

FAMILY & TEEN FAITH QUARTERLY

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2016

COME TO HOLY FAMILY'S FALL FAITH FESTIVAL For All families with children ages 5-12



Learn about the Saints in the most amazing ways!

Three different times

Sunday, October 23- 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Sunday, October 23- 5:30-7:00 pm

Wednesday, October 26- 4:30-6:00 pm

Help create a saintly scarecrow; learn to play Holy Family's new *Bliss card game*; make a heavenly sun catcher honoring your loved ones; join us for **Apple Cider** and . . .

Feasts and festivals have always been a way of marking time. In her book *Lost but Making Excellent Time: Transforming the Rat Race into a Pilgrimage* Jody Seymour reminds us that attending to more ancient calendars – religious calendars with their rhythmic patterns of feast and fast; work and rest; joy and sorrow – allow us to measure time differently, “more like a compass than a clock.” Seymour maintains
(Continued on p. 3)

Highlights in this issue

- 1 Expansion of Faith Festivals
- 2 Outreach & Community Service
- 3 Raising up intentional disciples
- 4 First Communion Prep Begins New IGNITE Retreat
- 5 New Attendance & Make-up Policy
- 6 Nationally Acclaimed Storyteller comes to Holy Family
- 7 For Parents Only: Let's Dazzle Take the 3 Hour Challenge
- 8 Things You Should Know

IGNITE TEENS ROCK

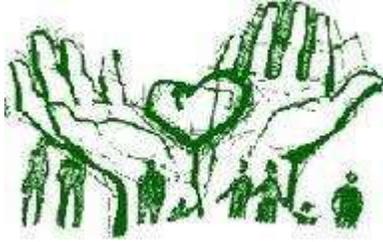
IGNITE TEENS

YOU DID A FREAKING AWESOME JOB AT FALLFEST 2016!

Parents pat your IGNITE teens on the back for their service at Fall Fest. We heard nothing but praise for them. By all accounts they were gracious, respectful and helpful. We were especially glad to hear from the parents of the young children they assisted about how kind they were to the little ones. **BRAVO IGNITE!**

Catholic High School students interested in being Confirmed this spring contact Mel Tomal in Teen Faith ASAP!

Community Engagement Is Key to Faith Formation



Christian Service (CS) is embedded in all our religious education programs beginning in first grade. It is also a

defining characteristic of the Holy Family Catholic Community. Deeply committed to **Catholic Social Teaching**, that central and essential element of our faith whose “roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice.” (U.S. Catholic Bishops) finds imaginative and practical expression in the thousands of volunteer hours and tens of thousands of dollars that are willingly given by Holy Family parishioners.

Children learn by example; teens are inspired by powerful deeds. If we want to engage the young there is no better place to begin than with the lessons found in a **faith that does justice.**

Religious faith is essentially about meaning – about the search for meaning, the ability to do meaningful

things and be significant to another. Time and again children and teens tell us doing service are some of their most meaningful experiences of God and Church.

Why? Because

making a difference, being consequential, is intoxicating, it exhilarates and empowers; it validates our capacity not just as seekers of meaning but as makers of meaning. It CONFIRMS that we are made in the image and likeness of God.

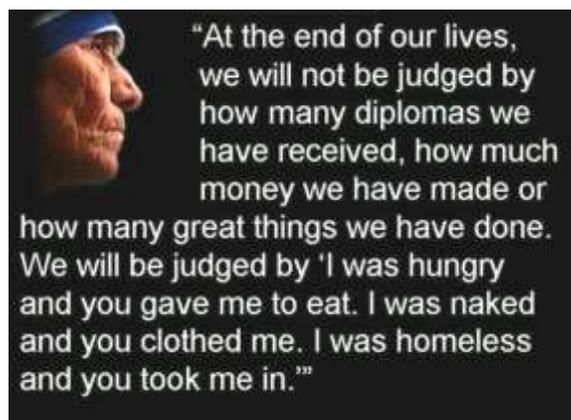
This is why Family & Teen Faith is expanding the opportunities we offer to our children, teens, and families, to serve. Some have questioned the decision to increase the number of service hours we require of FLAME teens. They argue that teens are already over committed. Yet not only does our religious tradition speak about how foundational service is - **“Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead”** (James 2:17) – a growing body of

secular wisdom now totes the benefits of doing community service. Note the development of service learning in high school and college curriculums and the increasing popularity of community service requirements in **public** schools.

