



# Explore Four Parish Events

Our Explore Four program helps families explore the Four Pillars of our Faith: Creed (We Believe); Sacraments (We Worship); Prayer (We Pray); and Christian Living (We Live). Please choose four events to attend and answer the attached reflection questions with your child(ren) for each event.

**All events listed below are free, family-friendly events, and children of all ages are welcome!**

## 2019-2020

**Sept 8: Mass & Ice Cream Social** (9:30am and or 11:00am)

**Sept 15: Kinderfest** (12pm-3pm, church parking lot)

**Oct 5: Parish Service Day** (8am-12pm, church hall)

**Oct 1, 2, 3, 6: Living Rosary**  
(during class time, grades 1-6)

**Oct 6: Life Chain** (2pm-3pm, Route 30, New Lenox)

**Oct 26: Marian Procession** (6:15pm-7:30pm, church and parking lot)

**Oct 23: St. John Vianney Play** (7pm, church)

**Oct 30: Trunk or Treat** (5pm-7pm, church parking lot)

**Nov 5, 6, 7, 10: All Saints Celebration**  
(Grades K-3, during class time)

**Nov 23: Advent Festival** (9am-10am, Franciscan Rm)

**Dec 4: Advent Reconciliation** (7pm-8:30pm, church)

**Dec 5: Advent Movie** (6pm-8:30pm, church hall)

**Dec 13: DIY Christmas Concert** (7pm, church)

**Jan 22: Pro-Life Holy Hour** (12pm-1pm, chapel)

**Jan 7, 8, 9: Eucharistic Adoration**  
(During class times)

**Mar 5: The Passion Movie** (6:30pm-9pm, church hall).  
\*Please note this movie is rated R for violence.

**Mar 8: Lenten Reconciliation Service**  
(1pm-3pm, church)

**Mar 16: Family Movie Night** (6:30pm-8:30pm, church hall)

**Mar 22-24: Parish Mission** (7pm-8:30pm, church)

**Apr 9: Holy Thursday Liturgy**  
(7pm-9pm, church)

**Apr 10: Good Friday Prayer Service**  
(3pm-4pm, church)

**May 3: Family Mass, May Crowning, Cupcake Potluck** (11am, church)

## Recurring Family-Friendly Events

**First Friday Confessions & Mass:** 10/04, 11/01, 12/06, 1/03, 2/07, 3/06, 4/03. Confessions from 6pm-7pm, Mass at 7pm.

**First Saturday Confessions & Mass:** 10/05, 11/02, 12/07, 1/04, 2/01, 3/07, 4/04. Confessions from 8:30am-9:30am, Mass at 8am.

**Stations of the Cross:** 2/28, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/03, Fridays in Lent at 7pm. 3/06 and 4/13 at 7:30pm.

**Donut Sundays:** 9/22, 10/13, 11/10, 12/08, 1/12, 2/02, 3/08, 5/05. After all morning Masses on the dates listed above.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Wednesday from 8:30am-6:30pm. Stop by the chapel for a few minutes of prayer!



## **Explore 4 and win a gift card for your family!**

All families who complete the Explore 4 reflection sheets will be entered into a drawing to win one of the following gift cards at the end of the year: \$25 Nancy's Pizza, \$25 Two Hearts Book store, \$25 AMC Theater.



# Explore Four Parish Events

Parents, any adult program will count towards your child's explore four expectations. We believe that the formation and spiritual growth that you will experience from any event or program at St. Mary will benefit the spiritual life of your family. As parents, the closer you grow to Christ and learn about your faith, the more tools and knowledge you will have to help your child(ren) learn about and grow in their faith.

## Events for Adults 2019-2020

All events below are free!

**Sept 14: Oktoberfest** (6pm-12am, church hall & parking lot)

**Oct 19 & 20: Women's Welcome Weekend Retreat** (call parish office for more details)

**Nov 7: Young Adult Adoration**  
(7pm-8pm, chapel)

**Nov 10: Bonnie Engstrom** (11am, school gym)

**Nov 19: Documentary on Purgatory**  
(7pm-8:30pm, church hall)

**Dec 3: Women's Advent by Candlelight**  
(6pm-8pm, church hall. Tickets event)

**Dec 6: Young Adult St. Nicholas Party**  
(7pm-9pm, church hall)

**Dec 19: Advent Evening of Reflection**  
(7pm-7:30pm, chapel)

**Feb 29: Men's Retreat**  
(call parish office for more details)

## Recurring Events for Adults

**Bible Study on Mark:** Wednesdays, September 18th through April 1st at 7:30pm in the church hall. Thursdays, September 19th through April 2nd at 9am in the church hall.

**Men's Ministry Mornings:** 9/21, 10/26, 11/16, 12/21, 1/18, 2/22, 3/28. From 8am-10:30am, starting in the church and ending in the church hall.

**Holy Spirit Prayer Gatherings:** 9/13, 9/30, 10/11, 10/28, 11/08, 11/25, 1/27, 2/24, 3/13, 3/30, from 7pm-8:30pm in the chapel.

**Women's Ministry Mornings:** 9/28, 11/30, 2/01. From 8am-10:30am, starting in the church and ending in the church hall.

**Mom's Group:** 9/17, 10/29, 11/27, 12/06, 12/10, 12/17. Children welcome. 9am-11am, church hall.

**You may also choose to learn about a devotion and pray it together as a family.**

### 1. Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids

Explanation and Prayer (18 minutes)

<http://www.ewtn.com/tv/kids/thedivinemercychapletforkids.asp>

Suggested for children up to 3rd grade

### 2. Sophia Institute, The Eucharist & Confession

(2 separate videos, 7-8 minutes each)

**A. Title "Sophia Sketchpad: Confession"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDyMHg8HkSE&t=3s>

**B. Title "Sophia Sketchpad: The Eucharist"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcB7Uem00n4&t=53s>

Suggested ages: Recommended for 3rd grade and older

### 3. Explanation of how to pray the rosary

Parents-read one of these short blogs and discuss with your children WHY Catholics pray the rosary.

<https://blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit/why-pray-the-rosary> OR

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/why-do-catholics-pray-the-rosary/>

Then, together as a family, pray the rosary using this Youtube video as a guide if needed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaZgs7GadCc>

**Title: EWTN Kids Pray the Rosary; Sorrowful Mysteries** (22 min). Suggested for all ages.



Please note that all dates and events listed on both sides of this handout are subject to change. Please confirm event information with the parish website, bulletin, or religious education office at 708-326-9350. Additional reflection forms can be printed from the RE website at <https://www.stmarymokena.org/parish-life/religiously>.

## Explore 4 Reflection Sheet

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

List names of members who attended  
this event: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. How did this event help you grow in your faith or connect you to the community?

2. What is one thing you learned at the event?

3. Describe your experience:

4. Other comments:

Please return completed forms to the religious education office.

## Explore 4 Reflection Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did this event help you grow in your faith or connect you to the community?
2. What is one thing you learned at the event?
3. Describe your experience:
4. Other comments: