

# The Youth Voice

**Don't miss the Christmas Play,  
7 pm Wednesday, 12/17 &  
9 am Sunday, 12/21!**

St. John's young people have prepared "A Story for the Ages." There will be music and a story that you won't want to miss!

**4 pm Christmas Eve Tableau  
Actors of All Ages Needed**

A sign-up sheet will be on the Activities Table near the Parish Hall. The Tableau, a non-speaking representation of the First Christmas, will create a living picture of Joseph, Mary, & Baby Jesus in the Stable. Rehearsal & costume fitting: 11am Sunday, December 21 in St. Bernard's Room.

**Help Support the Youth;  
Wreath Sales Continue**

The youth will fill orders for wreaths & swags in the Parish Hall Sunday, 12/21 through Twin Cities Nursery. The money raised goes into the Youth Fund to support our Mission Trips, Music Camp, & other service experiences. Please help our youth help others and grow in faith.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Advent Overnight  
Saturday, 12/6 – Sunday, 12/7**

It's all about gathering in the church kitchen to bake & deliver cookies to 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers at nursing homes & hospitals. This is a fun community building event, remembering others while we ready our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Contact Sheila Foster for more information or if you can be an adult volunteer or driver.

**Bigger & Better Jr. & Sr. High  
Epiphany Sunday, January 4, 10 am**

The youth will set out on foot in groups with a beginning item. They will engage people in an opportunity to trade for a bigger & better item. Welcoming Committee Chair Randy Johnson participated as a youth in an activity like this and ended up with a car. Anything is possible. It's much more about the process than the end product. We will have judges pick the best item. Contact Sheila Foster for more information.

**"Acolyte Olympics" January 24 – 25  
4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade activities for all ages  
St. Mark's Cathedral, Mpls \$25**

*Vergers are wanted for chaperones.*

We encourage everyone who has acolyted to attend. Using knowledge & skill, new & experienced acolytes will compete in teams, in events such as Acolyte Taboo & Free Style Thurifer(ing), for the winning title for their church. Teams will be mixed congregationally. Registration forms will be on the Youth Board in the Parish Hall. *The registration Deadline is January 12. Questions? Contact Canon Cara Spaccarelli, 612/870-7800 or [CaraS@ourcathedral.org](mailto:CaraS@ourcathedral.org).*

**Did you know?**

After Confirmation you're expected to be an even bigger participant in a worship community. We have 7 youth in 1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation, 10 in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Mentoring Confirmation & about 18 who have completed the 2 year program & were confirmed or who are not ready yet: 35 high school youth whom we could be seeing on a Sunday morning. Unfortunately, we're lucky if we see even ½. The 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> graders actively engaged in education, ministry, & worship are at St. John's most Sundays. We have an entire group of especially seniors whom we barely ever see. If your young people are engaged in the church, keep bringing them. They are more likely to stay connected to a faith community in college if they are connected in high school. That also means they are active participants in worship. I know, they're busy, they have home work, they need to work. *But how are you helping them if not by supporting them in a healthy faith life?* We need more than education, work & friends to take us through this life, and trust me, it's not going to happen at the coffee shop or at the library without a supportive community. In short, get those kids to church & help keep them connected. They need you to help them with this process.

-Peace, Sheila Foster-

**Don't Forget these dates**

**December**

- 6** 10 am all parish Tree Decorating followed by caroling at Cerenity Care Center
- 6** 5 pm Youth Advent Overnight (Cookie Baking & Delivery to the night shift) 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- 14** 4 pm Lessons & Carols
- 17** 6 pm Christmas Play Rehearsal, 7pm Worship & Play Performance
- 21** 8:30 am costumes on for 9 am Play Performance during worship  
11 am Christmas Eve Tableau Rehearsal
- 31** 5:30 pm Pizza Party & 6 pm Caroling

**January**

- 4** 10 am The Bigger & Better Treasure Hunt
- 17** Sr. High Youth Overnight
- 18** St. John's Annual Meeting (all youth attend)
- 24** Diocesan Youth Acolyte Festival begins (St. Mark's Cathedral)

**Weekly Events**

**Wednesdays 6 – 7:30 pm**

CAP (Children's Activity Program) ages 3-7, & COFTA (Celebrating Our Faith Through the Arts) 4<sup>th</sup>– 12<sup>th</sup> grades. (Grades 2+ may join Youth Choir.)

**Sundays 10 am**

education for children, youth, adults, & 1<sup>st</sup> year confirmation

Merry  
Christmas!