

# YOUTH NEWS

February\* [www.stpatricksmauston.com](http://www.stpatricksmauston.com) \* (608)847-6054

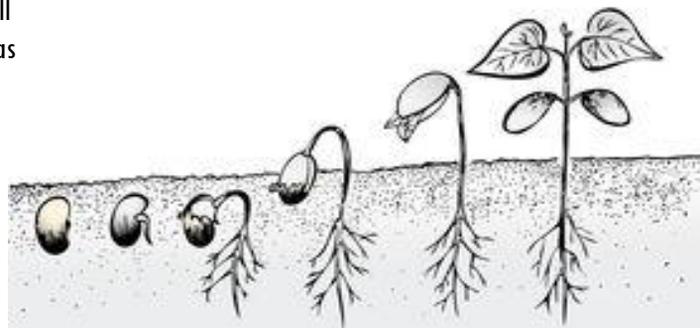
## The Young Church

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ~ 1 Corinthians 3:6*

This past year has been hard, and for many different reasons. One of the hardest areas in my church work life ☺ has been the lack of community with the Young Church. I loved the Youth Nights, and the noise of the gathering area right before we went into the 6pm Mass. I miss sharing with the Parish the pictures of our latest service project, and the fun activities that we did for the month. But as I reflect on this last year, I also have a sense of excitement because although I don't have pictures, or noise, or gatherings of a large group, we have had things that are happening, and seeds of faith that are taking root.

- This last year's Confirmation class met via Zoom until July. Father and I ended each virtual meeting with should we do this again next week? And each week they answered with YES! Now that doesn't mean that we had 100% attendance every meeting, but we were supposed to end in May and ended up going 2 months longer because they wanted to keep meeting and praying for one another.
- In August we had 28 counselors that helped out the week of VBS. Again we had to be flexible with work schedules, Covid contact tracing, and sports but throughout that week 28 High School students made the effort to come early (10 am ☺) and helped to run a fun and safe camp for our little ones!
- For this year's Religious Ed program we currently have 5 high school students that are Confirmed in the church helping to teach the younger Religious Ed Students. They have reworked sports and work schedules to volunteer their time to our Religious Ed program and students.
- In December our Confirmation II boys helped to decorate and carry out Christmas decorations for Jeri in our church rectory. They ended the evening talking vocations with Father around the table and many laughs were had!
- Just this past month with our Confirmation II students our focus has been prayer. Our Confirmation II boys were (re)introduced to the prayer style of Lectio Divina. They spent 30 minutes in intentional prayer with Scripture and then took turns at the Lectern speaking their "mini homily's" to us. It was beautiful to witness what the Holy Spirit had said to them and it was a blessing to listen to what they had to share with us. For our Confirmation II girls, not all were able to meet on Wednesday nights, so the group has moved (for the time being) to Friday nights. In that way it allows for us to all meet and for 30 minutes go to the Friday Holy Hour. It has opened the door (literally) for a few who are comfortable enough now to attend First Friday Adoration by themselves.

I hope that you have enjoyed this peek into our program. It hasn't all been perfect or easy, but then again nothing is. I shared a bible verse up at the top that I constantly reflect on in my prayer time. We are either planting the seeds of faith in people's lives or watering the seeds but only God can make them grow. As we approach Lent there are many different opportunities to allow our own seeds of faith to grow. We have Ash Wednesday Mass on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8am or 6pm. Starting on the Tuesday (2/23) after Ash Wednesday we will have Stations of the Cross following the 5:30pm Mass. There will be a study offered on the Book of James (contact me for more details [re@stpatricksmauston.com](mailto:re@stpatricksmauston.com)) on Thursdays. We will Live Stream the Rosary on MONDAYS at 2pm (starting on 2/15) and invite you to either pray along in person at the church or at your computer. If you have specific prayer intentions that you would like us to pray for during that Rosary please let me know, or comment in the comment section as we are praying. Our Holy hour will still be on Fridays from 3pm-4pm and all are welcome to come to that, as well as First Friday Adoration which will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>. We even extended the time on First Friday Adoration to allow for more people to attend after work, running now from Noon-6pm. As Henry David Thoreau wrote, "I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders." I can't wait to see what wonders God will grow from these seeds. ~ Mrs. Thayer



## February

- 10th ~ Re Class / 6pm Mass
- 17th ~ Ash Wednesday Mass @ 8am and 6pm
- 20th ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Retreat 9am-Noon
- 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Rosary @ 2pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Stations of the Cross after the 5:30pm Mass
- 24<sup>th</sup> ~ RE Class/6pm Mass



## A FAMILY OF FAITH

*Family Catechesis  
for Our Parish*

This month's theme focuses on the remaining Commandments (5-10). The car conversation for February's month challenges us on the fact that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves...even the ones we don't like, and invites us to pray specifically for those we don't like. Our Saint for February is Saint Paul Miki and Companions. Here are some more examples of ways that our families are choosing to live out our faith:

We are going to mail out and deliver Cards to those who might be lonely for Valentine's Day.

Our family knew of a another family going through a hard time so we made a meal for them and dropped it off at their house.

We dropped off a family fun night bag to a family that was in quarantine. It had popcorn, movie candy, a few dvds, and a board game

Pictured L to R: Eli Boppert, Martin Wolf, Braden Heath, Carver Goodman, Father John, Jackson Whitney, and Ethan Lulich



## Devotion to Our Lady's Seven Sorrows

Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows became a standard devotion in the Church around the 14th century. It was revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373) that devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary's Seven Sorrows would bring great signal graces. The devotion consists in praying seven Hail Mary's while meditating on the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Mary, in a unique way, willingly suffered alongside her Divine Son as he gave his life to save the world, and she felt the bitterness of his passion as only a mother can. This devotion is especially remembered during September, the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows (the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is September 15th), and during the season of Lent.



### The Seven Sorrows of

#### Mary:

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)
2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)
3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)
4. The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)
6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)
7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)

### Seven Promises to those who meditate on Our Lady's

#### Seven Sorrows:

1. "I will grant peace to their families."
2. "They will be enlightened about the Divine Mysteries."
3. "I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."
4. "I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."
5. "I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."
6. "I will visibly help them at the moment of their death. They will see the face of their Mother."
7. "I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolor's, will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy."