

# Religious Education

Newsletter for Sts. Peter & Paul Parish

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## Upcoming Events

June 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> – Vacation Bible School

July 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> – Catholic Heart Workcamp

August 15<sup>th</sup> – Kelly Youth Rally

## The Living Stations of the Cross

The Living Stations of the Cross were presented during Holy Week on Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> by the Sophomore CCD class.

Jesus was portrayed by Kyle Hunninghake and the cast included Melanie Nolte, Melissa Sperfslage, Taylor Kuckelman, Elizabeth Haverkamp, Abby Holthaus, Erica

*"The practices really paid off as it had a positive impact on the viewers. The Livings Stations of the Cross really opened your eyes to Jesus' crucifixion."* –Taylor

Rottinghaus, Adam Wassenberg, Garrett Steinlage, Derek Rottinghaus, and Sam Olberding.

A special thank you to Rick

and Joan Henry for their willingness to practice with the youth and direct this performance. Also helping organize this event was Brenda Niehues and Julie Suther. The beautiful music was provided by Krystal and Kale Rottinghaus. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this great event!



Back Row: Rick Henry, Sam Olberding, Adam Wassenberg, Kyle Hunninghake, Derek Rottinghaus, Garrett Steinlage

Front Row: Joan Henry, Melanie Nolte, Erica Rottinghaus, Abby Holthaus, Elizabeth Haverkamp, Taylor Kuckelman, Melissa Sperfslage

**Reminder:** Vacation Bible School will be held  
June 8th – 12th from 9-12p.m.

## Catholic Heart Workcamp

LOVE REPEATED is the theme for our Catholic Heart Workcamp mission trip this year. Our summer mission trip takes us to Champaign, Illinois for the week of July 19-25 where twenty of our youth and four chaperones will spend a week of their summer helping others that are in need.

The theme this year is plain and simple--As God first loved us, we must love one another--rather, LOVE REPEATED. The mission of our camp is simple, too. First, to share the love of Jesus and serve those who are needy or neglected or marginalized in any way. Secondly, to teach campers to live as disciples of Christ through serving others. The mission of CHWC is to revitalize communities and beautify homes for the elderly, disabled and those who cannot afford needed repairs. The ultimate goal is to have campers come back home and serve in their own communities!

Those attending camp this year are: Michaela Altenhofen, Devin Argo, Samantha Boeding, Alex Cross, Lindsay Gress, Dustin Haverkamp, Elizabeth Haverkamp, Kaitlin Heinen, Nikki Henry, Erin Hermes, Abby Holthaus, Julie Kohake, Lindsey Lierz, Philip Lierz, Blake Niehues, Ross Niehues and Matthew Nordhus. Also coming with us are Rachel Baumgartner from Sacred Heart, Sabetha, Alex Hermes from St. Bede's, Kelly and Mark Stallbaumer from St. Michael's

in Axtell. The chaperones this year are: Greg Elder, Kenny Hermes, Julie Lierz and Lynda Cross.

These campers will leave early Sunday, July 19 for a nine hour trip to Champaign. We will be joining other parishes in our region again this year, including Annunciation parish in Frankfort and Immaculate Conception parish in St. Mary's. Please keep our campers in your prayers for a safe and successful mission trip.



## Senior Retreat

By: Julie Sperflage

Attending a Senior Retreat on Saturday, April 25th, in Atchison were Katie Kramer, Shelly Schmits, Julie Sperflage, and Emily Stallbaumer, Senior CCD students, and John Kohake, Senior CCD teacher.

The theme was "Worth It" which the day was focused upon. The Benedictine college students were in charge of the retreat and gave us a tour of the abbey, pointing out the different chapels, paintings, and wooden sculptures.

The rosary was broken into parts which was then said throughout the day. In addition to this, small group

discussions were done following a speaker. A subway lunch was provided.

A variety of skits and demonstrations were performed throughout the day.

Different speakers were introduced and spoke about their journey to finding their faith in God, chastity, and God's unending love. The girls attended evening mass and then had pizza for supper. Adoration and confession was the last part of the day.

This retreat allowed students to take time out of their busy schedules for reflection and gave them the opportunity to learn more about their faith.

## High School Youth are Commissioned

On November 9, 2008, 21 of our high school youth were commissioned as new Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.

They are: (Lectors) Michaela Altenhofen, Samantha Boeding, Gabby Deters, Annie Elder, Elizabeth Haverkamp,

Lindsey Lierz, Melanie Nolte, Erica Rottinghaus, Melissa Sperflage, Emily Suther, (Eucharistic Ministers) Kristi Clark, Dustin Haverkamp, Kaitlin Heinen, Michelle Heinen, Andy Kramer, Philip Lierz, Blake Niehues, Matthew Nordhus, Veronica Rottinghaus, Kelly

Runnebaum, and Tyler Shinn.

We want to congratulate them for volunteering to actively participate in Mass on a regular basis. This is a very special ministry and May God bless these youth for their faithfulness to his calling.



## Junior High Rally

A junior high rally was held at Prairie Star Ranch on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> which was themed "Radiance".

Five youth from Sts. Peter and Paul parish attended with over 150 youth from around the archdiocese. The day included special speakers, live music from the Christian rock band "Radiance" with Sarah

Bauer as the main performer, small breakout sessions, and Celebration of Mass.

An emphasis was placed on how tough it is to be in junior high and to fit in with each other. Some of the talks included how to deal with peer pressure and keeping in touch with God in our everyday lives.

Breakout sessions included small talks on Faith, Hope, and Love.

A Celebration of Mass was the grand finale of the day which took place in the "hanger" (a large gathering place) at Prairie Star. The day was enjoyed by all the youth.

*"Breakout sessions included small talks on Faith, Hope, and Love."*

L-R: Sydney Hunzeker, Andrea Stallbaumer, Lindsey Peterson, Madison Rottinghaus, Matthew Haverkamp



## First Communion

On Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 20 children made their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion at Sts. Peter and Paul church. The children have been preparing for this special day all year long. The first half of the year they focus on and learn about 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and how to make their confession. The second half they work very hard to learn prayers, learn about the Mass, the real presence of Jesus, and the importance of receiving Jesus often.

On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> the children attended Jesus Day. Jesus Day is a morning filled with activities that help prepare them for their 1<sup>st</sup>

Communion. The morning begins with practice in the church and then they watch a video that explains all about the special day of 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, they act out the last supper, and prepare special memory books to use on Sunday. The children then attend a special candlelight brunch in the cafeteria. Here they are treated to a special heart cake beautifully

decorated with their name on it. They also have grape juice and receive special gifts.

Thank you to all the parents that helped with Jesus Day, to all who donated gifts, and other items to make this a very special day!

The teachers for the children are: Mrs. Julie Lierz, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade SPPS

and Mrs. Francine Haverkamp and Lisa Hunzeker, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade CCD. A big thank you to these teachers for all their hard work and dedication to teaching and preparing these children for this very special sacrament.



## High School "Outdoor" Mass

By: Julie Sperfslage

Due to rainy weather the planned high school outdoor mass was relocated to the Sts. Peter and Paul cafeteria.

The tables and chairs were rearranged to resemble an altar and pews. Music was provided by the high

school choir and accompanied by Kale Rottinghaus.

Various high school youth participated in the mass by doing the readings, petitions, and as Eucharistic Ministers.

Following the mass, a meal of hot dogs, brawts, beans,

chips, various salads, brownies, cookies, and pop was provided.

This was a enjoyable way to conclude the CCD classes for the 2008-2009 school year.

