

A Joyful Word

News from the Office of the Director of Religious Education

August/September 2023

Wisdom and Learning Valuable for Spiritual Growth



As I sit here asking for guidance from the Holy Spirit on what to write, I am sensing a mixture of emotions in the air. Students and teachers feeling a bit sad that the beginning of school means no more sleeping in, going to the pool all day, or going on extended vacations. Excitement from parents who are ready for the kids to go back to school and even some students who are ready to see their teachers and friends again. Then panic sets in. Families want to squeeze in one more vacation, family event, or trip before the hustle and bustle of busy school activities.

We should not look at school as the thief of carefree days. School provides a valuable benefit. Students attend school to learn and gain knowledge as they grow to become responsible citizens. Every single person has a unique gift given to them by God. Some will excel in Math, others in English, or perhaps in PE or some sports activity. Every teacher strives to get the best out of their students, as students use their ability to honor God.

Learning should never end. We should also always be looking for ways to learn especially, in our faith. The book of Proverbs contains many wise sayings. Some of those sayings deal with wisdom. God holds wisdom and learning as valuable. Proverbs 9:9 says, "Instruct the wise, and they become still wiser; teach the just, and they advance in learning." God encourages us to always grow. Grow in our knowledge of Him. Learn the wisdom that comes which will give us eternal benefits.

Sadly, we often forget about growing in our spiritual life. The devil lays out many temptations in front of us: sports, television, cell phones, video games, or our own laziness. The world holds out secular wisdom as the ideal, rather than the wisdom from heaven that completely changes our hearts.

Our parish offers many opportunities for us to continue growing in our faith through CCD, Confirmation Prep, Youth Ministry, Bible Studies, prayer, Adoration, and daily Mass. Are we taking advantage of all that is offered to us as spiritual nourishment? Spiritual growth and nourishment don't just happen within the building of St. Malachy. It should also take place at home, school, on the sports court/field, etc.

What will you do to continue your spiritual growth? Or that of your child's? I challenge you to consider one or two ways that you can help yourself to continue growing in your faith this year.

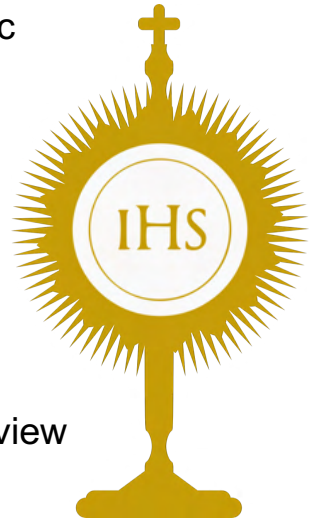
Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit to Come

Students and parishioners will have an opportunity to visit the Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit September 13-17 in the Parish Hall.

The traveling exhibit has been created to assist those who will experience it to affirm belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. It is based upon the website created by Blessed Carlo Acutis to catalogue all of the Eucharistic miracles that have taken place worldwide.

St. Malachy School students and the CCD Classes will learn about and observe the exhibit during special presentations Wednesday, Sept. 13 during the day. Meanwhile adults and the Oasis Youth Ministry group may view the exhibit with a presentation at 6:30 that evening.

All other students, adults, and families are encouraged to contact the parish office to find times if unable to come during the day or on Wednesday evening.



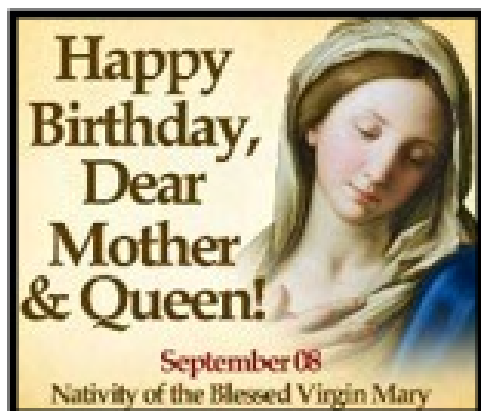
Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024

The first National Eucharistic Congress to be held in the United States in 83 years will be held at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN July 17-21, 2024. This is an opportunity of a lifetime to gather with people from all over the world to "draw into a deeper intimacy with our Eucharistic Lord, allowing our eyes to be opened and our hearts to be set on fire with his love," according to the National Eucharistic Congress website.

