

FAMILY FAITH EVENTS: OUR JOURNEY

**How we grew some family faith events in our parish
and what we learned along the way**

ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH, BALDWINSVILLE, NY



WHY DID WE DO THIS?

- Re-thinking how we “connect” w/ our people.
- Relationship building
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1x30vbCMdgw&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://www.lifelongfaith.com/>
- <http://www.familiesatthecenter.com/>

HOW DID WE GET STARTED?

- **Build on what your parish already does WELL.**
- **Keep pastor in the loop! Critical to event success!**
- **Work TOGETHER. Match people's gifts w/tasks.**

HOW DID WE GET VOLUNTEERS?

- **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!**
 - **Emails, texts, one-on-one conversations**
 - **Bulletin announcements, Constant Contact weekly email**
 - **Facebook, instagram, twitter**
 - **Posters, Outside banners**
 - **Snail mailing to families**
 - **Meeting invitations always included mention of food!**

HOW DID WE CHOOSE THEMES?

- Themes built around seasons of the Church year
- We attempted to keep things simple the first year by working with pre-existing events, like the Pet Blessing.

HOW WERE PARENTS ENGAGED?

- Parents/grandparents attended with their children/grandchildren and participated with them.
- Some students volunteered with their parents/grandparents!
- Families were invited to church the following Sunday for cake and to watch the campout video after Mass.

OUR EVENTS

Summer 2017

Get S'More Jesus Campfire Evening

September 2017

Back to School Blessing/Prayer Rocks

October 2017

Pet Blessing/Feast of St. Francis

December 2017

Night in Bethlehem

May 2018

Bible Blast/Family Fun Night

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS OCTOBER 2017



EVENT PICTURES



EVENT PICTURES



WHAT WE FOUND WORKS

- It is good to have an event leader who can be the point person/delegate tasks.
- It is helpful to match people's strengths with tasks.
- Being Open to Last-minute walk-ins is important.
- Hospitality and Flexibility are key!
- Many people who volunteered just wanted to help out in some small way! "Many hands makes light work."
- Lots of Programs in a Box are good!

WHAT WE FOUND DOES NOT WORK SO WELL

- An event planned for Grades K-5 may be too long for younger siblings. Shorter time for preschoolers.
- It was difficult to stay motivated in planning during the busier times in our church year (Advent/Lent).
- Some people who were matched with tasks were not always a good fit and needed re-direction occasionally.
- Follow-up data and updating materials on our Family page are still not our strongest points.

HOW HAS THIS MADE A DIFFERENCE W/FAMILY FAITH?

- A number of the families who attended our Family Faith Events this year are in church on the weekends and bring their children to Faith Formation classes.
- Our parish members who have been a part of these events have helped to build community and grown the spirit of faith in our parish as well as in their own households.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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