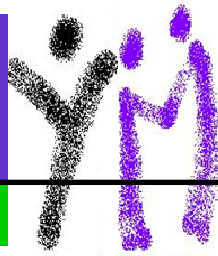


St. William Parish
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Swparish.org
SW Parish Youth Ministry
SW Parish Formation Ministries

Dear Friends in Ministry,

As I write to you today, I am sitting at my computer still feeling exhilarated about yesterday's Confirmation Celebration. There were 96 young people who said their "yes" to the Lord and received the Sacrament. I can see all their faces as they started in procession at the beginning of our Celebration; nervous, anxious, and happy. The words they heard are those that were spoken for them at Baptism by their parents and godparents. They now say "I do" for themselves. When they approached for the blessings of Chrism, they were nervous but happy. They heard their chosen name said and then "be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" and I saw joy and love in their eyes after they received the blessing with the Chrism Oil. This single moment each year lets me know that the Church is truly alive in our young people. I know throughout the year that I am blessed by many moments of individual experience of the Holy Spirit, but this community coming together for this is really Church at its best. My own faith is renewed; God truly gives me strength to start over with the new candidates.

Within this group of young people there is also struggle; a young man who's brother has fought cancer all his life and this round may be his last, a young woman who fights depression and wants to be out and about like her friends, a young man who has taken some wrong turns and is looking for help through a mentor program in the military and a young lady who is still recovering from a bad car accident this January. These are some of the stories I know of but I think of the many more I don't. I know my prayers make a difference, but the prayers of a whole community make a Church. It's the people that we sit next to at Mass that need our prayers. It is the people who don't come every week that need our prayers. It is all the intentions unspoken that need our prayers.

You are an invaluable resource to this community. You may not know those whom you pray for but we know they are in your care. Please keep the people mentioned above in your prayers as well as:

- For all the volunteers of St. Williams that give endless hours to our community.
- For peace and justice in our World.
- That all those that have walked away from their faith will return and be welcomed by a loving, and caring community.
- For all those going on the Mission Trips especially our High School students going to Omaha Ne and Summer Outreach Camp serving the elderly in Waukesha; that serving others may strengthen their faith and our community.
- For those out of work, that they find employment soon.
- For those who are less fortunate, that God may bring them the people and the help they need.
- For our summer travelers, that they have safe and restful vacations.

Peace and Prayers

Barb Gawlik
Director of Youth Ministry