

Diocese of Joliet Catholic Scouting News

Quarterly Newsletter
Winter 2022

Proudly serving all our local
scouting organizations!



Upcoming Events

Scout Sunday Mass

February 6, 10:30 AM
Cathedral of St. Rays

Day of Recollection

February 26, 2022
Our Lady of Peace
Catholic School
Darien, IL

2022 Annual Recognitions Mass

April 24, 2022
Location TBD

JDCCS Meeting

January 17, 2022
February 21, 2022
March 21, 2022

To subscribe, send an e-mail with "subscribe" in the subject line to
jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com

Register Now for the Day of Recollection

All Catholic Scouts are invited to attend the 2022 Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting (JDCCS) retreat on Saturday, February 26 at Our Lady of Peace in Darien from 9am – noon. This year's theme is "Trusting in God" and how to bring Him more fully into our lives.

The retreat is designed for scouts in American Heritage Girls, Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts of the USA, Campfire and others, ages K-12. (Children K-5 must be accompanied by an adult.) Age appropriate activities and scouting fun are offered, including simple lessons for the younger scouts and speakers from the diocese for the older ones. A group Mass closes out the day, with participation by the scouts.

The retreat fulfills a requirement for

Scouts who may be working on a religious medal. Scouts who have completed all other requirements may schedule a Boards of Review to receive final approval for their religious recognition. Participating scouts will receive a patch, a totem and/or participation beads.

Currently an in-person event is planned but the retreat will be moved to a virtual platform if needed.

Registration and permission slips are now available on the Joliet Diocese website (<https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting/>). Deadline for registration will be Monday, February 21, 2022. Cost is \$5 per child/youth. Parents will attend free of charge but must also register. No "walk-ins" will be allowed and registration is by mail only. Call Chris Caragher at 630-842-4219 for any questions.

Day of Recollection Retreat

February 26, 2022
Our Lady of Peace Catholic School
701 Plainfield Rd., Darien, IL 60561

Scouts K-12 with age appropriate sessions
RSVP Required, Visit [Dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting](https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting)

Save the Date!

Contact us!

Website: www.dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/jdccc

E-mail: jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com

Phone: (815) 834-4012

Kankakee Hosts New Day of Reflection



This fall, JDCCS committee members in the southern part of the Joliet Diocese hosted the first ever Day of Reflection. It took place on November 4 at St. John Paul II parish in Kankakee.

This new event was a more convenient option for members who live a considerable distance from the Chicago area. The Lord shone a beautiful sun with warmer temperatures on the small group of Cub scouts and Scouts BSA who attended. Most of the activities took place outside and revolved around the theme, "Navigating our Faith," with a particular emphasis on Pope John Paul II in the modern saint series of NCCS patches.

Speakers included renowned Catholic radio host, Colleen Mast and Fr. John Horan of St. John Paul II and Bishop McNamara Catholic School, Deacon Greg Clodi of St. Joseph Parish in Bradley and Ste. John Paul II Parish, Fr. Marcin Michalak of St. Joseph Parish in Bradley and Fr. Jason Nesbit of Maternity BVM Prish in Bourbonnais. There were also faith-related scout crafts, a church tour for the younger scouts, and a faith-related orienteering course activity. A pizza dinner and mass concluded the day-long event.

The JDCCS would like to thank Stephanie Quigley and Mollyann Hesser who took the lead in organizing and running the event. Our thanks also to Jean Lindsey of Love Christian Center in Kankakee and Joe and Karen Verrill of Bourbonnais for making the orienteering saint scavenger hunt. We hope to see another Day of Reflection in Kankakee next fall!



Chairman's Corner



How do we grow the community of Catholic Scouts in the Diocese of Joliet?

To me the answer is two-part: (1) outreach and (2) sharing the knowledge that Duty to God is part of a scout's responsibility.

First, outreach. Our diocese spans approximately 110 miles in length and 60 miles in width, and encompasses parts or the entirety of DuPage, Will, Kendall, Grundy, Kankakee, Iroquois and Ford county. That's a big distance and we want to make it as easy as possible for scouts throughout the Joliet Diocese to receive their religious emblems. We're grateful to the committee members who successfully launched a Day of Recollection in the southern part of the diocese.

We also need to reach out at events where scouts are gathered. This year the JDCCS was represented at the Scout-a-Rama and the Merit Badge University for Three

Fires Council, among others. These events are eye-openers that show us how many parents/scouts are still unaware of our organization and the opportunity to earn emblems for their Catholic faith.

