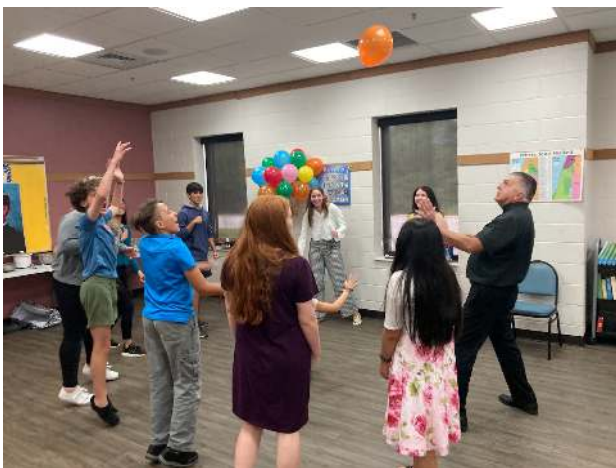


St. Sylvester



In **summer 2022** we shared a beautiful mission of living our faith. We had lots of deeply moving experiences together with starting the **First Saturday Devotions** and more youth attending **Adoration**. We celebrated many major milestones for individual youth as well!

We especially acknowledge all the youth who helped with our best ever **VBS!** All children of the parish grades PreK-12 learned about Monastic life, Mass behavior, and living a life of prayer with St. Benedict and St. Scholastica, plus as always the **rosary**, many saints, and countless other important teachings of The Faith. Thank you all for your support!

Most of the youth **missionaries** attended numerous team buildings and trainings all summer long learning a lot about themselves and each other. This work is meant to help the youth be contributing members of the parish. It is a small taste of what it is like to be on a real mission and give it all for God. We see that the youth who were able to make the time for this worthy mission have made or deepened their lifelong connections with one another and renewed their commitment to the faith. Our efforts are intended to help the youth be more confident in their knowledge of the Church, adaptable as a "team player", and understanding of our motto-*if you want it to be great here, make it great here*. St. Sylvester youth find a passion for service all year because they are focused on being part of a team that is praying, having fun together, making intentional connections, all while giving **glory to God.**



“In the Holy Eucharist we enter into this movement of love from which all interior progress and all apostolic efficacy springs.” –St. Pope John Paul II

What does that mean? If you want to be a disciple of our Lord Jesus, and work on yourself-
Go to Adoration!

Adoration begins on First Fridays at **6:00 p.m.**, followed by Nocturnal Adoration Society at 7:00 and Spanish at 8:00 p.m.

Please arrive before 5:55 to not disturb exposition.

Never turn your back on the Eucharist.

No talking

If you leave while the Eucharist is exposed, genuflect on both knees and leave in silence

The priest uses a humeral veil to emphasize that the blessing is by Jesus

The first hour is silent. You may bring a book or pray the rosary if preferred to contemplative prayer.

Youth enjoyed a gorgeous **beach day** in September. They had great fun together on a gorgeous day and were generously treated an ice cream truck favorite Mr. Softee by Esteban's mom, Claudia Campuzano!



We sincerely appreciate all of your support & donations provided throughout the year!

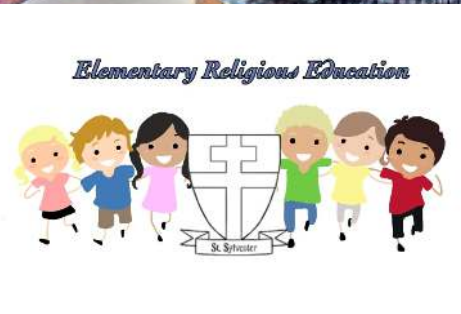


STEWARDSHIP PRAYER:

Almighty God, my parish is composed of people like me. / help make it what it is. It will be friendly if / am. It will be holy if / am. Its pews will be filled if / help fill them. It will do great work if / work. It will be prayerful if / pray. It will make generous gifts to many causes if / am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship if / invite and bring them. It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy if / – who make it what it is – am filled with these same qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all these things that I want my parish to be. Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might follow Jesus and build the Church for your glory. Amen.



Youth hosted Trunk or Treat & Saints Festival for the Elementary Religious Education program. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the parish community and learn! Many thanks to all who contributed. We discussed Hallowtide- the 3 days of Halloween, All Saints and All Souls. ' <https://www.goodcatholic.com/good-catholic-guide-to-halloween/>





The purpose of a **patron saint** is that the saint was a living person we can try to emulate who lived a life of surrender to God's will. A saint name is meant to be an attainable inspiration. Youth are encouraged to get to know the lives of the saints. Ask God to guide your youth if they do not have a patron saint yet.



The youth studied the history of the Nicene Creed and why we say it.' The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides a detailed analysis of every part, which is broken down into sections on teachings on the Father; beliefs concerning the Son, Jesus Christ; a theology of the Holy Spirit; and ecclesiology, the description of the distinctive four marks of the Catholic Church. The Creed opens by expressing belief in God the Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. The early Church Fathers thus affirm the basic teaching from Genesis that God, the "unmoved mover" of ancient philosophy, is responsible for the world which we encounter about us each day. ' <https://www.simplycatholic.com/the-creed/>

More **curriculum night topics** included: Creation, We are the Body of Christ, Salvation History, The Word Made Flesh, Judgment, Mercy, and Purgatory, The Sacraments, 10 Commandments, 2 church tours, Lent & Triduum



'Ignorance of scripture is
ignorance of God'.

