

We appreciate  
your support &  
donations  
provided  
throughout the



2021/2022

# St. Sylvester



This past summer, we had a fun and faith filled **VBS** led by Youth. Kids grades PreK through 12, learned about Pope St. Sylvester, Saint Peter, Vatican treasures, the rosary, heaven and of course Mass. 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 leadership be confident in their knowledge of the church, mature in their teamwork roles and be capable of being responsible to others in the parish community. Youth find their true identity when they are part of a team serving to give glory to God. VBS is a transformative opportunity for the youth to learn and grow-if they choose it! They are assigned specific tasks throughout the day to assist their fellow students of the parish. Of course, they receive service hours but more impactful to their lives, they serve others and are supported in their life of faith. Most especially thank you to our parish staff and the adults who sacrificed their time helping. Barbara Rabon, Barbara Greenburg, Mayella Galbreath, Paula Dahlgren, Paula Dorell, Nicole Slye, Gary Barlotta, Joni Ortiz, Melissa Marr, Tony Giangulio, Jerry Klosinski and Charles Bowman were all a big help to the mission week!



Many thanks to our St. Sylvester Youth Ministry families for encouraging your children to make the worthwhile investment of time and allowing your child to be present and nurture the supportive relationships they develop with their peers in the parish community.

The calendar year is designed to be a consistent social educational program built on week to week. Each week we offer the opportunity to work together, and learn, while having fun, with games and outside time, plus sometimes winning prizes, meals for a time of intentional fellowship and peer interaction. We invest in covering lots of relevant curriculum from numerous sources, reading scripture and showing how to find books, chapter, and verse in the Bible.

We are here to support parents in your role as the primary catechist of your child and help them connect to the church at large.





Youth enjoyed playing “giving games” together and learning about the **charitable acts of The Catholic Church**. They dressed up for our mock fundraiser night and shared at great length about how they each have unique talents that they can offer to give glory to God!

-All youth learned about societies concept of religion through the **Formed series The Church** <https://watch.formed.org/ydisciple/season:8/videos/out-of-focus-with-fr-leo-patalinghug> They did well communicating and sharing about society's concept of religion. and church history. It was quite comical to see the youth interpret these concepts through skits. <https://youtu.be/ISthmAB7p24>.

-Youth continued to talk about other forms of Christianity and when they

were invented. They dressed up and gave Saint presentations and shared what they would represent if they become saints, supporting the Con-firmandi by talking about their saints and sponsors, including why they chose them.

-We gave boys and girls in high school separate class times with guest speakers during some youth ministry nights to discuss how God created men and women differently, both male and female are created in the image of God. God made two distinct genders because He wanted to reveal Himself through their complementarity. The boys learned the **Into the Breach** series <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-story/index.html> This was a tremendous opportunity for us to help empower our young Catholic men to live their faith everywhere they go for the rest of their lives

through the bonds of brotherhood. High school had many guest appearances by **Mr. DeCarolis** presenting to the boys which allowed them to engage with a positive active Catholic male role model.

The high school girls began to discuss femininity with **True Beauty: The Heart of a Woman** <https://watch.formed.org/ydisciple/season:3/videos/the-heart-of-a-woman-part-1-with-lisa-cotter> Through this series we worked to help guide the ladies to live lives of virtue, by using their unique gifts of femininity to build up their sisters in Christ. Splitting high school boys and girls occasionally had a very positive effect throughout this school year allowing each group the opportunity to be their authentic selves.



The elementary program **Saints Festival** saw 50 youth come serve as a testament to their commitment to the faith and their community. Everyone did a remarkable job dressed as their saint, attending Mass, and putting on this annual event for the elementary religious education students who were impressed by and will eventually be them!. Many thanks to all who participated in this wonderful event connecting all 3 groups of religious education classes. A special thank you to **Culvers of Navarre** for their generous donation.







Many of the girls in youth ministry have decided to start **veiling**. This is a personal choice they have made on their own to honor and respect the True Presence of Jesus the Eucharist. Check out this article to learn more. <https://fashionista.com/2017/12/millennial-catholics-chapel-veils> 'There's a new uprising in the Church of millennials who are actually wanting a more traditional take on their faith,' she says. 'This poses a striking contrast to Protestant mega-churches that are leveraging streetwear and celebrity connections to stay relevant.'



**March for Life** was an incredible experience. We were especially fortunate to be able to attend Mass at the Basilica the Immaculate Conception. We discussed the non-negotiables of the church and played baby shower games with both middle school and high school after March for life trip to help children understand that we are pro life from womb to tomb.

**Middle school** focused heavily on times of prayer and asked some deep questions about life. Although middle school was a very small group this year, they were amazing together and learned a lot about what we do as Catholics and why we do it.

In high school we've been having visits from **Jerome of Navarre**, faithful youth chaperone and great lover of the Lord. He interviews the youth to share the message that everything is a gift from God

**Super Bowl** party was great for all. We always have a ton of fun and build a massive snack stadium. Many of the youth have come here every year for their Super Bowl Sunday for a fun time of bonding at a fun and safe party.

