

Prayer ♥

Be still, and know that I am God.
Psalm 46:10

Service ♥

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

FAITH. FRIENDSHIP. PURPOSE. TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ✕

Rooted in Christ

- ♥ SERVICE
- 📖 STUDY
- 🌿 STEWARDSHIP

✕

Pray hope and don't worry.
- St. Padre Pio

♥

Friends who pray together, stay together. ♥

Thank you for an amazing year of St. Sylvester Youth Ministry

This year, we rebuilt with a renewed focus on authentic engagement and a shared commitment to the path of discipleship. Our goal was to create a space where youth encounter Christ, build meaningful relationships, and grow as disciples.

Youth Ministry gatherings are more than just meetings, each one is a planned event that begins the moment youth arrive at 6:00 p.m. Our youth mentors are ready to welcome, connect with, and engage everyone throughout the evening. Dinner is served each week.

Youth Ministry is not a drop-in social gathering. It is a ministry of presence, prayer, and formation, rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church and centered on Christ.

We served youth in grades 8–12 who were:

Ready to grow in their faith

Committed to attending Sunday Mass regularly

Willing to fully participate in Youth Ministry nights and events

Open to spiritual growth and authentic community



YOUTH MINISTRY WAS INTENTIONALLY SMALLER TO HAVE A GROUP READY TO CONTINUE GROWING IN FAITH AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER. SINGING THE MASS MUSIC FOR THE WEEK AHEAD, GAVE YOUTH A PROACTIVE, PRAYERFUL EXPERIENCE TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGY.

THIS YEAR OUR WORK WAS WITH A GROUP OF YOUTH THAT HAS AN IDENTITY FOCUSED ON BELONGING TO AND BELIEVING IN GOD, WANTS TO BE HERE AND CARES ENOUGH ABOUT GOD AND OTHERS TO PLAY AND LEARN TOGETHER WELL FOR HIS GLORY.





The Angelus Prayer:



(Pray this daily at 6am, 12pm or 6pm. Any of the given time in a day)

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.





If you want it to be great here, make it great.

Youth Leadership has been reworked, and this was their chance to shine, inspire, and make a real difference. We saw so much beauty and growth this past summer, especially at VBS, where nearly every student rose to the occasion. When the rubber meets the road, when we separate boys from men, ego from humility, we truly see what these kids are capable of. Many youth exhibited abilities beyond their years with their emotional and spiritual maturity. We have built on that momentum and created even more transformative moments throughout the year.



VBS 2025 WEEK HAD ITS SHARE OF GROWING PAINS, BUT THAT IS THE MARK OF DEEP FORMATION. MOST OF THE TEAM SHOWED FORTITUDE, WHAT IT MEANS TO KEEP GOING ANYWAY.

YOU ALL GAVE SOMETHING GENUINE AND MEANINGFUL, AND SOME OF YOU GAVE EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT. THAT'S WHAT MINISTRY IS. IT'S NOT A JOB FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO WANT TO DO WHAT THEY WANT WHEN THEY WANT TO DO IT, IT'S A CALL TO UNITY, OBEDIENCE TO THE MISSION, AND OFFERING YOUR BEST EVEN WHEN IT'S INCONVENIENT.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE REDIRECTION WHEN NEEDED FOR THE FUNCTION OF THE TEAM AND PROJECT OR EVENT. THAT IS THE CARE REQUIRED TO KEEP US WALKING TOGETHER. I APPRECIATE THOSE OF YOU WHO RECEIVED THAT REDIRECTION AND RETURNED STRONGER. IT MATTERS MORE THAN YOU KNOW, SHOWING GREAT MATURITY AND HUMILITY.

GIVE THANKS TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD WORK YOU'VE DONE.

YOU ARE ALL IN MY PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND SINCERELY HAVE MY DEEPEST ADMIRATION.





Adoration Workshop- youth put

on a daylong workshop during 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration with multiple teaching stations, including the last supper. It was an illuminating experience for all!



Social Justice & Pro-Life Culture: Youth discussed how the Catholic understanding of social justice and being pro-life are not opposing ideas. The Church teaches that every human life has dignity from conception until natural death.

- To be authentically Catholic is to be pro-life.
- Pro-life includes the unborn, the poor, the sick, the elderly, and the suffering.
- Catholic social justice means loving others through real action.
- We are called to live out the Works of Mercy.

They did very well engaging in a long open room discussion.

Over these past year, youth have engaged in a rich and thoughtful curriculum rooted in the life of the Church and lived faith.

Together, we have focused on:

-  Understanding the Communion of Saints and what holiness really looks like in daily life
-  Learning to pray the Rosary with meaning and intention rather than routine
-  Participating in the Liturgy of the Hours and discovering that the Church prays together across the world and throughout the day
-  Preparing and singing liturgical music as prayer and preparation for Mass
-  Exploring Advent as a season of waiting, preparation, and hope rather than early Christmas
-  Reflecting on the dignity of human life and our responsibility to love the vulnerable
-  Serving others through parish events, outreach, and shared responsibility
-  Practicing gratitude, self control, respect for sacred spaces, and care for one another
-  Participating in a truly penitential season of Lent, sacrificing time and rest for devotions.
-  Celebrating lifelong friendship, making new friends, and saying goodbye to youth graduating or moving knowing that their unity in Christ is eternal.

We have intentionally emphasized that Youth Ministry is not just activities or social time. It is a place to learn how to pray, how to serve, how to belong to the Church, and how to grow into mature Christian disciples. The growth we are seeing is real. The atmosphere is peaceful, the prayer is sincere, and the sense of community is strong 🌞

This has been a rebuilding year, and the fruit is evident. Intentionally smaller in number, and deeper in faith. Most youth actively participating are aware of their purpose. It has been a true gift to witness youth rise to this calling.

Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you; consider how their lives ended, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching.

Sacred Silence (indicated by a bell) - a moment to reflect and receive in our hearts the full resonance of the voice of the Holy Spirit and to unite our personal prayer more closely with the word of God and public voice of the Church.

RESPONSORY

On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set my watchmen to guard you.

— On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set my watchmen to guard you.







ALMIGHTY GOD, MY
PARISH IS COMPOSED OF
PEOPLE LIKE ME. I HELP
MAKE IT WHAT IT IS.

IT WILL BE FRIENDLY IF I AM. IT
WILL BE HOLY IF I AM. ITS PEWS
WILL BE FILLED IF I HELP FILL
THEM.

IT WILL DO GREAT WORK IF I
WORK. IT WILL BE PRAYERFUL IF
I PRAY. IT WILL MAKE GENEROUS
GIFTS TO MANY CAUSES IF I AM A
GENEROUS GIVER.

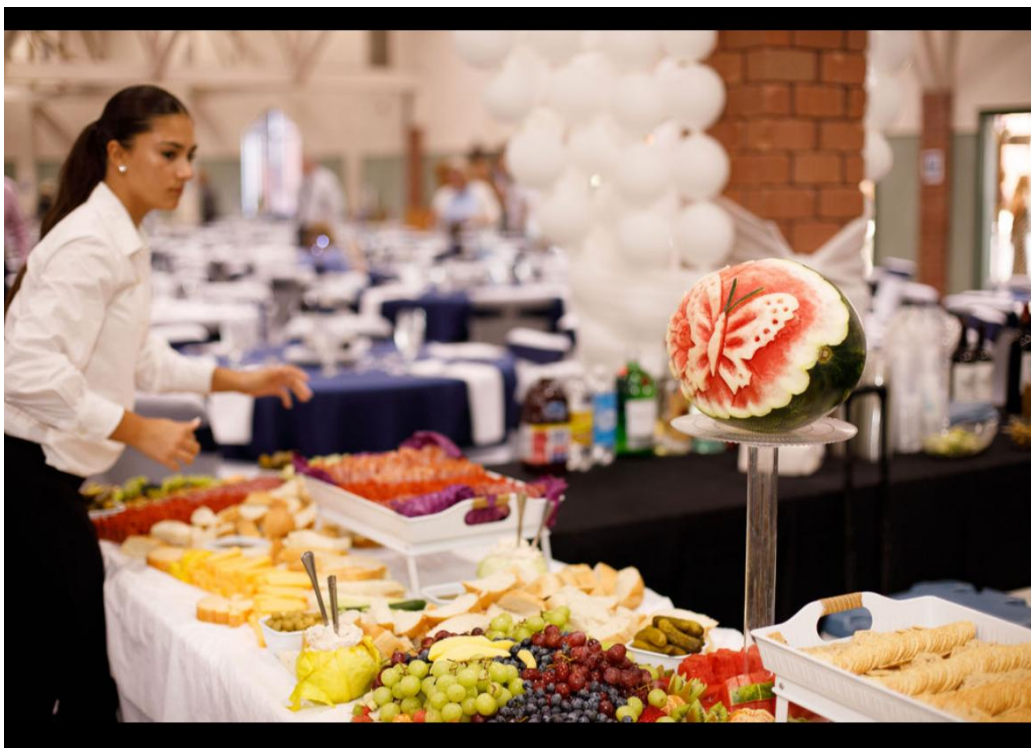
IT WILL BRING OTHER PEOPLE
INTO ITS WORSHIP IF I INVITE
AND BRING THEM.

IT WILL BE A PARISH FAMILY OF
LOYALTY AND LOVE, OF
FEARLESSNESS AND FAITH, OF
COMPASSION, CHARITY AND
MERCY IF I - WHO MAKE IT WHAT
IT IS -AM FILLED WITH THESE
SAME QUALITIES.

THEREFORE, WITH THE HELP OF
GOD, I WILL DEDICATE MYSELF
TO THE TASK OF BEING ALL THE
THINGS THAT I WANT MY PARISH
TO BE.

BLESS MY JOURNEY, LORD
GOD, THAT I MIGHT FOLLOW
JESUS AND BUILD THE CHURCH
FOR YOUR GLORY. AMEN.





PRC Catering & serving

A big thank-you to all the youth who helped prep and cook (280 Beef Wellington), serve, and clean at the fall Pregnancy Resource Center fundraiser event.

You truly made it a success! Your teamwork was noticed and deeply appreciated.

We'll be served leftovers from the event. Yes, even the Beef Wellington, so everyone could enjoy the fruits of our hard work.

Teamwork is the dreamwork. We did an upscale event with a handful of youth who focused and pulled it together like pros for a great cause.





