

St. Joseph / St. Stephen Cluster Youth Group 2019 - 2020 *TEENS for CHRIST: The Next Generation*



When you think about October in French Settlement, what do you think of? The annual Youth Group Garage Sale, of course! Trash to Treasure has real meaning here. So many people in the community look forward to this event all year long – some to finally have a good place to bring their “second-chance” items for recycling and some are excited to come to search for treasures for themselves and for others.

The youth group would like to extend a special thanks to Arleen Roper for her generous gift of time, helping from a.m. to p.m. every day to get things ready for the sale. Thanks also goes to everyone who worked so hard and to those who supported our efforts by donating items for the sale. Proceeds from the garage sale will provide the funds for our Ministry Dinner and food for our youth group meetings.



Another exciting October event is the popular All Saints Program, where faith and fun come together. All youth group members brought “faith” and “fun” to the program by making and displaying a poster depicting one of the following saints: Agatha, Agnes, Andrew, Bridget, Barbara, Claire, Joseph of Cupertino, Jude, Joan of Arc, St. Joseph, Lucy, Michael, Stephen, George, Cecile, Jerome, Luke, and Veronica. As the PSR students entered the hall, they passed by each poster. Youth group members told each student something about the saint on their poster and gave candy to each of the almost 200 students. Thanks to Evelyn Gaudet for donating lots of religious metals, key chains, necklaces, and cards, each student was able to select one item to put in their treat bag.



October 27 was also a busy day for the youth group as they met for Mass and a meeting. Many youth group members served their faith family by actively participating at Mass: Shane Nettles was an altar server, Emma Gaudet served as a lector, Thelma Toussant sang in the choir, and Grace Fusilier, Logan Shilling, Berkleigh Cormier, and Allyson Yerby brought up the Eucharistic Gifts. After Mass, all got a snack before going to the youth shed to organize, consolidate, and make it neat. Whew!

Once the youth shed was in order once again, the teens turned their attention to an October favorite, pumpkins!



Given an orange sheet of paper, the teens were instructed to draw a pumpkin. Pumpkins are like us, in a “seasonal kind-of-way.” Just as we carve pumpkins, God “carved or designed” each of us. Now, the teens were interested to see where this was going so they drew eyes on their pumpkin as instructed. Our eyes help us to see and appreciate the world. Then, everyone said this prayer, “*Open my eyes so I can behold wondrous things out of your law.*” (Psalms 119:18)

One of our strongest senses is the sense of smell which allows us to breathe in the very goodness of God. So, the teens drew a nose on their pumpkin and prayed. *If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? “But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”* (1 Corinthians 12:18)

Scripture tells us that our mouths are directly tied to our hearts. So, they drew a mouth on their pumpkin and prayed. *“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”* (Luke 6:45) *If we keep our hearts focused on good, we will talk good.* Finally, each member turned their pumpkin over and drew small pumpkins, labeling them with the names of people who died that they wanted to pray for. Then, one by one, each teen silently prayed for the people whose names they printed on the small pumpkins. Everyone was attentive. Everyone gave much thought and was incredibly quiet as they prayed for parents, grandparents, cousins, friends, aunts, uncles, dogs, Hard Rock accident victims, El Paso victims, and soldiers. This was a very spiritual time for all.

Since many of the teens were not aware of the evils of the Ouija Board, they listened attentively as Angela D’Oricourt presented interesting information to them. Finally, no meeting is complete without **L-U-N-C-H!** Hot dogs, chili, and cheese filled them up, while brownies topped off the meal with a treat!

We will be looking forward to a great month in November!