St. Jerome

**50 questions all Confirmandi should be able to
answer if they participated fully in this years
formation:** [https://archkck.org/wp-content/
uploads/2020/11/
Fifty_Truths_Every_Catholic_Teen_Should_Kno
w_snack.pdf](https://archkck.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Fifty_Truths_Every_Catholic_Teen_Should_Know_snack.pdf)



We had **retreats** through the fall and winter with the boys doing a **catacombs escape** room & Haunted Woods, then the girls serving the elementary program through **Cookies and Cocoa**, with a dance party night, then **Breakfast with Santa**.

The time and space we create for these events offering the opportunity to pray, connect with one another in the faith, and develop spiritually is a gift. It requires much preparation and thoughtful care. The youth get as much out of it as they put into it.

2022 was the best calendar year for **Advent and Christmas** with Advent beginning the earliest possible and lasting the longest, plus Christmas running through Epiphany- celebrated Jan 8 this year! Youth on 12 days of Christmas retreat had Adoration, First Saturday devotions, great food and lots of creative activities through the weekend to learn about Christmas history, traditions, and **feast days**. This retreat experience was one for the record books, and while we always work to teach the liturgical year, this was an opportunity for more depth and time than typical, plus super awesome to put on during Christmas tide!





In January youth attended the 7th annual **Emerald Coast Walk for Life** in Pensacola. We attended Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church with James professionally, our group singing like they meant it and then being the largest group of youth walking! We were honored to carry the banner through downtown. We had such a good number of youth interested which is a testament to our parish families living pro life!



We talked about Social Justice and Pro Life Culture. Being **Pro-justice means being Pro-life**. Secular Social Justice Warriors are confused without God.

What are we called to DO?

Work on: Preventing abortion and euthanasia, Ending the death penalty, Gaining fair treatment for those with disabilities, Promoting civil rights and equality for those of different races, genders, ages, quality of health, and income level, Ending the cycle of poverty, Working to avoid war by preventing conflicts or resolving them by peaceful means, and Preventing cloning and embryonic stem cell research.



We focused on the **Real Presence of the Eucharist**, including Mass behavior, appropriate postures, gestures, and dress.

Spending a few weeks presenting on the Eucharist was very necessary to be sure everyone understood-to the best of their ability, that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives, and was assured they are always welcomed in the church. <https://www.catholic.com/>

We often put on a special panel of youth leadership discussing the curriculum, their experience in the ministry, or as in invitation to get all involved in extra activities in the parish. This offers the opportunity for all youth to hear their peer leaders stories and allow any who want to share of themselves as a large group. Youth listen to stories and want to hear from their peers. The example of leadership is integral to the success of the program. Youth serve at numerous **Knights of Columbus & Columbiette** events through the year. We are grateful for their donations to the program.



International Fest supports all children of the parish in Pre-school -12th grade to have a full day VBS and an exciting week of learning, plus the missionaries who teach that week & train all summer. This fundraiser also helps support youth leadership teams training and events all year. We need everyone's help to make this fundraiser great! While we mostly rely on our older parishioners we thank the youth families who were able to contribute. Thank you all so much!





Some youth leadership stayed at the church from Holy Thursday through Good Friday praying the Hours of the Passion every hour for 24 hours. This was a fruitful encounter they will never forget.



Living Stations was truly never a more revered devotion by our youth than this year. We studied well and prayerfully prepared with the best cast we have ever formed for this annual tradition. Thank you all very much for your support of this meaningful presentation, Especially Kaleb's mom, Deb Rasmussen who helps every year.



Confirmation Retreat: Sincere thanks to our main presenter Mr. DeCarolus, and all our hardworking & prepared adult team chaperones, plus all the youth who participated learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The youth respond very well to his presentations. <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2020/06/gifts-of-holy-spirit-at-home-retreat.html> Most expressed how they enjoyed discovering the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We talked about difficulties in life and hardships people experience. We at Mass at St. Patrick, Foley. The homily was essentially a summary of what we are always stressing and trying to support the youth in: 'Christ invites us to a new life. Most people are basic, and live a life of the flesh, give your life to others to live a life in Christ, open yourself up to allow light into the darkness.' Their differences were magnified but by the end of retreat they were strengthening to the group. Those who participated fully truly shined. Again super special thanks to the supremely supportive adult team who gave so much of their time through this long busy weekend.



We would like to personally thank Father Kelly, Father Alvaro, Mark Burson, and all the parish staff for their support of Youth Ministry. We sincerely appreciate the Knights of Columbus, Jon Brandon, Neal Carter, Jim Brown, Scott Rannals, Phil Price, Jim Kizer, Deb Rasmussen, Barbara Rabon, The Balagao family, The Furey family, Deacon Charlie, Deacon George, Erin Hackl, Claudia Campuzano, Mayela Galbreath, The Dekoms, Sybrina Brogan, Karina Ottley, Karina Rickerd, Connie Bello, Naomi Sapiera, Suzanne Comfort, Paula Dorell, Joni Ortiz, Jeanette Clark, Charles Bowman, Sharon McDonald, Joanne Dexter, The Barlottas, The Sears, The Eastmans, and The Pfisters for your generous contributions to the program throughout this year. We simply would not be able to offer the youth so many wonderful opportunities throughout the year without your assistance.

Thanks be to God for a great year!



Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure.

Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth.

Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; those who fear God will find them.

Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship, for as they are, so will their neighbors be.

Sirach 6:14-17





AUTOGRAPH PAGES:
Please use this space to
write each other
messages and share
your memories from the
year



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Sacred Heart
of Jesus, I
place all my
trust in You!









