



The Parish Covenant Corner

A weekly look at how our faith community is living out the Parish Covenant and growing in our relationship with God.

“ I will make a covenant of peace with them...

I will be their God and they will be my people.”

(Ezekiel 37:26-27)

Our Family feels it is important to Live Jesus and continue to grow our faith on many levels: as individuals, as a married couple, as a family and as part of a larger community

Individual Journey

My husband and I each take private time to pray and read our Bibles and are each involved in Bible study groups. Our children are on their own spiritual journey through their religious education, and our oldest daughter, Lauren, just started participating with the “Sing Out” children’s choir.

Marriage Enrichment

When we entered into marriage, we were told it takes three: husband, wife and God. We try to nurture and grow that relationship by not only worshiping and praying together, but by living out our faith together as well. We first participated in “Date Your Mate,” with the cluster group about three years ago. We’ve since continued with this group, where we have been sharing a new Catholic book on marriage by attending a monthly group ‘date’ and fellowship night with other married couples. It has been a wonderful bonding opportunity with a faithful focus.

Dave and I also serve as a FOCCUS couple through our home Parish of St. James. This year we helped three couples prepare for marriage, and we hope to have a long tenure in this ministry. Although we are ministering to others, we reap the added benefit of developing and strengthening our own marriage.

Faithful Family

Each day prayer is an important part of our family life, before meals and bedtimes as well as making the sign of the cross on each other’s forehead before leaving the day as a blessing. It is our custom to end our bedtime prayers by asking each other what we are thankful for in that day.

We also participated in the GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) program at St. James for the past two years. It is an inter-generation Christian Formation program that provided us with the opportunity to participate in faith-based activities and learn more about our faith together as a family. Our children always looked forward to our “family day at church class.”

Reaching Out

And together, we all try to reach out to our church and greater community though volunteering and giving. I have served as a Christian Formation teacher and organizer for Vacation Bible School, David is an active member of the St. James St. Vincent de Paul Society, and we work as a family to donate to the Sussex Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Holiday giving tree, St. Mary holiday gift baskets, and other opportunities where we are given the chance to “Live Jesus” and learn that giving is truly the best gift we can ever receive.

Lisa, David, Lauren, Leah & Sydney Topp