

St. James Parish

January/February 2014

Newsletter

*Wishing you
a blessed
New Year!*

HAPPY 2014

*MAY THERE ALWAYS BE WORK
FOR YOUR HANDS TO DO-
MAY YOUR PURSE ALWAYS HOLD A COIN OR TWO-
MAY THE SUN ALWAYS SHINE
ON YOUR WINDOW PANE
MAY A RAINBOW BE CERTAIN
TO FOLLOW EACH RAIN-
MAY THE HAND OF A FRIEND
ALWAYS BE NEAR YOU
MAY GOD FILL YOUR HEART
WITH GLADNESS TO CHEER YOU!*

(An Old Irish Blessing)

I wish you a most blessed, peaceful and joyous New Year! In the name of the People of St. James Parish, a thousand thanks to all who helped to make our celebration of the coming of Christ, a beautiful and inspiring event. And a personal thanks for the many prayers, good wishes and gifts that you sent my way. May God bless your kindness and generosity.

The Word of God continues to be revealed in our human condition as we gear up for the coming Archdiocesan Synod and as we work to make Lent 2014 a Lent like no other. May the Holy Spirit empower us and guide us in Becoming Dynamic Catholics.

Fr. Mike and the Pastoral Staff of St. James Parish

MANY HANDS NEEDED!

Lent begins this year on March 5th. Help is needed to plan the church environment for this holy season. The planning meeting will be on Thursday February 6 at 7PM.

Feel free to call or email Sue with questions. 262-366-1211.

Suemangan@ymail.com

OUR SUSSEX FOOD PANTRY NEEDS ...

All THINGS CANNED EXCEPT ... peaches and carrots. Our supply of canned vegetables , canned meats and canned meals (spaghettios etc and stew) is down.

During the winter months soup is always welcome although we have sufficient chicken noodle and tomato.

As always, any donations are welcome and appreciated.



EXPECTING A BABY? JUST HAD A BABY? BAPTISM INFORMATION! HURRY BEFORE LENT!

If you are expecting a baby or have had a baby, we are pleased to help you prepare for your child's baptism. The community of St. James wishes to celebrate this sacrament with you so we generally schedule the baptisms during Masses on the weekend of the third Sunday of the month. Upcoming baptisms are scheduled as follows:

**January 18th and 19th
February 15th and 16th
None during Lent**

Here is some other basic information about celebrating baptism at St. James.

- Parents should be registered members of St. James.
- Participation in a pre-baptism class is expected of parents. It is highly recommended that parents participate in the class before the child is born.
- Pre-baptism classes are usually held once-a-month on the first Saturday.
- So that baptisms may be as personal as possible only four baptisms are scheduled for any Mass. So register early!

Are YOU a “Dynamic” Catholic? What IS a Dynamic Catholic? How do you BECOME a “Dynamic” Catholic?

These are the questions that are answered within the pages of Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic. Recall the “gift” you received at Christmas Mass just a few weeks ago? Maybe some of you have already read the book cover to cover and know exactly what a Dynamic Catholic is! Others, might have glanced at a few pages and still others may have set it aside during the chaos of the Christmas season and are now wondering, “Where DID I put that book”?

Well, it’s time for us to start taking a look at those questions, together, as friends, as parishioners, as disciples! We’d like to invite ALL of YOU, our St James family, to be a part of a six week book discussion on the Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic. With its 6 chapters, we will tackle one chapter per week during the 6 weeks of Lent. The chapters are short, requiring you to read just 5 pages per day! And think about this, within those 5 pages could be the words that could change your day! In 6 weeks...those words could be enough to change, your life! That’s what books do for us, they change our lives, one page at a time.

So, are you ready to have your life changed? Are you ready to become Dynamic?! Then let’s get started!

The first thing we need to do is set up our small book study groups, and to do that, we need some HOSTS! We are hoping to have several groups meeting at different times during the week to accommodate all of our parishioners. Would YOU be willing to host a small group discussion for the 6 weeks of Lent? No experience is needed and all participants will be provided an easy-to-use study guide that will be the basis for the discussions. Each session is designed to run approximately an hour to an hour and a half. The great thing about being the host is that you will get to choose the date and time that works best for you! Your group can meet in your home, your neighborhood, your apartment complex, or right here at St. James parish.

Once we have several “hosts” signed up and dates and times set, we will begin registration for the book study sessions. Hosts will then be given their list of participants and sessions can begin the week of March 2nd (the first week of Lent). Sessions will last until Holy Week and lead us into a “Lent like no other”!

We hope you will prayerfully consider hosting one of these small book study sessions. In doing so, you will have the opportunity to make new friends and renew old friendships. You will be the instrument that helps our St James family become the “Dynamic Catholics” Christ intended us to be! To volunteer to host a group call 251-3944 or e-mail wyskowskid@archmil.org today! For other questions or more information contact Daryl Olszewski at 253-2213 or olszewskid@archmil.org.

God bless.



ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD UPDATE

Thank you to the 100-plus parishioners who participated in the parish synod meetings held at St. James this past November. The results of these meetings were summarized and forwarded to the Archdiocese which will collate the results from all the parishes gatherings in the Archdiocese. The next step will be for the Archdiocese to develop an agenda for the district gatherings to be conducted this February.

Eight representatives from St. James along with our parish delegate to the June 2014 Synod, Deborah Schneider, will meet with other representatives from our district at St. John Vianny Parish on Saturday, February 22nd for a day-long event. St. James is one among 16 parishes in a district encompassing the eastern part of Waukesha county extending from Menomonee Falls through the city of Waukesha. Each of the 18 districts of the archdiocese will hold similar meetings and submit their reports to the planning committee which will prepare the agenda for the June 7 and 8 Synod to be held on Pentecost weekend at the Cousins Center.

Archbishop Listecki, who has called for this Synod, will participate in these meetings. Based on the results of the Pentecost Synod the Archbishop hopes to issue a pastoral letter in the early fall of 2014 that will provide a pastoral plan to guide the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for the next to 15 years. Thus, it is hoped that by beginning the process at the parish level the final document will be reflective of the thoughts and insights of the people of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

OUT of the Darkness

United States Bishops National Migration Week 2014: January 5-11

God is light and we Christians are called to reflect that light in the world. This entails our inviting others into communion with the Church, speaking out against injustice, and striving to exemplify in our life Christ's example. Turning to the Gospel message we are warned against hoarding the goods of the earth for our own pleasure, and told to sell all we have and giving alms (Lk:12:33), feed the poor, visit the imprisoned, give drink to the thirsty, and welcome the stranger (Mt 25). The stranger can come in different forms, but one way in particular that she comes into our midst is in the form of the migrant.

Far away from home and dwelling in a new land, often poor with few possessions of their own, migrants can be an especially vulnerable group of people and open to exploitation and abuse. For this reason we should pay special attention to their needs, both religious and material, and advocate on their behalf with the hope of ensuring their protection and well-being. Particularly in need of our support are the most vulnerable of migrants: children, the undocumented, refugees, and victims of slavery:

Migrant Children, often alone and afraid and without the protection of a parent or guardian are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. In 2012, the U.S. Border Patrol reported apprehensions of more than 24,000 unaccompanied juveniles along the Southwest border. "These children who are apprehended are often initially placed in short-term detention centers, where the lights stay on 24 hours a day and there are no showers or recreation spaces. At times, the facilities are so crowded with juveniles that the children have to take turns just to lie down to sleep on the concrete floor. Moreover, when unaccompanied minors are apprehended and deported to their countries of origin, this is often done in ways that put them at additional risk."

All too many Refugees who are left mired in refugee camps around the world never have the opportunity to realize the full potential of their God-given skills and talents. Long term solutions need to be implemented so that refugees are not forced to remain in camps but can re integrate into society and become contributing members of it.

Enslaved and treated like objects for profit rather than as human beings, victims of human trafficking require liberation from their bondage and support to help them start anew. Those who enslaved them need to be brought to justice and punished accordingly so that they will not have the opportunity to hurt anyone else in the future.

When people ask "Why don't they just wait their turn?" they truly do not understand how broken the system is. How long can we ask a father to wait to be able to feed his family and offer them a future of hope? How can you tell a mother that she must wait 20 years to be reunited with her husband or children?

Simple things You Can Do During Migration Week and Beyond:

* Send a postcard to your legislator in support of comprehensive immigration reform from the US Bishops www.justiceforimmigrants.org website.

* Call your legislators on Wednesday, Jan 8 on the Justice for Immigrants 1-855-589-5698 toll free number to tell them that you support the U.S. Catholic bishops call for just and compassionate comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country, preserves family unity, provides legal paths for low skilled immigrant workers to work in the US, restores due process protections to enforcement policies, and addresses the root cause [push factors] of migration such as persecution and economic disparity.

* Volunteer to tutor documented immigrant refugees in "English as a Second Language" program. Contact Pat Roehrig at St. Michael's parish at proehrig@wi.rr.com

* Donate to the National Catholic Fund for Migration and Refugee Services which provides family reunification and foster care services for children at <http://www.usccb.org/about/children-and-migration/family-reunification/index.cfm>

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT CONFIRMATION

You are invited! Did you miss receiving the sacrament of confirmation? Would you like to refresh your basics of our faith? Would you like to "get smarter" regarding the Church? Do I have the offer for you! An eight –week session, beginning SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 11:30-1:00 at St. Anthony's on Appleton and Good Hope, in the Parish Living Room.

