

A Jubilee Year of Mercy



Catholic's across the world have been called to partner with Pope Francis to bring to every person the gospel of mercy. The motto our Holy Father chose to mark the Holy Year comes from the Gospel of Luke, "**Be merciful, just as your father is merciful.**"

Many events will mark the jubilee year in Rome, in our Archdiocese and here at Holy Family. Our first response as a parish community to the Holy Father's invitation, was to seal one of the doors to our worship space for a period of time. This was done on October 25 at Holy Family. Prayers were said and parts of the

continued on page 2

November'ing

Celebrating All Saints, All Souls

As we enter the final days of the Church Year, we are called to contemplate endings. We begin November with the Feasts of *All Saints* and *All Souls*, remembering those who have "**gone before us marked with the sign of faith**". We celebrate the saints and call upon them to pray for us. The scripture readings we will hear proclaimed this month at our weekend Masses, focus our attention on what the Church refers to as the '*last things*' - the approach of the end of the world, the resurrection of the body, the last judgment and the consummation of all things.

All of us have heard the common wisdom: '*live each day as if it were your last*'. Keeping the end in mind changes our perception of the present. What we value is clarified. Mundane worries and concerns fall away. We are empowered to live in the moment, neither dwelling on the past nor anxiously awaiting the future. We are able to "*put things in perspective.*"

This past week the children in our Faith classes (grades 1-6), talked about God's promise of resurrection and Christ's second coming, when all of creation will be redeemed and find its fullness in union with God in heaven. Each child made a sun-catcher of the cross. They were asked to remember the people (and pets) in their lives who have died, by writing their names around the cross. These were then put up in the worship space on the windows where they would catch the light creating miniature stained glass images. They are truly stunning – simple yet beautiful. At the end of the month the children will bring them home.

Bring your children to our parish worship space during this month of remembering. Let your child show you his/her cross. Talk about the

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

- 1 Jubilee Year of Mercy (continued on page 2)
November'ing (continued on page 3)
- 3 Operation Christmas Child
- 4 Teens head off to NCYC & Kairos 20
- 6 College Students Welcomed Home
- 7 Parents Speak Out about Faith Programs
- 8 January & February Faith Calendar

continued from page 1

proclamation introducing the [Holy Year of Mercy](#) were read to those who gathered for this ancient rite.

Going through a doorway, crossing over a threshold, has long been used by the Church as a metaphor for the personal journey one makes through the process of conversion. In the early Church, those who committed serious sins - sins which had the power to injure and divide the Christian community - were banned from the Eucharistic table, the primary symbol of unity.



Sinners who wished to be forgiven and return to full communion were asked to enter *The Order of Penitents*, a process of personal reflection, prayer and

public penance. Those who entered the *Order of Penitents* were marked with ashes (this is the origin of Ash Wednesday). When they had completed the process they were welcomed by the Bishop at the entrance of the Church, usually on Holy Thursday, received absolution and rejoined the community at the Table of the Lord.

Recalling this ancient ritual, the Holy Year of Mercy will officially begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Dec. 8, 2015. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world will cross over that threshold embracing God's enduring mercy. Diocesan cathedrals and parishes have been invited to participate in this ritual.

The Archdiocese of Chicago sealed a door at Holy Name Cathedral, which they will open on the second Sunday of Advent. Here at Holy Family, we will open our Holy Door on the third Sunday of Advent, ***Gaudete Sunday***, which takes its name from the entrance antiphon,

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

Receiving God's mercy is indeed an experience that calls us to rejoice.

ART SHOW ON MERCY

The Family and Teen Faith students will begin their observance of the Holy Year by reflecting on

Mercy in class. Each class in grades 1 through 10, will then create a piece of art expressing their understanding of mercy. IGNITE and FLAME classes did this project on the Feast of All Saints, November 1. Grades 1-6 will create their art pieces the week of November 15. The student art will be hung in the corridor from the Narthex which leads past the Family Room and the Rectory, throughout the season of Advent.

WHY ART?

Art has been an important component and tool for catechesis for millennia. Stained glass, sculpture, wood carvings, paintings, mosaics, frescoes and stone carving have not only decorated our Churches and holy places they have also informed believers. Caroline Farey, in her article *Art and Integral Catechesis* writes,

Art fascinates. Liked or disliked it attracts the curious, especially those, consciously or unconsciously, looking, searching, desiring deeper meaning in their lives. People search in art for that 'something' that might fill the mysterious, sometimes aching, gap that words have failed to fill.