St. Catherine of Siena

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

- Catherine of Siena



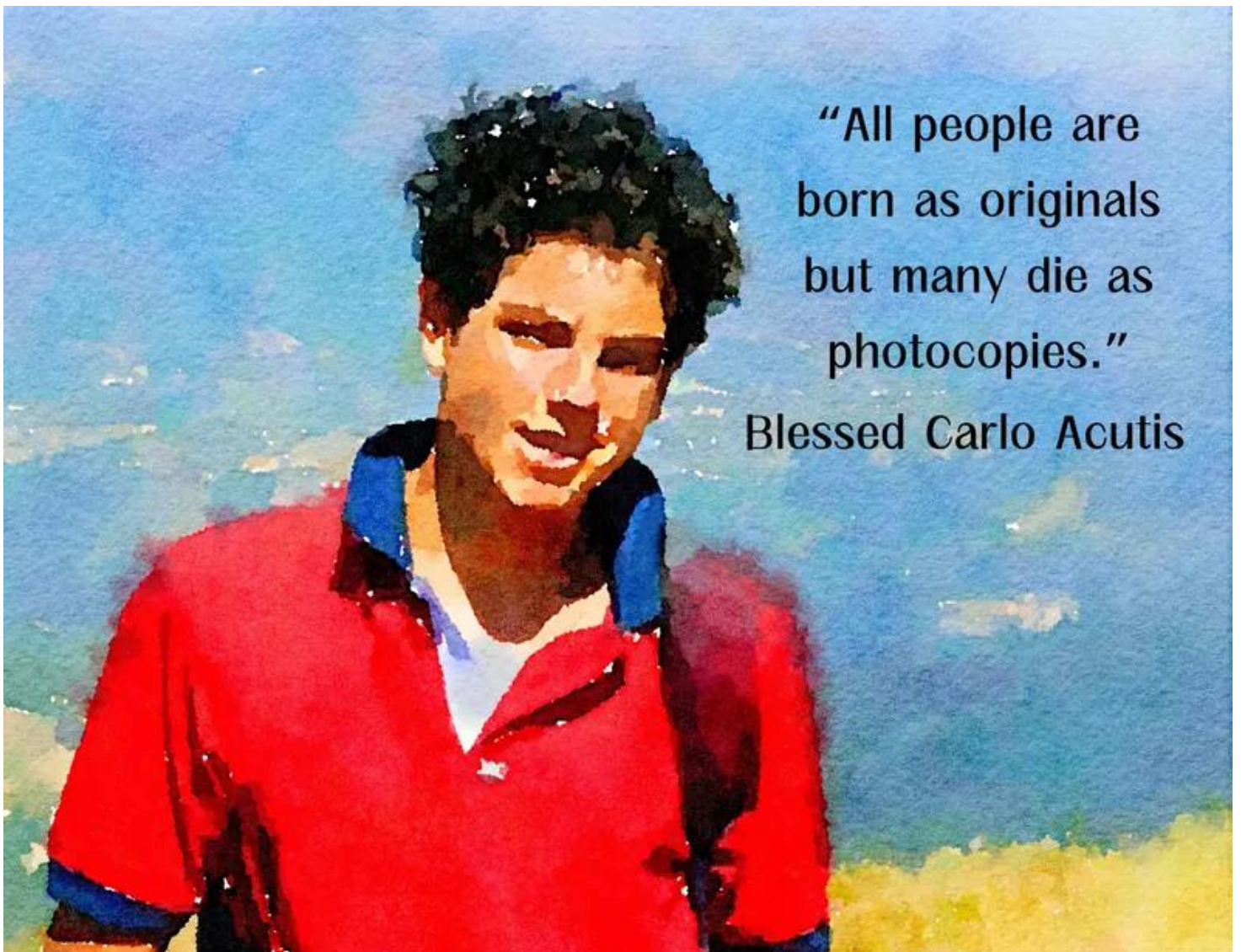












"All people are
born as originals
but many die as
photocopies."

Blessed Carlo Acutis

On one of our Ym nights we invited everyone to share one unique thing about themselves that makes them an "original" in Christ. These moments require authenticity, to help our youth grow in sincere friendship, rooted in faith and joy.

Their presentation focused on Celebrating Saint Carlo Acutis, Relics, and the Intercession of Saints, emphasizing that we worship God alone while asking the saints to pray with and for us.

Carlo called the Eucharist his **"highway to heaven."** To reflect on this, the youth took a silent walk to the sanctuary, asking Carlo's intercession for courage to remain true "originals" and to love the Eucharist as he did.





Decades Dance is a free event YM hosts for the 55 and older crowd at St. Sylvester. This is a favorite night for many. Youth practice dancing in advance, come in costume and serve the elders of our parish to a social night of food and fun.



Why We Celebrate YM

Youth are engaged, joyful, and kind

Every participant is here by choice

Ministry is fruitful, not forced

We are forming disciples rooted in Christ

We thank all youth families for supporting their child in youth ministry.

"Let us build a school for the Lord's service" - St. Benedict







No group, or group member, can lead where they are not willing to go themselves.

Youth come each week ready to participate, support one another, and grow together. This isn't a "sometimes" program. It does not work for youth who attend only occasionally, as a ministry cannot unite without commitment.

Those who do not or rarely attend Mass often assume it is not important.

Youth Ministry is a journey they walk side by side with the Lord, and we are encouraged by the good that is growing.

We continue building on that momentum.





October 31st, November 1st, and November 2nd, which celebrate the major feast of All Saints Day and the smaller feast of All Souls Day, are the “Days of the Dead,” a triduum of Catholic feasts also called Allhallowtide, **Hallowtide**, or Hallowmas (Hallow meaning holy and mas meaning Mass).

Halloween is, therefore, the first day of Allhallowtide, the time of year when the living (the Church Militant) honor all the dead in Christ: the saints in heaven (the Church Triumphant) as well as all the holy souls detained in purgatory on their way to heaven (the Church Suffering). It is a beautiful celebration of the Communion of Saints!

A holy day of obligation has not always meant spending 45 minutes in church for Mass and then going back to work. Holy days were times for a party, and if you look at the Church’s calendar, past and present, with this ethos in mind you will discover that the reasons for a party happened with great frequency.

Memento Mori – Remember Your Death

This time of year also reminds us to pray for the souls of the deceased. It is a reminder that we, too, will one day die, and should always strive to live good and holy lives so that we can be ready to enter eternity and stand before God.

Halloween does not have origins in paganism, Samhain, Druidic festivals, the occult, or Satanism. This common misconception is relatively new anti-Catholic propaganda, with roots going back to the Protestant “Reformation”.

any pagan influence.

English, Irish, and other immigrants brought their variety of local Catholic customs to America. Dressing up for Halloween may be rather untraceable as a custom. The truth is that as long ago as medieval times, people loved to dress up for various festivities; Jack-o-Lanterns come from the Irish, who originally carved turnips; the English begged from door to door for “Soul Cakes,” promising to pray for the departed loved ones of those who gave them these treats, thus the origins of trick-or-treating. These cultural traditions converged in the big American “melting pot” and eventually became popular nationwide activities for Halloween.

