

This Month's Events

Tuesdays, April 12th-June 3rd -
St. Mary's in Meadville - *Jesus and the Eucharist @ 1 pm*. Details at the bottom of this page.

April 12th - St. George Parish -
Coffee with Christ @ 9 after 8 am Mass.

April 16th - All Saints Parish -
Stations of the Cross performed by Faith Formation Youth @ 7 pm

Holy Saturday - Browns Farm, Fairview - *Sunrise Hike @ 6 am* - see pg. 3 for more details.

April 21st - St. Agatha - Praise & Worship Holy Hour @ 6:30 pm.

If you have an upcoming event for April please email me at the contact information listed at the bottom of each page.

Event Photos

Saint Bartholomew Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry



Greetings!

As we conclude the season of Lent and enter into the joy of Easter, we are reminded of the renewal that comes with Christ's resurrection. Easter is a time for transformation, a season that invites each of us to experience a fresh sense of hope and new life. Just as Christ's victory over death brings new beginnings, this is an opportunity for us to reflect on our own spiritual journeys, letting the joy of Easter renew our hearts and minds. It's a time to embrace the peace, joy, and renewal that Easter offers, allowing it to refresh our spirits and deepen our faith. As we celebrate this season, let us carry the hope and new life of Easter with us, sharing that renewal with others in our daily lives.

Alleluia!

THE WORD "ALLELUIA," MEANING "PRAISE THE LORD," IS NOT JUST A JOYFUL PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION, BUT ALSO A CALL TO CARRY THAT JOY INTO THE WORLD. DURING THE EASTER SEASON, THE ALLELUIAS ARE JOYFULLY RESTORED AFTER BEING ABSENT DURING LENT, SYMBOLIZING THE VICTORY OF CHRIST OVER DEATH AND THE NEW LIFE WE RECEIVE THROUGH HIM. AS WE SING OR SPEAK THE WORD "ALLELUIA," WE ARE REMINDED THAT THIS JOY IS MEANT TO BE SHARED, NOT KEPT TO OURSELVES. IT CALLS US TO BRING THE HOPE AND LOVE OF CHRIST TO OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEED OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT. BY LIVING OUT THE ALLELUIA IN OUR ACTIONS, WORDS, AND RELATIONSHIPS, WE BECOME VESSELS OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION, SPREADING HIS PEACE, LIGHT, AND JOY TO ALL WE ENCOUNTER. IN THIS WAY, THE ALLELUIAS OF EASTER BECOME A WAY OF CARRYING THE JOY OF CHRIST INTO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES AND SHARING HIS LOVE WITH THE WORLD.

What's New

Join Us for **"Jesus & the Eucharist"**
Starting right after Easter, we invite all ages to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist through the **National Eucharistic Revival** program. Sessions will be held on **Tuesdays, April 22-June 3, at 1:00 pm at St. Mary's (1085 Water St., Meadville).** Register today by emailing amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org.

Prayer Corner

Prayer for Discipleship and Leadership:

Lord,
Thank You for calling us to be both disciples and leaders. Help us to follow Your example with humility and grace. Teach us to lead with love, integrity, and a servant's heart. May we reflect Your light to others, guiding them on their journey of faith. Strengthen us to lead with compassion, wisdom, and a deep trust in Your will. Through our actions and words, may we inspire others to walk closer to You. Amen.

Reflection Response:

Take a moment to reflect on your role as both a disciple and a leader, and ask for the strength to serve others faithfully.

Video Resources

YAMI - When Youth and Young Adult Ministry Meet.

Kari Janisse starts by discussing two of her favorite ministries—Youth and Young Adults. In this episode, she shares how young adults play a crucial role in witnessing their faith to youth and offers three ways to guide them in this important mission.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5h4evn7E5k>

Catholic Truth - Catholic Youth: How to Reach Them (Part 3)

Looking to connect with Catholic youth? In this video, they share tips on how to engage teens in your ministry. Whether you're a church volunteer, youth group leader, or simply want to connect with young people, this video will help you keep teens involved in the Church and bring those who've drifted away back.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRGtpdPzpDo>

Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry

Leadership Focus

Building Strong Teams for Faith Formation Ministry

A strong team is essential for a vibrant Faith Formation ministry. Effective communication, clear goals, and team-building are key to creating an environment of trust, collaboration, and alignment with the mission. By recognizing each member's unique gifts and fostering a supportive atmosphere, leaders can inspire others and make a lasting impact on those they serve. I invite you to explore these practices and enhance your Faith Formation team. Together, we can strengthen our ministries and grow in faith.



Effective Communication – Is your message being received?

Communication is the cornerstone of effective leadership. Leaders must be clear, compassionate, and active listeners. Open and transparent communication fosters trust, aligns everyone with the mission, and promotes collaboration. Effective conflict resolution also helps maintain strong relationships within the team.

Action Step: This month, practice active listening with your team through one-on-one check-ins. Share your vision clearly and encourage open dialogue. Familiarize yourself with conflict resolution strategies to address any misunderstandings.

Goal Setting & Vision Casting – Are your plans achievable?

