

## September

### Faith Formation Opening Mass

We had a great start to the year beginning with Father Paider celebrating Holy Mass! The catechists this year were phenomenal. Their love for Jesus was very evident as they ministered to our youth. We have been blessed! They take their roles as catechists very seriously and it shows in the class. God bless our catechists! SCRIP was sold in Msgr. Hummel Hall on Faith Formation nights by Betty Leopold. In addition Betty would give directions, and take care of anything that came her way! It was great having that part of the night handled. Thank you Betty!



### Youth Ministry

Rene' Martinez has made such a positive experience for our youth. He has continued to develop a core team of students that help to develop other activities and act as role models for the others. His addition of prayers experiences and activities that capitalize on forming Disciples, is very apparent in the youth that are involved. We will miss him.

### Church Tour

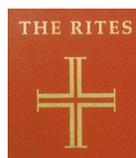
Parents and First Reconciliation candidates gather in St. Mary's church for the Church Tour. Everyone loves coming to explore Jesus House! This event gives students and their parents the opportunity to see what and where things are located. Parents are intrigued as much as their children.



## October

### Rites for Confirmation, First Reconciliation & First Communion

Confirmation preparation of our students in Grade 11 from Faith Formation and St. Mary High School has begun with the Candidates and Sponsors gathering for their first class with Steve and Vicky Siegel. Another good class with some deep spiritual insight. After class, they celebrated the **Rite of Enrollment** for Confirmation on October 7 during Mass at 10:30 am.



### Spiritus and Mount Tabor

The Spiritus Team has been amazing. Confirmation class went to Mount Tabor for overnight retreat. We are blessed to have Mount Tabor and the Spiritus group right next door!

### Adult Formation

Thank you Judy Dvorak lead the Wednesday night Adult Formation group. The topics are chosen by the group. All are welcome to attend. We are always called to learn more about our faith and Jesus.



### Feed Your Soul

Each Wednesday before class we are so blessed to be able to stop in to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you Alice Peeters has been here each Wednesday of Faith Formation to set up for Exposition in the Marietta Chapel. This allowed for anyone to come and have quiet time with Jesus. It also provided for a great experience for our middle and high school students with René Martinez leading them. The youth have expressed how much they enjoyed this time.



### Feed Your Body

What a blessing having Russ and Kathy Brumm head up the meals before the FF class. There is a wonderful group that come to help prepare, serve, set-up and clean-up. We even had the youth come each week to help with this meal. The menu is awesome and the connection to the saints added another element of catechesis for all of us!



Our candidates for First Reconciliation and First Communion from Faith Formation and St. Mary Elementary school celebrated the **Rite of Acceptance** at the 9 am Mass on October 21.



After the Rite the students brought up cards which they had signed and put them in a container. Parishioners could take these cards after Mass to pray for an individual student or there were cards available with all their first names on it. Any cards not taken were put in the Marietta Chapel to be prayed for during Eucharistic Adoration during Faith Formation.

### Alpha for Adults and Children

Not only did we start Alpha for the adults in our parishes but in Faith Formation this year Grades 9, 10 & 11 experienced Alpha as well.



### Protecting God's Children

One of the sessions required each year by the Diocese. Reach Counseling Service has been wonderful coming each year to go through safe environment with our students and catechists.



**Be sure to sign up for Faith Formation next year!**

## November

### **First Reconciliation Retreat**

A retreat was held on Saturday, November 3, for all First Reconciliation candidates and their parents. This was put on by our catechists and parish volunteers to give the parents and candidates hands on activities that help to solidify what Reconciliation is and the importance of it.



## December

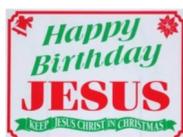
### **First Reconciliation and Advent Reconciliation**

The children made their First Reconciliation the beginning of December. This night was open to parishioners for Advent Reconciliation.



### **Family Advent Night**

December is all about Advent and preparing for Christmas. This year we had three projects for our Students to do related to Advent and Christmas. They could make an Advent Wreath made with pipe cleaners and pony bead, Christmas Trees with Cinnamon Sticks and Fabric and/or a Nativity ornament made out of Popsicle sticks, as well as make cards for the shut-ins. We did collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. for the people of Haiti. What a wonderful birthday gift to Jesus to show our works of Mercy!



## January

**First Communion Parent Meeting**  
Preparation began for the First Communicants. Parents met with Father Paider who spoke to them about the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and their responsibilities as the primary catechists of their children.

### **“Mass Explained”**

First Communion Parent and Candidate gather for the “Mass Explained.” We are never finished learning about the Mass. The Mass is an amazing gift. The more we can learn about the Mass, we receive a better understanding of the wonderful gift of the Eucharist.



## March

**Ash Wednesday Mass** is the beginning of Lent and prepares us for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Paschal Mystery. Our Confirmation Candidates were involved in all aspects of this Mass.



### **“Hour with Father”**

Father Paider took on doing the “Hour with Father” for two weeks on Wednesday nights. A question and answer time for our students, and adults to ask the questions. Amazing questions and great answers! Thank you Father!



### **ACRE Assessments**

March is also the time for Grades 5, 8, and 11 to take the ACRE Assessment. This assessment gives us a handle on what is working and where we lack. Small adjustments in our time here can make a difference in the results.



### **First Communion Retreat**

was put on at Mount Tabor and the Spiritus team. Parents and candidates gather for the morning retreat. The real presence of Jesus is a concept especially difficult for us to understand. The Spiritus team does great giving experiences of salvation history and the real presence.



## April

### **Family Night Reconciliation on**

April 3 was a gift for our families to come and experience the sacrament of Confession before Easter. This year we were blessed with five priests to help!



### **Stations of the Cross**

Deacon Don came to give the students the opportunity to experience the Stations of the Cross. Perfect timing right before Holy Week!



### **First Communion**

Communicants were prepared and now have experienced receiving Jesus for the first time. God bless the parents that worked with their children and God bless St. Mary’s second grade teacher Ann Corsmeier and Catechists Joel and Sharon Kuplack for helping to prepare their students for this special gift of the Eucharist for our children.



### **Confirmation**

Steve and Vicky Siegel have been making the Confirmation preparation such a positive experience. Confirmation was held on May 5 at 7 pm at St. Patrick’s. Next year Confirmation will be held at St. John the Baptist Church on Sunday, May 3, at 9 am Mass.