When European Catholics immigrated to predominantly-Protestant America, bringing cultural Catholic customs with them, these customs were denounced as pagan. (New England Puritans once banned the celebration of Christmas and Easter!) Keep in mind that certain of our Christian brethren consider the Rosary, the Mass, all sacramentals, the pope, and even you to be pagan! It makes sense that various traditions around All Hallow’s Eve would appear demonic to them.

Like many other claims that Catholicism adopted pagan practices and beliefs, this myth is also based on bad research and propaganda that developed after the Protestant Reformation. Given the contempt of the reformers for the Catholic doctrine of purgatory and prayers for the dead, this development is not surprising. <https://www.goodcatholic.com/good-catholic-guide-to-halloween/>





Commitment alone is not enough.

Youth Ministry is a space for growth in faith, character, and community.

Attendance is important, but so is how each person participates.

When a youth is corrected or guided, it is meant to help them **grow in virtue.**

This is a supportive environment where youth can flourish because they allow themselves to truly experience a relationship with Christ.

We know through prayer and consistency we have grown this ministry to be living fully in God's truth.



The purpose of a patron saint is that the saint was a living person we can try to emulate who lived a life of surrender to God's will. A saint name is meant to be an attainable inspiration. Youth are encouraged to get to know the lives of the saints. Ask God to guide your youth if they do not have a patron saint yet.



Most of your youth have participated and loved our Hallowtide events for years. Through this triduum (All Hallows' Eve, All Saints, and All Souls), we look forward to our Trunk or Treat, Saints Festival and All Saints Day.

Celebrating together as a youth ministry, some youth for up to 7 years now, they know these days are deeply Catholic, rooted in hope, holiness, and our belief in eternal life.

Memento Mori!





What a beautiful weekend we shared at the high school campout! Our youth absolutely amazed everyone not only with their sincerity and teamwork, but by demonstrating their deep faith and the value of strong preparation. 💪 🔥

Their campfire presentation, on God's grace and Mercy, stunned the large group. They spoke and acted with such enthusiasm and reverence, weaving the Scriptures, and their meaning together. When they ended with the Anima Christi, the whole camp was silent in awe. It was powerful, prayerful,

Amazing (G)Race Campout



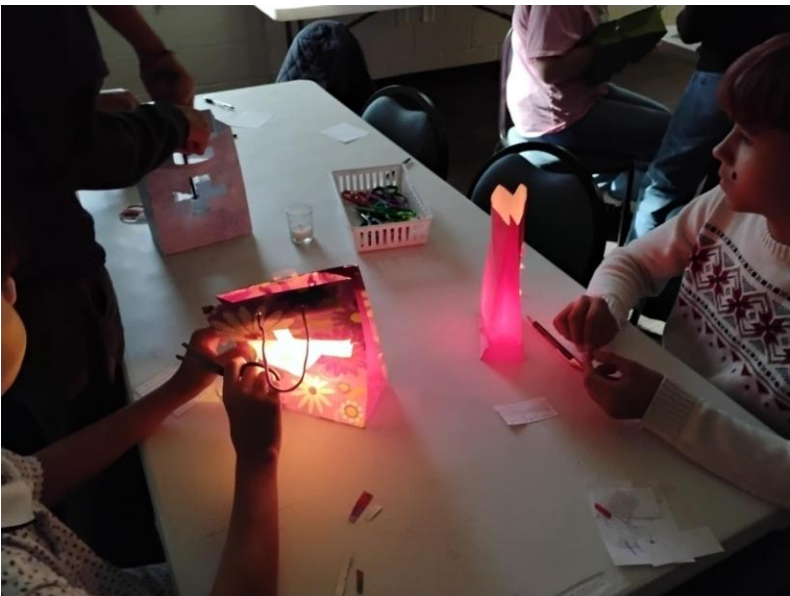


Thank you so much to all who made time to be part of our Family Advent Workshop! 💜 It was a joy to see everyone come together to pray, craft, and share. Watching your children unite with each other and lead the way to meaningful moments with their faith and wonder was a real gift.



Thank you to our youth leaders 🙌 who welcomed, guided stations, and prayed with such maturity and love. This was an opportunity to let youth really minister, not just show up the day-of, but sacrifice days of prayer and prep, partnering together to see the fruit of their efforts.

Thank you to our parents ❤️ who were willing to reflect, share, and connect.



Thank you to all the families who made time in a busy season to prepare your hearts for Jesus. My hope is that something from the morning, a question, a prayer, a conversation, or a small idea helped your home be just a little more filled with hope, peace, joy, and love this Advent. ☀️



Each year we host two events for families to celebrate St. Nicholas Day.

