**Prayer Listening System**

**Goal**

* **Awareness that prayer exists**
* **Students need to access formal prayer & be knowledgeable of church teachings**

**Method**

* A separate group of volunteers (Prayer Listeners) go around to the classrooms and pull students out into the hallway to recite their grade level prayers.
* Prayer Listener gives them a percentage based on their accuracy.
* Prayer Packet goes home with the student, so they can share with parents and practice their prayers.

**Handouts**

* Prayers & Teachings of the Church List
* Prayer Listening Info Meeting (Prayer Training)
* 11th Grade - Grading Sheet
* 11th Grade - Prayer Packet

**Family Communication**

* **Bulletin Posting -** This is an example of a bulletin posting from last week:
  + *We need to learn our prayers for many reasons, but this quote from Fr. Patrick Peyton sums up why families need to pray****, “The family that prays together stays together.” Attention Prayer Listeners -*** *I am in need of volunteers at the* ***6:00 class time****! If you weren’t trained, but have been through Vitrus, then I NEED YOU to help the 6:00 students with their prayers. Contact me if interested in becoming a Prayer Listener - 920-418-5077!*
* **Handbook Verbiage** - Below is how this requirement is stated in the handbook:
  + ***Prayers & Teachings of the Church Requirements:*** *Families are asked to support their child in memorizing prayers. RE Catechist will pray the prayers with your child, but the parents and families are responsible for helping their children pray and memorize the requirements. Your child will be tested periodically throughout the RE year. You can find the prayers and teachings in the Prayer Packet included in this mailing. Below is the grade level requirements:*
  + See **Prayer Packet for grade level prayers**

**Catechist Work**

* Integrate the *new* grade level prayers into their instruction
* Check the results to see where their class is showing deficits and strengths once a listener has been to their room

**Feedback Thus Far**

* **Positive** 
  + **Volunteers -** Get a chance to work with kids but not have the pressure of teaching. They have taken ownership of this system and really work hard to motivate the kids/classes they work with.
  + **Students -** They are ready for the challenge! You can hear students constantly talking about how well they did or how much they have to learn a certain prayer. Some are nervous, but once they work with the prayer listener, they realize they are just prayer cheerleaders helping them along.
  + **Catechists -** Committed to their specific grade level prayer instruction
  + **Parishioners -** Happy to see that students are being taught the basics of Catholicism
* **Negative** 
  + **Parents -** Parents only emailed me if their child was anxious, which only took some encouragement and reassurance to put their worries to rest.

**Moving Forward - What would I Change?**

* Assign Volunteer to specific class, especially at the 3:30 session where I only have 6 classes
* Potentially have a Prayer Listening Chair to organize, train, and recruit other listeners



**Contact Information:**

Good Shepherd Parish

Angeline Heiberger

62 E. Main Street

Chilton, WI 53014

Cell: 920-418-5077

Email: goodshepherd.reprogram@gmail.com