We are proud to see so many of the youth making an effort to allow each other into their hearts and lives by the example of Christ. Who you surround yourself with is who you become. We make every effort to support the youth in making true friends and being a good Catholic example to one another







**Confirmation Retreat** at Beckwith was a wonderful experience with perfect weather on Mobile bay. Sincere thanks to our supportive chaperones and all the youth who participated inclusively, presenting as peer mentors and learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This was a truly wonderful group of kids coming together to prepare for the sacrament.

Those being confirmed and receiving other sacraments learn something each week for preparation with the support of their peers.

The point of all our Saint activities is to stress that the saints are actual people we can be like and that we can live saintly lives. Check out this video for some further knowledge sharing on **Confirmation**:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu3MoT\\_egFI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu3MoT_egFI)



**International Fest** returned after two years and was a huge success, thank you for your support! About 40 youth showed up to assist. For the first time ever, no booths ran out of food, but it was close! Our families students worked hard weeks in advance to prepare food with their families and friends. The performances were very special this year with a first time performance by the youth girls doing the Taza! We would never leave out the hard work of our face painters, sound girls, garbage boys and ticket booth as those jobs required non-stop action at their stations all night! Some people donated door prizes and helped work to clean up! Please accept most sincere thanks to all who contributed in every way. It was an honor to work with all of you. Be proud of your children and family for being part of this remarkable experience!



## Thank you!

We would like to personally thank Father Kelly, Father Alvaro, the parish staff, the Knights of Columbus, Jon Brandon, Neal Carter, Jim Brown, Scott Rannals, Phil Price, Jim Kizer, Barbara Rabon, The Furey family, Deacon Charlie, Deacon George, Erin Hackl, The Dekoms, Sybrina Brogan, Karina Ottley, Mel Ritchey, Connie Bello, Naomi Sapiera, Paula Dorell, Deb Rasmussen, Jeanette Clark, Charles Bowman, and Paula Dahlgreen for your numerous generous contributions to the program,

bringing food and supplies or donating financially and of your time consistently throughout the year.

Many thanks to all the adult team members who helped this year. We can not feed the youth, take care of all the paperwork, and have the activities we offer without their assistance.

Youth leadership makes it a priority to be a present example to the faith and encourage their fellow youth in learning the responsibilities of being an "active

Catholic". We are extremely proud of their efforts.

A lot goes in behind the scenes to prepare. If you are looking for ways to serve the parish, please get involved. There are endless opportunities. Our parish community works to provide a sense of family. People are welcomed to experience the joy of being nourished, supported and fulfilled.



We had a wonderful **fall camp** out especially thanks to Connie Bello, a professional camper and adult team member.

The **girls retreat weekend** was led by faithful guest speaker Paula Dorell. We were prayer focused and highlighted Catholic femininity. These girls made strong bonds that have held through the school year. We had a fun movie night outside with all youth during the retreat, and under the girl's direction, **Halloween Trunk or Treat** was a great experience for all. And many of these worked hard making group costumes. Thank you for your candy donations!



**Boys retreat** over the St. Nick weekend went very well. Older boys connected deeply for prayer, talked about practicing the faith and participating in the community, which must be done consistently in order to have the most knowledge and be better equipped to share the faith. We are proud of many of the boys for displaying Catholic gentlemanly behavior and grateful for our guest speakers who came as spiritual mentors.

**Sirach 6:14** 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.

**Cookies & Cocoa** went very well. The youth are learning to be great hosts and engage in meaningful conversation with people of the parish from all walks of life. <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/19-little-remembered-facts-about-st-nicholas>  
**Breakfast with Santa** was bigger and better than ever.

Our traditional Christmas Costume contest, judged by Father this year, was a tough competition for kids who put forth the effort and got dressed up. in the new year we held a **New Orleans Style Feast** to celebrate our Lady of Prompt Succor, and raise funds for youth confirmation fees which covers their weekly curriculum and food, the training of the Confirmation peer mentors team, a personal Saint medal, plus they go on an in-depth away retreat and we always need a surplus of funds to supplement the program as we grow.





Many thanks to all high school youth, and families who supported them in putting on the **Living Stations**. Seeing many of the youth follow through with this major meaningful commitment is something that will be well remembered as a great accomplishment and moving legacy.

We had the most fruitful experience of the **Triduum**, Holy Thursday with the footwashing of the youth, and Good Friday with many attending our viewing of The Passion of the Christ, then helping prepare the eggs for the egg hunt, attending the Good Friday liturgy, and even staying through to the procession of our Lady of sorrows. Thank you to those who helped !



**Thanks for a great year!**

Almighty God, my parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. It will be holy if I am. It's pews will be filled if I help fill them. It will do great work if I work. It will be prayerful if I pray. It will make generous gift so many causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship if I invite and bring them. It will be a

parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy if I — who make it what it is — am filled with the same qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be.

