

# The Rock

S A I N T A N N E ' S Y O U T H G R O U P

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Confirmation 2011
- Girls' Nights
- Dante Schmitz

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Girls' Nights	2
Youth Group Meetings	2
Dante Visits Junior High	2
Upcoming Events	3
Bowling	3
Painting the BYC	3
Youth Member Spotlight	4

**C O N F I R M A T I O N – M A Y 2 1 , 2 0 1 1**

Nine high school students from St. Anne's Church went through Confirmation Preparation at the Brady Center this past Winter and joined 27 others from parishes in LPA's 15 & 16 in the Diocese of Richmond. Bishop DiLorenzo was the main celebrant and St. Anne's hosted. Deacon Chris Hess was also in attendance assisting the Bishop and the celebration of the Mass.

Spencer Kirchen, John Hanlon, Matthew Bradley, Claire Steckel, Laura Masters, Wes Faylor, Cristin Freeman, Taylor Hall, and

Katie Curcio all completed the required hours of Con-



**John Hanlon and Matthew Bradley, two of St. Anne's Confirmandi, prepare to carrying up the offertory at the Confirmation liturgy. Servers Tyler Despard and Benjamin Fitton, members of St. Anne's Youth Group, lead the offertory procession.**

firmation Preparation through St. Anne's and received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Audri Easterling, also a member of St. Anne's, re-

ceived Confirmation this year too.

Thank you to our youth members: Taylor Hall for lectoring, Matthew Bradley and John Hanlon for taking part in the offertory procession, and Spencer Kirchen for being Cross Bearer. Thank you also to Tyler Despard, Ben Fitton, and Abby Hobbs for serving and to Thad Branch for volunteering.

A particular thank you to Mr. Tom Hanlon for doing a great job assisting with Confirmation preparation. His help was extraordinary and much appreciated.

**N E T R E T R E A T – M A R C H 3 1 , 2 0 1 1**

Over 20 youth members from St. Anne's and the Region joined us at St. Anne's Church for a retreat conducted by the NET Team. NET is a group of young adults from around the United States that are very active in their Catholic Faith and seek to spread the mes-

sage of Christ to teens throughout the country.

While the retreat was particularly directed towards students preparing for Confirmation, it was open to all students in Grades 7-12. The evening consisted of Mass, Reconcilia-



tion, prayer, skits, and discussion time.

We had a great turnout and the teens enjoyed the retreat!

## YOUTH GIRLS' NIGHTS - APRIL 2011

During the month of April, youth group girls in grades 7-12 were invited to attend "Girls' Nights" on Wednesday Evenings.

The scheduled events were intended to provide girls a platform in which to discuss particular issues that modern Catholic women face in the world today.

A special Thank You to Tina Kaul for volunteering and

helping to make Girls' Nights possible, and to Monica Hall for her willingness to present her Mary Kay products and education on proper women's skin care. The girls were also offered opportunities in creative art.

One of the highlights of this mini-program was the Self-Defense class overview. Det. Danielle Eller from the Bristol, TN Police Department generously agreed to provide

a condensed class to cover basic elements of Self-Defense and to talk to the girls about the invaluable importance of Self-Defense, especially to those girls who will soon be attending college. A special Thank You to Det. Eller for volunteering her time. She also offers a full RAD course spanning over several weeks. Our high-school girls really benefitted from the class!!



**Det. Danielle Eller speaks to St. Anne's youth group girls on the importance of Self-Defense**

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING AT OUR MEETINGS

*"Mary is the sure path to our meeting with Christ. Devotion to the Mother of the Lord, when it is genuine, is always an impetus to a life guided by the spirit and values of the Gospel."*

~ Pope John Paul II, in Ecclesia in America ~

This past Spring we concluded the *Theology of the Body for Teens* series with the Senior High and similar related topics with the Junior High Youth Groups.

As a special activity for Lent and the Easter Season, both the Junior and the Senior High had the opportunity to watch the movie *The Gospel of John*, which is a dramatization of the Gospel of St. John and goes word-for-word through the gospel without adding or

detracting from the text. As an activity aligned with the movie, the Junior High youth were each given a character present during Christ's Passion and Death and they had to write out a possible life context for that person after they encountered Jesus.

The Senior High watched the movie and we paused it at various points for discussion and to look at various Biblical commentary. This helped them to dive deeper into the

Gospel and to encourage spiritual participation with Christ during Holy Week.

More recently, we discussed the Beatification of Blessed John Paul II and how he is intimately connected with Divine Mercy Sunday. We talked about his incredible life and how we are all called to exemplify his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary— particularly during the month of May which is dedicated to Mary.

## ACCLAIMED MUSIC ARTIST, DANTE SCHMITZ VISITS THE JUNIOR HIGH - MARCH 2011

Dante Schmitz, an acclaimed pop-artist from Tulsa, OK who also writes Christian music, made a journey to the Tri-cities to put on a concert at St. Mary's in Johnson City, TN. Dante is married and has a son, but still finds time to travel and perform for other major events such as

the Catholic Heart Work Camp (with which he has traveled around the United States) and the Nation Catholic Youth Conference, the Ultimate for JC Fest near Pittsburgh, PA and has various pop gigs throughout the Tulsa, OK area and other surrounding areas.