And that's where increasing awareness of a scout's "Duty to God" comes in. I am glad to see Three Fires Council initiating a "campaign" to advance awareness of "[Duty to God](#)". We all need to share the news that pursuing a religious emblem helps EVERY scout fulfill their Duty to God!

And if there is a gathering of Catholic scouts where you think the JDCCS should have a presence, reach out to us and let us know. We want Catholic scouts far and wide to know about the opportunity to earn their religious recognitions!

-Karen Dix

This Issue's Featured Adult Recognition:

St. Anne Medal



In every issue, we feature a religious recognition that ADULTS can earn! This month we feature the *St. Anne Medal*.

The St. Anne Medal for adults working with Catholic members of national organizations serving girls is an award of the Department of Education, USCC. It is the highest national award in this field. The purpose of the award is to honor the outstanding service of adults contributing to the spiritual development of Catholic members of organizations for girls, and to further Catholic adult leadership in youth ministry through those organizations. The kind of person sought as a recipient of a national adult recognition should be one of excellent character and exemplary in every way. Recipients should be adults currently active with the organizations served (ideally, registered members). There are no national restrictions regarding recipients.

Awards may be given to clergy, religious, non-Catholics, lay men or women. Catholic recipients should be exemplary Catholics, with the support of their parish community and their respective pastors. Non-Catholic recipients should also be supported by their congregations and clergy.

[Click here](#) for more information on nominating someone for the St. Anne Medal in the Joliet Diocese.

Signs You Need to Join the JDCCS

- You're a Catholic, a scouter or scout leader, or a clergy member or in ministry that is familiar with scouting
- You know many other Catholics and Catholic scouters and scout leaders
- You want to see Catholic scouting continue and increase
- You want to see young scouts deepen, grow in and retain their Catholic faith.
- You see opportunities the JDCCS may be missing
- You have the ability to help the JDCCS increase their presence among scouts and scouting groups in the diocese
- You have an up-to-date VIRTUS account
- You are willing to attend one meeting a month (virtually nowadays) and help with committee events
- You can contribute to the mission of the JDCCS with expertise in event planning, organization, fundraising, communication, etc.
- You can attend our next virtual meeting, January 18, 2022.

If you check a lot of these boxes, reach out to us at jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com to learn more about becoming a committee member.

This Issue's Featured Religious Recognition:

The Spirit Alive



Designed for grades 9 - 12, (grades 9+ allowed), but older Scouts through age 20 may use this program. This program is intended for Catholic youth in high school. It assists them in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to a greater participation in the Church's ministry. Resources and helps are found at: [Spirit Alive Resources](#). Besides the above suggestions, there are two pages of references listed in the Mentor's Handbook. This medal is 95% earned as an individual with the guidance of their mentor. It may take up to 3 ½ years to earn. This program is designed to be worked on by an adviser and the youth participant(s). For more information go to: [The Spirit Alive](#)

Looking for a Group or Advisory to Earn Your Religious Recognition?



Reach out to us at jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com to find an advisor or facilitator for your religious recognition within the Girl Scouts of the USA, Scouts BSA or American Heritage Girls, or search the [Trained Adviser List](#) on the website.

Remember that anyone facilitating a group must be a trained advisor, have a VIRTUS account and be in compliance with all Joliet Diocese requirements.

If you would like to be trained, please also reach out to us at jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com

This Issue's Featured Activity Patch:

The Rosary Series: Pray the Rosary



The Rosary Series focuses on the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and How to Pray the Rosary. This is an opportunity for youth and adults to learn more about their faith. A beautiful 5 inch patch is available for those that complete the requirements for “Pray the Rosary”. All youths and adults can work on this activity and earn the patch. This activity can be worked on individually or as a group. It is not necessary to send in the completed form.

Scouts and Scouters learn, recite, and/or and memorize the prayers and mysteries of the Rosary. The difficulty of the requirements are based on age. More information on the requirements and information on how to order the patch are available [here](#).

Do You Know an Exemplary Adult Catholic Scout?

Nominations are now open for the JDCCS Bronze Pelican Award and the NCCS St. George award. These two awards recognize adult Catholic scout leaders, clergy members, lay people, and volunteers who are encouraging the mission of the JDCCS through their work in their church and community. For more information on how to nominate someone for an award, see our [adult awards nomination page](#).

Attention Trained Advisors

The JDCCS is now in the process of updating our trained advisor list. It can be viewed [here](#).

