

Marquette Catholic High School

Spiritual Life Offerings

2018-19



“...integrating Christ’s message into the lives of our students, faculty, & staff and thereby carrying it into the world.”

Adapted from the Parent-Student Handbook, page 6

OUR CHAPEL

Located on the main floor of the 1927 building, our chapel is the spiritual center of the MCHS campus. The chapel is open every day for students, faculty & staff, and visitors to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Bill Kessler, Chaplain, also keeps office hours in the chapel throughout the week.

HOLY MASS

All-school Masses are celebrated for the following occasions:

- *First Day of School
- *Solemnity of All Saints
- *Catholic Schools Week
- *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- *Homecoming
- *Ash Wednesday

Mass is also celebrated during theology classes and on retreat.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sometimes a little calm and quiet prayer is what is needed to get through the day. Students, faculty & staff, and visitors find that quiet spot in our chapel in front of the tabernacle. On the third Wednesday of every month, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar for quiet adoration. Students are welcome to come to the chapel for adoration during their Enrichment period.



DAILY PRAYER & BLESSINGS

Special blessings will be offered for the following groups:

- + **Each day:** Prayer is offered over the PA every morning after announcements. Teachers also pray with their students before each class. A Book of Prayer is outside the chapel where students may write special intentions they have. These intentions are prayed for during class Masses.
- + **New Drivers:** during the Enrichment period each quarter
- + **Athletes:** during regularly scheduled pep rallies
- + **Thespians:** before rehearsal begins for the fall play & spring musical
- + **Prayer at Center Court:** before final exams
- + **Before tests:** Students & faculty can request the Campus Ministry staff to pray with their class.

RETREATS

Every student is required to attend their class retreat. Students who cannot attend due to illness will schedule a make-up retreat with the Campus Minister. Every effort must be made to make sure medical appointments, college visits, or vacations do not conflict with the retreats. This year’s retreats will be presented by the REAP Team of St. Louis. The retreat dates are as follows:

- **Freshmen:** September 5
- **Sophomores:** October 11 (boys only); October 12 (girls only)
- **Juniors:** February 22
- **Seniors:** during the Senior Mission Week

DEVOTIONS

First Friday Rosary: All are welcome to join us on the First Friday of each month during the Enrichment period the chapel to pray the rosary. This devotion has been prayed monthly since 2004. Seven seniors began praying the rosary together asking the Blessed Mother to intercede as Marquette faced an enrollment crisis. Their prayers were heard and we continue to pray for new students and the needs of our school family.



Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross may be found in the chapel. Prayer books are available to help guide your prayer. The entire student body prays the Stations on the Wednesday of Holy Week.



SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Each class will have a penance service before Christmas and Easter. Priests from surrounding parishes hear confessions & grant absolution. Individual confessions will be heard on the first Wednesday of the month in the chapel during the Enrichment period or stop by to see Fr. Bill any time.



Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: Fr. Bill welcomes anyone who is ill or injured (body or soul) to come to the chapel for prayer. He is prepared to anoint those who seek out this sacrament.



FAITH FORMATION

Sacramental Preparation: Every year students ask how they can become Catholic. There are also Catholic students who have not completed their initiation through the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation. The Campus Ministry office and Theology Department is ready to help! The explanation is too long for this brochure since every situation is unique. Talk to one of the Campus Ministry staff and we'll point you in the right direction!



Religious Vocation Discernment: High school is a growing time physically, emotionally, & spiritually. Students who feel they are being called to be a religious brother, sister, or priest have a lot of questions about what to do next. We will pray with you through this time of searching. We can also help you contact the Vocation Directors for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois or the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

Fr. Bill Kessler, Chaplain; priest for the Diocese of Springfield of IL; pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Brighton & St. John the Evangelist Church, Medora. Fr. Bill is a 1989 graduate of MCHS and was ordained in 1999. He has been the Chaplain at MCHS for 5 years.

Mrs. Paula Mattix-Wand, Campus Minister; She is a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Bethalto & has had 2 children graduate from MCHS. She has 28 years of experience in faith formation in our diocese and has been at MCHS for 18 years.