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Trick-or-treat safety advice

Before children set to the streets in search of their treats, parents should remind them of some key safety suggestions on Halloween night. The following tips were provided by the Adam Walsh Center, a branch of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

• Never allow a child to go trick-or-treating alone. Be sure older children use the "buddy system" and adults accompany young children.

• Be certain to accompany young children to the door of every house.

• Be certain that parents are familiar with every house, and with all people who issue treats.

• Children should be cautioned that under no circumstances should they enter any home without prior permission from their parents.

• Children should be told never to approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless they know the owner and are accompanied by a parent.

• Children should carry a glow stick or wear reflective clothing.

• When using facial masks, make sure that children can see and breathe properly and easily.

• All costumes and masks should be clearly marked as flame-resistant.

• Children should be warned never to approach any house that is not well-lit and does not have a porch light on.

• Children should be cautioned to remember any suspicious incidents and to report them to their parents and/or the proper officials.

• Children should be warned to run away from people who try to lure them with special treats.

• Children should be instructed to scream and make a scene if anybody tries to grab or force them, in any way, to go with them.

• Parents should inspect all treats, and dispose of anything that has been opened, never been wrapped, is homemade or seems to have been tampered with.

• As an alternative to trick-or-treating, parents are advised to organize parties at home or through a school or community center.

These Halloween spirits promote community service

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

On a day which honors a wide array of spooky sorts, diocesan youth groups have also included the spirit of service in their Halloween activities.

One leading example is the contingent at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville. Youths from that parish helped throw a Halloween party on Sunday, Oct. 23, for residents of the nearby New York State Division for Youth at Industry juvenile-detention facility.

The day included pumpkin-carving and games. Also helping out were St. Mary's adult parishioners; groups from Scottsville's Union Presbyterian and Grace Episcopal churches; and youth-group representatives from Church of the Christ the King in Irondequoit, St. Jerome Church in East Rochester and Holy Ghost Church in Gates.

St. Mary's participants pointed out that these events hold special meaning for the boys who reside at Industry.

"The kids are actually pretty nice, and people don't think that they'd be friendly," remarked T.J. Torpey, 14, who frequently visits Industry with his family. "I think they're pretty thankful for the visits because they don't get to see anyone else."

"A lot of these kids have never seen a pumpkin before," added St. Mary's youth minister Theresa Fantone.

In the Finger Lakes region, youths from St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls conducted a pumpkin-decorating session on Oct. 16 and delivered their creations to the Seneca Nursing Home in Waterloo the following day.

Mary Lou Lang, who coordinates the St. Patrick youth group with her husband, Larry, reported that this inaugural project went over extremely well.

"We brought the pumpkins to the (Seneca Nursing Home) activities director, and she was just thrilled with them," Lang remarked.

Looking ahead to this weekend, the youth contingent at St. Christopher's Church in North Chili will stage a

Haunted House for younger children of the parish. The event will run on Oct. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the church hall, 3350 Union St.

Admission is only \$1; those attending are also asked to bring a canned good which will be donated to Rochester-area food cupboards.

"The nice part is that we always keep the cost down," noted St. Christopher youth minister Ann Murphy. "You go other places where admission is three, four or five dollars, and a family of four can't afford it."

At Rochester's Holy Apostles Church, 7 Austin St., the 4:15 p.m. Mass on Oct. 29 will feature a heavy Halloween theme. The church will be decorated with jack-o-lanterns, and children will take up the collection by using trick-or-treat bags instead of baskets.

And on Halloween night, members of the St. John Fisher College Circle K service group will pitch in by going trick-or-treating for canned goods in neighborhoods around the Pittsford college. Items collected will then be donated to Rochester-area charities.



Christie Garwood, a senior at Elmira Notre Dame High School, has been named a Commended Student in the 1995 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Christie is one of approximately 35,000 students from throughout the nation to attain this honor. She placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test.

Katharine Kurycycki, a junior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, was first runner-up in the Miss Polonia Contest held Oct. 1 at Rochester's St. Stanislaus Church.



The contest, sponsored by the Polonia Civic Centre Inc. of Rochester, selects a young woman of Polish ancestry to represent the Polish-American community. Contestants answer questions and are also judged on poise, appearance, and academic and community accomplishments. The winner, Beata Suchodolska, of Webster, is a senior at SUNY College at Fredonia.

Katie is a parishioner at St. Vincent DePaul Church in Churchville, where she serves as religious-education instructor and lector.

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Bills help out at benefit for Spencerport school

SPENCERPORT — These four guys spend much of their time running across the Rich Stadium turf. Recently, they took a few hours to assist youths walking through the streets of Spencerport. Kent Hull, Mike Devlin, Sam Rogers and Corbin Lacina of the Buffalo Bills were on hand for an Oct. 11 walk-a-thon staged by students from St. John the Evangelist School, 55 Martha St.

According to event co-organizers Joe and Laura Foley, the five-kilometer walk raised pledges totaling an all-time high of \$18,700. Sixth-grader Katie Foley, daughter of the event's organizers, was the top fundraiser, producing \$1,000 in pledges. All money will be put toward the school's tuition fund.

In addition to the Bills' appearances, the Oct. 11 festivities included several prizes donated by area businesses.

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