Bless my journey, Lord God that I might follow Jesus and build the Church for you glory. Amen.

Always feel free to call or message me anytime!

*Eileen Eley*

*Youth Minister*

850-376-9361

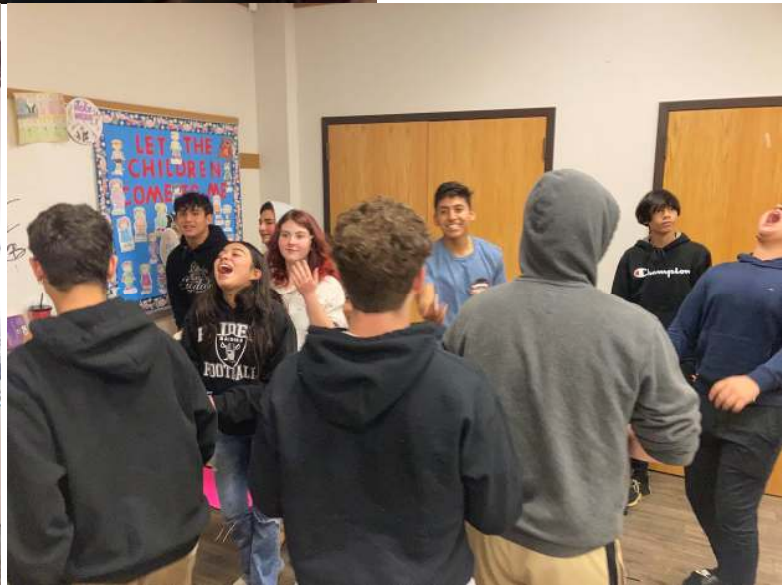
[eleye@stsyly.org](mailto:eleye@stsyly.org)

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



**AUTOGRAPH PAGES:**

Please use this space to write eachother messages and share your memories from the year









### AUTOGRAPH PAGES:

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









## AUTOGRAPH PAGES:

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









**AUTOGRAPH**

**PAGES:**

Please use this space to write eachother messages and share your memories from the year











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











**AUTOGRAPH PAGES:**

Please use this space to write each other messages and share your memories











**AUTOGRAPH PAGES:**

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











### AUTOGRAPH PAGES:

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











### AUTOGRAPH PAGES:

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



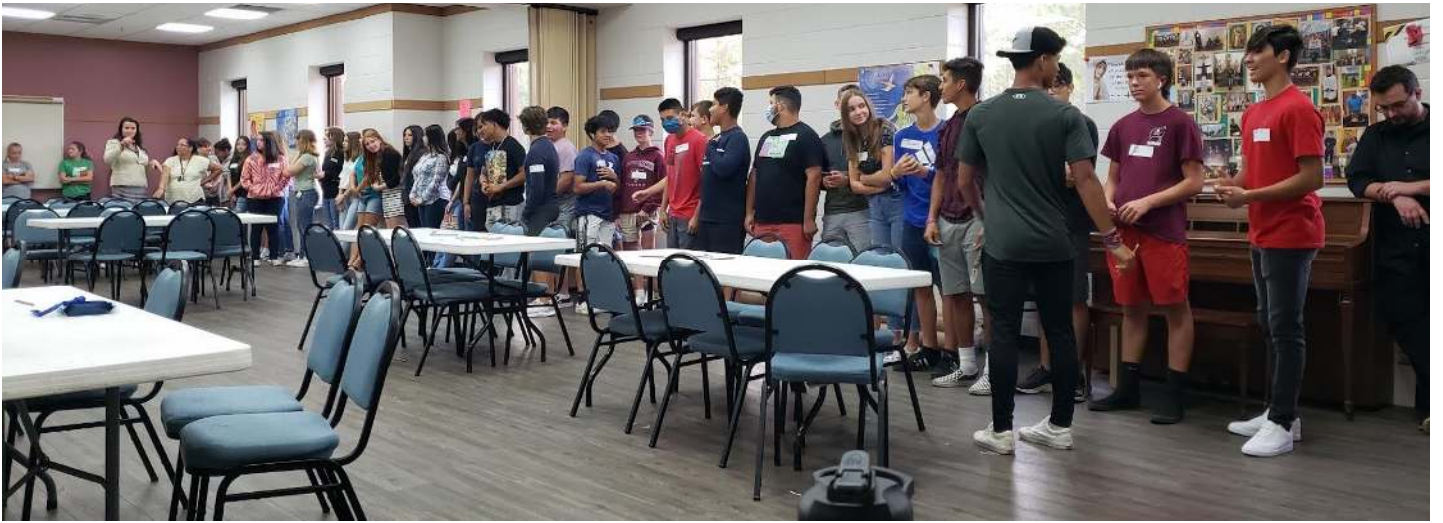
















**AUTOGRAPH PAGES:**

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