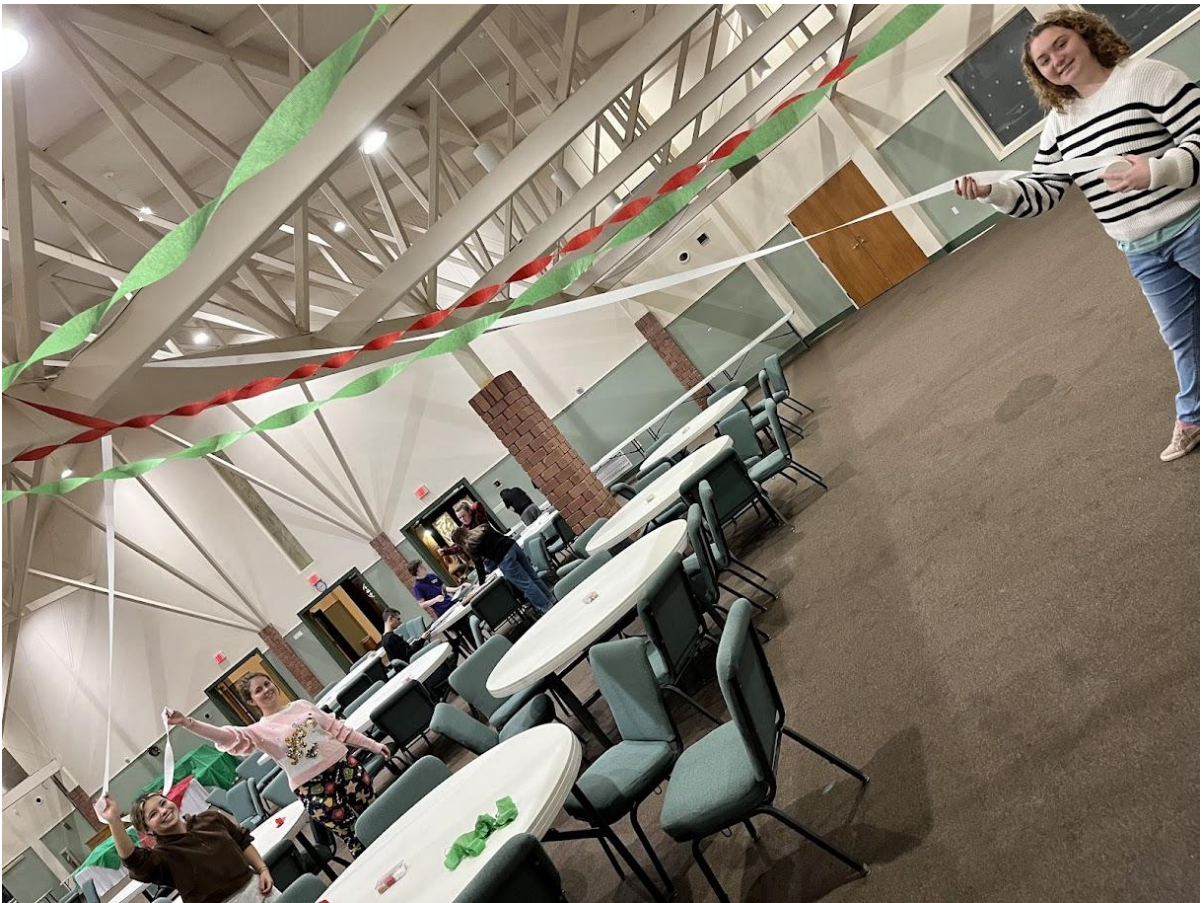
🍪🍫 Cookies & Cocoa -On this special night, we help families make gingerbread houses and serve cookies and cocoa. The little kids will leave their shoes for St. Nick and we'll be filling them with treats!

Youth go to silent Adoration to pray, then are to stay to help decorate for the next day's breakfast with St. Nick and enjoy games and fellowship

👴 St. Nick Breakfast

We feed youth breakfast right away, then they host the families and little children. This year we had face paint and a bouncy castle!

There is always a Youth Costume Contest: they all dress festive for a chance to win a prize!













We also celebrated with a pre Christmas Luau, intentionally honoring the joy of the season without jumping ahead liturgically. The youth created what may truly be the best gingerbread houses ever, made decoupaged ornaments, and had thoughtful conversations about common misconceptions surrounding Christmas. It was creative, meaningful, and prayerful, exactly what youth ministry is meant to be.

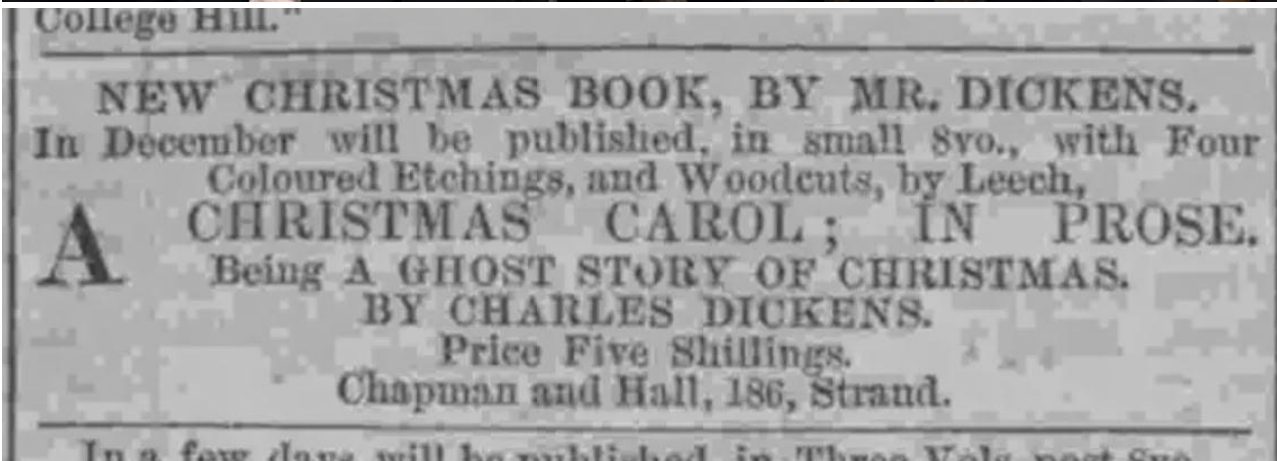
One young woman shared that it was the most Christmas fun she has ever had. Another said she finally feels like she belongs to something special. One of the boys said he is grateful to have his parish community to support him and help reset him for the week. These moments matter, and they are why we do this for them.

The word “Christmas” is derived from the Old English “Cristes mæsse.” This means “Christ’s Mass.” The Catholic Church began celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ in the 4th Century’ Check out this article which discusses keeping Christ in Christmas AND keeping Mass in Christmas









BOOK CLUB! We did a study on a Christmas Carol, reflecting on how every character the Dickens story leads Scrooge through relationship, and how each of our youth already influences the moods, choices, and courage of the people around them. Scrooge is brought face-to-face with who he once was, to recognize what he has lost and what he could reclaim.

