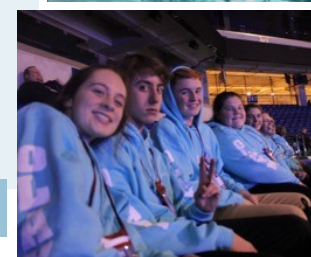
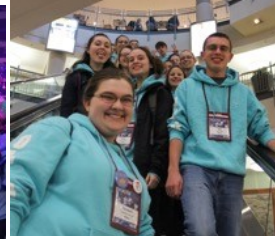
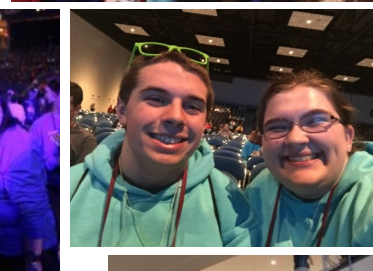
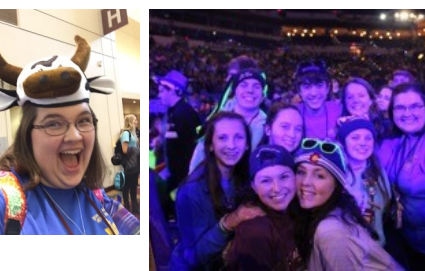
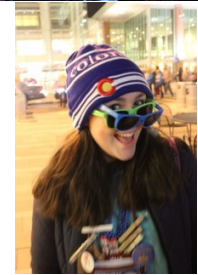
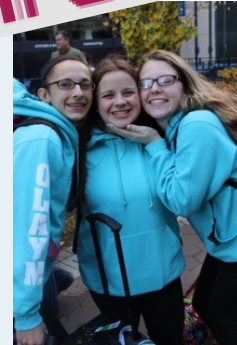


The National Catholic Youth Conference

NCYC



Reflections...

Here I Am, Lord...

As you can see from these smiling faces, the love of God was present every minute. Look for more reflections from our youth in the upcoming bulletins. Thank you to the entire parish for all of your participation in our fundraising activities. Every penny you contributed made this once-in-a-lifetime trip possible for us. Your generosity is beyond measure. Our gratitude abounds!



- Emily Brzac
- Jeffrey Clancy
- Lizzy Conguista
- Lauren Cook
- Erin Curley
- Katie Degan
- Hannah Fitzgerald
- Katrina Manzari
- Jack Murray
- Steven Pardo
- Elizabeth Pegarella
- April Pierson
- Jessica Rucinski
- Tyler Trifaro



Our Lady of the Assumption
 Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
 498 Watervliet-Shaker Road
 Latham, NY 12110
 (518) 785-1605

Advent 2015
 Volume 1, Issue 2

Living in Faith

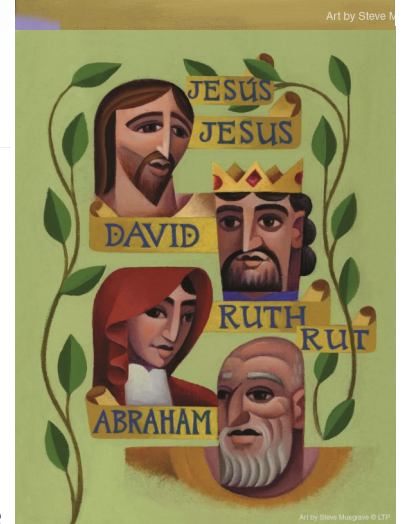
A Newsletter from the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Office

Celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Join us on **DECEMBER 8 AT 7PM FOR MASS AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION** for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This special Mass will be celebrated by the youth of our parish, serving as Lectors, Gift Bearers, Musicians and Ushers.

December 8 not only marks this Holy Day, but also marks the beginning of Pope Francis' Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (December 8, 2015-November 20, 2016). On this day, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, during a Mass marking the Holy Year of Mercy. In the Catholic tradition, the Holy Door represents the passage to salvation; the path to eternal life, which was opened to humanity by Jesus. The Pope wrote, mercy is "the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

In making this announcement, Pope Francis issued an official proclamation, *Misericordiae Vultus* (Latin for "The Face of Mercy"). Why is opening this Holy Door so special? For the last 15 years, this door (and others like it at basilicas and cathedrals around the world), has been bricked up. And at the end of this Holy Year, the door will again be walled off. This door will be open to hundreds of pilgrims, all in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. Entrance through this door is a sign of sorrow and resolve to live a life of faith. Once the door is open, nothing stands between us and the Lord. God is ready and waiting for us. It is up to us to overcome the temptations in our lives and to seek forgiveness for our sins so we can be united with our Father. (*CATECHIST Magazine November/December 2015*)



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Dates to remember!

