



St. Jude Catholic Community News



January 2012

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POSTPONED The Sarah Hart Women's Retreat and Concert scheduled for January 21st has been postponed. Sarah recently lost her cousin, Suzanne, in an accident and her memorial service is scheduled for January 21st.

When we have a new date for the event, we will get the information to the parish.

Please keep Sarah and her family in your prayers.



St. Jude School

St. Jude School 8th Graders hosted their annual brunch for the Senior members of the parish following Mass on December 12th. Several classes serenaded the Seniors with Christmas Carols during their brunch.



St. Jude School's Annual Open House will be held on Sunday, January 29, from 10 am-2 pm. This is the beginning of National Catholic Schools Week.

Join parishioners for a pancake breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus first and then come visit our school to see the great things going on in Catholic education!

A St. Jude Parish dinner/dance is being planned by the School Parents Club for all adult members of the parish and their guests.

The date is Feb. 18th and will be held in the Fr. Mike Schweifler Gym. The schedule is: 6:30-7 pm cocktails, 7-8 pm dinner.



The theme for the dinner/dance is "Jail House Rock" with Rick Saucedo, an Elvis impersonator, as our evening's entertainment. He performs from 8:15-10 pm.

Tickets are now on sale. They are \$30 each and include dinner and dessert cupcakes.

Ministry Fair

The Pastoral Council would like to invite all our parish ministries to participate in a Ministry Fair on Sunday, February 5th following all of the morning Masses. The Ministry Fair will be held in the gym and will coincide with Coffee and Donut Sunday.

Everyone in the parish is invited to come to the gym to enjoy some refreshments and find out more about each (there are more than 70!) of our parish ministries and what they offer to our church community, parishioners and greater community.

Ministries wanting to sign up to participate should contact Marie at 815-462-3987 or Marcy at 815-463-4208 prior to February 1st.

St. Jude Men's Ministry



The Men's Ministry has donated \$300 for a (physical therapist's) mission trip to Peru. The mission aims to serve the impoverished, especially the disabled, in/around Lima.

The Men's Ministry welcomes anyone to attend our Saturday Gospel Reading Study. We also have a new program for our Tuesday evening gatherings for men, *Embracing the Kingdom*, which focuses on Meditative Prayer. See our webpage (under Ministries tab on the homepage) for more details.

The Catholic Men's Ministry supports local area coaches with programming geared to empowering our youth through mentoring and active participation in athletics.

Baseball, football and soccer programs are available. Other sports including basketball and volleyball are also encouraged to participate. For more go to: <http://www.catholicathletesforchrist.com/>



The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone for supporting us at our functions throughout 2011.

Our most recent event, "Breakfast with St. Nick" on December 11th was a hit. We will certainly continue this for next year and beyond.

We will sponsor a Blood Drive on Monday, January 9 from 1:30-7:30 pm. Donations will be taken by Heartland Blood Center on a mobile coach outside of the West narthex doors. Call Roy Gesell to

schedule an appointment 815-462-1977.

We will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 29th from 8:00 am-1 pm. We invite all parishioners to join us for a delicious breakfast. Be sure to stop and visit our school following breakfast for their annual Open House from 10 am-2 pm!

Our Lenten fish fry's begin on Friday, February 24 which is just around the corner!

We still have a few spots open for any ministries wanting to host a bake sale at the fish fry's.



Photos from Breakfast with St. Nick

RCIA

Candidates and Catechumens continue on their journey through the RCIA process as they prepare for full acceptance into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Pictured here l-r are: Lori Stone, Bill Ward and Naomi McMurtry our three Catechumens, (those who have not yet been baptized). This photo was taken following the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens here at St. Jude's in early December. We will post photos of our three Candidates in the next newsletter. Let us keep all six and their sponsors and the RCIA team in prayer.



Junior Women's Club

Our next meeting will be on [January 10th](#) at 9:15am. Please join us! January will be *All About Books*.

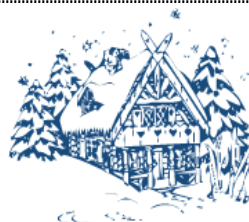
- Father Don has approved our Bookcase Project. We will donate a bookcase for the cry room. We will bring children's religious books we no longer use to fill the bookcase which will be kept in the cry room at church for all young children to enjoy.
- In place of a traditional book club discussion, we will do a short reading and then discuss together. We will put together a list of "must reads" for those who are interested!
- We will hold a book swap. Everyone is encouraged to bring books along to trade.

Manna

Manna is a network of grocery and retail stores that offer gift certificates to St. Jude which can be redeemed in their stores for face value on purchases.

These stores offer gift certificates that come in denominations from \$5.00 to \$250.00. You pay \$10.00 for a \$10.00 gift certificate. St. Jude School receives a percentage of the certificate amount as a fund raiser.

Beginning in January 2012, Manna certificates will be offered for sale in the West narthex from 10am-11am on Sundays. **Please note, this is a new schedule.** Manna order forms can also be found on the parish website under the School tab→Fundraising.



**Let it Snow,
Let it Snow,
Let it Snow!!**

St. Jude Giving Tree 2011

Our 2011 Giving Tree project turned out to be most successful, even in these tough economic times.

We were able to help everyone on the trees because of the generosity of those who took envelopes and also because of those who just gave us extra money or gift cards to use for the most needy.

We helped approximately 90 families, and an additional 350 individuals including residents at Sunny Hill Nursing Home, special needs children and adults, Daybreak Shelter, shut-ins, Paradise Park residents, retired nuns and Su Casa residents.