Please call me for additional information or if you have any questions. Sister Lucille 262-253-2915.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

We will resume Tuesday, January 7th in the Great Room. and we would be delighted to have you join us on the 7th.! Try it. I guarantee you will like it.....and us!

Mission Trip

We have broken new ground in what we offer for a summer mission trip opportunity for our high schoolers. This year "2 Saints & A Good Shepherd" combined to offer THREE WEEKS of mission trip opportunities between St. Mary, Good Shepherd and St. James.



On November 18th we rolled out the new system and St. James teenagers took advantage of the many options. As a result St. James will be well represented and travel to places such as St. Louis MO, Leech Lake MN and Moore OK.

Registration is still open and waiting for you to take your place at the table of service to the Lord and others while having the time of your life. The Moore OK trip has a few spots open for the week of June 29-July 5, 2014. The month of July 2014 is going to be full of mission trippers crossing this great country, serving people in need, applying their faith and deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ. If you're interested, hurry into the CF Office or email us to punch your ticket for this great experience.



**ADORATION TAKES PLACE IN THE CHAPEL EVERY TUESDAY
8:30 AM—6:00 PM**
Please consider joining us for prayer.

21! Youth Group

It's been a great first half of the year for our 21! Youth Group. That's Sixth + seventh + eighth graders who meet every other Wednesday between the parishes of St. James, Good Shepherd and St. Mary.

Bryan Ramsey (St. James/Good Shepherd) and Sara Andrew (St. Mary) lead a group of about 30 middle school students. We have had fun with games, balloons, puzzles, pizza, pumpkin cookies, wanta's, hafta's, choose-to's, Christmas projects and lots of snacks. We are looking forward to the new year and a whole bunch of Wednesdays starting January 8th from 6:21-7:49 p.m. It'll be a time for fun, for faith and for friends.

Come join us on Jan. 8th or every other Wednesday from then on, meet some new friends, share a little faith and have a lot of fun with your 21! Youth Group.

High School Youth Group

Life is pretty busy for a high school student - school, extracurriculars, sports, clubs, preparing for college, work and on and on and on. St. James offers a chance for you to slow down a little.



"Snacks-n-Service" provides an opportunity for you to fulfill some service hours while slowing down, meeting new people and getting to know them.

We get together every month or two to help out those less fortunate. Whether it's making toys for animals with the humane society, decorating cookies for the guests of the St. Ben's meal program, making rosaries for the elderly of Volunteers of America or putting together Sunday school survival kits for the kids of St. James, we serve many different people and live out what it means to be Catholic. Check the bulletin of the St. James Facebook site for the next "Snacks-n-Service" event.

Recycling Opportunity/Support Our Mission

Help support St. James mission trips at the same time saving the environment. Recycle your cell phones, I-pods, I-pads and unused inkjet cartridges that you are no longer using. There will be a box in the gathering area and by the CF office marked mission trip cell phone recycling. Please clear the memory of any personal data before turning in. We only get credit for electronics that are in working order. This will be an ongoing fundraiser throughout the year, so keep them coming as you upgrade to the latest and greatest models. Tax deductible forms will be available by the boxes. As always, thank you for your support!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

January 2014

- 1 CF Offices Closed**
- 2 No RCIA**
- 4 10th Grade Retreat or 1/5**
- 5 CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am**
- 10th Grade Retreat or 1/4**
- NO CF classes for MS/HS**
- 7 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-10 6:30 pm
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 8 All Committee Night**
- 9 Community Banquet**
RCIA @ St. Agnes
- 11 FtCS**
- 12 CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am**
GIFT
NO CF classes for MS/HS
RCIA Rite of Welcome
- 14 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-10 6:30 pm
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 15 St. Ben's**
- 16 RCIA @ St. Agnes**
- 17 Confirmation Retreat (starts)**
- 18 Confirmation Retreat (ends)**
- 19 CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am**
Confirmation Candidates attend 10:30 mass
NO CF classes for MS/HS
- 21 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-5 6:30 pm
NO MS/HS classes
Catechist In Service
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 23 Community Banquet**
RCIA @ St. Agnes
- 25 Mission Trip Pizza Sales**
- 26 Mission Trip Pizza Sales**
CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am
GIFT one hour
NO CF Classes MS/HS
Adult Confirmation @ Good Shepherd
- 28 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-10 6:30 pm
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 30 RCIA @ St. Agnes**
- 31 Confirmation Retreat starts**

February 2014

- 1 Confirmation Retreat (ends)**
Mission Trip Pizza making
- 2 CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am**
Confirmation Candidates attend 10:30 mass
Mission Trip Pizza making
NO CF Classes-MS/HS
- 4 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-10 6:30 pm
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 5 All Committee Night**
- 6 RCIA @ St. Mary's**
- 8 Aluminum Can Drive**
- 9 CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am**
GIFT
CF Classes MS/HS @ 4:30 & 6:30
Confirmation classes @ 4:30 & 6:30
Aluminum Can Drive
- 11 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-10 6:30 pm
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 13 RCIA @ St. Mary's**
- 16 CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am**
First Eucharist Parent Meeting @ 9:30
Mission Trip meeting @ 11:30
CF Classes MS/HS @4:30 & 6:30
Confirmation Classes @ 4:30 & 6:30
Adult Confirmation classes at Good Shepherd
- 18 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-10 6:30 pm
First Eucharist Parent mtgs. @ 5 or 6:30
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 20 RCIA @ St. Mary's**
- 23 CF Classes 4K/5K 8:15; Gr. 1-5 9:30 am**
GIFT one hour
CF classes MS/HS @ 4:30 & 6:30
Adult Confirmation classes at Good Shepherd
- 25 CF Classes Gr. 1-5 5:00**
CF Classes Gr 1-10 6:30 pm
Scripture Study 6:30-7:30
- 27 RCIA @ St Mary's**
- 28 SOAL #1**

Christian Formation Class Cancellation Procedures

If Christian Formation classes are cancelled due to inclement weather we will post the cancellation on Facebook. We will also contact Today's TMJ4 and they will post this information on their cancellation page along with running the scroll at the bottom of the TV screen.

HEALTH MINISTRY

**"MAY THE GOD OF PEACE MAKE YOU COMPLETELY HOLY
AND MAY YOUR SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY BE KEPT
SOUND"**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23

In keeping with the tradition of making a New Year's resolution, I have a suggestion for all of you. I gave a presentation in the fall of 2012 on how to "SWEEP" away stress, I'd like to encourage you all to make this year, 2014, the year to decrease the stress in your life. The stress of one individual can trickle down to those around them and affect your family and friends as well as you. Our St. James Health Ministry promotes the focus on holistic health care, looking at mind, body and spirit. The more you can do to keep down your stress and anxiety, the more emotionally healthy both you and your family and friends will be. You can also set a great example for everyone around you in terms of striving to create a well-balanced life.

Family life these days can be overwhelming, and stress can easily build to unhealthy levels. SWEEP is a technique that focuses on awareness and stress prevention and may be highly effective for everyone to employ. Dr. Charles Sophy, medical director for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, and board certified in adult psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, and family practice, has developed this SWEEP technique.

SWEEP focuses on five critical areas in an individual's life, which may need to be periodically monitored in order to maintain balance. There are five areas of Dr. Sophy's SWEEP technique.

- Sleep – are you getting enough sleep, and is the sleep you are getting quality sleep? Seven to eight hours of sleep per night is ideal, and your sleeping environment should be a calm and peaceful place. Lack of sleep can interfere with one's ability to focus, with productivity, and can lead to short temperedness.
- Work- What is your attitude about your work/school or if retired, volunteering ? Do you have positive relationships with co-workers/your boss, fellow students, siblings and friends? Is your work rewarding in some way? Do you feel appreciated or respected at work? While work/school can be something that we must do, it does not have to be negative. Assess how you feel about work/school or volunteer activities and, for adults if you need to make a change, take steps to do so. Stay-at-home parenting falls into this category of work. Simply because you are not being paid to work outside the home, does not mean that you do not have an area in your life called "work" that you need to monitor for satisfaction.
- Eating – Are you using food to stay healthy and energetic? Is mealtime a time for relaxation and communication? Do you make an effort to have family dinners?
- Emotional Expression of Self – Do you let the important people in your life know how you are feeling? Do you allow yourself physical and emotional intimacy? Do you express your feelings in a healthy manner?
- Play/Exercise – Are you letting yourself enjoy life? Do you have a way to let go of worry and direct your energy to a positive place? Do you make time to have fun? Exercise can be a great stress reliever. Remember that joy and play nurture the soul, and that play/exercise is our reward for hard work.

Dr. Sophy's SWEEP plan can help keep stress and anxiety to a minimum if checked regularly and strengthened where deficits are found. Employ the SWEEP technique, and see how you are doing in these five critical areas, in order to maintain a balance, and to be the best you and the best parent or grandparent. SWEEP is an easy to learn stress management technique that children of all ages can use. Teaching them how to effectively deal with – and reduce – stress as well as take care of themselves arms them with the ability to handle stress when they become adults.

Happy New Year to you all and may it be a year filled with peace for you and your family.