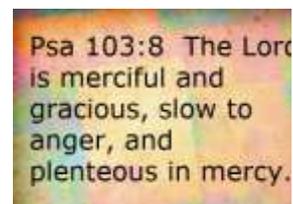
Creating a piece of art helps students express



thoughts and feelings which are beyond words. It provides a pathway for integrating the truth of their experience, allowing them to blend reason an intuition for a

more complete knowing, an embodied knowing which is the goal of all catechesis.

Finally displaying their art work gives our children and teens an opportunity to evangelize our parish on this important theme in this Holy Year. It allows them to inspire and be inspired by each other bringing this lesson on Mercy full circle.



Come and See the ***Student Art Show***, which will run from November 28 through December 20 (all of Advent). Invite family, friends and neighbors to do so as well. Be inspired by our young people.

FAMILY FAITH STUDENTS REACH OUT TO CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD



2nd grade class poses in front of Operation Christmas Child boxes their class helped to pack.

Each year the Family Faith Students reach out to children in crisis areas throughout the world by participating in *Operation Christmas Child*, just one of the many programs sponsored by *Samaritan's Purse*, a *nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world*. Children in grades 1-6 bring small toys, school supplies, basic personal hygiene items and personal accessories that they pack in shoeboxes which are then shipped and distributed to both girls and boys ages 2-14. The Holy Family children personalize their gifts by including letters to the recipients in their boxes.

After watching a video about Operation Christmas Child, reflecting on the needs of poor children throughout the world, and their role as contemporary missionaries to other children, the Holy Family Faith students energetically embraced the task of packing their shoeboxes. Last year Holy Family packed 47 boxes. This year, through the generosity of our Faith families, we will be delivering 115 boxes (a 144% increase). Families also contributed funds to help with the shipping costs. We want to thank all the families who participated and Laura Ferlita, Associate Director of Family Faith, who coordinated the project.

See the Operation Christmas Child video at <http://video.samaritanspurse.org/good-news-danniellas-story/>



the members of your family or close friends or neighbors who have died. Assure your children of our belief in the *resurrection the body* and the *communion of saints* declares to us that love is more powerful than death and we remain intimately connected to those we love.

All parishioners are invited to bring 5 x 7 photographs of loved ones who have died or a prayer card from a loved one's funeral to put on one of the many decorated tables around the perimeter of the Church. Let your children see how the saints from our own lives surround us. Tell them that those we love continue to protect us with their prayers and wait for us in heaven.

The Book of the Dead will be placed next to the Paschal Candle. Here you and your children can inscribe the names of loved ones who have died. During this month all those whose names are entered in our parish *Book of the Dead* will be remembered in prayer at every Mass during November.



These rituals, and the beliefs they help express, bring healing and consolation to many. Share them as a family. Rejoice together in God's promise of everlasting life.

As a family why not watch *The Book of Life*, a refreshingly original animated film that explores the tradition of *Los Muertos*, (Day of the Dead). Smaller children might find some of the scenes in the Land of the Remembered scary, especially those featuring the king of the underworld, Xibalba (who's named after the Mayan name for the realm of the dead). But the fun definitely outweighs the scary parts, and ultimately this is a vibrant, colorful movie about doing the right thing and the importance of family -- messages that can be appreciated by both kids and parents. It is easy to help children see that the Land of the Remembered is another name for heaven and fits nicely with the tradition of remembering those we love who have died, especially at this time of year. View the trailer at www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espy=2&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on#q=the%20book%20of%20life%20animated%20movie&safe=active&ssui=on&kpevlbx=1

Holy Family Prays with Couples who bear the Heartbreak of Miscarriage or stillbirth



On Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 pm, Family Faith, in partnership with Liturgical Life, invites any couple who has lost a child through miscarriage or

stillbirth to gather for Evening Prayer in memory of their children.

Miscarriage or stillbirth is a devastating loss. Parental grief is often complicated due to the lack a sense of closure funeral rites can provide. Many couples find that friends and family may minimize the loss, especially if it occurs early in the pregnancy. Frequently couples do not share their feelings of loss in an effort to spare other couples they know who are expecting a child increased anxiety. The fact is parents who endure the heartbreak of miscarriage or stillbirth go through the same grieving process as they would for the loss of any close relative or friend.

If you have experienced such a loss, whether recently or long ago, come and let us pray with and for you and your child. You do not have to bear your sorrow alone.

NCYC

Here I Am Lord • Aquí Estoy Señor

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2015 • INDIANAPOLIS



NCYC is a powerful, biennial, three-day experience of **PRAYER, COMMUNITY & EMPOWERMENT** for Catholic teenagers. Eleven (11) teens and two adults from Holy Family will join the 25,000 teens and the adults who work with them at this year's National Catholic Youth Conference. We are extremely grateful to the Holy Family Community for donating **\$5,000.00** thus making the per student cost affordable for our teens. We ask for your prayers for these young people as they assume leadership roles among their peers.