The response from the parish was overwhelming. In addition to all the donations, we had over 200 volunteers who shared their time and talents to make this all possible.

Thank you so much and many blessings to you all in 2012!

Verona Sawyer and Sue Yaeger



Thanks to all our donors and volunteers!



To see the Faith Formation Newsletter for January, go to Quicklinks on the left side of the homepage and click on Faith Formation Newsletters.

Evangelization

Our Office of Evangelization is offering two programs in the New Year. One is for those who are interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith. The other is for those who have been away from the Catholic Church for awhile.

Faith Inquiry is primarily for those who have never been baptized or have already been baptized in another Christian faith but are seeking to learn more about the Catholic Church. Those who were baptized in the Catholic faith but did not go on from there are also welcome. Inquiry sessions are held monthly on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Office conference room starting at 7:00 PM.

Welcoming Catholics Home is for those Catholics who, (for whatever reason), have “stepped away” from the practice of their faith but are thinking of returning. These sessions provide a comfortable and casual setting to become reacquainted...reconnected with the Catholic faith.

We will meet on six consecutive Sundays in the St. Jude Parish Office from 1-2:30 PM beginning on January 8, 2012 .

For more information on either of these programs, contact Marge Palmasani , Director of Evangelization at 815-463-4281 or mpalmasani@stjudes.org.

CCW

The first CCW meeting of the new year will be on Thursday, January 5th at 1 pm. Professional cosmetologist, Norine Neef, will join us for a makeup demonstration with cosmetic application for mature ladies. Join us for a very informative, fun afternoon.

All women of the parish are invited to attend and bring a friend!

St. Jude School Athletics will be hosting their 18th Annual Shoot the Hoop Basketball Tournament February 1- February 12.

Athletes in 5th - 8th grade will compete with other schools in our Diocese.

Good luck to all our athletes!!!!

The Catholic Construction Corps of the Diocese of Joliet is planning a mission trip to the Navajo Reservation near Chinle, Arizona June 9-22, 2012. Informational meetings will be held at St. Charles Pastoral Center at 7:00 pm on Tues., January 17 or Thurs., Jan. 26, you need only attend one of the sessions.

It is helpful to have some carpentry, plumbing, painting or electrical experience, but if you do not and are willing to learn and assist in a variety of construction tasks, you are encouraged to apply.

For more information on the trip and meeting, contact Sr. Mary Carr at 815-834-4072 or Deacon Tom Goebel (evenings) at 630-782-9577 or Deacon Larry Lissak 630-629-9234.

Catholic Charities offers a program called *Hands of Hope Counseling Services* to help during those overwhelming or difficult times. Professional counselors offer services that are confidential and affordable.

For more information, locations and appointments, call 800-240-7011.

Around the Diocese

RAINBOWS is a peer support group program for children who are adjusting to transitions such as divorce or death in their family. This program is offered by the Diocesan Office of Family Ministry.

Call for more information (815-838-5334).

SUPPORT GROUP FOR COUPLES RAISING SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN: While there are support groups for parents of children with special needs that focus on parenting, there seems to be no faith-based support groups for parents of special needs children where the focus is on the marriage.

As a follow-up to a retreat offered last fall, there will be a meeting on Saturday, **February 11** from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to discuss what the needs are for ongoing support, and how that support might best be offered.

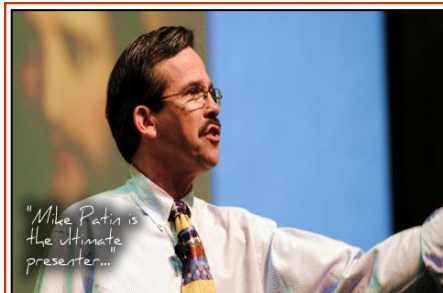
The event will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center, and will be facilitated by Dr. Jim Healy. Coffee, tea, and soft drinks are complimentary but couples will share the cost of pizza at 12:00 p.m. Register by Monday, January 31 at 815-838-5334.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY CELEBRATION: World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as head of the family and salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy. Couples are invited to celebrate their wedding with other couples at a *Re-Celebrate Your Wedding* reception hosted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. The reception will be held at Harry E. Anderson VFW Post 9545, 323 Old Hickory Road, New Lenox, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on **February 11th**. Cost is \$50 per couple.

Couples are invited to send in their wedding pictures and titles of favorite songs. To register, call Jim & Jane Richards 815-744-7660 or email jrichards75@hotmail.com

The Upper Room, a support and crisis hotline which takes calls from priests, deacons and men religious who call for support, is in need of 15 dedicated volunteers. If you would like to give a few hours a week back to those who have given help to so many over the years, there is a training class beginning **February 7th** at the University of St. Francis. Classes will meet Tues. & Thurs evenings from 6:30-9:30 pm in Room C207. Graduates will receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the training. For more information, call 815-727-4367 or 815-341-9124.

OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRY



Parish Mission

Mike Patin, a veteran national Catholic speaker, will be at St. Jude February 27-29 for our annual parish mission. This will be his first time here as a speaker, although many of our youth have heard him before.

The theme of the mission is:

A Call to REALITY Living! With the knowledge that reality TV is not a reflection of

our everyday reality, we will re-examine our everyday life and make room for the One who gave us life.

Feb. 27—Amazing Race (Make Room for Prayer)

Feb. 28—Extreme Makeover (Make Room for Friends & Family)

Feb. 29—The Apprentice (Make Room for Service)

Join us for any or all three evenings at 7:00 pm in the church!

December at St. Jude's

