

*Give Thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.
Psalm 107:1*



Inside this issue:

Flame Concert	2
Annual Appeal Donations	2
Catechists with Big Hearts	3
Board and Committee	4
Sight and Sound Experience	4
Upcoming Events	5
Creation Diamante	6
Our Father Posters	7
Annual Retreat Day	8

*Gratitude
to God
should be
as regular
as our
heartbeat.*

Remembering the Goodness of God

The month of November is truly an appropriate time to ponder the goodness of God. As Americans the first thing that comes to mind is the freedom we have to worship God and to praise him for the many blessings that are part of our daily life. We live in a country that is blessed in so many ways.

This year the theme for our Thanksgiving dinner celebration will be "Remembering the Goodness of God." It was a woman I do not know that inspired me to choose this theme. When I read Connie Campbell Bratcher's poem on the internet, I was moved to step back and quietly reflect on the power of her words.



God Gives...

*Peace—in the midst of turmoil
Underlying joy—in time of sorrow
Strength—for today's hardships
New vision—for tomorrow
Calmness—in the storms of life
Grace—in time of need
Love—in the midst of hatred
Charity—in the place of greed
Cheerfulness—where there's gloom
Faith—when there is doubt
Light—in the midst of darkness
Hope—to those without
Healing—where there's sickness
Comfort—in times of grief
Wisdom—to those who ask
Knowledge—to souls who seek
Guidance—to all who'll follow
Instruction—to ears that hear
Rest—to the heavy laden
Security—in place of fear
Salvation—to the lost and perishing
Forgiveness—where there's sin
Life—to the spiritually dead
Purity—within
How could we cease to be amazed
at the Goodness of God?*

As we approach the celebration of Thanksgiving, let us thank God for all the wonderful ways He reveals his goodness to us. A quiet escape from the busyness of our everyday life will allow for time to be amazed at the love God has for his people. We are truly blessed by His goodness. Let us share our blessings with one another.

"Flame" In Concert



October is observed nationally as Disability Awareness month. On October 6th several members of our Religious Education program attended the "Flame" concert at JCC. All of the member of the band are people with disabilities who have a passion for making music and bring joy into the lives of others. This joy was evident in the way the audience responded to what they were hearing. They began to sing along, clap, and dance to the music.

Named for the Special Olympics torch, "Flame" began at a 2003 talent show by an agency that supports people with developmental disabilities. The lead singer, Michelle King, won the contest and after this success she expressed a desire to start a band. The musicians have multiple disabilities including autism, Down Syndrome, blindness, and cerebral palsy, but none of these disabilities hold them back from producing music that delights the hearts of those who attend their concerts.

The talent that was shared by these seven musicians stirred the emotions of all in attendance. Their repertoire includes more than one hundred classic rock, pop, country, and blues songs from the past fifty years, as well as some original compositions. People in the audience could not even remain in their seats because the musical sounds and upbeat tempo just made them want to get up and dance.

From the expressions on the faces of those from our program who attended the show, you can see that they enjoyed this experience. We all agreed that we will be watching for other nearby performances by this delightful and amazingly talented group of people.



Annual Appeal Summer & Fall Donations



Suzanne Williams	\$10	in memory of Thomas Williams
George Grappotte	\$15	in memory of Jane & Sue Grappotte
Mr. and Mrs. James Lafferty	\$25	
June Marzano	\$100	
Linda Piddock	\$25	
Patricia Spaziani	\$25	
Joan Carlo	\$35	

We appreciate your support!





Mission Statement

Jesus' mission on earth was all-inclusive. He desired his Father's love be known and experienced by all.

The Religious Education Program for People with Disabilities provides spiritual enrichment and opportunities for personal growth which nurture their steadfast faith in God.

Revised in June 2016 by the Watertown Catechetical Board



Catechists with Big Hearts

This year we are blessed with nineteen dedicated volunteers who gathered at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph for their annual staff meeting. The catechists discussed the focus for this year's sessions, "Growing in Faith Together."

Our catechists worked hard preparing to share their faith with the participants of the program. During the meeting we set goals for the year in hopes that everyone in our program would continue to grow spiritually and will experience God's love through our time of prayer and faith sharing.

The catechists for this year include:

Friends of Jesus Program: Sr. Norma Bryant SSJ, Amanda Morgan, Julie Gould, Diane Ross, and Anita Henry.