KAIROS from the

Greek *καιρός* meaning 'the Lord's Time' is a Retreat for Catholic high school and college students that has stood the test of time and continues to draw rave reviews from teens and parents alike. Based on [Ignatian spirituality](#), the retreat focuses on helping teens find his or her own personal relationship with Christ.

Here at Holy Family Kairos

has been enthusiastically received. The **twentieth Kairos** retreat to be offered by Holy Family will be held November 6-9 at the Cabrini Retreat Center in DesPlaines.

Thirty-seven (37) teen retreatants will be guided through the three-day retreat by a team of 12 student leaders who have



already made the retreat and 9 adults from the community. It will be directed by Amy Hodson, Associate Director of Youth

Ministry for Holy Family. Frs. George Kane and Terry Keehan along with other priests from the area will be present to say Mass and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation with participants.

Parents are invited to attend the 5 pm Mass on Saturday, Nov. 7 to pray for their sons and daughters who are making the retreat. Other parishioners attending this Mass will be invited to take a prayer card and pray for one of the teens making the retreat by name.

We are delighted to see so many of our teens continue their faith formation through Kairos as both participants and leaders. We ask God's blessing on all who make this program possible.

CATECHESIS & WORSHIP: AN ESSENTIAL CONNECTION

Before there was doctrine, before there was a canon of Sacred Scripture, there was liturgy.

The Church has long understood that how we worship reflects what we believe and determines how we live ("*lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi*"). Good liturgy and good catechesis are bound together; they are partners

- Both are important aspects of the Christian life and promote a deeper faith.
- Both liturgy and catechesis seek to form persons in faith
- Both need each other

What we learn through catechesis we practice in worship. What we experience in worship we reflect on in catechesis.

Without the interplay of worship and catechesis religious faith unravels leaving the believer with large gaps in meaning and inhibiting him/her ability to make sense of the ultimate questions of human life. Entering into the liturgy teaches us to be disciples. Benedict XVI referred to the liturgy as "**a school of love**" that perfects our social relations and our family life and by this society as whole.

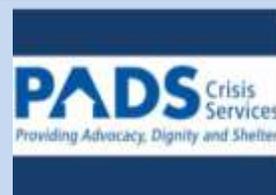


Think about how we begin Mass at Holy Family. We welcome all to the assembly in a very concrete and deliberate way. We welcome those new to the community, those visiting the community and those who are long standing members of the community. In other words **we ritualize inclusivity**. Now think about how we end the celebration of liturgy. The entire community prays, "**The Mass never ends. We go forth to love and serve the Lord and each other. Thanks be to God.**" We make explicit the commissioning of each member of the assembly sent into the world to bear witness to the Good News.

sent into the world to bear witness to the Good News.

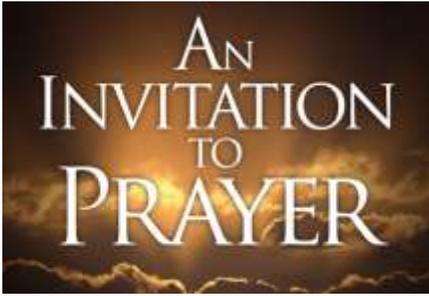
Liturgical Catechesis is the name for the formation in faith that takes place throughout the entire liturgy. It creates an '*intelligence of the heart*', a knowing of things in the fullest way, through the use of symbol and ritual, a language beyond words. Without worship catechesis becomes irrelevant, just a cognitive exercise. Worship helps us integrate what we know with how we act. Worship enlivens our knowing, increases our understanding of what we learn. Catechetical experiences energize our experience of worship.

Whenever possible we will look for ways to connect the ideas presented in Faith Classes with our weekend liturgies. An example of this was the presentation of the **Anti-Bullying Pledges** signed by our students in Grades 1-6 as part of the gifts we offered on the Feast of All Saints at the 9, 11 and 4 pm Masses. Two intercessions were offered at all the Masses that weekend – one for those who have been bullied and one for those who have been the bully. The Presiders highlighted the pledges, tying the promise students had made as examples of how to live out the beatitudes which was the gospel for the day.



**THANKS IGNITE
FOR LENDING A
HELPING HAND
TO PADS**

PADS - Public Action to Deliver Shelter – is one of the many ways the Holy Family Catholic Community reaches out to those in need in the surrounding area. As a host site our parish offers the homeless in our community a clean bed in a safe environment, a place to take a hot shower, a hot meal for dinner and breakfast and a brown sack lunch to take with them every Sunday evening from Oct. 1 through April 30th. Each of our 8th grade IGNITE classes help with the set-up once during the year. They work with adult volunteers and have an opportunity to reflect with each other on the plight of the homeless and how they can make a difference.



Teen Faith Welcome Home Evening Prayer Service

Wednesday, November 25, 2015
7:00-8:00 pm



Each year we gather and pray with our returning Teen Faith Alumni, college students, friends and family. Join us as we welcome them home for the holidays. Prayer will begin at 7:00 pm in the Church. Following the prayer service, Kairos alums are invited to a 4th Day meeting, in the new Teen Room.



HOLY FAMILY TURKEY BOWL 2015 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 JUNIPER PARK

8:30AM - REGISTRATION
9:00AM - GAMES START

ENTRANCE FEE: \$5.00 PER PLAYER

2 Divisions

Division 1 – High & Under (with families)

Division 2 – College Age & Up

Cash Prizes go to the 1st and 2nd place winners

Teams consist of 7-10 players and must be formed before registering. Both girls and guys are encouraged to register and play. Start getting your team together now.

Refreshments provided – all you can eat



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 11981

Tireless supporters of teens and young adults at Holy Family Catholic Community, Inverness



PARENTS SPEAK OUT ABOUT FAITH PROGRAMS

Fifty (50) parents took the time to respond to the online survey about the Parent Orientation Sessions. The key findings from the survey are as follows:

▪ **The ideas presented that parents found most compelling** were the difference between faith and religion (40%) followed by the role of parents in a child's/tense's faith development (23%). **Parents found the most challenging idea presented** to be the connection between catechesis and worship (25%)

- **Parents rated the changes Dr. Peg Hanrahan presented** for the Faith program as follows
1. Increasing experiences of the faith for all grade levels (61%)
2. Creation of a Parent Advisory Board (55%)
3. Providing an online resource for parents on the Holy Family website (55%)
4. Developing greater integration between the catechetical and worship experiences offered to Family & Teen Faith students (45%)
5. Increased events for IGNITE students (42%)
5. Creation of a Teen Youth Ministry Advisory Board

Dr. Peg also invited parents to a listening session on October 27. Parents who attended were largely affirming of the changes they saw in the program commenting specifically about an increased sense of positive energy in the program and a more welcoming tone among all the members of the Faith Office. They and also made the following suggestions to improve the program.

- Incorporate more scripture in faith lessons at all levels
▪ Better communication with parents is needed
▪ Increase the substance of the lessons in the IGNITE and FLAME program – the kids need to be challenged more.
▪ Offer enrichment programs for parents during Faith classes (was done in the past).
▪ Continue to reach out to parents for feedback.



Event: Rite of Enrollment and Sponsor Event
Date: Sunday, November 15
Time: 4 -6:30 pm
Where: Church & Multitorium
For: Flame 2

Event: Friar JohnPaul presents 'The Beattitudes'
Date: Sunday, November 15
Time: 5:30-6:00 pm
Where: Church
For: IGNITE (parents welcome to attend)

Event: Advent Art Show on Mercy
Date: November 28-December 20
Where: Corridor leading to the Rectory
For: All

Event: Parent Meeting for Reconciliation
Date: Tuesday, December 1
Time: 7:30-9:00 pm
Where: Multitorium
For: Parents of children receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation (2nd & 4th grade)

Event: Bethlehem Market
Date: December 13 & 16
Time: During Faith classes
Where: Multitorium
For: Grades 1-6 Faith students



Incorporating spiritual practices you can do together at home as a family is the most important thing you can do to pass on the faith to your children. Here are few online resources you might find helpful.

- http://www.loyolapress.com/liturgical-year-advent.htm
▪ http://familychristmasonline.com/advent/advent.htm
▪ Praying Advent 2015 -

January	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year	2
	3	4 Friends in Faith	5	6	7	8	9
	10 Faith Classes resume	11 Pizza with the Pastor	12	13 Faith Class Pizza with the Pastor	14	15	16 FLAME 1 RETREAT
	17 NO FAITH CLASSES	18 M L King Day	19	20	21 Catechist Enrichment	22	23 Recon Prep #1
	24 Faith Classes FOF	25	26	27 Faith Class	28 Euch. Prep Parent Meeting	29	30 FLAME 2 RETREAT
	31 FLAME 2 Blessing						
2016							

February	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Friends in Faith	2	3 One-on-one Reconciliation	4	5 Parables of Luke Show	6 One-on-one Reconciliation
	7	8	9	10 Ash Wednesday	11	12 Kairos 21	13
	14 Kairos 21	15	16	17	18	19	20 Holy Family Gala
	21 Faith Classes	22 Friends in Faith	23	24 Faith Class	25	26	27 Euch Prep #1 FLAME2 Retreat
	28 Faith Classes	29					
	2016						