Dante visited the Junior High Youth Group as a surprise during the regularly scheduled Junior High Youth Meeting (Sunday mornings throughout the school year). He sang a few of his newer songs and handed out free CD's!



**Dante Schmitz sings and speaks to St. Anne's Junior high Youth Group**

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S



**(Youth from all over the Diocese gather for the  
DYC July 2010)**

We have many exciting opportunities:

**Wednesday June 1:** Rafting Day Trip to Watauga Kayak, Elizabethton, TN

**June/July:** Service opportunity to work with youth with disabilities through River's Way. The location will be at Sugar Hollow each day from 8:30am-2:30pm. Talk to Bridgette for more information or to sign up for some or part of the time. This event opportunity is particularly for mature teens open to being changed through their experience.

**Saturday July 16:** Carwash Fundraiser

for the Youth Group.

**July 29-31:** Seven youth registered for the Diocesan Youth Conference week-end which will be in Richmond. The teens will be staying at the Hilton for two nights and will have lots of fun and spiritual activities. This will also give them an opportunity to meet other Catholic youth from around the diocese!

**August 7:** Mass at 10:30am and Brunch for Graduated Seniors entering Freshman year of college.

P A I N T I N G   T H E   B R A D Y   C E N T E R   A N D  
Y O U T H   B A N D   N E W S

We finally have begun painting the inside of the Brady Youth Center!! Several of our youth attended the Parish Family Night in May and started priming the walls. This project will continue through the Summer months and at the next Parish Family Night and hopefully we will finish soon! The new color is a mild shade of green.

Also new to the Brady Center is the Youth Band!! The Youth Band will continue to practice throughout the Summer in anticipation of our next-scheduled Festival of Praise in November and Living Stations of the Cross next year during Lent.

Ben Fitton is our youth band coordinator and he also plays the guitar and vocals. Ben

will be entering 11th Grade. Cristin Freeman, who will also be entering 11th grade, will be a vocalist, as will Natalie Monyak who is a rising 9th Grader. And Spencer Kirchen, a rising 11th Grader will be exercising his talents on the drums.

If any other teen is interested in joining the band, please let us know!



*"She [Mary] is  
an echo of God,  
speaking and re-  
peating only God.  
If you say  
"Mary" she says  
'God'."*

*-St. Louis de Montfort*

J U N I O R   A N D   S E N I O R   H I G H  
E N D - O F - T H E - Y E A R   B O W L I N G  
P A R T Y -  
M A Y   1 5 ,   2 0 1 1

As a special treat and to end a great year of regular youth group and Junior and Senior catechesis, all youth in grades 7-12 were invited to attend a bowling outing at Interstate Bowl in Bristol, VA instead of having class that day. Several

youth showed up and had a great time!

The apparently multi-talented youth director couldn't help but take the opportunity to teach the teens about victory by example and how they should lose with dignity. (just kid-

ding ;-))

There's always next year! Until then, straighten out those wrists and don't aim for the gutter!



**Thad Branch, rising 10th grader, winds up hoping for a strike at the end-of-year youth bowling bash.**



**S A I N T   A N N E ' S  
Y O U T H   G R O U P**

St. Anne's Catholic Church  
350 Euclid Avenue  
Bristol, VA 24201

Phone: 276-591-5376

E-mail: [btrunzo@stannes-bristol.org](mailto:btrunzo@stannes-bristol.org)

**Making a Difference...**

St. Anne's Youth Group was created to serve the spiritual needs and growth of the teenagers of our community. The mission and goal of the Youth Ministry is to assist the youth in learning their Catholic faith, defending it, reaching out to others, and discovering the truth of their great need for God. The goal is to order their lives and relationships toward God, discover and desire His will and their true vocations, and to develop their identity as Catholic persons and followers of Christ.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Bridgette A. Trunzo*

**Y O U T H   G R O U P   M E M B E R   S P O T L I G H T**

**Meet Meta Grayson!!!**

Meta Grayson is a rising sophomore at Virginia High School in Bristol.

Meta loves to run cross country/track and has been very successful. Food is her friend- and she's not afraid to admit it. Meta can pack more food than a football player 4 times her size and doesn't gain a pound. =)

She has really enjoyed youth group this year and has been one of the most active members, participating in various activities and service projects and of course the weekly school-year meetings. "They have really gotten me more involved in the Church and have motivated me to do more things within it," Meta says.

Some of the activities Meta has partici-

pated in are the Cades Cove trip where we went horseback riding and went on a hayride; our rafting trip this June; and most of the service projects we have done, including the current service project in progress: helping out youth with disabilities around her age at the River's Way Day Camp for Youth with Disabilities at Sugar Hollow. "My favorite activity with youth group is this camp so far!" Meta says. This service activity has given Meta a chance not just to do service for youth with disabilities, but also to interact with them as equals and to learn that beauty truly lies in the hearts of those that often the world rejects.

Meta likes squirrels. =)



**Meta Grayson  
Sophomore at Virginia High School**