



# Growing our Children in Faith

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF  
CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDENTS,  
GRADES 1 - 6

**SUMMER 2018**

## CHECKING IN WITH YOU!



Several hundred people enjoyed the fabulous fixin's at the Parish Picnic hosted by the Pastoral Council on June 24, 2018. The weather was perfect for an afternoon filled with great conversations, fun games for all ages and face painting!

We have not historically published a summer newsletter for families but with SO much going on around the parish these days, we felt it important to share news with you!

As you may know, over Mothers' Day weekend the southeastern Wisconsin area endured many inches of rain in a short amount of time. My husband and I were just back from Louisiana where we were celebrating our youngest daughter's college

graduation from LSU. We pulled into our garage about 2:00 am and by 7:10 am our phone was ringing. There was standing water in the church - all hands on deck!

Initially it seemed we'd be okay - after quick thinking from Father Dan and Bryan Staedler, 7:30 am Mass was held in the Gathering Space (altar, Communion Stations and all). Subsequent Masses were held in church and those closest to the water line watched it rise during Mass. (cont. pg 2)

## MASS REFLECTIONS AND SERVICE HOUR SHEETS

Because we close out one Christian Formation year and "roll over" into the new toward the end of May/ beginning of June, we had asked for you to hold on to your child's Mass Reflections and service hour forms until after July 1st. Please feel free to begin turning them in toward the 2018-19 academic year. A number of students complete the service hours and Mass Reflections over the summer which frees up busy times during the school year - but - **STILL COME TO MASS!**

Remember - as Catholics we are to attend Sunday Mass (or Saturday night Mass of anticipation) each week, as well as Holy Days of Obligation. Of the 50+ days we are to be here each year, we are asking your child for only eight Mass Reflection forms - more are happily collected but only eight will be recorded. We still read each one regardless of how many are submitted!

## VBS CAMPERS HAD A GREAT TIME!



Though we were a small group this year (only 14 campers) we had a great time learning about our special gifts from God. Our C.a.M.P. (Christ and Me Project) theme carried us through each day, learning Bible stories (some familiar, some not so much) and more about the lives of five different Catholic saints. We learned how much God loves each one of us, how we are each special and unique from one another and how learning about the lives of the saints helps us to be better people, too!

Vacation Bible School 2019 is scheduled June 24 - 28th, 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

### **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN!**

St. Leonard will put together a parish photo book this year and our goal is to have every parishioner included! Everyone who gets their photo taken will receive a free 8 x 10 and a free parish directory. Celebrate this great moment in time with our parish family!

Photos will be taken in the Parish Center on July 17-21, August 21-25, September 4-8; and September 11-15.

For more information including scheduling your appointment, please go to the parish website at:

[www.stleonards.org](http://www.stleonards.org).

Information on how to schedule, what to do to prepare for your portrait and more can be found on the home page.

### **CHECKING IN CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

A second flood Monday morning meant more in depth professional intervention was needed and so it began. The wet carpeting was stripped out, dried and ultimately replaced. The winter damaged gutters were addressed. The sump pump issues were resolved/repared. And, the damaged drywall is still in process of being redone. The process will ensure this type of water damage will not happen again.

Repair work continues - so when you come into the church proper, if things are still not 100% they are getting closer every day. Grading and foundation issues are being worked on presently. Through all of it, St. Leonard Congregation has celebrated Mass, weddings, funerals and more! Largely on behalf of people who stepped up to help, we endure.

Father Dan was even interviewed by Sean Gallagher from TMJ4 the night of the flood. You can see the clip here:

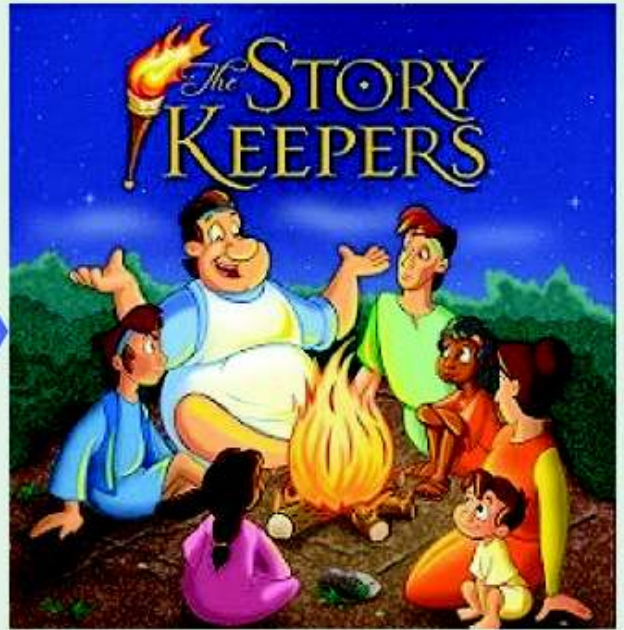
<https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/muskego-flooding-doesnt-stop-church-services-at-st-leonard-catholic-church>.

The efforts of the community coming together helped save the Mass! For everyone who assisted, all who prayed and sent good wishes, THANK YOU. St. Leonard Catholic Church is an amazing community with a deeply rooted faith and strong sense of perseverance.

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The Original Superheroes !!!

# Summer Series for All Ages\*



Attending underground secret meetings, evading Roman soldiers, helping others to escape imprisonment ~ these daring feats and more were all part of a typical Christian's life during the rule of Emperor Nero.

Long before Steve Rogers was Captain America or Tony Stark donned the Iron Man suit, real heroes were believers in Christ. Ordinary people risked their very lives! Join us for this special animated series as we follow Ben the Baker in the days immediately following the Resurrection of Jesus. See the courage and determination that helped the early Church grow to what we know TODAY!

## STORYKEEPERS: THE EARLY CHURCH

### Thursday Evenings

- July 12th
- July 26th
- August 9th

6:00 - 8:00 pm

- THREE NIGHT SERIES
- POPCORN AND BEVERAGES INCLUDED
- FREE ~ BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!

RSVP NO LATER THAN JULY 9TH TO [LISA.JACHIMIEC@STLEONARDS.ORG](mailto:LISA.JACHIMIEC@STLEONARDS.ORG)

**\*Open to ALL ages ~ children must be accompanied by a parent  
Attendance will count as an Enrichment for St. Leonard  
Christian Formation Students in Grades 4 - 6 for the 2018 - 19 year**

# FINDING GOOD FRIENDS

Children are born knowing how to do very little - cry when hungry, sad, hot/cold, too wet/too dry, need a diaper change... and not much else. It is our job as parents to help teach children the skills they need to not only survive in this world, but also to thrive.

Part of thriving as person is knowing how to interact positively with others. Our culture / media does not always provide the best role models when it comes to interacting with others. So, the bulk of the responsibility falls to us.

I recently read an article by Tricia Goyer focusing on helping our children be good friends to others. Paramount is not allowing others to walk all over us - but - to stand firm in our convictions (which is easy to say but difficult to do, even as adults).

Tricia Goyer points out five traits that are key to being a good friend:

## Truthfulness

We cannot be friends with someone if we cannot trust their word)

## Kindness

We all want to be treated kindly and with respect

## Understanding of Differences

No two people are alike which means no two friendships are like. Sometimes we will disagree with our friends and as long as they aren't doing anything illegal or immoral, we need to accept/respect the differences. If a friend is engaging in dangerous behavior or doing things our child knows is wrong, he or she should also know how to handle those scenarios

## Joy

We want to be surrounded by people who make us happy.

Happiness doesn't come from things but from the essence of who the person is. Model how to surround yourself with people who make you want to be a better person and who brings a light to the world. No one wants to be around a grump all of the time.

## Sharing

Generosity isn't just donating money or time to a cause - it is a spirit that is part of who we are. People may not have a great deal of time or resources to donate but generosity of spirit is an attitude of always giving toward others.

One of the best ways your child can find good friends is to first BE a good friend. It's hard - it is a lifelong learning process. However, many people I know have had lifelong friends because they were first good friends.

Jesus had friends ~ he had the twelve disciples ~ and he counted on their support of the ministry.

God ultimately wants us to be happy and how much happier can we be than when we model our Savior, Jesus?