The Rest of the Story

Be honest, when someone says “I am pro-life”, we immediately think they are against legalized abortion, and presume they are politically conservative. End of story. But as Paul Harvey used to say, “here is the rest of the story”.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the former archbishop of Chicago, was certainly pro-life. However, in contrast to the single abortion issue focused political slogan, Cardinal Bernardin was “pro-all-life”. He was best known for his teaching about what he called “the seamless garment”. Cardinal Bernardin reminded us that our church believes that all life, given all are created by God, has intrinsic value and dignity. Our belief is seamless as in continuous, whole, complete, undivided.

As Catholics, we believe that there is a seamless dignity of life connecting all life from conception to natural death. What Cardinal Bernardin refers to as the “seamless garment”, the church refers to as the Consistent Life Ethic.

In practical application, what does this mean? It means we need to be more consistent and seamless with our laws and policies. It means that we should be concerned about protection of the child in the womb, as well as the child starving from hunger and malnutrition. It means we should be looking for ways to eradicate war, and wipe out euthanasia. It means we should oppose capital punishment, and reform our prison system providing opportunities to reform lives. The list is long. The need for human dignity is great.

Something else we believe in sisters and brothers is the power of prayer. We have an opportunity to spend some time before God, in the presence of the blessed sacrament, to pray for life – all life. For the fifth year, the deacons of the Archdiocese have organized a Holy Hour for Life. Our cluster of Good Shepherd, St. James and St. Mary’s will hold one at St. James’ Historic Chapel in Menomonee Falls on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:30PM. Please consider joining us as we ask God to guide and inspire us in this important and holy work ... to assure dignity and respect for all life. Amen.

The Deacons of the Cluster Parishes of St. James, St. Mary’s and Good Shepherd.



SENIOR BIBLE STUDY

A group of “seniors” (with really no minimum age) meet every Thursday morning at 9 a.m. in the Great Room for a one hour Bible Study focused on the upcoming Sunday readings. Any and all seniors are welcome to attend. No expertise is needed. Bring a bible if you have one. Come and enjoy the opportunity to learn more about the readings proclaimed each Sunday and meet new friends. There is no cost and no pre-registration is needed. For more information call Daryl at 253-2213.

ENGAGED ??



—A Wedding is a Day, A Marriage is a Lifetime — Motto for Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)

Catholic Engaged Encounter in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is happy to offer a weekend retreat for Engaged Couples who are preparing for marriage. This retreat is a weekend shared by an engaged couple reflecting and discussing every aspect of a marriage relationship. Topics include, but not limited to, finances, sexuality/NFP, parenting, communication and spirituality. A team of three married couples and a priest will present the weekend. Perhaps, parents or grandparents could offer this to you as a wedding gift. The weekends are April 4-6, 2014 and September 5-7, 2014 at Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha. Please register online through the John Paul II Center website:

www.johnpaul2center.org

Questions? Call Jenni Oliva (414) 758-2213 or email: olivaj@archmil.org Or John & Louise Vos – local coordinators for CEE (262-439-8559) or email: johnlouiselvos@yahoo.com

GIVING WITNESS

On Thursday, December 5, two St. James families prepared and served a meal at the St. Ben’s Capuchin Apartments in downtown Milwaukee. The apartments are not part of the nightly St. Ben’s meal program. However, a monthly Community Meal is planned where families or organizations prepare a full meal for up to 25 residents who choose to attend.

After the residents were served, the families joined them for dinner. Every resident has a different story. But they all share one thing in common – a sense of hope because they have an affordable place to live. After dinner, it was soon discovered that Henry, a 2-year resident, is a singer and song writer. Brother Dave said he did not know this about Henry. Since the dinner, a keyboard has been donated to Henry so he can start writing music again.

Brother Dave also pointed out another “first” – a resident who always takes his meal up to his apartment was not able to find a paper plate and joined the other residents for dinner.

Afterwards, Brother Dave sat with the families to discuss the evening. If you are interested in preparing a meal and sharing good fellowship, contact Br. Dave Schwab at brdaveschwab@juno.com.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Parish Council, earlier in the Fall discussed the importance of communication and improving transparency of committee work to the parish at large. In order to accomplish this, it was decided to include a brief synopsis of all the committee meeting minutes as well as parish council meeting minutes to improve communication. Any questions or comments regarding this synopsis can be directed to parish office or any of the parish council members. We hope you find this useful information.

Parish Council

Over the last couple of months parish council has discussed how we can do a better job of communicating to the parish including this synopsis of meeting minutes. Also discussed were plans to update the website. The council is in process of setting goals and priorities for this upcoming year which will be discussed at future meetings. The council participated in a facilitated Synod discussion in November with the assistance of Daryl Olszewski.

