

# Youth & Children's Voice

## Epiphany Play Sunday, January 4, 9 am

If you missed out on the Christmas Play & Tableau, there is another opportunity for children, youth, & adults of all ages to participate in the Christmas Story. We'll reenact the visit of the Magi at the Stable. There are approximately 5 speaking parts & a number of non speaking parts. We'll rehearse at 8:15 am Sunday, January 4. Scripts will be available prior to that Sunday. Please contact Sheila Foster for more information.

## Bigger & Better Jr. & Sr. High (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) Epiphany Sunday, January 4, 10 am

In the past the youth have had an event where they go out and collect many things, mostly from their homes. This year is going to be different. Our young people will set out on foot in groups with the same beginning item. They will then engage people in an opportunity to trade their item 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 because the items' value will be in the eye of the beholder. Judges will still determine the best overall item collected. Contact Sheila Foster for more information. We need adults to chaperone each group.

## Sr. High Youth Overnight Muffin Baking Saturday-Sunday, January 17 – 18

Have you seen the muffin man? We'll gather in the church kitchen to bake muffins for St. John's Annual Meeting. Please sign-up on the clipboard on the Parish Hall participation table. We'll begin by preparing dinner at 5 pm. For more information, or if you are able to be an adult volunteer, contact Sheila Foster.

## "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.*  
Using their 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.

We encourage everyone, regardless of how or when they acolyted, to attend. No prior experience is needed. 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)*

## Adopt a Platoon Intergenerational Event Sunday, January 25

All-parish intergenerational Adopt a Platoon valentine writing will take place in the Parish Hall on January 25 at 10 am. Everyone of all ages is encouraged to help. The more people we have creating valentines, the more we'll be able to send.

## Did you know?

Fall was a busy time of year, filled with many school & extracurricular activities for youth & families. Despite all these demands on their time, the 9<sup>th</sup> graders are very committed in their Sunday morning education attendance, required under the Confirmation Education program. The "word on the street" is that Max Stevenson & Tim Hadley are creating an amazing opportunity to learn, wonder, ask questions, & build community. The Sr. High Youth Education Program (YEP) is for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, who are all invited to attend at 10 am on Sunday mornings. Please make this a priority for the new year.

Jr. High YEP is held concurrently in St. Angelico's Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The leaders are Kelly DeSmet, Bob Peck, & Jen Kobinski. Many of our Jr. High youth haven't attended on a regular basis. This disappoints the leaders as each week they prepare for class and only a couple of youth show up. By not attending education, our Jr. High youth risk not having it be part of their routine when they reach Sr. High. We need to turn this around. It's wonderful to see so many youth attending worship, but attending education is also for growing community & Christian relationships, an opportunity not always found in other settings. Please take advantage of our education ministries, and support our leaders with your attendance. Sheila Foster

## "Souper Bowl" event February 1

St. John's will host a party during the game, and this could be an opportunity to invite friends. If you have great ideas contact Sheila Foster, 651/429-5351 ext. 12 or [Youth@StJohnWilderness.org](mailto:Youth@StJohnWilderness.org).

## Don't Forget these dates

### January

- 4 9 am Epiphany Drama during worship  
10 am The Bigger & Better Treasure Hunt
- 17 Sr. High Youth Overnight (muffins)
- 18 St. John's Annual Meeting  
(all youth attend)
- 24 Diocesan Youth Acolyte Festival  
(St. Mark's Cathedral) through the 25<sup>th</sup>

### February

- 1 8:30 am rehearsal for  
**9 am 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rite of Affirmation**  
4:30 pm "Souper Bowl" Party
- 7 10 am Diocesan Youth Music Festival  
(St. Mark's Cathedral)  
Festival Service begins at 4:30 pm
- 18 5:30 pm Mardi Gras Celebration & Pot Luck  
7pm burning of palms and worship
- 22 6-8 pm possible Sr. High event  
(St. Stephen's Edina)  
special guest speaker & band .
- 25 **7 pm Ash Wednesday Service**  
(no COFTA)

### March

- 18 5:30 pm St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner and 7pm Worship (**no COFTA**)
- 26 Great Northern Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) here at St. John's through the 29<sup>th</sup>

## 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