



St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Cecilia Faith Formation are combining resources for ONE amazing youth ministry program in 2013-2014!

## Life Teen Information Night: You're Invited!

*What will the program look like? How can I show my support?*

The Life Teen Core Team will host an information night at Saint Cecilia on Thursday, June 13.

We will have social time in our Gathering Space from 6:30-7pm before we discuss the program mission, structure and opportunities to volunteer from 8-9pm in the church sanctuary.

This event is primarily for adults and parents interested in learning more or lending a hand with youth ministry.

A similar information night will be held at Saint Thomas Aquinas on Thursday, August 8.

*Your support is crucial for our success! We hope to see you there!*

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## *Summer Calendar*

High school and middle school disciples from both parishes are encouraged to participate in our Life Teen & EDGE summer ministry. *All are welcome!*

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**June 19:** EDGE Trip to SkyZone in Grimes

Please register at [stcames.org](http://stcames.org) under "Online Giving" before June 15<sup>th</sup>

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

**June 2:** Drive in Movie, 8:30pm, Saint Cecilia North Lawn

**June 30:** Tropic Sno, 7:30pm, Meet at Saint Cecilia – Our Treat!

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

June 2013

St. Cecilia Church

Rev. James L. Secora, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Marianne Cope

The Year of Faith saint for June is St. Marianne Cope who began religious life as an educator in NY schools. In 1870, she made a significant ministry change and became a nurse-administrator at St. Joseph's hospital in Syracuse, NY, where she was known for accepting social "outcasts" as patients. In 1883, "Mother" Marianne embraced the chance to serve more "outcasts" in the isolated leper colonies of Hawaii. She took on the work of St. Damien de Veuster after his death.



### Alone at last

Every moment of our lives are lived in God's presence whether we are aware of him or not. Take advantage of it and be alone with him as often as possible. Soon you will be able to see him everywhere you are.

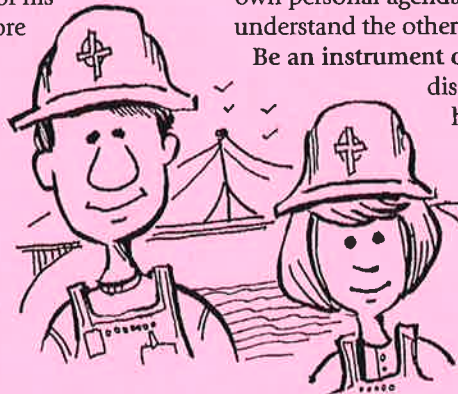
### Evangelize

While we are all to tell others about God, we aren't all gifted preachers. The best way to spread God's love is to live it.



## Wanted: Bridge builders

In Jesus' day, the accustomed action for people who didn't conform to usual standards of behavior was to turn them into outcasts. Jesus showed us another way. He didn't expel sinners but forgave them. In fact, many of his healings helped restore people to their communities. By commanding us to love our enemies, Jesus demanded that we become bridge builders and refuse to recognize anyone as an enemy. As his followers, he wants us to build bridges, not walls.



**Listen without talking.** Building bridges requires understanding others' needs. Listening well is key but can be hard to do. Try starting a conversation and practice just listening. Maintain eye contact and don't plan your response

until the other person has finished speaking.

**Empathize.** Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. It means setting aside your own personal agenda so you can fully understand the other person's needs.

**Be an instrument of peace.** A

disagreement doesn't have to become a conflict. We gain nothing by being nasty or obnoxious. Instead, stick to the facts and be firm but friendly.

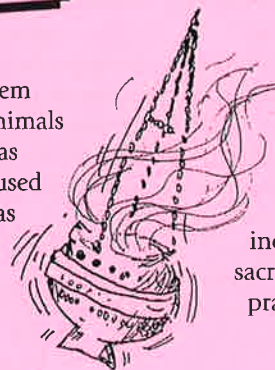
**Avoid gossip and**

**gossips.** This is the most obvious tip but talking about others behind their backs leads to trouble for others and for you. If you are asked about someone else, always find something positive to say.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do we use incense during Mass?

In the temple in Jerusalem in Old Testament days, animals were offered on the altar as sacrifices to God. Priests used incense around the altar as a visual cue to symbolize their prayers rising to Heaven.



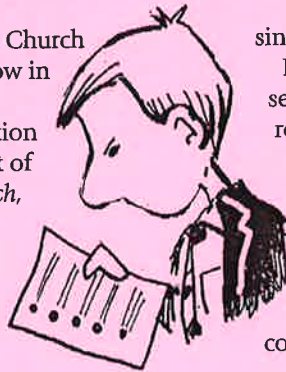
The Mass is the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. The incense reminds us that our prayers are heard by God in heaven. As we watch the smoke of the incense rise, it symbolizes that sacrifice and the rising of our prayers to God.

## Precepts of the Church: a Catholic job description

To help us give God our very best, the Catholic Church has outlined responsibilities that will help us grow in love of God and each other.

**Keep every Sunday holy.** "The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2177). It's vital that we worship God at Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation (unless unavoidably prevented).