- December 8—7pm Mass for Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- December 19—9:30am Christmas Story
- December 24—4:30pm and 7:00pm Mass
- December 25—7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am Mass



“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of all people. That is what love looks like.”

— St. Augustine



ST. NICHOLAS PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for the example of St Nicholas, who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned, gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all. May we strive to imitate him by putting you first in all we do. Give us the courage, love and strength of St Nicholas, so that, like him, we may serve you through loving our brothers and sisters. Amen.

—by Amy Welborn

Don't forget to put out your shoes!

Bishop Scharfenberger Celebrates Confirmation at OLA

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, Bishop Scharfenberger confirmed 52 youth and young adults at Our Lady of the Assumption. May the Holy Spirit guide you and bring you great joy in all that you do!



- Sara Sarah Breen
- Emily Therese Brzac
- Joia Rose Canete
- Seamus Michael Carroll
- Rachel Marie Choppa
- Jeffrey Patrick Clancy
- Elizabeth Lidwina Congiusta
- Lauren Maria Goretti Cook
- McKenzie Anne Cunningham
- Erin Amelia Curley
- Payton Tecla Czupil
- Aisha Cecelia Davis
- Katherine Emily Degan
- Jared George Dybas
- Nicholas Louis Fazzino
- Dino Salvatore Ferrarese
- Michael Joseph Ferris
- Hannah Bridget Fitzgerald
- Kailey Paula Foro
- Andrew Thomas Foster
- Rachel Cecelia Fowler
- Cameron Bernard Germaine
- Ryan James Hale
- David Anthony Lansing
- J. James Kilian Lue
- Ashley Therese Maitre
- Christopher Timothy Maloney
- Kerry Anne Maloney
- Katrina Veronica Manzari
- John Thomas McCane
- Brianna Brigid Moran
- Kayla Rose Morris
- John Francis Murray
- Alison Brigid O'Keefe
- Steven Thomas Pardo
- Fallon Marie Parmelee
- Elizabeth Angela Pegarella
- April Elizabeth Pierson
- Ryan Benjamin Piser
- Julianna Kateri Pollicino
- Gregory Matthew Racela
- Garrett Patrick Rexford
- Nicholas James Richmond
- Adam Christopher Shanno
- Cameron Josephine Sher
- Richard John Sitterly
- Lea Lydwina Sposito
- Victoria Bridget Spychalski
- Caitlin Dymphna Sweet
- Ryan Anthony Traficante
- Scott Francis VanEtten
- Michael Francis Woods

What Would Jesus Do?

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Church tells us seven ways we can care for people's bodies and help them feel more comfortable. These are called the

“Corporal Works of Mercy.”

- Feed the hungry.
- Give a drink to the thirsty.
- Give clothes to those who have none.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Visit the sick.
- Visit the prisoners.
- Bury the dead.

The Church also lists seven ways we can care for people's souls and help them feel more peaceful. These are called the

“Spiritual Works of Mercy.”

- Teach those who don't know.
- Correct sinners.
- Give advice to those who are confused.
- Show patience.
- Forgive others.
- Comfort the suffering.
- Pray for the living and the dead.



It's a sock challenge!!!

Do you think we can collect **2016 PAIRS OF SOCKS**? Well, we are going to try!! Join the challenge and bring in **only new** socks to our collection point on the bench next to the Faith Formation Office. All socks will be donated to local shelters!

Celebrate Advent!

November 29 marked the beginning of our new liturgical year and the first Sunday of Advent. How will you and your family prepare the way of the Lord for His coming as our King and Savior? Our homes are at the heart of this preparation, so take a few moments to remember why we celebrate. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Advent wreath:** Create a special family ceremony of prayer as you light the candle for each week.
- The empty manger:** Take time to notice the good deeds each child does. Have your child place a piece of straw in the manger to make a soft bed for the Baby Jesus. Make His bed as comfortable as possible through all the good deeds!

The Christmas Pageant: Join the entire parish community on **Saturday, December 19th at 9:30am** as we bring the story of Christ's birth to life. We will sing familiar Christmas carols and smile with joy as we all await the arrival of Baby Jesus.