We also explored how Scrooge is a lover of language. Even his harsh words were intentional. His conversion happens partly because he learns to use language to give life, not take from it. Then we discussed how our own words always carry either care or carelessness, even when we don't realize it. Just as Scrooge drifted from wonder, gratitude, and kindness, we can drift from the weight and impact of what we say.















Nursing home carol singing was a touching experience for the youth. We met up with the **Legion of Mary**-which we hope to start for the youth soon. Its mission is for active members to serve God under the banner of Mary through the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy. The main apostolate of the Legion is activities directed towards Catholics and non-Catholics alike, either by encouraging them in their faith or inviting them to become Catholic. This is usually done by supporting them in prayer, attending Mass and learning more about the Catholic faith. Members of the Legion are engaged primarily in spiritual works of mercy, rather than works of material aid.













We went to Winterfest after our first book club was completed and took a Christmas Carol trolley ride. This was a great traditionally festive Christmas Break activity with Father Kelly.

We work to teach feast and traditions within Youth Ministry hope families have enjoy celebrating Christmas at home.

The Church continues to celebrate Christmas until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us, Christmas is a season, not a single day.



**3 ways to bless
your homes this
Epiphany Sunday**



Blessed Chalk

Write the Epiphany blessing above your door: 20 + C + M + B + 25. The letters stand for 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat' ('May Christ bless this house'), and also represent the names of the three Wise Men - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.



Epiphany Water

Sprinkle your whole house with the Epiphany Water obtained from the Church while reciting the Prayer for House Blessing. Water represents Christ as the Living Water which has the power to drive away all forces of evil spirits in our homes.



The Blessed Salt

Sprinkle your whole house with Blessed Salt obtained from the Church. Salt represents Jesus Christ. Just like salt, Jesus has the power to preserve us in holiness and protect us from all the forces of evil in our homes.





We host a youth Superbowl party every year to offer the opportunity for a safe fun event and not miss a YM night if they want to be together. We always make a Superbowl snack stadium with wings, a baked potato bar, sandwiches, chips, dips and crudites. This is always a great social and we thank all the youth who come early to work together preparing the food for each other. This is a special bonding time to cook without the pressure of serving at an event or hosting anyone. We also sincerely thank our adult team for making the sacrifice of time to be here.







Each year, Catholics from across Florida gather with our bishops in Tallahassee to advocate for the protection of human life and dignity, putting faith and civic responsibility into action.

Activities include a legislative briefing, meetings with lawmakers, observing the legislative process, an awards breakfast with the bishops, the Rosary led by the bishops of Florida, a diocesan group photo, and the Red Mass of the Holy Spirit

We are the first Youth Ministry in the Diocese to bring a youth group!



LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday
during Lent

Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the **physically or mentally ill** including individuals suffering from **chronic illnesses** such as **diabetes**. Also excluded are **pregnant or nursing women**.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit usccb.org.



Copyright © 2021, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

HOW TO GAIN A PLENARY INDULGENCE

An Indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to be suffered for sins that have already been forgiven. In granting Indulgences, the Church, as minister of the Redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the satisfaction won by Christ and the Saints. The temporal punishment due for forgiven sins must be suffered either on earth or in Purgatory. A *Partial Indulgence* remits part of the temporal punishment due; a *Plenary Indulgence* remits all the temporal punishment due. Indulgences



THE ORIGINS

Since Lent is a penitential season of preparation for Easter, the Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb is a devotion in parishes. It originated from early Christian pilgrims who walked the 'Via Dolorosa' (Sorrowful Way) in Jerusalem.



VIA DOLOROSA,
JERUSALEM



As travel to the Holy Land became difficult, the devotion spread to local churches, allowing the Faithful to meditate on Christ's Passion. Tradition holds that our Blessed Mother visited daily the scenes of our Lord's Passion.

THE CONSERVATION CENTER, BEN-HARIM

THE CATHOLIC

Pretzel Tradition



Folded like arms in
prayer

Salt for the tears cried
during Jesus' **suffering**

Made with basic
ingredients for Lenten
fasting

The rising dough
reminds us that Jesus
will **rise**

Enduring symbol
since the 5th century

hisgirlsunday.com



THE 3 PILLARS OF LENT

Catholic Dailies

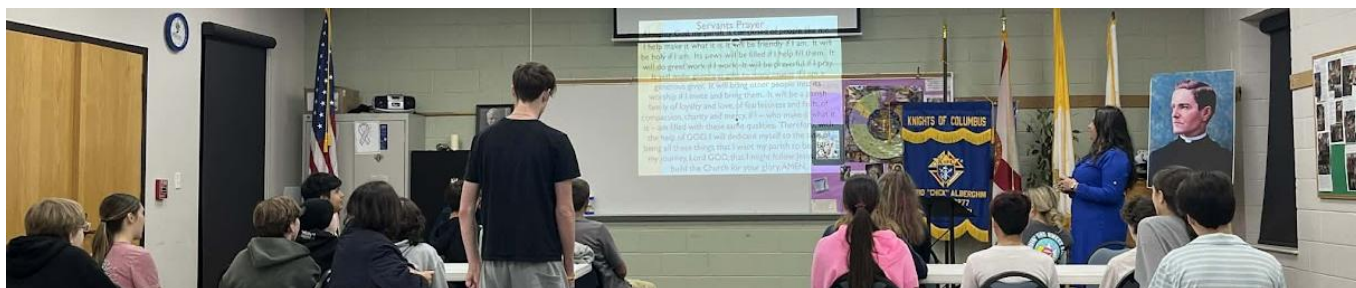
ALMSGIVING Almsgiving is the act of charity and service, showing love and care for those in need. Lent encourages sharing blessings, helping others, and growing in generosity of heart.	FASTING Fasting is a practice that disciplines the body and helps detach from earthly comforts. Fasting reminds us of our dependence on God and creates space for spiritual focus.	PRAYER Prayer is a way to draw closer to God, listen to His voice, and deepen our relationship with Him. This can be through attending Mass, praying the Rosary, or spending quiet time in reflection.
--	--	--



Living Stations of the Cross-Throughout Lent, the youth prepare and present Living Stations of the Cross. Participation is open to all, and many new youth joyfully join alongside longtime participants each year.

This is no small sacrifice of time, involving over 40 days of prayer and Friday evening rehearsals. It is consistently one of the most meaningful experiences for those who commit. Youth build a legacy of Scripture study, prayer, and leadership by inviting and mentoring younger participants, and entering deeply into the Lord's Passion together.





We are excited that all youth have been offered and most are read the book *The Fountain of Youth: Confession — The Only Key to Living Forever*. As part of our parish-wide Lenten evangelization effort, these books were available to the parish at all Ash Wednesday Masses.

Books will be set up on tables in the sacristy wing and vestibule for parishioners to take.

We must acknowledge the wonderful work our leadership team has done. They have a clear understanding of the importance and opportunity of confession. Most have fully embraced this mission wholeheartedly.

In a time when being in middle and high school can feel isolating, the youth gathering together for special moments matters. Our youth come from different schools, different paths, and different stages of life, yet they show up for one another with generosity, kindness, and care.

This year youth shared music, presence, and love through participating in simple but meaningful opportunities for fellowship and service. What we witnessed was people choosing to be present, to serve, and to love.

Youth Ministry is rooted in relationships. It is a place where youth are learning how to pray with intention, serve with humility, take their place in the life of the Church, and grow as Christian disciples. The environment is peaceful and reverent, prayer is genuine, and a strong sense of belonging has taken deeper root.





Welcome home to the Catholic church Darlows!

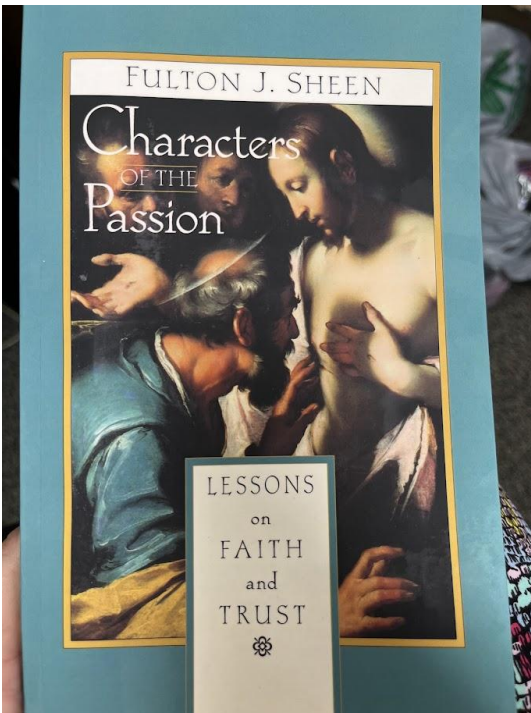




The youth have a lot of fun taking breaks to do Just Dance sometimes. They need some downtime to be silly. Teaching them how to dance for events is an opportunity to encourage them to have appropriate mature interactions and guide them to act like ladies and gentlemen when we have a chance.







Holy Week was a powerful and unifying experience for many of our youth. Those who participated in the deeply moving Living Stations of the Cross were invited to take part in the Holy Thursday foot washing, then remained to pray for more than 24 hours during the Hours of the Passion, and joined in the Our Lady of Sorrows procession.

This group entered into these experiences with sincerity, reverence, and a deep understanding of what they were doing. Their devotion, both in presenting the Living Stations, in praying the hours while we work through Fulton Sheen's Hours of the Passion has led to a truly profound encounter with Christ.



Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure.

Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth.

Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; those who fear God will find them.

Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship, for as they are, so will their neighbors be.

Sirach 6:14-17

12 youth had their foot washed at the Holy Thursday 6:00 p.m. Mass

After Mass, youth stay to pray the Hours of the Passion From after Mass on Holy Thurd
Thursday- 9:30 p.m. Friday night.

This is a very serious devotion and only very few youth are capable of it.

The 24 Hours of the Passion encourages a contemplative journey through the events of Jesus's Passion, from the Last Supper to His crucifixion and burial.

Each hour is a time for prayer, meditation, and reflection on the specific events and emotions surrounding Jesus's suffering.

By engaging in this practice, individuals aim to develop a deeper understanding, compassion, and love for Christ's suffering and sacrifice

This is a devotion to pray every hour from the time Jesus is arrested through his death.

Leadership who have participated have greatly benefitted.

Sirach

6:14-17



DEATHS OF THE 12 APOSTLES



PETER

CRUCIFIED
UPSIDE DOWN



ANDREW

CRUCIFIED ON
X SHAPED CROSS



JOHN

DIED
NATURALLY



JAMES

KILLED BY
SWORD



PHILIP

CRUCIFIED
UPSIDE DOWN



BARTHOLOMEW

SKINNED
ALIVE



THOMAS

SLAIN BY
A SPEAR



MATTHEW

KILLED BY
HIRTACUS



JAMES

(SON OF APHAUS)
STONED TO DEATH



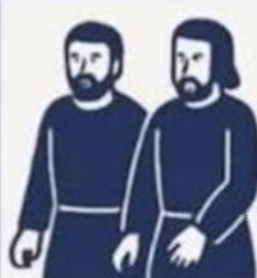
THADDEUS

KILLED
WITH AX



SIMON

SAWN IN
HALF



MATTHIAS

BEHEADED











Ever hear anyone complain that people don't know how to behave in church? Catechesis without Mass is not going to "make the youth Catholic." One way to help young people love and desire the Mass is by using "the language of mystery" in our catechetical sessions.