"The whole Congress will be an experience of prayer: a liturgical act offering the Catholic Church - those in attendance in Indianapolis as well as across the country - to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. This reconsecration will result in a massive outpouring of grace and renewed missionary sending as participants are moved to share the Eucharistic love of the Lord "for the life of the world" (John 6:51)."

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 3 pm in the Parish Hall for anyone interested in learning more about attending.

Happy Birthday to the Blessed Mother



Most saints are celebrated on the day they died but as Catholics we also celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary because she was born without Original Sin. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love because she agreed to be the mother of Christ. The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Friday, Sept. 8, 2023.

The Rock Youth Ministry: Grades 6-8

Students in Grades 6-8 are invited to attend the Rock Youth Ministry on Thursday nights in the Youth Room from 6:30-8 pm.

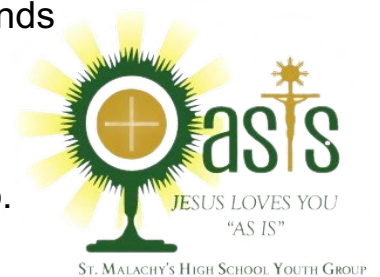
The Rock is for all students, Catholic or not, where we will have fun, fellowship, food, and grow in our faith together through games, lessons on a variety of topics, service projects, and prayer.

Come ready to be feed spiritually and physically. Invite your friends.



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!!!

Are you tired of being tired? Stressed out from school and the demands that this world puts on you? Come join us as we KICKOFF this year of Oasis on Wednesday September 6th, 2023. We're adding a few new options to Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 8:00 when school is in session. Come and spend some time with friends, food, and fellowship. Most importantly, come rest with Jesus and He will give you rest from your burdens.



Steubenville Conference 2023

Save Important Dates

- Aug. 24 - The Rock Family Cookout 6:30-8 pm - RSVP to Kimberly Souba
- Aug. 27 - National Eucharistic Congress Informational Meeting 3-4 pm;
CCD 6th Grade 6-8 pm;
Confirmation Prep 6-8 pm
- Aug. 30 - CCD K-5th Grade 3:30-4:45 pm;
Oasis 6-8 pm
- Aug. 31 - The Rock 6:30-8 pm
- Sept. 3 - CCD 6th Grade 6-8 pm;
Confirmation Prep 6-8 pm
- Sept. 4 - No School - Labor Day
- Sept. 6 - CCD K-5 Grades 3:30-4:45 pm;
Oasis 6-8 pm
- Sept. 7 - The Rock 6:30-8 pm
- Sept. 10 - CCD 6th Grade 6-8 pm;
Confirmation Prep 6-8 pm
- Sept. 13 - School Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition
CCD K-5 Grades Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition 3:30-4:45 pm
- Sept. 14 - The Rock 6:30-8 pm
- Sept. 17 - CCD 6th Grade 6-8 pm;
Confirmation Prep 6-8 pm (8/9th Grade Letters for Fr. Gifford Due)
- Sept. 20 - CCD K-5 3:30-4:45 pm (First Communion & First Reconciliation Registration
Due to Kimberly Souba)
Oasis 6-8 pm
- Sept. 21 - Adoration with Diocesan Monstrance 6:30 pm;
The Rock 6:30-8 pm
- Sept. 24 - CCD 6th Grade 6-8 pm
- Sept. 27 - Early Dismissal 11:08 am;
No CCD Classes
- Sept. 28 - The Rock Scavenger Hunt 6:30-8 pm (Parent drivers are needed.)



For more information contact Kimberly Souba at 309.944.5393 Ext. 110
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