Interfaith Program: Tammy Miller, Alice Busler, Rose VanEpps, Laura Johnson, Patricia Spaziani, Patrick Bates, Colleen Schraenkler, Cathy Chirico, Sandy McKee, and David Liscomb

Outreach Program: Sr. Noel Chabanel Hentz, SSJ (Coordinator), Alice Busler, Nancy Keefe, Sarah Schantz, Sr. Angelica Rebello SCC, Patrick Bates, and David Liscomb

Our catechists value the blessings they receive by ministering with people with disabilities. We are seeing growth in our own spirituality as well as the spirituality of the participants. There is a wonderful spirit within the group. We look forward to our weekly sessions and the fellowship we will share with one another.

As catechists, we are not teachers of a subject, but rather, facilitators of an encounter.





Watertown Catechetical Board Special Religious Education Committee Members 2016—2017



Watertown Catechetical Board



Committee Members

Randy Belina, Sr. Constance Marie Sylver SSJ, Sr. Jackie Sellappan
Msgr Robert Aucoin, Sr. Angelica Rebello SCC.
Back Row: Rev. Jonas Tandayu, Katie DeMarse, Alice Busler,
Sr. Diane Marie Ulsamer SSJ, Elizabeth Bamann, Rev. Steve Murray,
Patrick Henry, and Sandie Butler
Sr. Noel Chabanel Hentz SSJ (photographer)

Virginia Burdick, Patricia Spaziani, Cathy Deline, Patrick Bates,
Nalanie Simpson, Kim West
Back Row: Julie Gould, Francis Scovel, Stephanie Williams,
Sr. Diane Marie Ulsamer SSJ, Alice Busler, Sarah Schantz,
Judy Geng Absent: Janice Phelps
Sr. Noel Chabanel Hentz SSJ (photographer)



Arrived in PA on 10/17/16

Sight and Sound Trip to Lancaster



Buddy System Works Well



Plain & Fancy Restaurant



Shopping stop is a must.



Jeff and Dad pose for a picture



Buddies Tammy and Julia



Riding Hale Bus with a Buddy



Susan and Mom having lunch

Fall Trip to Lancaster

On Monday, October 17th forty-seven travelers boarded the bus in the parking lot at Holy Family Church and headed to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. By 7:45 AM we were on our way to see the production of "Samson." We were all happy to see our bus driver and friend, Jim Cole. We knew we were in good hands with Jim behind the wheel.

At 3:15 we arrived at the Heritage Inn Hotel. We had a couple of hours to unpack and rest before we were to have dinner at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant at Bird In Hand, PA. We were seated immediately and within five minutes our family-style meal was served! The meal was delicious and we all left feeling very full. After dinner we had some time to tour the gift shop for souvenirs before we returned to our hotel.

Tuesday morning we had a delightful breakfast at the hotel. We were back on the bus at 9:30 for the half-hour ride to the Sight and Sound Theatre. We had a little time before the 11 o'clock show to shop for souvenirs and claim our seats. As with any production put on at the Sight and Sound, this show was spectacular. The special effects made it feel like the building was really falling down when Samson toppled the temple pillars.

When we boarded the bus for our return trip home we were given a snack bag of an apple, popcorn, juice box, and granola bar, to hold us over until we stopped for dinner at Cracker Barrel in Binghamton. The staff at Cracker Barrell served us promptly and by 8 PM we were back on the bus for the last leg of our trip. We arrived safely home at 10:15 feeling inspired and tired.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were able to take a valuable lessons from the story of Samson. Among them was that God sometimes chooses flawed individuals and gives them strength to accomplish His plan. Like Samson we must trust that God is always with us.



Upcoming Events

Annual Fall Auction

Benefit to Support People with Disabilities
Special Religious Education Program
Saturday, November 12, 2016
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Gym
320 West Lynde St.

Jaker's LAWN CARE Sponsored by **BARTLETT**
MULCH • SNOW REMOVAL • CLEANUPS | 232-3280

Featuring: Auctioneer Mel Busler
Doors Open -11:30AM for
Early Bird Preview & Ticket Sales
Food & Drinks Available for Sale
Return of Jo Norris' Fried Dough!
Children's Auction 6:00PM
Live Auction Begins 6:30PM

Live Auction

New or Never Even Used Items
Do you have an item you would like to donate to the live auction? Call Mike and Cathy Deltine, 782-4791 or the WCS office 782-0030.

Live Auction Items

Make a bid for a week's vacation at an island on the St. Lawrence River.

Silent Auction

Make a bid on a 2017 membership at the Willowbrook Golf Club

Raffles

Make a bid for a pair of tickets to a Concert of your choice from the 2017 DPAO Concert Series.

Come and have some fun!

50 or more Theme Baskets and Gift Certificates...