**Confess at least once a year.** Few humans can go an entire year without committing a serious



sin. Turn to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Receive Communion at least during the Easter season.** Prepared by the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receive the Eucharist as often as possible but especially during the Easter season.

**Fast and abstain.** To help us control appetites of all kinds, the Church established times of penance when fasting and abstinence help us focus on God.

**Provide for the Church.** To keep our Church healthy and strong, we each must care for her and contribute what we can.

### from Scripture

#### Luke 9:51-62, the cost of discipleship

Jesus' listeners often got swept up by his charismatic manner and professed eagerness to follow him. But they weren't always prepared for what it took to be a true disciple.

In this Gospel passage, a young man asked to follow Jesus but was deflated when Jesus pointed out that he had no home and none of the things considered necessary for a happy life. So it wouldn't always be comfortable to follow him.

The timing wasn't right for the second man. He promised to follow Jesus but



said he needed to fulfill his duty to his dying father first. In truth, Jesus sets the priorities we follow. Our duty is to obey.

Finally, Jesus used the example of plowing a field to make his point. If you look back while plowing it can ruin the job. He used that example to help the third man understand that we need to have a singleness of purpose to be his disciple. We will have to make sacrifices to follow Jesus. But he promises us that the rewards will be worth much more.

### Q & A Is it okay to skip Mass once in a while?

If we remember that Jesus is truly present during Mass – as present as he was to his apostles during the Last



Supper – we would never want to miss Mass. Unless absence is unavoidable, we have the command of God and the command of the Church to attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.

The command of God: The Third Commandment says, "Remember the Sabbath day—keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). Jesus instituted Mass at the Last Supper when he took the bread and wine and turned it into his body and blood and said, "Do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19).

The command of the Church: "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus made Peter the first pope and the head of the Church. The pope speaks for Christ, and the Church through the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#2180) requires that we attend Mass every Sunday.

When Jesus and the Church tell us to do something, we really should do it.

### Feasts & Celebrations

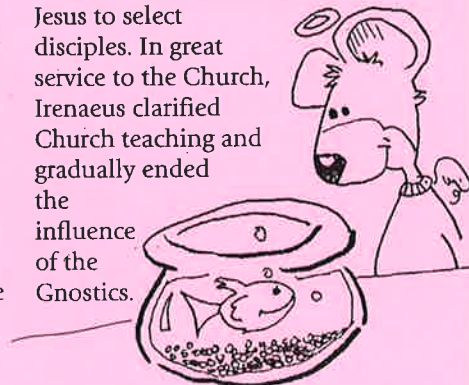
**June 11 - Sacred Heart of Jesus.** The image of Jesus with his heart exposed in unquenchable flame is a reminder of his intense and eternal love for us.

**June 20 - Immaculate Heart of Mary (1945).** In response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942, and initiated this feast in 1945.

**June 21 - St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1591).** St. Aloysius prayed vigorously and fasted from age 7. Upon joining the Society of Jesus, he was ordered to reduce the severity of his penance in order to study and spend time with

other students. He died at the age of 23 while nursing the sick.

**June 28 - St. Irenaeus (220).** As bishop of Lyons, Irenaeus investigated and disproved assertions of the Gnostics who claimed secret knowledge imparted by Jesus to select disciples. In great service to the Church, Irenaeus clarified Church teaching and gradually ended the influence of the Gnostics.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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# Facilities Exploration Committee

## Report on

### Facilities Needs Assessment

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<b>Why</b>	<b>Pastoral Council undertook a three year visioning process. One outcome of that process was the following objective.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Ensure that we have the facilities needed to support our parish ministries and mission now and into the future.</b>
<b>When</b>	<b>The Facilities Exploration Committee was formed in September of 2012.</b>
<b>Who</b>	<b>Over 80 people from the parish have had direct involvement in meetings held by the FEC. Over 360 people responded and gave input as part of the FEC survey.</b>
<b>What was the process</b>	<b>RDG Planning &amp; Design lead us through an analysis of</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>- our needs</b></li><li><b>- our current facilities</b></li><li><b>- what needs to change to meet our needs</b></li></ul>
<b>What is a Master Plan</b>	<b>A master plan is a long range layout of the best way to meet the needs of our Parish on our current site. It includes some general layout of what space can be used to expand the footprint of the current buildings.</b>
<b>How do we know what spaces we need</b>	<b>The process included development of a “Space Program” that lists each and every specific space we need to meet each and every need for each and every Ministry.</b>
<b>What is not happening now</b>	<b>No priorities have been discussed or will be discussed as part of this process. No time frame has been discussed on any building project at this time. Those discussions will be held at some future time.</b>

**The Facilities Exploration Committee has not yet completed its research. A release of the Master Plan Needs Assessment will be made to the parish in July or August. At that time, copies of the detailed Space Program will be available on the parish web site and in the parish office, Be on the lookout for announcements in the coming weeks. If you have questions or comments now, please contact FEC chairman Mark Hanson at 290-8728 or [mark@csroofing.com](mailto:mark@csroofing.com)**