They have discovered, what we as disciples of Christ have always known; doing service is good for us. Service to others helps us

- Explore or cement our values and beliefs
- Provides us opportunities to act on our values and beliefs
- Gain hands-on experience
- Helps us grow in our understanding of diverse cultures and communities
- Fosters learning about social issues and their root causes
- Improve our ability to handle ambiguity and be open to change; become more flexible
- Develops or enhance our skills, especially in the areas of communication, collaboration, and leadership
- Improves critical thinking and problem-solving skills

When Jesus tells us in the gospel of Matthew that our very salvation depends on our willingness to serve He is not threatening us into blind obedience. He is sharing with us a powerful and life-giving truth.



How can parents help nurture a faith that does justice?

- Lead by example
- Serve your kids by serving with them
- Affirm and encourage the value of service

Faith Festivals continued from page 1

that the Christian calendar, what we as Catholics call the Liturgical Calendar, can help us not only mark time but give meaning and direction to time (p. 9).

Time is not just about hours, days and years. Life is not just about deadlines. No one can deny busy is the name of the game, but smart people ask, “*Busy at what?*” “*Busy with whom?*” If we want to be spiritually attuned; if we want spiritually attuned kids then we need to look at what occupies our time and more importantly our hearts and imaginations.



The Census Decree is read at our Bethlehem Market Festival last year.

One way Family Faith is Honoring the Christian Calendar is by investing in the idea of **festivals**. Times during the year when we break from our routines, come together as a community and celebrate. The

atmosphere is playful and joyous. Music, games, art, drama and of course incredible snacks make a definite impression on our young seekers

Last year we zipped up the already popular **Bethlehem Marketplace**, offering more activities. Family and Teen Faith students began their observance of the **Holy Year of Mercy** by reflecting on Mercy. Each class in grades 1 thru 10 then created a piece of art expressing their understanding of mercy. This **Mercy Festival** gave way to our first **Student Art Show**, which hung in the corridor leading to the Rectory throughout Advent. We also added a **Lenten Prayer Festival** (grades 1-6) and **Color Wars** (for IGNITE).



Student work displayed after a Festival - 2015

The word that came back – **MORE FESTIVALS PLEASE!** So get ready, festival season 2016 is about to begin. Sunday, October 16 our FLAME students will participate in our **first-ever Service Fair** and the following week our Family faith classes will host our **Fall Faith Festival**, celebrating those holy superheroes **THE SAINTS**. Keep your eyes peeled for our **Saintly Scarecrows**

Raising up Intentional Disciples – a Legacy Project

The only way Holy Family will survive and thrive as a community of faith is to raise up passionate witnesses to the Gospel of Christ, what Sherry Weddell refers to as **intentional disciples**. These are challenging times for believers, especially Catholic believers.

Consider this

- Only 30 percent of Americans who were raised Catholic are still practicing.
- 10 percent of all adults in America are ex-Catholics (if they were a Christian denomination they'd be the second largest).
- Only 60 percent of Catholics believe in a personal God.
- 80 percent of cradle Catholics are no longer Catholic by the age of 23

If this were the only news it would indeed be bad - Noah and the flood kind of bad - blow it all up and start over kind of bad, but the Holy Family story stands in stark contrast.

- This year we have **82 catechists** and **54 teen Peer**

Ministers serving as co-catechists engaging over 700 children and teens in our on site Family & Teen Faith programs

- 11 families are enrolled in our new home school program and it continues to grow
- 60% of our juniors and seniors remain active members of the Teen Faith community after confirmation – more than double the national average
- Enrollment is up for the first time in 12 years

Good news is driven by passionate commitment. The choice is ours.

