

# Saint James Parish Newsletter

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**St. James Catholic Church, LindenGrove Communities** and the **Elegant Farmer** all teamed up to hold the “Cookies for a Cause” drive-through cookie fundraiser on December 22 to support the families impacted by the Waukesha Christmas parade tragedy. We were all moved by the tremendous response from our community! Together we raised over \$4,700, with all of the proceeds going to the United for Waukesha Community Fund and the Jackson Sparks family. From the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank all of the volunteers who made this event possible and the Mukwonago community for its generous support.

## Disciples in Action

*Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)*

Catholics are familiar with the Corporal Works of Mercy, including Feed the Hungry and Clothe the Naked. We have food pantries in our neighborhoods, and many charities and government programs work to ensure that our neighbors have enough to eat. We are moved to donate clothing to those in need, especially during the cold winter months. It is useful, however, to consider what “clothe the naked” meant to people in Biblical times. Public nakedness in Jesus’ culture was more embarrassing to the onlooker than to the naked person. Though it may be the opposite in our culture, we can relate to the idea that it is hard for us to look at the suffering of others. It is much easier to look away or shield ourselves from uncomfortable realities such as the poverty of others,

the rate of abortion, or the destruction of war. In raising young disciples, we must encourage our youth to truly see the suffering around us and strive to ease it in any way that we can.

To this end, Disciples in Action service projects invite youth to address the hardships of others in tangible ways. 7th and 8th grade students took up the call to clothe the naked when working with the Council of Catholic Women on the Box of Joy project. Through their generosity and prayers, many impoverished children will receive gifts of hygiene and clothing items, school supplies, and toys to lift their spirits this Christmas. High school students answered the call to feed the hungry by donating bags of food to St. Vincent de Paul just before Thanksgiving, and Confirmation candidates worked with SVDP members to set-up, pack, and distribute the Thanksgiving Baskets to community members who need a helping hand. Thank you to all the students who gave of their time and treasure for these projects.



These **Three Kings** traveled afar going from class to class to show our students their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh! Our 6th grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys had fun playing the part. Children from each class sang *We Three Kings* in a show of support. After classes on Dec. 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> our Faith Formation parents and students in grades K-6 gathered in front of the outdoor Nativity to sing *Away in a Manger*. A perfect way to end the first half of our teaching year!



## Journeying to Joy with the Holy Family

By the time you read this reflection, Christmas will have passed, and we are headed into 2022. We will continue our journey with a focus on discipleship and living the heart of Jesus’ through the Beatitudes.

This Advent we journeyed with Joseph, Mary and Jesus the Eucharist as we prepared our hearts and minds to receive Jesus this Christmas. If you were unable to attend the mission talks, they are available on the St. Theresa Facebook Page.

Deacon Anton shared with us the humility and righteousness of Joseph as both a husband and father. Joseph’s fiat reminds us that like Joseph, our vision of what our life should look like is often rerouted and we too need to trust that God has a plan.

Marge Fenlon helped us contemplate the difference between wondering and waiting. We too worry about the unknown, we let the stories in our head overtake our reason. Mary’s unconditional yes is our example of how to faithfully say yes to God. She was the first person to meet the Son of God. Mary sees Jesus as both son and Savior. We wait for the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise of salvation.

Father Ed brought this full circle as we mediated the mystery of the Incarnation. Fr. Ed pointed out that all the extraordinary circumstances of Nativity are all lessons for us. Imagine Mary and Joseph’s reaction to the stable and trough that they had been delivered to. He suggested that they may have thought:” this is it?” Advent helps us look at our own disillusionments. Advent helps us scrutinize our own relationship with Jesus.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God with Us! God is with us each time we receive the Eucharist. We celebrate the Eucharist to celebrate the incarnation and then are sent forth to live the morality of Jesus. Eucharist started in the manger and continues to nourish our relationship with God from generation to generation.

Lent 2021 we will continue the Journey to Joy with presentations of the Beatitudes and stories from Luke with Emmy award winning actor Frank Runyeon on March 6 & 7. Mark your calendars. We are seeking sponsorship of this event. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

*Renée Hitt, Adult Formation/Parish Life Coordinator*