

Wednesday Summary

Grades 9-11

Overview: Students were presented with what to expect for the year, an introduction to this year's theme, and an exploration of Liturgy of the Hours (also known as the Divine Office).

What to expect this year: We discussed new and continuing programming opportunities, our class formats, and expectations of the students. Detailed information on all of that can be found at our webpage: www.btsje.org/youthwelcome. There is a drop down menu with links to information about our classes, confirmation, service opportunities, prayer experiences, and upcoming events and programs. There is also a page designed specifically for parents. Another way to be kept up to date on the program is to check out our parishes' Facebook page: www.facebook.com/btsje.

Theme: This year's theme for Youth Ministry is: "On a Mission for God." In exploring this theme, we examined what it meant to be on a mission and what the mission of the Church was. We explored the mission Jesus handed out to his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). That simple mission calls us to understand our faith as about more than just us, but rather as a call to share Christ with others. We examined how we can live out this mission. The first step is to encounter Christ, we cannot be on a mission from someone we have no relationship with. Next we have to make the decision to follow Christ. The Gospels are filled with stories of people who met Christ but chose not to follow him, either because they were too busy, they thought they knew better than him, or his message was too much for them. We experience these same obstacles to our call to follow Christ in our day-to-day lives, and must recommit ourselves to this mission everyday. Third we must live out this mission in community, remembering that there is a reason we gather together on Sunday, rather than spend the day alone in prayer. Finally, we are called to go out, to our families, our neighbors, our classmates, our coworkers. Called to be Christ to a world in desperate need of an encounter with him. That is our mission from God.

Liturgy of the Hours: Finally, we ended the night by learning about a fundamental Catholic prayer, Liturgy of the Hours (or the Divine Office). The prayer goes back to the churches Jewish roots and its basic form is practiced by the apostles in the Book of Acts. Liturgy of the Hours "is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer" (uscgb.org). This four week cycle of prayers uses psalms, scripture, hymns, prayers and stories from saints to provide a structured and universal prayer for specific hours of each day. This type a prayer is used extensively by priests and members of religious orders as a way of framing the day around God and prayer. Find out more about Liturgy of the Hours at: divineoffice.org or ibreviary.org.



Service Opportunities Discussed in Class

Family Fall Festival: October 21st, 10am-Noon at Blessed Trinity. Volunteers are needed to run carnival games, an obstacle course, or crafts for elementary and middle schools students. Contact Chris if you are interested in helping.

At Home Mission Week: June 19-21st, base camp is at Blessed Trinity. Set your calendars now to spend three days (10am-7pm each day) with high school students across Sheboygan county helping serve those in need, spending time in prayer and playing fun games. Students are asked to commit to a full day. More info will come out in spring.

Catholic Heart Work Camp: July 15-21st, Pittsburg, PA. Join hundreds of high school students from all over the US in service, prayer and fun as we travel to Pittsburg for our annual mission trip. Registration is due by October 25th, spots are limited and accepted on first come first serve basis.

Mass Connections

Last Sunday's Gospel shared the story of a son who said yes to his father's mission, but declined to live it out. By being members of the Catholic Church we say yes to its mission, but do we truly live it out in our day-to-day lives? What changes must we make in our lives to be able to truly say we're on a mission from God?

Upcoming Classes

Grades 9: Wed. October 11th: 7:15-8:30pm
at St. John Evangelist

Preview Video: <https://youtu.be/gI4XNK9baLU>

Grades 10: Wed. October 11th: 7:15-8:30pm
at St. John Evangelist

Preview Video: <https://youtu.be/g5BQWubuC8g>

Grade 11: Sunday, October 15th: 7:15-8:30
in the Lodge at Blessed Trinity

Preview Video: <https://youtu.be/rms6KePjIz8>