

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

September 19, 2023

Dear Parents,

I am sorry you were not able to attend the first YFF Parent Session. More than fifty parents gathered, and the discussion was very fruitful. It appears that the issues of the parking lot after 9:00 Mass are settling down. Changing classrooms for Grades 3-4 and 7-8 has helped significantly. I am hoping that by the end of October, the Door Guardian Angels will have a good handle on the routine of bringing the older siblings to the Family Life Center after class.

I explained that we are going to focus more intensely on prayer. Every month we are going to have a specific prayer that will be our focus. This month it is the Prayer to Saint Michael. Next month will be the Hail Mary. We know that it is a challenge to memorize prayers. Comfortable familiarity is the goal, not perfection. The prayer will be in the monthly newsletter and posted on the Youth Faith Formation page of the parish website, starting in October.

I did a quick highlight of the new textbooks. The family pages are designed to support parents, review the lesson, and offer insights on how to live a Catholic life. Concerns were raised about doing the family pages at home. A suggestion was made to carve out time once a month during YFF classes for parents to work on the pages with their children. Because the pages are optional, I offered to come up with some ideas to use the pages, either during YFF or at home. I will keep everyone updated as this develops.

A suggestion was made to send a note home to ask if children had a rosary, to cut down on the expense of ordering for every child. I asked Father Lavelle and he said to order rosaries for everyone! Rosaries will be passed out in class the second week of October.

I asked for some suggestions of what to focus on during these monthly parent sessions. I offered to bring in Cindee Case, Social Media Minister for the Diocese of Youngstown, to share updates on developments in social media. We brainstormed a few other topics: why we do what we do at Mass, how to pray the rosary, current events, perhaps some Bible exploration, and looking at news from the Vatican.

October 1, I will do a presentation on Mary and the rosary. Bring a rosary if you have one! I will have some of my personal rosary collection on display and to borrow for the session.

November 12 (date change), Father Lavelle will talk about why we do what we do at Mass.

Finally, I mentioned our parish Oktoberfest on October 14th. This is a wonderful evening of music, food, fellowship, and fun. Information is in the bulletin. I am offering a YFF bonus: if we get 2 tables of people (16 total) I will put those people in a drawing and pay for two tickets. Let me know when you sign up and when we hit 16, I will do the drawing and you may get your money back.

As always, please keep in communication with me. It is easier to work out solutions and plans early. Send me a message on Remind or email me. Always put it in writing, even if we chat in person or on the telephone.

Thank you for a great start to our new program. I am grateful for your dedication and patience as we work through the first year Youth Faith Formation.

God bless,



Marcy Fessler

Pastoral Associate for Youth Faith Formation