

**Holy Cross
Catholic Church
Middle School
Youth Ministry**

Contact Jen or Pat Haviland,
Middle School Youth Ministry
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MARK YOUR CALANDER NOW!

*Camp WOW Registration Begins—

Nov. 7, 8AM

*Service Saturday—Nov. 19

*Essay Contest—due Nov. 21 by 4:30PM

*Parents Afternoon Out—Dec. 4

*Christmas Pageant—Dec. 11

Practices: Dec. 5 & 9

*Christmas Caroling—Dec. 21

*Sign Up TODAY for any or all of the
events coming up....

Permission Slips are available online & in
the narthex..

www.holycross-batavia.org

Confirmation Corner

All Confirmation Candidates,

Don't Forget...

Saint Workshop—

November 13th—

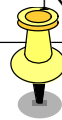
6:30-8:30pm



WHAT'S HAPPENIN'



November / December 2011



A NOTE FROM YOUR YOUTH MINISTER

First of all Happy Thanksgiving and may you have a fruitful Advent and a Blessed Christmas!

As you have probably heard on the first Sunday of Advent the changes to the English translation of the Roman Missal will be started at Mass. Many of you have had questions about why these changes are needed and what it will mean for us in the pews. Let me first start out by saying that the Mass will not change. The Eucharist is still Jesus' body and blood, the Consecration is still when the bread and wine become our Savior. However, you will notice many differences in the prayers and responses said throughout the Mass. Why? You ask...Because just like many areas of our lives it's an opportunity to make the prayers even better! A speaker I heard up in Rockford shared a story of the late Great Pope John Paul II sitting down and looking at ten different language translations of the Roman Missal, and asking why they were not all the same considering that it was all from the same Missal that they were translated. This is why the changes are being made, so that we can be as close to the original Latin text as possible considering the limitations of our English language.

So often (speaking of myself as well as others) we "zone out" during Mass because it is the same prayers which we have been praying since birth. This new translation is truly going to be an opportunity for each of us to "tune back in" and refocus our attention on the beauty and power of the Holy Mass! I ask each of you to not only learn these new prayers, but to study them and refocus on the meaning and why we pray them. What an awesome gift we are being given at a time when our world so needs the power of prayer!

I encourage you to look at Mass as not just something that happens on Sunday, but to truly take time during each week to prepare for the reception of the Eucharist. As I talk to many middle schoolers about all the different activities they are in I hear about how they have sports practice many nights a week, music practices, dance rehearsals, etc. I ask you to think about your "practice" for what hopefully is the most important part of your week—receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Do you spend time in prayer? Do you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as often as you could? My question is...would you go to that soccer game without attending practice? Would you perform in a dance recital without taking dance classes? Would you get up on stage for a choir concert without going to choir rehearsal? How much more can we and should we prepare for Mass and for receiving our Lord and Savior? Let this new change in the wording of our prayers be an opportunity for us to grow in our faith and our love of our Savior and His Church.

While I know it will take awhile to adjust and feel comfortable with these changes, I encourage you to Seize the Day—Carpe Diem!

Turn over for more great events and information!



SERVICE DAYS

Are you looking for ways to make a difference in the lives of those around you? Are you in need of service hours?

God needs your service right here in Batavia!

Saturday, November 19th : 9:00 AM–noon

We will meet at Church and head out for some fun service to those in need in our community.

Raking, outdoor sprucing up, indoor small jobs etc.

Wednesday, December 21st 5:30-8:30PM

Christmas Caroling at nursing homes and homes of elderly and shut-ins.

Dress in weather appropriate clothing, bring water, and we'll provide you with an opportunity to serve.

This is a family focused service opportunity. All ages welcome!

*Permission forms on parish website.

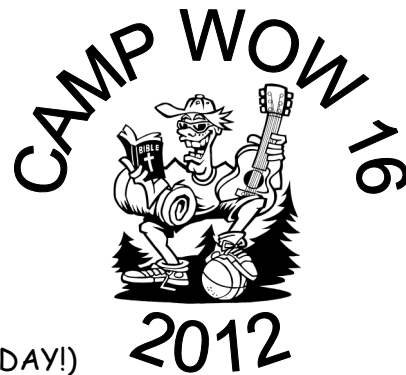
CAMP WOW REGISTRATIONS WILL BE
ACCEPTED STARTING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th!

Don't miss out! Information and registration forms are available in the Narthex and on our parish website.

(SIGN UP EARLY—LAST YEAR'S SPOTS FILLED IN 1 DAY!)

NOTE: Registrations will not be accepted before 8am on Nov. 7th.



2011 Maryknoll Student Essay Contest

Theme: Jesus and Bullying

Assignment: Bullying is a serious problem among young people today. Tell a story of how you or someone you know experienced bullying. Then explain how you think Jesus would tell all those involved to handle the situation.

Rules: Students in grades 6-8 (Division I) and grades 9-12 (Division II) qualify. Entries must be typed and double spaced. The length should be between 500-700 words. Spelling and grammar count. On the top of the first page all entries must include students name, grade, parish name, address, and phone number, youth ministers name (either Jen or Pat Haviland), and Division I or II.

Entries must be received by 4:30PM on Monday, November 21 at the parish office.

Prizes: Holy Cross prizes (per division): 1st-IPod Shuffle, 2nd- Funway passes, 3rd-Movie pass
Maryknoll Missionaries (per division Nationally): 1st-\$1000, 2nd-\$300, 3rd—\$150

*Note: Winning entries may be submitted to the Observer as well as printed in the Maryknoll magazine.

PARENTS' AFTERNOON OUT!

Do you like to babysit? We are looking for volunteers to help watch children from the parish for an afternoon. Do you have younger siblings that would like to come play while your parents head out for an afternoon of Christmas shopping? Look no further... WE NEED YOU! No experience necessary!

When: Sunday, December 4th from 1:00—4:00PM

Where: At the Church

What to bring: You, your friends, & your younger siblings

Cost: This is a free event for the entire parish.

(We will not be charging for babysitting either!)

R..S.V.P to the youth ministry office at (630)879-4751 ext. 111 or to
jenhaviland1@aol.com

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2011

We need your help to create the "Peaceful Christmas Pageant" for our youngest R.E. children. We have many parts for you to play to help the children understand the miracle of Christmas.

The Pageant will be performed on Sunday, December 11 at 9:45 a.m.

Practices will be held on Monday, December 5 &

Friday, December 9 from 5:00-6:15 pm.

If you are interested please contact Jen Haviland A.S.A.P.

This is a great way to prepare your own hearts during Advent.



The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:30)