

## Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



### CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS: SPOTLIGHT ON ASHLYN ROSE JESS

Ashlyn Rose Jess, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Somerville Middle School, is looking forward to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this coming May at St. Bernard Church. To prepare for the sacrament, Ashlyn, like all confirmation candidates, was required to complete service hours, a task which she took to heart by helping others in her community and by serving here at the parish.

One of the first steps she took to get involved was signing up to be an altar server in the church. When asked what inspired her, Ashlyn said, "My dad was an altar server when he was a kid and he used to talk about it. So when I became old enough, I told my parents that I wanted to participate in altar serving."

Ashlyn also serves by assisting with children's programs at the parish. She loves to play with kids, and as such, has spent time volunteering as a host for IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network), Ashlyn takes care of the guests' children, reading them books, and playing board games with them. During 10:30 Mass on Sundays, she babysits in the basement of the church.

To help others in the community at large, Ashlyn shares her talents by cooking for the SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program). At 14, this young girl can whip up a

tasty meatball and gravy casserole, which feeds the needy at a nearby shelter in Somerset County. She has also served the seniors of the community by serving dinner at a local Nursing home.

Finally, at her school, as a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Ashlyn helped spearhead a fundraising campaign called "Pasta for Pennies", which took place early in February. Through the program, she and her fellow students were able to collect early \$1300 worth of pennies to benefit a cancer foundation for children with leukemia.

Now that Ashlyn is nearly done with her Confirmation preparation and has completed her required service hours, she says she will continue service activities and she is currently considering joining the Youth Ministry at St. Bernard. "I'll definitely continue volunteering even after I'm confirmed," she says.

As she awaits her Confirmation, Ashlyn has a message to her CCD classmates: "Even though you might think that CCD is something that you don't enjoy, it can end up to be really fun and you can always get something good out of it."



Whether it be helping the young or the old, the hungry or the homeless, here at St. Bernard or beyond, Ashlyn has shared her time, talents and treasure, and has received in turn, the rewards of service.

"Helping people makes me feel good inside."

*Ashlyn is one of many young people at St. Bernard who are performing remarkable acts of Christian Stewardship. If you'd like to share a story about how you or someone you know is making a difference, the Stewardship Council would love to hear it. Email us at [mlrek@optonline.net](mailto:mlrek@optonline.net).*

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## PARISH YOUTH ATTEND CONFIRMATION NIGHT

On Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, approximately seventy-five 6th graders attended the Stewardship Council's Confirmation Night to learn about the role of stewardship as well as about opportunities to become active stewards at St. Bernard.

As part of their Confirmation preparation, our young parishioners are expected to perform acts of service in the parish as well as the community. The evening's program featured informal presentations by five different parish ministries that welcome service by the young people of our parish.



## STEWARDSHIP TREE - BETTER THAN EVER!

The *Stewardship Council* is pleased to announce the return of the **Stewardship Tree** in the Narthex during Lent.

As always, it will contain a variety of brief, specific service opportunities to enhance your spiritual preparations for Easter. Each egg contains a brief description of the volunteer opportunity and a contact name/number for information. Please take this opportunity to choose the volunteer opportunity you wish to accomplish and take the entire egg home as a reminder.

This year, in addition to the one-time ministry/volunteer opportunities provided by our parish-based ministry groups, we will be expanding it to include one-time ministry/volunteer opportunities submitted by our parishioners in need.

If you are a parishioner with a one-time need, please submit your request to Deacon Gerry Sims at the parish office.



***Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?***

Please contact Mark Dransfield ([mlrek@optonline.net](mailto:mlrek@optonline.net) or by calling 908-526-6649)