- Let's double down on providing quality faith formation for catechists and parents. Kids don't raise themselves up!
- Let's invest – time and money in that unique and powerful ministry known as **catechesis**. A casual commitment does not produce intentional disciples.
- Let's expand our Youth Ministry program – the number 1 determining factor for faith practice in one's 20s and 30s is faith practice in one's teen years.



SET THE WORLD **ABLAZE!**

Come to the



Saturday, October 22
2-10 pm
at Holy Family

OUR MISSION For the Day

FUN!!!

GAMES & teamBUILDING

FOOD

Free STUFF

MUSIC

Interactive prayer

Courtyard campFire With S'Mores

Bring nut free snacks to share with your small group

Lost your permission slip go to <http://holyfamilyparish.org/ignite-catechesis-jr->

Preparation for First Communion Begins

Parents of children who are preparing to make their First Communion this spring are asked to attend a special meeting on

Tuesday, October 18 from 7:30-9:00 pm

Even if you have had another child receive this sacrament we ask that you attend this meeting. Fr. Terry and Dr. Hanrahan will be speaking and important information will be distributed.

This meeting is for parents only. The nursery will be open for childcare that evening. We ask that you make a reservation so we can provide adequate staffing. **RSVP** contact Isabella at 847-907-3426 or email her at imcpherrin@holyfamilyparish.org



The November Kairos filled in record time so if you are planning on attending the February 17-20 retreat

Sign-up on line today

<http://holyfamilyparish.org/kairos>

some scholarships available

Attendance & Make-up Policies Standard Practice for Religious Ed

Family and Teen Faith classes meet 19 times during the year for a total of 28.5 hours of instruction per year. This includes our Festivals and some in-class service projects. Additional time is required of those preparing for sacraments.

Most of the surrounding parishes require

- on average thirty-three (33) hours.
- more time for those preparing for sacraments
- community service hours and retreats for Confirmation candidates.

It is standard practice in Catholic Religious Education Programs to expect

- weekly attendance at Sunday Mass
- at least two years of formal preparation prior to receiving a sacrament
- attendance at a stated number of classes in order to progress to the next year of instruction
- Consistent attendance in religious education classes each year and when gaps occur that students do make-up work

All of the parish programs in our surrounding area hold to these expectations.

Holy Family has stated for years that they follow these standard practices yet implementation has been inconsistent often leading to claims of preferential treatment for some.

2016-2017 Attendance Policy

Our lives are busy and at times unpredictable and absences are to be expected.

- Family & Teen Faith participants are asked to attend 17 out of the 19 classes for the year.
- Students in Grades 1-6, IGNITE and FLAME who miss more than 2 classes will be expected to make-up the lesson at home and submit the completed work. Our Adam's Apple students do not need to make-up missed lessons.

For both safety reasons and instructional integrity students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class session unless prior arrangements have been made by the parent with the Faith Office. This includes our teens as well as our younger students.

If a class session is cancelled by the Faith Office parents will be notified and students are **NOT** expected to make-up that lesson.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE

There are exceptions to every rule. Families with unique circumstances requiring special consideration regarding attendance should contact Dr. Peg to make the arrangements that best serve the interest of the child/teen.

For Step by Step instructions for making up missed class sessions go to

<http://holyfamilyparish.org/instructions-for-making-up-family-teen-faith-class-sessions>

If you have any questions or difficulties please contact Laura Ferlita, ferlita@holyfamilyparish.org or Mel Tomal, mtomal@holyfamilyparish.org

2016-17 Faith Calendar

<http://3jcqr63b3wmu40diko1tjp2yu9p.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/FF2016-17-ONLINE-CALENDAR-1.pdf>

2016-17 Calendar Magnets are still available in the Faith Office.

FLAME 1 PARENTS

If you missed the parent meeting on Oct. 16 please make sure to be at the make-up meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10 from 7-8:00 pm. Even if you have had teens confirmed in the past you need to attend this meeting.



