

NOVEMBER 2023

Youth and Children's Ministry Newsletter

FROM THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S DESK...

October was full of fun! We carved pumpkins with St. Paul's EYC, had an awesome EYC Halloween Party, supported the Cathedral School's Paw Print Sprint, and hosted Club 345 just to name a few things. We have also spent a lot of time planning events to come, both for the holiday season and for the new year.

The holiday season is such a busy time. The list of [Dates to Remember](#) on page 2 is full of activities for November and December. We also want to give you some save the dates for activities in 2024.

- **St. Mark's Kids Clubs**
(K-5th grade) begins Jan 10 6-7pm
- **Communion Celebration Workshop**
(1st-3rd grade) April 13
- **Communion Celebration**
(1st-3rd grade) April 14 10:30 service
- **Youth Sunday/Senior Recognition**
May 12 10:30 service
- **Confirmation**
May 19 10:30 Service

Lots of exciting things are happening for children and youth at St. Mark's Cathedral! Be sure to mark your calendar using the [Dates to Remember](#) in this newsletter. We don't want you to miss a thing!

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Please pray for our Honduras Mission Team as they prepare.

1. Amy Garsee
2. Ely Bulnes
3. Patrick Caraway
4. Emma Caraway
5. Maddie Dicharry
6. Frances Jenkins
7. Dixon Wright
8. Taylor Garsee
9. ?
10. ?

There are still spots available on our team.

Contact Amy if interested.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 5

- EYC Friendsgiving with St. Paul's

November 12

- EYC 5-7 in the Youth Rooms

November 19

- No EYC - Thanksgiving Break

November 26

- EYC 5-7 Location TBD

November 29

- Family Advent Wreath Making 5:30
- CLUB 345 6-7 in the Ministry Center

December 3

- EYC 5-7 in the Youth Rooms

December 10

- EYC @ St. Paul's - Gingerbread Houses

December 15

- Parents Night Out Fundraiser for Honduras

December 17

- Nativity Pageant 10:30 service
- Lessons and Carols 4pm
- EYC Christmas Gathering 5pm

December 24 Christmas Eve

- Family Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm
 - Children's activities during service
- Traditional Service 11:00 pm

December 31

- No EYC - Happy New Years!

EYC *spotlight*

2 Questions with John Hardin Irion



School: C.E. Byrd High School
Grade: 9th

My favorite part of EYC the food!!

My favorite St. Mark's memories are playing games in the gym



SUNDAY school

Both Youth Sunday school classes will be starting Advent studies after Thanksgiving.

Dates for the studies are:

November 26

December 3

December 10

December 17



InstaChristmas



EYC Halloween Party



Pumpkin Carving with St. Pauls

FINDING

Grace

IN THE TRENCHES

How do we help children make their faith their own? How do we help make their spiritual life something that they want to participate in and not something that mom or dad makes them do? How do we ensure that when the time comes for them to make their own choices that they will be able to take ownership of their faith?

These are questions that I think of often, especially since I have a daughter that will soon be leaving our nest for her own adventures. Do we want our children to go to church just because we make them or do we want them to go to church because they enjoy the fellowship with the Father and other Christians that they find there?

(If you don't currently have young children, keep reading...there is a part in this for you too!)

• **Lead by example.**

Let your children see evidence of your relationship with the Lord. Take them to church on Sundays, but also let them see evidence of Christ in your life at other times. Let them see you reading your bible and studying God's word. Take them to other church activities and let them see you attend activities and classes as well. Pray with them, pray for them and let faith be a topic of conversation (not just something we put in a box and save for Sundays)

Deuteronomy 6: 6-7 says "Keep these words that I am commanding you to day in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." Moses said this to the children of Israel after he shared the Ten Commandments that God had given to him.

He did not say hide your beliefs, lock them in a closet and only pull them out on Sundays when it is the appropriate time. If we want our children to take ownership of their own faith, we need to let them see us take ownership of our own.

• **Promote bible engagement**

When my oldest was baptized as an infant, her godmother gave her the prettiest red leather bible with her name on the front cover. It had a flower on the clasp that helped it close and it was just precious. I promptly put that up on the top shelf with some keepsakes, and there it stayed. When the bible appeared again, it was of course still precious, but Taylor had long outgrown little bibles with flower clasps. She did have other bibles in that time, but I don't know if she ever used that little red bible.

I am not saying you should not have keepsakes, but I am saying that we need to encourage our children to know that the bible is more than something pretty that we put on a shelf. Give them an age appropriate bible and encourage them to read it. Some of my girls' favorite books are bibles that they have received over time. Encourage them to turn to their bible when they are looking for answers.

• **Mentors (This applies even if you don't have young children)**

We have been actively preparing for confirmation classes that will begin in the New Year. One of the things that is most important to me is that confirmation is the beginning of a journey and not the destination.

There was a study done by Josh Denhart from KidMin Science where they talked to young adults between 18 -29. Out of all of the people surveyed 25% of them stayed connected with Christ and in church. One of the top 5 reasons that they gave was that they had at least one faith focused adult in their lives other than their parents.

I have mentioned before how much the adults that helped with our youth group when I was a teenager but weren't parents mean to me. Find a way to make yourself available to a youth in our church. It doesn't take much. Just let them know that you care about them and their faith journey.

Until next month!

Blessings-
Amy

Contact Us:

Amy Garsee

Director of Youth & Parish Ministries
318-226-4049 office
318-453-0199 cell
amy@stmarkscathedral.net

Sarah Wilkes Thompson

Assistant Director of Youth
318-525-6417
swilkes10@gmail.com

Laura Grayson Ameen

Assistant Children's Director
318-655-1702
laura@stmarkscathedral.net



smceyc

smceyc318@gmail.com



St Marks EYC