

MISSION POSSIBLE: DETROIT
AUGUST 6-11, 2017

Having FUN in the "D"!



A mission experience for youth and young adults (7th grade and above)

2 ways to participate:
Stay for the entire week OR
Adult/student pairs can commute for 1, 2, or 3 days

For information and to register, go to:
www.edomi.org/yaya/mission-possible-detroit




Congratulations!

Cat has the honor of being the only YAC Member graduating high school this year and we couldn't be prouder or happier for her! Cat is planning to attend West Michigan University to study Industrial and Mechanical Engineering!

Hooray for Cat!

Elijah Samuel, grandson of Indira, joined St. Stephen's for confirmation last year. He is graduating from Bloomfield Hills High School, and will be attending Wayne State University in the fall. Elijah also wants to focus on Engineering, in his case biomedical or aerospace engineering.

What impressive plans our graduates have! We wish them every success, with God's blessings!



THE CORE

A (cool) monthly info sheet of what's going on with children, Rite-13ers, J2As & YACs at St. Stephen's

Issue 122

JUNE 2017

WEEKEND VBS ADVENTURE 2017

June 30, July 1 & 2

Miracles OF FAITH

Friday @ 5:30—Sat & Sun 9am to Noon

Register at church or online at ststephenstroy.org

GOT QUESTIONS? KEN FUHR
 (248) 894—2614 or formation@ststephenstroy.org

The Last Word

On Sunday, June 4th, the biblical event was kind of a classic—Pentecost. As a PK, (Preacher’s Kid, for those who don’t know what that is!) it’s pretty much right up there for me along with like, Christmas and Easter, maybe Palm Sunday. Now unfortunately, Kate and I couldn’t be in the back not paying attention this week, but if for some reason you zoned out, it’s the one where hair catches on fire, there’s a big ol’ prayer meeting, and for some reason everyone nearby graduated from Rosetta Stone all at once and decided to show off their skills. It’s Pentecost. Kind of important.

Now in the readings, people started “speaking in tongues, worshipping God” and whatnot. But like, ok, that’s weird, right? Am I the only one who finds it strange that everyone was just like, “you know what I want to do? Speak Swahili” and the Holy Spirit goes “yup sounds good!” That’s bizarre. I’ve been taking French in school for 2 years now and I don’t think I could order in a restaurant.

For this reason, I like to think of it as those people started worshipping God in their own ways, each with their different “tongue”, which, to me, means something like a passion, or a skillset. If that’s the case, then I don’t think we ever really stopped. We may not have burning fire on our heads like Hades from Disney’s *Hercules*, but the Holy Spirit is for sure still with us, and it’s still allowing us to “speak in our tongues”.

My “tongue,” as you may be able to tell, is music. I consider myself blessed by the Holy Spirit to be



able to sing out the good news, to proclaim my faith through song, or, like our introit, dance, or guitar. I express my spirituality in tandem with my musicality.

This is absolutely not the only tongue the Holy Spirit uses, though. All the wonderful ministries and works going on not only in St. Stephen’s but the national and global Church are tongues; they’re ways for us, as Christians, to express our faith and our love of God. Whether it’s helping out during SOS (which, by the way, has sign up sheets in the gathering area), teaching Sunday School, going to Sunday School, coming to bible study at Kirby’s Coney Island, partaking in Crafting Kindness, acolyting, going to camp, singing in the choir, coming on mission

trips, even doing those emergency trips to Kroger or Tim Hortons when no one has signed up for Coffee Hour. We’re building our community and, thus, building our faith.

That was kind of Jesus’ whole point in his little shpiel last week, wasn’t it? He wanted the disciples to build the church, to build a community. Safe to say, they achieved that goal, as we’re all gathered here today in His name. The *tongues* all of those people experienced were ways that they, as a community, communicated their faith and their Good News. What’s the difference between their funky languages and our expression through our passion and our compassion? We’re all building a community through Christ, we’re all showing our faith, we’re all in some way or form spreading the Good News, even if it’s nothing more than grabbing a cup of coffee and sharing a conversation with someone during Fellowship Hour.

My point, for those who have zoned out again, is that we, as the Christian community, have inherited through our baptism the Holy Spirit. With that Spirit comes - I don’t want to say *responsibility*, but a *charge* from Jesus to share the good news and build and strengthen a community; not just in Troy, Michigan, but in the world. It’s surprisingly easy to do so, even just showing up to our *incredible* parish picnic following the service will do the job pretty well. As long as you have and profess your faith, you’re doing a pretty bang-up job at your duty as a person of faith, at least in my eyes. And, I’m betting, the Holy Spirit’s.

Emily Williams

And this is the last word!

Got anything to say! Say it here!

JUNE CALENDAR

SUN, JUNE 4—10 to 11:30 am..... Youth Sunday & Church Picnic
 SUN, JUNE 11— No Sunday School
 FRI, JUNE 16— 3 pm J2A Urban Adventure
 SAT, JUNE 17— J2A Urban Adventure
 SUN, JUNE 18 J2A Urban Adventure
 SUN, JUNE 18 to MON, JUNE 26 YAC Mission Trip

The Last Word

C'mon all you young folks—do you have a last word? A piece of St. Stephen's trivia. An Observation about the fogies? Or about the youth? This is the spot—have the last word. Send to witness@ststephenstroy.org

ALL YOUTH EVENTS ARE ON THE ONLINE CALENDAR!!! Go to www.ststephenstroy.org and check out the ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH EVENTS Calendar. You can also check out the calendar for your interest group (e.g. children events, Sunday School events, Rite 13 events, etc.)

Here's who's who!

- Children** PreK-6th graders aka the light of the world and the pride of our parish
- Youth** Anyone who is Rite 13, J2A or YAC (see below)
- Rite 13** 7th & 8th grade. Welcome to your first youth group. It is the beginning of the making of life-long memories .
- J2A** 9th -10th Graders -get ready for two of the most amazing years of your life - God is going to WOW you!
- YAC's** Young Adults in Community 11th -12th graders - aka the occupants of the fishbowl room.
- YACYM** the oldie fogies who plan activities for all of the above
- GOD** In charge of it all

