

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

September 18, 2016

Stewardship Weekend

October 1 and 2

Have you changed your telephone number or added a cell phone?

Have you changed your address?

Do you have an e-mail address?

Do you have children that are no longer living in the area and should be removed from the parish active member list?

Do you want to know what ministries you have volunteered to perform?

Do you want to volunteer for a different ministry?

Are you unable to do a ministry that you are currently signed up for?

Do you have questions about a ministry?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, please stop by the Stewardship table before or after the October 1st Saturday or October 2nd Sunday Mass.

Religious Education Changes

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in Frazee, MN

I have been assisting Monsignor David in implementing a new program for religious education which is to begin this year. I have received many questions regarding the upcoming changes, some of which I hope this article may answer. This article will briefly summarize the ways in which the religious education program of Sacred Heart Parish in Frazee will be changing and outline the exciting opportunities these changes will provide. The main highlights of this new program are firstly, a restructuring of the students' time spent in the church on Wednesdays to focus on encountering Christ through prayer and the Blessed Sacrament, and secondly, a renewed focus on the parent's role as the primary catechist of their children.

In redesigning the format for Wednesday afternoon release time and evening classes, we have opted to move away from the classroom setting. The primary goal of this change is to use the short time we have with the students to place them in front of Jesus. In his address at the welcoming ceremony at this year's world youth day, Pope Francis beautifully summed up the power of an encounter with Christ, saying, "When Jesus touches a young person's heart, he or she becomes capable of truly great things." This is the sort of opportunity which youth receive so effectively in retreats such as NET and TEC. It is this sort of encounter which we wish to afford the youth of our parish on a weekly basis, even if it be only in some small way.

A secondary, but nonetheless important, goal for this change is to offer the children a deeper sense of community in the Church by instructing them on participating in the life of the Church through prayer and the sacraments. We hope to convey to the youth the vital nature of the Church and the Sacraments so they can carry with them, throughout their lives, an ecclesiastic identity, an identity in the living Body of Christ, the Catholic Church.

To accomplish these goals, the new program will have a three-week cycle in which the students will alternate between attending Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and a program which we have decided to call Praise and Worship. Each week the students of each grade will join a group of six of their peers led by an adult group leader as they participate in one of these activities. Our times of Praise and Worship will be structured around a catechetical teaching given by Monsignor David, and will feature time for singing songs of worship and time for prayer in small groups. Our times of adoration are designed to put the students in front of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. In God's presence, the students will be led in the songs of exposition, benediction, and divine praises. This

opportunity may also be used to incorporate a component of catechesis in the form of a homily or through a weekly handout which will instruct and guide the students in prayer and meditation. Finally, our Masses will include music, a catechetical homily, and most importantly the celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist, which is rightly called the “source and summit of Christian life” (CCC 1324).

The second way this year’s program will differ from previous years is that it will prominently feature a home component of catechesis. The Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs that “Parents are the principle and first educators of their children” (CCC 1653), and, in honor of this responsibility of parenthood, we desire to assist the parents in teaching the faith to their children in their own homes. We will be providing materials to the parents which they will be able to use to engage with their children in the matters of the faith. This year we have focused on providing materials specifically for the parents of students who are preparing to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, as well as to parents of students who are to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. We have included materials in these packets which we believe provide a grasp of fundamental topics of faith necessary for these sacraments and which the families will certainly be able to incorporate into weekly family life. In the following years, comparable materials designed for home use will be distributed for students of every grade. In centering catechesis in the home we wish to emphasize the value of the faith within the family setting, as extolled in the Catechism: “A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one’s life” (CCC 2225).

I am excited about these new changes and am eager to face whatever challenges they may bring because I believe that these changes will afford the Lord Jesus Christ many opportunities to make himself present to the students and families of our parish. I humbly ask of you, the parishioners of Sacred Heart, to pray for this new program, for our students, for our volunteers, for

Monsignor David and for me, so that God’s will may be done in the lives of the young people of the parish. I also wish to thank you in advance for all your prayers and support.

With kind regards, and God’s blessings,
Andrew J. LaSart

Window Restoration Fund

Have you been thinking about contributing to the Stained Glass Window Restoration Fund?

We currently have 15 windows that do not have a sponsor. When the 3 windows that are currently out for restoration are completed, we will have only one window remaining that is completely funded.

If you or a group would like to sponsor a window, now is a great time to step forward.

If you are not interested in sponsoring a window, you can still contribute to the Window Restoration Fund. Your contributions will be grouped with others to continue work on non-sponsored windows. Some of you have already done this, and we have one parishioner that has started contributing monthly to this fund. Please consider joining them.

Fund Contribution Reminder

The Storm windows are completed and the Window Fund has been closed. Please make your future contributions to any or all of the following funds:

- Building Fund
- Maintenance Fund
- Window Restoration Fund

Note: Contributions identified for the window fund will be applied to the maintenance fund. If you want them applied to the Stained Glass Windows, please identify the contribution as Window Restoration Fund.