



St. John High School Youth Newsletter: October

We had some great feedback on our last newsletter, so here we go again! We are so blessed to be walking along this journey with your students and can't wait to see you all out an about this year, at your students' games, concerts, and, of course, at Sunday Mass. Stop us to say hello when you see us!

October is the month of Mary, and, to celebrate, we are going to invite families to consecrate their families to Momma Mary. We will join together on Wednesday, October 19, at 6pm to begin the consecration, and we will give out free copies of "33 Days to Morning Glory" book to any families who are interested in participating. Not sure what this all means? See more information below and consider joining us in learning more about Mary and devoting our lives to her!

As always, your families are in our prayers in a special way. Keep fighting the good fight and running the race! May God's blessings be upon you and your

families in abundance.
Agape,
JenMC & the Core Team

FAITH RESOURCES: INTELLECTUAL FORMED.org Resources

It is small group season again, which means your students will begin watching some of the great videos from Disciple on FORMED.org. This platform, developed by the Augustine Institute, is loaded with some awesome Catholic content, and you will learn so much from any of their awesome online video studies! Chose to do a study one night per week with your family to discuss awesome Catholic things and grow in faith together! Or, use it to stay updated on what your teens are learning in small group so that you can carry those important conversations into your home. Get registered for FORMED.org by following the instructions below:

- Our parish code is: adf3aa. You will enter that code on the main page of the [Formed.org](https://www.formed.org) platform.
- Fill out the registration information on the next page, enter your email and password.
- Next, scroll down to the "For Youth: YDisciple Small Group Discipleship" links. Find the study that your student is working through with his/her discipleship leader. Click on that study and you will be up and running with all of the videos that your student will be working through.
- If you have any questions about this process or platform, then please direct your questions to Jen Meitl Conrad at conrad@saint-johns.net.

FAITH RESOURCES: SPIRITUAL

Come and join us in consecrating your family to the Blessed Virgin Mary during her special month of October. The consecration will begin on October 19 and will end on November 21.

What is consecration to Mary?

Many of the greatest saints this world has known (Maximilian Kolbe, Mother Teresa, John Paul II, Louis de Montfort) have had a fierce love and devotion to our Blessed Mother. This devotion (that all Catholic pledge in one way or another by nature of our faith) can take on a whole new level when we intentionally give all that we are and all that we have to Mary, our Mother. That, essentially, is at the root of the consecration. Read more about the act of consecration here:

<http://totalconsecration.newevangelizers.com/consecration-explained/>.

How do I consecrate myself (or my family) to Mary?

We as a parish family will be using the book "33 Days to Morning Glory" to learn more about the great saints with devotion to Mary as well as to reflect

on how we might give ourselves fully to Mary. This book is super relatable and is perfect for families to read outloud together each day. Email Lois at Imersmann@saint-johns.net if your family wants to participate, and we will order you a copy of the "33 Days to Morning Glory" book. There are also many other texts out there to aid in consecration; feel free to utilize any text you prefer, and email Jen with questions.

Okay. I'm in. What now?

We will meet on October 19, at 6pm in the Church to kick off the consecration to our Momma. Children of all ages are welcome to attend. We will read the first day of the consecration together and pray a rosary to begin our commitment to the 33 days. A daily rosary is not a requirement of the consecration (I remember that feeling super overwhelming my first time doing the consecration), but a decade could be something you try each day or each week as a family if you feel called to that. The consecration will end on November 21, the Presentation of Mary, with a special Mass at 7pm for all of the families making the consecration.

Please consider joining us for this special devotion to Our Lady! You will not regret it and your life will be forever changed!

FAITH RESOURCES: FAMILY

Check out the resources from Dr. Meg Meeker. Dr. Meeker's perspectives on spirituality and family life are in alignment with Catholic teachings. Plus, her resources are SUPER interesting and helpful in thinking about parenting and how our decisions impact our children/teens. Check out her recent September podcast on texting, screens, and media:

<https://megmeekermid.com/2016/08/the-text-generation/>. This one impacts our ministry to your teens directly, as we see several of these behaviors manifest themselves in teens when they have their devices, and we see them struggle to give up control of their devices, even if only for a few hours. There is definitely a lot to chew on in her research and thoughts!

Here are a few ways to think about "unplugging" as a family:

--set up several "tech-free" nights in your home where, past 7pm, all screens are put away and family time (conversations, games, reading) happens.

--utilize car time as discussion time, and require some of your time in transportation to be family time, sans electronic devices/headphones, spent in conversation. Check out <http://www.sixsistersstuff.com/2013/03/50-family-dinner-conversation-starters.html> for some great questions to get you started!