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Committee is working on STOP Sign graphics for the bulletin to give parishioners the opportunity to service in one-time projects throughout the parish for those who cannot or do not want to commit to long time committee work and can help with smaller projects. Committees can submit requests to appear in this section.

Health Ministry

Committee implemented "Busy Bags" for families with small children to use during mass. It facilitated bereavement fish fry at the end of November and is also discussing health education classes. The first was held at the end of October where 30 people attended a session on Medicare. The committee is exploring ways to provide education and awareness of suicide- evaluating small cards that could be placed in bathrooms and Pam Dennis will explore partnering with Christian Formation to provide awareness in the winter. Working on the giving tree and the distribution of gifts. Members of the committee are looking at our relationships with House of Peace/St. Bens Apartments and Meal Program and how we are partnering with those Capuchin charities. The Gifts for the Journey soap sales were very successful.

Activities Committee

Ladies night out was a success with 148 people attending. The committee reviewed the feedback and started planning all the logistics for Holly Days.

Building and Grounds

An Eagle Scout built a planter/fire pit on the grass area north of the patio. The committee discussed its completion and use- will only be used for fire at the Easter Vigil, it will be used as a planter the rest of the year.

Current issues include the boiler pumps for the school, there was a problem at start up in the fall and one of the motors failed and needed to be rebuilt. Finance committee approved having an emergency replacement pump on hand.

The committee will discuss partnering with scouts to help with winter snow removal.

Current priorities are 1. School system heating repairs 2. Lock system for church and 3. Camera system for church

Committee discussed the church roof and it's 13 years old, expect to need replacement soon.

Prayer and Worship

Committee discussed the gift of the precious metal goblets and use of them. It was decided that these goblets will be used during Advent, Lent and the crystal goblets will be used during Ordinary time. The committee is working on Advent including moments of silence during the masses during Advent. Plans for Christmas services were finalized.

Discussion and evaluation continues to occur for logistics of the 10:30 mass and Christian formation pick up in the South lot. This seems to be working well.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We are presently having a new member recruitment campaign. The Knights of Columbus is an active Catholic men's organization affiliated with St. James Parish. We are seeking new members who love God, your family, your church and your country. As a member you can participate in the many activities of the KC's—Charity, Youth, Community, St. James and service to God.

We have recently **celebrated our 21st anniversary** and over the years have **given over \$270,000** to various Church and community Groups. We are very proud of this accomplishment. **We practice the principles of CHARITY, UNITY and FRATERNITY throughout the community.** In Wisconsin alone this past year the KC's have donated **over \$2 million dollars and 1.5 million man hours to charity.**

New members will bring us new ideas, energy and commitment to our council. We have over 50 active members. We are about making better men, better husbands, better fathers and better community leaders. If you are interested in joining, **STEP FORWARD and contact either STEVE EHR, 262-252-2426 or AL NIENAS 262-252-3484.**

The Knights of Columbus will be contributing to the various community and church activities. They are as follows:

ST. JAMES CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP	\$500
SUSSEX OUTREACH SERVICES	\$500
ST. MARTIN DE PORRES FOOD PANTRY	\$200
SUSSEX SENIOR SHUTTLE	\$100
FDN FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS FD	\$200
ST JOHN BOSCO YOUTH DAY	\$200
RELEVANT RADIO	\$100
ST BENS	\$200
ST VINCENT DE PAUL	\$500
COATS FOR KIDS	\$400
SENTIMENTS SEMINARIES	\$200
STUDENT W/ HEARING DISABILITY	\$300
TOTAL	\$3,400

The donation money was raised thru the sale of Raffle Tickets, brat fries and pancake breakfasts.

Fields of Hope & Dream Community Gardens

Final tallies of donation to the Cooperating Churches of Sussex's (CCOS) food pantry for 2013 revealed some surprises. Our 2013 total of 3,518 units was a 14% increase over 2012's total of 3,082 units. The breakout below highlights some of the variety produced. Additional produce grown from home gardens and brought in to be included with our donations were included in the totals. We couldn't have increased our food donations year-over-year without your help. All produce was washed, dried, bagged in Ziploc bags, labeled, documented, and boxed before being transported to the food pantry by our volunteers. Here's the final results – look at the variety:

<i>Produce</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Produce</i>	<i>Qty</i>
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Arugula	2 gal	Oregano	14 gal
Basil	46 qrt	Parsley	154 qrt
Beans	57 gal	Peaches	30 indiv
Beets	31 gal	Peas	20 gal
Beet greens	44 gal	Peppers	375 indiv
Broccoli	16 gal	Radishes	71 qrt
Carrots	16 gal	Romaine	5 gal
Cilantro	4 qrt	Sage	20 qrt
Chives	40 qrt	Spearmint	1 gal
Corn	300 ears	Spinach	41 gal
Cucumbers	245 indiv	Squash	14 indiv
Dill	8 qrt	Sunflower seed	3 qrt
Garlic	43 bulbs	Swiss chard	156 gal
Kale	34 gal	Tomatoes Large	1,146 indiv
Lettuce	351 qrt	Tomatoes Cherry	135 qrt
Mixed greens	19 gal	Turnips	20 qrt
Onions	26 gal	Zucchini	20 indiv

