

Religious Education PREP Newsletter

Issue: June 2021 St. Mary Magdalen Church



June is the month we as Catholics traditionally devote to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When I was little, each month had (and still does have) its own particular devotion, so at home we would recognize that in a special way – move that particular statue or picture to its place of honor for the month, try and do

the assigned devotion, at least in a limited way. There are a lot of ideas on how to do shortened rosaries (for those who are interested, there are some great ideas [here](#)), but not too many on how we can do a kid version of something for the Sacred Heart! I did manage to find one short consecration to the Sacred Heart prayer in Catholic Online, so here it is:

Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I love you so much
And give you my heart.
Help me to love my neighbor
As a child of God.
Help me to love myself
As a child of God. Amen.

Not long, and in today's climate being reminded to love our neighbors is never a bad thing!

Catholic Icing, a blog by a Catholic mom, also has a 3-day summer VBS on the Sacred Heart that she put together last summer; for \$10 you get the whole program. You can find it [here](#) if you're interested! Since we are not holding one on the property – I start planning that in January, and at that point it was still looking ugly – I have been looking for alternatives you can do at home with your family, or a few neighbors. I've put links to more of them in a box to the right!

I know most of us are so happy to be able to get out and do some things, a little scavenger hunt through your neighborhood or even a state park for gifts of God's creation could also be fun! Whatever you do, don't forget to take God with you!

Have a great summer and I'll see you in September!

-Karen Yasik



ONLINE REGISTRATION

Hard to believe, I know, but PREP has come into the 21st century! You can now sign up for PREP **and** pay online! Just go to the parish website [here](#) and you can sign up to 4 children without having to repeat all the same information! It's a miracle LOL!

VBS AT HOME

Catholic Icing [Sacred Heart VBS](#)

Look to Him and Be Radiant [Sacred Heart VBS](#)
(better for 4th grade and up)

[Holy Heroes VBS](#) – this program comes as a daily email (the night before) with the crafts, games, videos and suggestions for that day. They're doing it 3 different weeks, and it is definitely Catholic! You can buy the downloads if you want them all ahead of time, but they are free if you just wait for the email. Intended for 5-12 year-olds, and can be run by older children!

[Go Curriculum Bolt VBS](#) – this program is more similar to our usual program, but it does come with a cost - \$25 for a family license. If you go to the site, you'll see all the materials you'll get for the fee. There's a [video of day 2](#) of the program on youtube so that you can see the balance between online and outdoor activities.

Rocky Railway VBS – we usually buy the Catholic version, but this is what you've done before! I do have CD's available in the office for those who would like one for \$7.50!

[Day 1](#) ; [Day 2](#); [Day 3](#); [Day 4](#); [Day 5](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

INTERESTING THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR FAITH

Every day, I get a variety of emails from different publishers. The one I really enjoy started out being called “Catholic Snacks – bite-sized things to know about your faith” and then they changed it to “Get Fed – Bite-Sized Faith” Here are two of their posts!

The Patron Saint of Television and Computer Screens

St. Clare of Assisi is a beloved Italian saint who was born in 1193 to an aristocratic family. She later renounced her wealthy status to follow St. Francis of Assisi’s call to embrace a lifestyle of humility and poverty. She spent several months at different monastic communities before joining other sisters in a small convent at the Church of San Damiano, given to them by Francis’s Order of Friars Minor.

St. Clare was the superior of the convent of San Damiano while still practicing the virtues of humility, charity, piety, and penitence. She cared for the sick sisters and took up basic chores such as cooking and cleaning. Her devotion to the Eucharist was so great that she performed two miracles. On two different occasions, Saracen mercenaries were about to attack the convent and impose a siege on Assisi. St. Clare simply showed the invaders the Blessed Sacrament, and they ceased in their efforts. These miracles led to her canonization in 1255.

Later in her life, St. Clare became too sick to attend Mass, and she was incredibly disappointed. It is believed that one day, she was lying in her bed when a large image appeared across her wall, as if it were a television screen. The image showed her the Mass, so St. Clare was able to watch Mass from her own bed and make an Act of Spiritual Communion. When the television was invented in the 1950s, Pope Pius XII named St. Clare the patron saint of televisions and screens, since she watched television before anyone had likely thought of the concept!

What is the Sleeping St. Joseph?

Have you ever heard of the devotion to “Sleeping St. Joseph”?

The gospel tells us that St. Joseph was going to divorce Mary quietly after he learned that she was pregnant. But an angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph in a dream, telling him to not be afraid, that Mary would give birth to the savior: Jesus Christ. God was entrusting Joseph with His greatest treasures: Mary and the Baby Jesus.

St. Joseph’s faithfulness to God’s will helped bring our Savior into the world. The image of St. Joseph as he’s sleeping is a powerful reminder of his peaceful surrender to God’s plan for his life.

Pope Francis has owned a Sleeping St. Joseph statue for several years, and brought it with him from Argentina to the Vatican when he became pope. He explained that whenever he has a problem or special prayer, he writes it down and places it underneath the Sleeping St. Joseph. St. Joseph takes care of the intention while the pope rests.

Catholics around the world have adopted this practice and bought their own Sleeping St. Joseph statues in order to ask St. Joseph for his intercession in the midst of life’s difficulties.

In this Year of St. Joseph, we should remember St. Joseph’s whole-hearted “yes” to God’s will, even when it wasn’t what he himself had planned or imagined. St. Joseph exemplifies total submission to God in the midst of uncertainty. When we honor the Sleeping St. Joseph statue, we are trusting St. Joseph to intercede for us—and trusting that God will handle our problems while we rest.

WHAT IS *Antiquum Ministerium*? (a fun fact from me!)

On May 11th, Pope Francis made the historic decision to issue an Apostolic Letter about catechists! An Apostolic Letter is generally inspirational and pastoral (rather than an encyclical, which tends to be longer and more deep-thinking theology.) It is issued “*moto proprio*” meaning the letter is signed by and issued on the pope’s own initiative, and the document formalizes the lay ministry of catechist for the universal Church. It also introduces a formal Rite (a liturgical celebration) of the Lay Ministry of Catechist from the Congregation for Divine Worship. Now, just as lay ministers serve as lectors, cantors, or extraordinary ministers of holy communion to support the liturgical life of the Church, now the lay ministry of catechist will be recognized formally as a vital support to the evangelizing mission of the Church! So if you see your catechists this summer, congratulate them on having their hard work recognized by Rome!