--set up a "docking station" near the door to your home (or perhaps in a heavily trafficked area) where all cell phones (including yours!) must be kept plugged in. You could even keep your cell phones charging there. Family

members may utilize their devices as much as they want, but must remain at the docking area (where perhaps there are no chairs?).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Life Chain and Ice Cream: October 2

12:30-2:30pm

Come and join us in standing up for the dignity of life at 23rd and Iowa for the National Life Chain. Water will be provided and signs will be available for you to hold if you would like, but you can also just stand to pray and be a witness to the lives of those not valued by society (the unborn, the elderly, the disabled). Afterwards, at 2pm, we will cross the street to eat ice cream at Freddy's. Bring money! Families welcome to attend this event with students. Give it a try!

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS* - at leader's homes!

October 2, 16, 30; 6:30-8:30pm; Various Locations - see below.

Freshmen ladies: Kathy Meyer/Jen Meitl Conrad

Sophomore ladies: Nancy Jones/Jen Meitl Conrad

Juniors/Senior ladies: Emily Haack/Sarah Hartsig/Amy Hill

Senior guys: Ian Hartsig

Freshmen/Sophomore/Junior guys: Jeff Cramer/Drew Fox/Pete Haack

Questions? Contact Jen Conrad at 785-766-6189 or email conrad@saint-johns.net.

***All are welcome to attend small groups at any time.**

Questions? Contact Jen Conrad at 785-766-6189 or email conrad@saint-johns.net.

Bible Study and Reservoir

October 5; 6:15-8pm; St. John School Library

Meet in the library of the School to study the Bible, pray, and eat some good food. Then, head over to Reservoir to chat with Jesus and praise Him from 7-8pm!

Worlds of Fun Trip!

October 9, leave at 1pm for WOF; return @ 8pm

RSVP to Jen at conrad@saint-johns.net, or text Amy at 785-550-2034. RSVP by October 1. Come and have fun at Worlds of Fun and bring your friends! Must have permission form on file with office and have paid registration fees for the year (or for the month - \$16/month for youth group activities). Friends outside of St. John can attend this trip for \$30/student--email Jen (see above) for permission form if other students want to join! Wanna help drive? Let Jen know that as well. We need at least 10 students to join us to make this trip happen! Also, bring money for food for dinner!

Fifth Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest

October 23; 6:30-8:30pm; St. Bosco Room, SJ School

Bring your own pumpkin! We will have carving materials and knives available. Father Jeff will be judging your pumpkins on most creative, most scary, etc., and prizes will be out of this world! (i.e. iTunes and Chipotle gift cards-hooray!)

Save the Dates: November/December

November 2: Sandwiches, Ways to Pray, and Reservoir Adoration; 6:15-8pm

November 6: Peer pressure, alcohol, drugs, etc. 6:30-8:30pm; St. Bosco

November 13: Discipleship Group Meetings*, 6:30-8:30pm; Various Locations

November 20: Give Thanks...with a grateful heart. 6:30-8:30pm; St. Bosco

December 3: Children's Holiday Shop Service Opportunity

December 4: Discipleship Group Meetings*, 6:30-8:30pm; Various Locations

December 7: Sandwiches & Advent Reservoir Adoration; 6:15-8pm

December 11: Sixth Annual White Elephant Party; 6:30-8:30pm; St. Bosco

*All are welcome to attend discipleship groups.

Questions? Contact Jen Conrad at 785-766-6189 or email conrad@saint-johns.net.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Do I have to have a completed registration form as well as pay if I am not sure whether my student will attend?

Please do your best to complete a registration form if your student will attend any youth group events this year. It is important for us to have medical information and emergency contact information on campus, even if your student will only be at one or two things this year. The form is important, and the Youth Office can work with you on the payment piece.

What is my \$150 youth registration fee funding?

The youth group registration fee goes towards food/supplies for the youth group events, the Advent and Lenten daily prayer guide delivered to your student's school (for those in discipleship groups or families that request them), unlimited access to the YDisciple program (offered through the FORMED platform with the Augustine Institute), retreat costs, event fees (trips to Worlds of Fun!), bus transportation, guest speakers/performers, training for our core team members, prayer card resources, and any other miscellaneous costs that arise throughout the year.

Partial and full scholarships are offered if needed, and we can also work with you on monthly/bi-monthly payments. Perhaps your students are just wanting to try out youth group, so you can feel free to pay as you go (that would be \$16/month). Please contact Jen (conrad@saint-johns.net) with questions.

2016-2017 YOUTH REGISTRATION:

If you have not filled out your registration form, please do so and bring it to youth group! THANKS! See our website for the permission form at www.sjevangelist.com/youth for all the dates and times! Print it off and mail

it/drop it off at the Parish Center at 1229 Vermont Street, or have your student bring it to a youth night!

Sent by Jen Meitl Conrad on Monday, September 26 at 1:19PM CDT