This represents our fifth increase in food donated to the CCOS food pantry over the past five years. Although 2013's total increased over 2012's, the types of produce changed, due to temperature and moisture conditions, crop rotations and better watering techniques. Note the herbs and spices on the list. These help clients of the food pantry enhance the boxed and/or canned food donations. Thank you for supporting our gardens and the CCOS food pantry. We look forward to gardening, next year - our sixth season, on St. James' property. If you'd like to join our volunteers, call (414) 587-1202 or email:

pschneder@wir.com

Planning begins in January 2014.

Fields of Hope & Dreams Community Gardens

A "Thank You" from Jennifer Waltz, Executive Director, Cooperating Churches of Sussex's (CCOS) Food Pantry:

A beautiful and bountiful harvest was sown, grown, and tended with love! Our clients loved the variety of the items, REALLY loved the herbs and spices, and appreciate all the care and attention that was given to each piece of produce. Our Food Pantry is a healthier place due to all of your hard work. I heard about favorite dishes, attendance at our Nutrition class increased, and clients made sure to stop and peruse their produce choices first! There are never enough words, but thank you!

Jennifer Waltz, Executive Director

FABULOUS FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Community Banquet offers those things, and so much more! This community meal is a coordinated effort of ten area churches (six different denominations) to provide a free meal to anyone, no exceptions. Come join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month (except Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks). Our Parish Community Center is the host site for this wonderful program. Plan to meet your friends, make new friends, stretch your food budget, bring the kids so they can practice their "restaurant manners", *everyone is welcome*. Coffee, water, and milk are served at 5:15pm; dinner begins at 5:30. No need to call ahead, there is always plenty of room. There is no set menu, so although dinner is always a surprise, it is delicious and nutritious. Twice a year (usually February and September), a Free Will Offering is accepted but not expected. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Block by phone at 262-246-4075 or by email at bloc5@sbcglobal.net Hope to see you there!

Would you like to volunteer to help at one or more of the Banquets in 2014? We have a dedicated group of people who always welcome others in the joy of service. We need to provide a crew at only seven meals in 2014. We work on one of the following: Set up (4-5:45pm), Cook and Serve (4-6:00pm), or Clean up (5:45-7:15pm). Families are encouraged to volunteer for Set up or Clean up; children should be at least in first grade. You can volunteer for one, all, or anywhere in between – whatever works with your schedule. What a great way to be a welcoming presence for our Parish, serving others while meeting new people. Another benefit: you get to enjoy the meal, too! If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Janet at the phone number or email listed above.

HUMAN CONCERNS

Dear Friends of St. James Congregation,
In the name of the Board of Directors of Friedens Community Ministries, I wish to thank you for the recent gift of \$425 on October 7th. . . . We want you to know that your gifts are very much appreciated and helpful in taking care of the food needs of the many hungry families we serve. Things are especially tough now for our needy families as fresh produce donations are essentially done for the year, and also government funding for food stamps is at least temporarily cut back, which puts more pressure on pantries to help.

Again, thank you in assisting in our ongoing ministries. Sincerely,

John Dorr,
Treasurer Friedens Board
of Directors

Dear St. James Congregation Members,
Milwaukee Central City communities are moving forward with the help of good friends like you.

Thank you for being involved in the mission and ministry of the Dominican Center and for your generous \$425 donation. Your donation will benefit women, children and men enrolled in the DCS adult education program and our Building Neighborhood Capacity Program.

The Dominican Center for Women is part of a nation wide Federal program to help urban communities plan their future. This program involves community members taking an assessment of their community, setting priorities, determining needed resources, researching what worked for other communities and making a plan. Community organizations and the Center for the Study of Social Policy will provide training, support for community projects leading to revitalization planning stage, support and assistance to community leaders with meeting space, access to communication needs and research. Thank you for including our ministry and mission in your Tithing Program.

Peace and God's blessings,
Patricia Rogers, OP

Dear Friends of St. James,
Thank you for your kind and generous support of our mission here at Sussex Outreach Services with your donation of \$438.75 from Panera Bread Sales. Every gift is important and every dollar is utilized. With ONE dollar we are able to provide a meal for an entire family. That ONE dollar is multiplied five times with service from our case manager, Trish. She offers counseling services, emergency energy or housing assistance in accessing many other vital resources, educational opportunities and much more to our clients.

