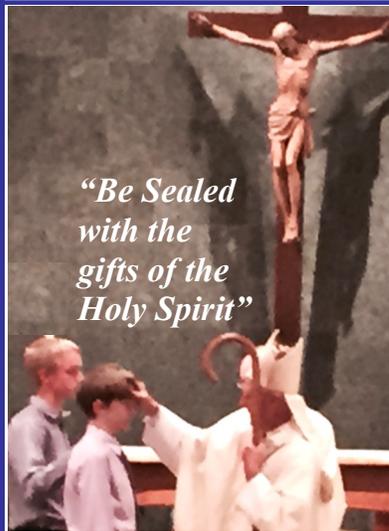
April 12

April 19

8th Grade—Confirmation



8th Grade—Confirmation



“Be Sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit”

FIRST—What it is NOT: It is not some kind of graduation from religion classes. It is not when young people accept the faith for themselves. It is not some kind of passage into spiritual adulthood.

THEN, What is it? It is a gift. A gift that can be received at any age. It is one of seven sacramental ways Jesus enters our souls—for a reason. 2,000 years ago, St. Paul describes this sacrament well in his letter to Timothy: *“...stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord...but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. **He saved us and called us to a holy life.** Take as your norm faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this with the help of the holy Spirit that dwells within us.”*

FORMATION for Celebrating & Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation takes place throughout the 8th grade year. Then they are **confirmed in the fall of their 9th grade year** and welcomed into the high school youth group. The name of the Confirmation program we use, *CHOSEN*, reminds us—it is not so much about us choosing God, but that **God first chose us for a life in his Son**. Teens learn how the sacraments, prayer, and discipleship are the keys to a happy life. *Chosen* challenges and **empowers teens to fully embrace a life in Christ**. *So they are asked to:*

- ◆ Approach the Confirmation journey with an open mind and heart; attend the Chosen Lessons
- ◆ Participate in the Sunday Eucharist
- ◆ Commit to daily prayer and to a daily desire to: seek, know, love and follow Christ

**6:30-7:40 on
Wednesdays:**
September 7
September 14
September 28
October 5
October 12

October 19
October 26
November 2
November 9
November 16
November 30
December 7

December 21
January 11
January 18
January 25
February 1
February 8
February 15

February 22
March 8
March 22
April 5
April 12
April 19

9th Grade—Sept & Oct Confirmation

6:30-7:40 CHOSEN on
Wednesdays:

September 7
September 14
September 28
October 5

October 12:
9-12th Retreat
6:00-9:30pm

October 19:
9th Gr. Practice &
Reconciliation

October 23
Confirmation Mass 2:00pm,
come at 1:20

October 26
*Join High School Youth
Group on Wednesdays*

High School—Youth Group



High School Youth Group!

Join us on Wednesday nights throughout the Fall and Spring in the Youth Room in the parish hall's lower level. Come at 6:00 for dinner, stay for faith & fellowship! Find support and encouragement from others who want to keep Jesus at the center of their lives.

*"Let us listen to the words that Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus, which to be seem meant for us today: "Come down, for I must stay at your house today." **Jesus extends the same invitation to you:** "I must stay at your house today. The Lord wants to enter your homes, to dwell in your daily lives: in your studies, your friendships and affections, your hopes and dreams."*

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

- ◆ **Facebook** - Simply search St. Mary's Youth Ministry on Facebook or ask a friend to Invite you to the page!
- ◆ **Text Remind** - Text **@stmyg16** to the number **81010** to be added to the remind list!
- ◆ **Email** - Send me an email to be added to the Youth Group list chuck@solonstmary.org



PARENTS: Interested in Helping?

Well, here's how...

- ◆ **Food** - Watch for upcoming Sign-up Genius emails for assisting with food!
- ◆ **Drivers** - Sign-up to drive during our Service Nights this fall/spring!
- ◆ **Volunteer** - Email chuck@solonstmary.org if you would like to volunteer to help with Youth Group!

St. Mary—Solon K-8th Grade Faith Formation Registration 2016-17

Parent Names _____		Home Phone _____
Address _____		City _____ Zip _____
Send correspondence to an additional address? _____		
Mother's Cell _____	Father's Cell _____	
Mother's Email _____	Father's Email _____	

Child's First & Last Name	Grade

Faith Formation Fees K-8th:

_____ **\$80 for K-4th Family Gatherings** ⇒
This is a per family rate for meals & materials

_____ **\$40 per child in 5-6-7th grade**
To cover costs of books & materials

_____ **\$50 for 8th grade (confirmation)**
To cover costs of books & materials

_____ **\$20 for 2nd grade (1st Communion)**

\$_____ enclosed
Please let Lindsey, Julie or Fr. Tim know if the fee is a hardship

K-4th Family Faith Gatherings

Attend following the Mass your family usually attends. Sessions are 90 minutes long so you will not be able to attend between Masses. If you regularly attend 5:00, please choose the time that works best.

Our family plans to attend the following session:

_____ **9:30** Following 8:30 Mass

_____ **11:30** Following 10:30 Mass

Our family needs childcare during gatherings for:

(Names & Ages)

Older children (5-12th) can sit with families or:

Help With Childcare _____
(Name/Grade)

A Quiet Place to Hang Out _____
(Name/Grade)

PARENTAL PERMISSION:

_____ I GRANT permission for my child/children named on this form to be photographed and/or videotaped during Faith Formation Activities with the possibility of being published—*without use of names*— (newspaper, parish newsletter, bulletin or website etc.) for the purpose of promoting the activities of St. Mary Catholic Church.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

I am interested in helping

_____ K-4th Family Service Project Team

_____ 5-7th Mentor—facilitate small faith communities

_____ Journey with Jesus, children's liturgy at Mass

_____ 8th Catechist—leading Confirmation program

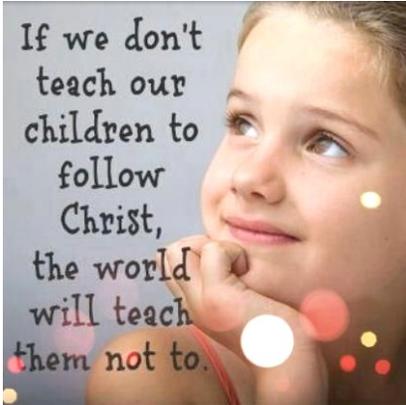
_____ Material Preparations *K-4th Grade Faith Gatherings*

_____ K-4th Family Gathering Childcare

_____ K-4th Family Gathering Meal Prep & Serving

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*"The questions I put to parents are these:
Do we seek to understand 'where' our
children really are in their journey?
Where is their soul, do we really know?
And above all, do we want to know?"
-Pope Francis*

Special Newsletter for: K-12th Families

Backpack Blessing

From Preschool—College:

Bring your backpacks to Mass the
weekend of August 27 & 28
for a special blessing by Fr. Tim
and gift from our parish.



Harvest Festival

Sunday, Sept. 11

11:00-1:30

*Chicken Dinner
Children & Family Activities
Raffle-Hawkeye BB Season Tickets
Country Store
Silent Auction*