Setting clear, measurable goals and casting a compelling vision inspires unity and motivation. Breaking down larger goals into smaller steps creates focus and fosters ownership. Vision casting helps everyone understand the possibilities and feel invested in the mission.

Action Step: Define clear goals for your ministry, break them into manageable steps, and share them with your team. Create a vision statement that inspires and celebrates progress, encouraging ownership and accountability.

Building Stronger Teams – Are you supporting your team?

A successful ministry requires strong, unified teams. Leaders should empower members by recognizing their unique strengths and fostering collaboration. Regular team-building activities and encouraging openness strengthens trust and communication, making the team more effective and engaged.

Action Step: Recognize each team member's strengths and host a team-building meeting to share skills and assign ownership of tasks. Encourage informal gatherings to strengthen relationships and build trust.

Let's take the next step together in building stronger teams and growing in faith!

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Event Photos

St. Michael Youth Ministry



Saints Say

"Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ." – Saint John Paul II

This simple quote serves as a reminder to lead others to Christ boldly. Don't fear the unknown. Don't overthink that event or activity you have planned for your youth or young adults. Don't overthink inviting someone new. Be the door to Christ for others.

What does your door to Christ look like? This could make a great activity where youth could create their "door to Christ" and explain why it invites others to Him.

Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry

Coming Up

Holy Saturday Sunrise Hike - Please join us on Saturday, **April 19th @ 6 am** at **Browns Farm (5774 Sterrettania Rd Fairview, PA 16415)** to contemplate Jesus in the tomb. This is an event for all ages but **those under 18 are asked to attend with an adult**. Don't forget to **bring your rosary, a snack to break your fast and warm clothes**. We will pray Morning Prayer along the trail. This is a great opportunity to reflect and prepare as we enter into the Easter Season. Come join us! **Questions** can be directed to Sarah Beaver at sarah.beaver@olp.org

Heart to Heart: Sacred Saturdays - All are invited to join us **Saturday, May 10th @ 9 AM** for our first-ever **Heart to Heart: Sacred Saturdays**, a **monthly speaker series at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer, PA**. Designed to inspire and deepen our Catholic faith, this gathering brings together parishioners and guests for a morning of prayer, fellowship, and engaging discussions on topics that enrich our spiritual lives. **We will begin with Mass at 9 AM**, before moving to our Church hall for breakfast, a talk on Our Blessed Mother (for the month of May!), and a time of discussion and fellowship. There is **no cost to attend, but we encourage everyone who plans to attend to register at <https://ihmercerc.org/heart-to-heart>** so we can plan to have enough breakfast for everyone!

Papal Missionary of Mercy Guest - **Fr. Jim Sichko** will present a parish mission at **St. Agatha Church in Meadville. May 12-14**. Father Sichko is an engaging speaker who uses storytelling and humor to convey messages on kindness, trust, and leadership. Each evening will begin with the **recitation of the rosary at 6:00pm along with Confessions during the same time**. **The main talk will begin at 6:30pm**. Join us for a social each night after the mission. **Childcare is available in Seton School's gym. All are welcome!**

Forming Intentional Disciples Book Study/Discussion Group - Mark your calendars! **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer, PA** is hosting a **four-week book study on Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell, Saturdays in June (7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th)**. Join us for fellowship and discussion as we explore discipleship and how to live out Christ's call in our daily lives. This is a great opportunity for anyone working or volunteering in their parish, those wanting to deepen their faith, or anyone seeking to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

To participate, please register at <https://ihmercerc.org/forming-disciples/> to receive your book and have time to read it before we begin. Each session will focus on the book's core themes and practical applications for our lives and parish communities. All are welcome!

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Event Photos

St. James Parish Youth Ministry

NCYC

2025

Indianapolis, In

11/20 - 11/22



NCYC Leadership Preparation

As we approach the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), it's vital that we, as leaders, are well-prepared to provide a spiritually enriching, safe, and supportive experience for all participants. Effective leadership requires careful planning, clear communication, and a commitment to fostering a positive environment. To ensure NCYC's success, we must focus on three key areas: communication and promotion, early planning and coordination, and group management and accountability. Below, we outline how to approach each of these areas to lead with confidence and purpose.



Communication and Promotion

Clear, timely communication is essential. Leaders should provide participants and their families with comprehensive information, including event goals, logistics, deadlines, payment schedules, and packing lists. Regular updates will ensure everyone is well-prepared, helping to build confidence and clarity throughout the planning process. Open communication will also address any concerns and maintain readiness for a successful experience.

Early Planning and Coordination

Starting early is key to a smooth NCYC experience. Don't wait until the last minute. Early planning ensures an organized, confident environment where participants can focus on their spiritual journey, contributing to a meaningful NCYC experience.

Group Management and Accountability

Effective group management ensures a successful NCYC trip. Leaders should define roles for chaperones, group leaders, and participants, fostering a culture of respect and support. A clear daily itinerary and set expectations will also guide the group, ensuring a smooth, enriching experience for all.

Resources

Learn about our trip!

<https://www.eriercd.org/youth/ncyc.html>

Register/Ticket Purchase

<https://www.vancoevents.com/us/CXDB>

Donating

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZNWV/campaign/C-159BJ>

About NCYC

<https://ncyc.us/about/>

Heavenly Humor



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