Unchurched children generally understand neither silence nor reverence. They live in a world without either, yet silence is as important to the Mass, as it is part of the role of the assembly to add their own prayers or meditate on what they have heard. Silence and reverence also help the community at Mass to pray. Being aware of the sacred teaches children that going to Mass is not the same as going to any other event.

The modern world is noisy. Children frequently multi-task to television or with music in their ears, as if they are uncomfortable with silence. Yet silence is crucial to faith: "In the kingdom of God, the primary form of expression is silence," says Joe Paprocki of the Catechist's Toolbox. We must be silent in order to listen to God. Students who experience opportunities for silence usually tell catechists they love it.





Thank you adult YM team!

Each week our adult team spend hours planning, meeting, shopping for and preparing Youth Ministry nights. They show up every week working to create an environment for the youth to be comfortable to express their faith and grow closer to each other through Christ. Thank you Barb, Charles, Steve and Danielle!





We had our last bonfire and woods goodbye!

We have spent years camping out, having Haunted Woods, playing manhunt, taking Emaus walks, playing Gaga ball, making paint wars, plus so many more meaningful times.

As we move into a new era with the mausoleum breaking ground we know youth will cherish these hundreds of precious memories they have made through the years here at St. Sylvester.

Thanks for the greatest of times and happiest experiences!





Confirmation 2026



Students had an in-depth Rosary teaching one night and prayed the Rosary together. We reflected on how one prayer bead connects to another, just like our choices connect to and influence those around us. Prayer truly changes us and the people we interact with.

On another Sunday, youth created and played Catholic Jeopardy, working together across different ages and stages of their faith with great encouragement and respect for one another. We also took a church tour led by Sammy, starting at the altar, the sacred place where we gather to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Youth learned about the Sign of the Cross with holy water, bowing to the altar in reverence to Christ the sacrificial Lamb, and genuflecting toward the Tabernacle where Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. We explored the baptismal font and the sacred oils used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, learning how baptism begins a lifelong journey of faith.

We discussed the nave as the place where the Church gathers together as one community, the Stations of the Cross especially prayed during Lent, and the altar as the center of our worship where transubstantiation takes place during Mass. Youth also learned about the Tabernacle and sanctuary lamp, as well as the meaning of sacred art, statues, and symbols throughout the church that teach and inspire us in our faith.





Supporting their ministry and building authentic friendships

We gave each youth a card with a copy of Theodore Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech then talked about how all of them are invited to leadership roles and it's a personal choice based on their spiritual maturity and abilities. YM leadership isn't about being perfect, it's about showing up, trying again, and staying even when things are hard. I told them that if they are still trying, still showing up, still desiring growth and relationship, then they are already "the man in the arena."

The youth's endurance, courage, and desire for a meaning life is evident in their commitment to ministry. We are proud of all of them for choosing to keep going and do something beautiful for God.

Our goal in Youth Ministry is not simply social time, but intentional formation. We are building followers of Christ, and as our youth take their faith more seriously, their true friendships with one another are naturally deepening and evolving. This growth comes from living authentically, choosing appropriate engagement and committing to something bigger than themselves.



THE MAN IN THE ARENA

IT IS NOT THE CRITIC WHO COUNTS; NOT THE MAN WHO POINTS OUT HOW THE STRONG MAN STUMBLES, OR WHERE THE DOER OF DEEDS COULD HAVE DONE THEM BETTER. THE CREDIT BELONGS TO THE MAN WHO IS ACTUALLY IN THE ARENA, WHOSE FACE IS MARRED BY DUST AND SWEAT AND BLOOD; WHO STRIVES VALIANTLY; WHO ERRS, WHO COMES SHORT AGAIN AND AGAIN, BECAUSE THERE IS NO EFFORT WITHOUT ERROR AND SHORTCOMING; BUT WHO DOES ACTUALLY STRIVE TO DO THE DEEDS; WHO KNOWS GREAT ENTHUSIASMS, THE GREAT DEVOTIONS; WHO SPENDS HIMSELF IN A WORTHY CAUSE; WHO AT THE BEST KNOWS IN THE END THE TRIUMPH OF HIGH ACHIEVEMENT, AND WHO AT THE WORST, IF HE FAILS, AT LEAST FAILS WHILE DARING GREATLY, SO THAT HIS PLACE SHALL NEVER BE WITH THOSE COLD AND TIMID SOULS WHO NEITHER KNOW VICTORY NOR DEFEAT.

• THEODORE ROOSEVELT •

April 23, 1910

We play games to teach about the church but also to remind them how to be part of a community. Games are not enjoyable if too many ignore the rules, making it a bad time for others.

We are in a time and place of care and cooperation by all. The Catholic structure of the “Rule of Life” focuses on four different “pillars” of our life: the spiritual, the human (emotional and physical health), the intellectual, and the pastoral (life on mission). Making commitments in each of these realms is how we begin to create an authentically Catholic culture marked by virtue, joy, and purpose. We aren’t just a body or just a spirit, and we don’t live in isolation

Rules aren’t about control. They make real community possible.

As an adult team, we are all very aware that this season is a gift and we are part of something very special right now.



We personally thank Father Kelly, Father Alvaro, Mark Burson, Nicky Rosa-Miranda, Barbara Eley, and all the parish staff for their support of Youth Ministry. We sincerely appreciate the Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes, Jon Brandon, Neal Carter, Jim Brown, Loli and Frank Suarez, Scott Rannals, Jim Kizer, The Stitchers, Tuyet Nguyen, Kelly Tghilman, Barbara Rabon, Deacon Charlie, Deacon George, The Dekoms, Karina Ottley, Naomi Sapiera, Suzanne Comfort, Paula Dorell, Charles Bowman, Danielle Guirado, Steve Rhodes, Sharon McDonald, Brittany Pogolio, Stephanie and Adam Taylor, The Darlows, The Barlottas, The Sears, and The Pfisters for your generous contributions to the program throughout this year. We have the privilege to offer the youth so many wonderful opportunities throughout the year because of your support.