Lottery Ticket and Money Tree

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 20, 2016—5:30PM
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Gym

Special Guest Speaker
Rev. Michael Phoenix

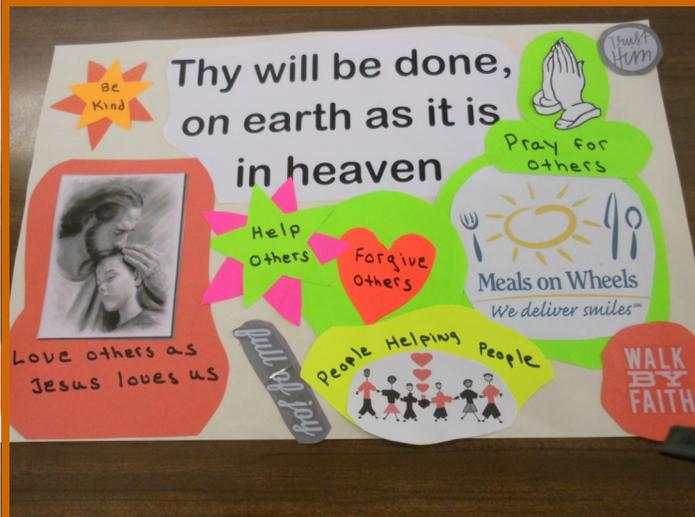
All past and present catechists, program volunteers, Committee and Board members are cordially invited to join us for this special event. Please call the office to make your reservation. (782-0030).

Give thanks unto the Lord,
for he is good: for his mercy
endureth forever.
Psalm 107:1



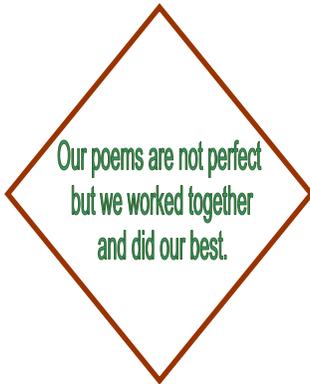
Our Study Of The Our Father

One of our session in September focused on the study of the Our Father. Each small group was asked to choose one of the seven petitions of the Our Father and make a poster that would show the meaning of the petition. Shown below are five of the posters prepared by the Friends of Jesus program and the Interfaith participants. The activity seemed to be a meaningful one. They enjoyed finding just the right pictures to illustrate the what best showed the meaning of each petition. We all have a deeper appreciation of the prayer Jesus taught the apostles.



Diamante Poetry

As part of our lesson on Creation, each group was asked to choose two forms of creation that would be somewhat opposite of each other. They we created a diamante style of poetry following the model shown here. We hope you enjoy the creativity expressed in composing these poems.



Diamante

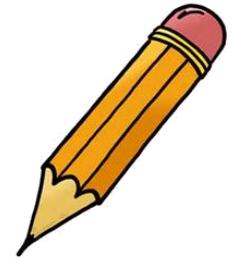
A seven-line, diamond-shaped poem in this form:

Line 1: noun or subject, one word
 Line 2: two adjectives describing the subject
 Line 3: three words ending in -ing relating to the subject
 Line 4: two words describing the subject and two words describing its opposite
 Line 5: three words ending in -ing relating to the opposite
 Line 6: two words describing the opposite of the subject
 Line 7: opposite one word



Lion
 Majestic, proud
 Roaring, snarling, prowling,
 Mane, muscle...Fleece, fluff
 Bleating, leaping, grazing
 Meek, gentle
 Lamb









Cold, Frosty
 Skating, Sledding, Skiing
 Snowflakes, Icicles, Vacation, Cook-out
 Swimming, Fishing, Golfing



Hot,








Elephant

Huge, Grey
 Trumpeting, Marching, Spraying
 Mighty, Trunk, Quiet, Tiny
 Scampering, Squeaking, Munching
 Sneaky, Little

Mouse





Day



Sun, Birds
 Working, Walking, Singing
 Bright, Dogs, Moon, Stars
 Sleeping, Glowing, Praying
 Dark, Twinkle



Night





Mountain

Tall, Rocky
 Rolling, Sheltering, Climbing
 Snowy, Beautiful, Low, Flat
 Surrounding, Growing, Farming

Large, Fertile



Valley



Celebrating Our Faith

On October 29th fifty-one participants and staff joined together for a day of prayer and reflection. After the opening prayer, Father Christopher Looby set the tone for the day by talking to us about the great gift of faith.

The retreat day was held at the SSJ Motherhouse. Sr. Ellen Rose Coughlin SSJ, Theresa Lorence, and Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald SSJ presented sessions throughout the day. We sang praise, talked about caring for creation, and took a walk through the scriptures reflecting ways to follow Jesus that will lead us home to God.

It was a day of celebration, inspiration, prayer, and fellowship. Everyone received a card reminding us that: "Faith is not hoping God can it is knowing He will." We all went home with a joy-filled, grateful, and peaceful heart.