Faith Parents – get your kids to tell you the Parable of the Pumpkins. It's a great story!

JOIN US FOR "Scared Silly Stories"

With CHRIS FASCIONE

NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED STORYTELLER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 5:15-6:00 PM

(followed by s'mores in the courtyard)



Storytelling event IS FREE

BRING YOUR OWN S'MORE FIXINGS & ROASTING STICKS

HOLY FAMILY WILL PROVIDE THE FIRE

There are NO Faith classes THIS Night

Teen Faith Launches new initiative on Teen Mental Health

Teen Faith, in collaboration with Adult Education and Pastoral Care will launch a multi-pronged initiative to address **Teen Mental Health Issues**. Like all programs that serve teens we have seen an increase in the number of Holy Family Teens who report suffering from anxiety and mood disorders. The number of teens in our community hospitalized for suicide ideation and suicide attempts is rising. Holy Family teens are reporting inflicting self-harm in greater numbers.

Parents of teens suffering from anxiety and mood disorders report increasing frustration in finding clinicians for their children and long wait periods for appointments. Beginning in November we will be offering a program with four components.

1. The FLAME program will offer one evening on **Worry, Stress and Anxiety** (Nov. 20) and another on **Depression and Suicide Prevention** (Dec. 4). Clinicians who work with teens will speak in our large group format, which will be followed up by small group discussions with catechists. The general overview of what will be covered in these sessions is available to parents at <http://holyfamilyparish.org/the-catechists-place/teaching-resources/flame-schedule-lesson-plans>
2. **A speaker series for parents** will be offered to educate them on anxiety and mood disorders and the rising incident of self-harm among teens. One of the issues that prevent teens from getting treatment is that anxiety and mood disorders manifest differently in teens than adults. Parents will have an opportunity to hear the latest clinical research and dialogue with clinicians who work with teens and their families. We are currently negotiating with clinicians and will publish the dates as soon as we get them.
3. **A third speaker series will be offered for older teens** on these same issues. Again we are currently negotiating with speakers and will publish the dates as soon as they are available.
4. A resource packet for both parents and teens will be created which will include practical suggestions in the areas of assessment, treatment and coping strategies.

There will be no charge for this program and it will be open to the larger community.



Investing your kid's faith life is the best investment you'll ever make.

For Parents Only – Let's dazzle!



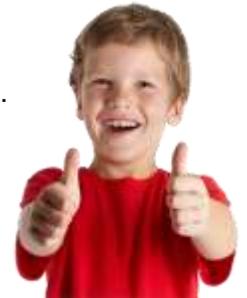
take the 3 hour challenge

Family & Teen Faith is asking all our families to donate 3 hours to the program this year. And when Dr. Peg says family her vision is deep and wide.

Moms and Dads you're always the first on your kid's list but share the wealth. Reach out to grandparents, young adult uncles, aunts, cousins and yeah those older sibs. Everyone can lend a hand – and you know what they say, "Many hands make light work".

- Choose the age group you want to work with
- Choose the task you want to do
- Choose the dates and times that fit your schedule

It is not just that we could do so much more with more volunteers – and we can – but your presence and active participation speaks volumes to your kids. We have something really special here at Holy Family. Let's build on our success and commit ourselves to becoming a national leader in parish-based family faith formation. Not only will your kids benefit your own faith will deepen.



**Way to go Mom
Thanks Dad
Is that you Gram?**

Sign-up now while you're thinking about it

Do you know how to have a good time? Then let's festival!

- Fall (Scarecrow) Festival - October 23 (morning or evening) or October 26
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ca4a929a1ff2-scarecrow>
- Bethlehem Marketplace – December 11 (morning or evening) or December 14
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ca4a929a1ff2-bethlehem>
- Lenten Prayer Festival – March 5 (morning or evening) or March 8
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ca4a929a1ff2-lenten>

Are you more the people watcher type?

