

Religious Education PREP Newsletter

Issue: March 2018 St. Mary Magdalen Church

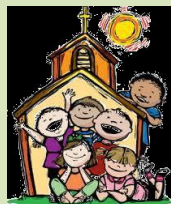


From the Director:

I came across a little article the other day about Lent with some great ideas! When we ask each other what we're doing for Lent, we often reply that we're giving up a particular favorite item. Giving something up isn't a bad thing; it encourages self-discipline, is a form of fasting and penance, too. But we should also think about the possibility of doing something positive to strengthen our spiritual life; maybe increase our knowledge of our faith, look at the acts of mercy to see what we can do in our communities to spread the Good News. We're all called to do that!

So here are the 10 tips the article gave to make the season more meaningful:

- **SLOW DOWN.** Set aside 10 minutes for silent prayer or meditation to revive both body and spirit.
- **READ A GOOD BOOK.** Choose the life of a saint, a spiritual how-to, one of the pope's books, anything inspirational.
- **BE KIND.** Go out of your way to do something nice for someone every day.
- **GET INVOLVED.** Attend a Lenten lecture, maybe our parish mission.
- **VOLUNTEER AT THE PARISH.** Help clean or decorate the church, help with a ministry in the liturgy, anything!
- **REACH OUT.** Invite an inactive Catholic to come with you to Mass, or to one of the Lenten opportunities like Soup and Stations
- **PRAY.** Especially for people you don't like and for people who don't like you.
- **TUNE OUT.** Turn off the electronics and spend a night of quality time with your family or friends
- **CLEAN OUT CLOSETS.** Donate gently used items to help others
- **DONATE.** Google Catholic missions, then choose one mission and how you can help!



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ~ Calendar – read carefully!
- ~ March Family Day
- ~ Parish Mission

March Family Day

Sunday, March 11th, is our next-to-last family day! If you haven't signed up yet, and still need to complete your 4 required days, you can find the link at [March Family Day](#) We're going to learn more about prayer – not just with our words but with our bodies and hearts!



**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS!**

Clocks "spring" ahead and we lose an hour on March 11th! Don't be late!

7th Grade Field Trip to Poor Clares

The 7th grade trip to the Poor Clares at the St. Veronica Giuliani Monastery at 816 N. Jefferson Street in Wilmington is Sunday, March 18th. Again, the whole family is invited to attend Mass with the sisters and then you'll have an opportunity to speak with them about life in the convent and their vocations. This also counts as a family day if the family attends. The permission slip can be found on the website at [Poor Clares Permission Slip](#)

WALK TO EASTER – AN EXPERIENCE OF HOLY WEEK

Children up to 4th grade are invited to participate in this program on March 30th (Good Friday). They will learn more about the events of Holy Week through crafts, songs, storytelling, food and art. Pre-registration is encouraged at [WALK TO EASTER FORMS](#)

Words highlighted in **BLUE** in this newsletter are links – if you click on them it will take you to the document or webpage referenced!

MARCH CALENDAR – blue highlights mean click for the link!

March 3rd – no youth & family Mass this month (3v3) and the 150th anniversary of our diocese!

March 4th - regular classes all grades pre-k through 8

March 9th – Lenten Soup and Stations – 6-7:30PM – RSVP to bring some soup (meatless, of course – it's a Friday in Lent!) while we provide the salad and bread – [see event on our parish website](#)

March 10th – Celebration of marriage dinner for couples in the hall check below for details!

March 11th – [March Family Day](#) on Prayer see page 1 and **TIME “SPRINGS” FORWARD AT 2AM, DON'T BE LATE FOR CLASS!**

March 11-13 – Parish Mission with Father Peter Zwaans see below for details

March 18th - regular classes all grades pre-k through 8 AND [7TH GRADE TRIP TO POOR CLARES](#) see block for details

March 24th – the Bishop's Pilgrimage through Wilmington – [sign up youth ministry webpage](#)

March 25th – PALM SUNDAY – **NO CLASSES TODAY OR EASTER SUNDAY!!!!!!**

March 30th – Walk to Easter, an experience of Holy Week for young children from 8:30-noon in the school.



FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS: PARISH MISSION MARCH 11TH – 13TH

"Christianity is not a new philosophy or a new morality. We are only Christians if we encounter Christ." Pope Benedict XVI (3 September, 2008)

The danger for us Christians is that we fall in love with an idea rather than with Jesus. It's so easy to reduce faith to an ethical code or a set of principles. And yet at the heart of Christianity is Christ. It's not enough to know about him, we need to know him. The goal of our faith is ultimately not about knowing things or doing things, but loving him. Our parish mission aims to be a step in the "journey closer to him".

Fr. Peter Zwaans is a priest of the Archdiocese of Adelaide in Australia. He has been a priest for six years after studying in Sydney Australia and the North American College in Rome (where he was a classmate of Father McQuaide). He has undertaken further studies in theology at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family. He is presently a pastor and vocations director for the Archdiocese.

Mark your calendars!

Father Zwaans will be at all the masses on Sunday, March 11th

Mission will be held at 6PM:

Sunday, March 11th

Monday, March 12th

Tuesday, March 13th with Benediction



St. Mary Magdalen's 5th Annual Celebration of Married Life



"Lucky in Love Dinner"

Saturday, March 10th from 6-8pm



Please R.S.V.P. by contacting the Parish office at 652-6800.

Enjoy a night out with free dinner & wine in the Church Hall.

Let us know if you're willing to bring a dessert for the evening.