SOS will continue to serve those that need us the most here in the Sussex area as long as we have partners like you to help us.

Thank you for your kindness,

Jennifer Waltz,
Executive Director for SOS

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your donation of \$425. Your support of The Women's Center provides a life-changing place where women and their families can break the cycle of violence and abuse in their lives.

Your gift gives women and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, the hope of finding safety, shelter and support at the Women's Center. Because of donors like you our programs and services are offered *free of charge* to women seeking help and support for themselves and their children.

We appreciate you joining us in our efforts to end violence in our communities. On behalf of our Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff, and most especially on behalf of our clients, thank you. Gratefully yours,

Marie Kingsbury,
Executive Director

Dear St. James Parishioners,
In everything give thanks . . . 1 Thes 5:18

I would like to thank you for caring about the residents in our urban community. The contribution of \$425 is very appreciated and needed.

Your generosity will allow the Agape Community Center to continue to provide after school programs for "at risk" children; a warm nutritious meal for adults and families 3 days per week, case management and health services for individuals with limited resources; and intergenerational activities for older adults and teens.

The assistance provided is invaluable and allows Agape Community Center to fulfill our organizational vision and mission on a daily basis. We are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,
Alden L. Luzi
Director of Development

Dear Parish Members,

Thank you to the many parishioners at St. James Congregation for your continued generosity and support of Live Navigators and individuals with disabilities. Your donation of \$425 will allow children and adults with disabilities to active, connected and inspired.

Live Navigators' information, education, and family support services give children and adults with disabilities and their families the support needed to live active and meaningful lives. Through Life Navigators' trainings and disabilities gain the skills and confidence needed to live, work and volunteer in our community.

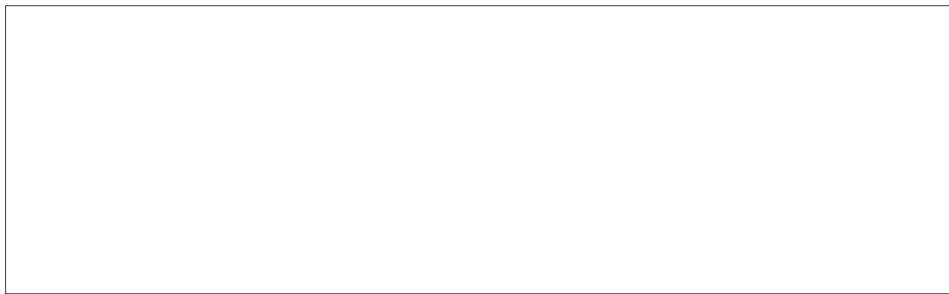
Thank you for believing in the many possibilities of children and adults with disabilities. Your support of our mission and your commitment to our community is deeply appreciated.

Warm Regards,
Vicki Wachniak,
Executive Director



St. James Parish
W220 N6588 Town Line Road
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
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Dates to Remember

JANUARY 2014

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>EVENT:</u>
4:	Baptismal Prep Class, 9:30 am
4/5:	Fellowship Weekend
8:	All Committee Meeting Night, 7:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul, 7:00 pm
9:	Community Banquet, 5:30 pm
11:	Forming the Catechetical Spirit, 8:00 am Mass (Signed Liturgy), 4:30 pm
11/12:	Blood Pressure Screening (<i>after Masses</i>)
12:	Art & Environment (<i>after 10:30 Mass</i>)
15:	Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
17:	St. James Senior Club, 12:00 pm
19:	Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, 8-12
21:	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 3:30-4:30 pm Holy Hour for Life 2014, 6:30 pm (Chapel)
22:	Common Threads Quilting Guild, 9:00 am Catholic's Returning Home, 6:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul, 7:00 pm
23:	Community Banquet, 5:30 pm
25:	Mass (Signed Liturgy), 4:30 pm

FEBRUARY 2014

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>EVENT:</u>
1:	Baptismal Prep Class, 9:30 Fellowship after Mass
2:	Blessing of Engaged at Sun 8:15 & 10:15 Fellowship
5:	All Committee Meeting Night, 7:00 pm
6:	Art & Environment Lenten Planning Mtg, 7 pm
8:	Mass (Signed Liturgy), 4:30 pm
8/9:	Blood Pressure Screening & Fellowship
12:	Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, 7:00 pm
13:	Community Banquet, 5:30 pm
15:	A Little Taste of Italy Dinner
18:	Election Day Polling Place
20:	KC's General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm
21:	St. James Senior Club, 12:00 pm
22:	Lector Prep, 8:00 am Mass (Signed Liturgy), 4:30 pm
27:	Community Banquet, 5:30 pm

Please see page 6 for Calendar of Events for the Christian Formation Department