

Dear Friends,

We are all aware of the growing epidemic of addiction to opioid drugs in our country and in our county. We are aware of it, but we often do not talk about it. Yet we need to talk about it in order to support people and families affected by it. I am aware of families in both Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Anne who have lost loved ones due to drug addiction. I suspect that there are others of whom I am unaware. With the help of Catholic Family Center, I wish to open a conversation about prevention of drug addiction, access to treatment, and ways in which our faith community can provide support to families and friends of those who are addicted or have died from addiction. Our Lady of Lourdes+St. Anne is sponsoring two sessions entitled **Our Faith Community Responds to Substance Use & Addiction**. The first session will be in the St. Anne Social Hall on Monday, May 21st at 7PM. The second will be in the church at Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday, June 21st at 7PM. Each session will end about 8:30. You are welcome attend either or both sessions. The presentation at Our Lady of Lourdes will have a larger focus on prevention. Please invite any friends or relatives who may be interested.

Grace and peace,

Fr. Gary Tyman