

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

August 5, 2019

Religious education classes will begin this month. St. Mary's will begin on August 28th. St. James/St. Johns and St. Boniface will begin on August 25th. Registrations will be mailed this week and are also available on our website and at the churches.

VBS for this summer was held in West Point from July 22nd to July 26th. The theme for this year was "Roar". We had 69 children this year. Our kid to kid project was to raise money to give to Fr. Apo to help the orphanage he sponsors in the Congo. We were able to give him \$742.00.

Our next Bible Study will be on the Mass by Bishop Robert Barron. We will begin in September.

St. Mary's will be hosting a day long retreat on September 14th in the Ossenbrink Center. Our presenter will be Rosina Hendrickson the Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese. Watch the bulletins and websites for more information.

The churches now have 2 people who are in the process of joining the church. If you know of anyone who would like to join the family give Fr. Dennis, Fr. Bruce or myself a call.

There are currently 15 Catholics at the West Point Care Center and 9 at the Donnellson Care Center. St. Mary's also has 10 homebound parishioners and 7 parishioners in assisted living. Fr. Dennis has Mass at the West Point Care Center the first and third Thursdays and Maureen Kieler takes the residents communion the other Thursdays and I take them Communion on Sundays. Fr. Dennis and Fr. Bruce have Mass at the Donnellson Care Centers on first Fridays. They alternate months and the other Fridays I take communion there and to 2 of the homebound in that area. The rest of the homebound receive communion on Sundays. I am working on setting a schedule for other Eucharistic Ministers to help out a couple of Sundays a month. St. James and St. Johns currently have 19 parishioners in nursing homes, assisted living, or are homebound.

St. Mary's gives the parents of the newly baptized a blanket donated by either Eileen Pranger or Doris Kassmeyer, a book donated by an anonymous donor, and a cross made by Ron Westberg. The K of C donates a rose to the mother and a rosary to the father of the baby for the Houghton and St. Paul parishes and a blanket. St. Boniface Altar and Rosary ladies get a gift for the newly baptized in their parish and a blanket. The K of C donates a rosary to parents at St. Mary's and St. Boniface.

If you are an employee of a parish or want to help with children or vulnerable adults you must have the Virtus training. The diocese came to the parishes to do an on-site audit with both priests and myself. Also, the diocese is now using the Virtus program for all children. It stresses ways they can protect themselves and ways we can help them.

The four parishes remember families who have lost a loved one with a prayer card on the one year anniversary of the person's death. There are also cards sent at Christmas and Easter to all parishioners who are in long term care facilities. If you have a family member in a care facility please let me know. The parishes are honoring couples on their 25th, 50th, 60th anniversaries and all anniversaries over 60 will be remembered yearly.

The four parishes have a prayer shawl/lap robe ministry. If you like to knit or crochet, please give me a call. So far we have 8 ladies who are using their talents.

The next anointing Mass will be in November at St. Paul.

Respectfully submitted

Dixie Booten, Director of Religious Education