- Be a Hall monitor - <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ca4a929a1ff2-hall>
- Hang out with teens in the Teen Room once a month – email ahodson@holyfamilyparish.org

More a behind the scenes person?

- Help us keep track of our attendance on a Sunday Night
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ca4a929a1ff2-flame>
- Help with odd jobs in the Faith Office – email Laura at lferlita@holyfamilyparish.org

Do you like to mix it up with the best of them?

- Get on our substitute catechist list – email Isabella at imcpherrin@holyfamilyparish.org
- Get on the Parent Advisory Group – email Peg at phanrahan@holyfamilyparish.org

Note: All volunteers who work with children/teens must be Virtus compliant. For details go to <http://holyfamilyparish.org/protecting-gods-children-information-2>

Things You Should Know

HOLY FAMILY TEENS GETS INVOLVED IN PRISON MINISTRY

Our FLAME teens will be assisting the ministers of the **Kairos Prison Ministry** by making posters and placemats at their October Service Fair. This ministry brings the love of God and the light of Christ into local prisons. Three retreats are scheduled each year for the incarcerated as well as other events working with their families and the prison officials who work with the incarcerated.

The FLAME teens will also have a chance to interact with other local service providers.

New Task Force Formed to Re-imagine Faith Formation for kids with special needs.

Our new Family Faith curriculum offers exciting new adaptive resources for ministering to children with special needs. On October 19 a group of adults committed to the religious education needs of this group will meet to begin discussing how best to implement this program.

HOLY FAMILY STEPS UP

Refugee Resettlement Program

Holy Family welcomed a family to Chicago from Syria on September 20! The Alkrad family consists of dad - Ashraf, mom - Iqbal Abu Nabout, and sons Ahmad (6 yrs) and Mohammed (3 yrs). They are renting an apartment on the north side of Chicago where they can get services and public transportation as they slowly acclimate themselves to an American lifestyle.

All Family Faith kids in Grade 4-6 will serve



as Table & Light Ministers as part of new Liturgical literacy initiative

When you support the Gala you are supporting Family & Teen Faith

A promotional graphic for a gala. It features a woman in a green dress holding a circular logo that says "Gala" and "Holy Family Catholic Community & Academy". A speech bubble says "Don't be a square. Join the Gala Team. Be cool, be a Table Captain". The text "TWISTIN' The Night Away" is at the top left. Below the woman, it says "MAKE A FEW PHONE CALLS AND GATHER YOUR FRIENDS FOR AN EVENING OF FOOD, FUN AND FAMILY. CONTACT YOUR CHAIRS, TIM AND ANDREA FARRELL GALA@HOLYFAMILYPARISH.ORG OR 847-436-6741 TO GET YOUR TABLE STARTED." At the bottom, it says "FEBRUARY 25TH, 2017 | 6:00PM - 12:00AM" and "WWW.HOLYFAMILYGALA.ORG".

Don't be a square.
Join the Gala Team
Be cool, be a Table
Captain

TWISTIN'
The Night Away

MAKE A FEW PHONE CALLS AND GATHER YOUR FRIENDS FOR AN EVENING OF FOOD, FUN AND FAMILY. CONTACT YOUR CHAIRS, TIM AND ANDREA FARRELL GALA@HOLYFAMILYPARISH.ORG OR 847-436-6741 TO GET YOUR TABLE STARTED.

FEBRUARY 25TH, 2017 | 6:00PM - 12:00AM
WWW.HOLYFAMILYGALA.ORG

Family & Teen Faith invests thousands in new Scripture Study initiatives.

On October 2 all of our IGNITE students were presented with the latest edition of the **Catholic Youth Bible** in a special ritual at the 4 pm Mass as they begin a new two year Scripture based curriculum.

All of our FLAME classes were also given a copy of the CYB for use in their small groups. The new **Catholic Children's Bible** and the **Breakthrough Bible** for middle schoolers were also purchased for use in all of our classrooms. This is part of a multi-year investment as we move toward incorporating more scripture at every grade level.