

Living on MISSION

As Stewards of God's Gifts



ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH . WILLIAMSTON . MICHIGAN

Only one month after saying “I do”, DJ and Jordan McDowell jumped in a van full of high school students and headed to a Steubenville Youth Conference.

Dj recalls, “This was something we both always wanted. Even when we first started dating and talking about marriage, we both knew we wanted to be youth leaders.” After entering the Catholic Church at St. Mary in 2019, DJ knew that she and Jordan had found a special place to put down roots and begin sharing their gifts.

Jordan’s experience with his high school youth group showed him that he didn’t have to be perfect, have all the answers or even some kind of special training to be effective. “Growing up, I had youth leaders who were great examples of authentic, faithful Catholics who weren’t afraid to be real. That’s what I want to be. I’m not afraid to tell the kids ‘This is

what I know, but this is where I’m willing to grow’.”

Being part of a team of youth leaders has allowed everyone the chance to use their individual gifts and talents and work together for a common goal.

“When we put together the live Stations of the Cross last Spring, we started from scratch. DJ is a great writer so she wrote the whole script, Rob (Pecic) and I had some building skills so we worked on designing and building the set, and Laura (Hahnenberg) is great at pulling everything together. It’s really about using everyone’s talents to support and encourage the youth on *their* journey.”

Check out the website for a list of ministries and volunteer opportunities to share your gifts and talents with the parish and community.



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DJ and Jordan McDowell share their gifts as leaders of St. Mary’s Life Teen program.