If you are a trained advisor who has previously facilitated a group for our higher level religious recognitions, we thank you! Your efforts have made the difference in the lives of young Catholic scouts and we hope you will continue to be willing to do so.

If you would like to remain on the list to help more scouts achieve their religious recognitions, please know that the diocesan child protection requirements have changed. (see article on VIRTUS training in this issue). Please make sure you are a registered scout and in compliance so that you may safely continue helping the scouts.

If you would like to be removed from the list, please email us at jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com and let us know. We will be sorry to see you go but thank you for your prior service.

If you would like to start a group but are hesitant or don't know how, reach out to us for MENTORING! There are trained advisors among our ranks who can answer questions, offer encouragement and help you become a vital part of this ministry.

Thank you for your interest in being a facilitator for our higher-level religious recognitions. We hope you will contact us soon with your intention to start facilitating a group soon!

Trained Advisors Wanted!



**HELP US HELP
CATHOLIC
SCOUTS!!**

While many of the Catholic religious recognitions for Scouts can be completed with a parent, there are several awards that require a certified, trained advisor. These include the Mary the First Disciple, Spirit Alive, Missio (all scouting groups) and the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems (Scouts BSA).

Training can be done online. All trained advisors must complete the training, be a registered scouter, apply for certification, and have a VIRTUS account in compliance with all JDCCS child protection requirements. For more information, visit our [training for advisors page](#).

Celebrate your Duty to God in February

You are invited to join scouts from throughout the Diocese of Joliet for a Scout Sunday mass at the Cathedral of St. Raymond on Sunday, February 6 at 10:30 am. Wear your Class A uniform, you're your religious recognition proudly and be recognized for your achievement. Catholic scouts in all national scouting groups are welcome!



Also, in preparation for February (Duty to God month) the Three Fires Council has launched a campaign to "Take the Pledge" and work towards your religious emblem in the next year. This is an initiative for all faiths, including our Catholic scouts. If you would like to take the pledge, visit the [Three Fires Council Duty to God page](#).

Congratulations!

We want to recognize the Scouts who have earned a religious recognition medal since September 2021.

We hope you will continue on to your NEXT JDCCS recognition!

(Please report any inaccuracies in the listing below to kdix.promopower@gmail.com)



Light of Christ

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Erik Haluska



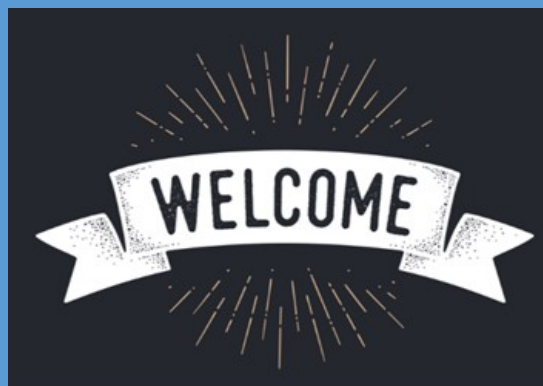
Parvuli Dei

Resurrection

Diego Juarez

St. Walter

Carter Stolp



We are delighted to announce that we have a new Catholic Scouts BSA Troop in the Joliet Diocese! It is Troop 175, which has been rechartered from the Moose Lodge Joliet to the Cathedral of St. Raymond. Thanks to the Charter Org Rep Bill Mammoser and Committee Chair Esmeralda Bonk for their work in making this happen! If you are interested in information on joining, contact Bill Mammoser at (815) 726-3124

Got VIRTUS?

The compliance requirements for clergy, employees, and volunteers who minister with minors and vulnerable adults in the diocese have undergone some changes, beginning in February 2020. The Diocese of Joliet's Office of Child and Youth Protection has a chart on the diocesan website that spells out the compliance requirements for all who work, minister, and volunteer with minors/vulnerable adults. You can access it [here](#).

Volunteers who work with minors/vulnerable adults require a VIRTUS account, completion of the Protecting God's Children course, a background check every five years, and review of diocesan policy and standards of behavior.



Volunteer with minors in a repetitive role (includes coaches, scout leaders, and those who minister with minors in religious education and youth ministry) must also take Mandated Reporter Training, review and sign an Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status, and complete a Volunteer Application.

You can check the status of your compliance by logging into your personal account on the VIRTUS website. Please take time to ensure that you are in compliance with all diocesan requirements when volunteering at JDCCS events or helping scouts earn their religious recognitions.