

# Religious Education PREP Newsletter

Issue: February 2017

St. Mary Magdalen Church



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## NO PREP CLASS JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>

A reminder that we are all off on the weekend of January 29<sup>th</sup>! The school has an open house that day and since interested parents want to see the classrooms, it's too distracting for our students (and teachers!) to have people wandering in and out.



## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

February is the month for love! Valentine's Day has been co-opted by the secular world as a day to show our love, especially romantic love, for those in our lives. The saint it was named after, though, was a martyr who died for his faith in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century! While the legends around him can't all be verified, since there were two saints by the same name, here are a few of them! In the first, Valentine was under house arrest with a judge. The judge's daughter was blind, so to test Valentine the judge brought her in to be healed. Valentine put his hands on her eyes and her vision was restored! The judge immediately broke all the idols in his house, fasted for three days, had his whole household (over 40 people) baptized and released all Christian prisoners! The story goes that he was later arrested again for converting people to Christianity and marrying them in the faith in Rome. Since married men didn't have to go to war, this kept the men from being conscripted into the army. He was sent to Emperor Claudius II, and when he tried to convert him the emperor had him beheaded; another legend says that he also healed the jailer's daughter and on the day of his execution left her a note signed, "Your Valentine." In any case, he did really exist because there are catacombs in Rome named after him! So when you celebrate Valentine's Day – remember the saint who started it all!

Since Lent begins March 1<sup>st</sup>, maybe thinking about the "Saint of Love" will inspire you to want to read some of the Scriptures on love. The most famous is Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians about what love is; patient, kind, etc. Break it down into sections; is there a way each day that you can model each section? You could even carry it into Lent and make it your offering to God for March too!



*Karen Yasik*

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>** – this is the feast of St. Blaise, the patron saint of sore throats. Try to get to Mass and have your throat blessed!

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** – YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS AT THE 5PM with a dinner social after in the hall – bring a side to share!

**February 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>** – classes for all students Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup>

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – FAMILY DAY ON THE MASS – 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STARS!

Remember to sign up to attend the family catechesis day on the Mass! This will take place in the GYM; arrive between 9:50AM and 10:10AM. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will go to the LIBRARY to rehearse; the rest of us will receive packets with location information for the families. Remember you needed to attend 4 of the 7 choices this year; after this only March and April remain! Kindergarten will hold regular class.

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** – Random Act of Kindness day!

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FIRST COMMUNION THIS YEAR – **First Communion Orientation #2** in the CHURCH HALL – 9:30 AM and repeated at 7:00 PM – Banner materials will be handed out at this gathering!

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** – **First Communion Retreat** in the CHURCH HALL from 8:45AM-11:30AM

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** – regular class grades K-8

**February 28<sup>th</sup>** – Mardi Gras (or Fat Tuesday) – this is the day we use up all the things in the house that we are giving up for Lent!

**NEW DATE**

PLEASE SEE THE **CHANGE OF DATE FOR MARCH FAMILY CATECHESIS**

**NOW MARCH 26TH**

Bulletin

FOR THE LATEST BULLETIN:  
[www.smmchurch.org/sunday-bulletins](http://www.smmchurch.org/sunday-bulletins)

Sacraments

FOR SACRAMENT INFORMATION:  
[www.smmchurch.org/sacraments](http://www.smmchurch.org/sacraments)

Religious Ed.

FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILY  
CATECHESIS SIGNUPS:  
<http://www.smmchurch.org/classroom-grades-k-8>

### LOOKING AHEAD

**March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday!** Check the website closer to the DATE for service times!

**March 4<sup>th</sup> – the Rite of Election in Dover** for all those becoming Catholics at the Easter Vigil this year – please keep our catechumens and candidates: Katy, Joyce, James and Michael, in your prayers!

This evening is also the next **youth and family mass followed by the social!**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash prayer service in the GYM at 10:30AM**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** - the next Confirmation meeting for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents is Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> – sponsor information forms are due at this meeting! If you can't think of anyone to be a sponsor, look around at the other parents!

**March 10<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Bread and Soup night** – CYM will have 2 vegetarian soups available, just let her know you're coming so she can have enough! Email [smmyouth@smmchurch.org](mailto:smmyouth@smmchurch.org) to let her know numbers. We'll share bread and soup and then go upstairs for Stations of the Cross! **And much, much more!!!**

**SMM's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Married Life  
Valentine's Dinner,  
March 11<sup>th</sup> from 8-10PM**



We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate with set up, decorations, and clean up. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 652-6800 ext. 114 or email [Lisa.Borgia@smmchurch.org](mailto:Lisa.Borgia@smmchurch.org).

This dinner will be celebrated in March this year due to the availability of our chef *which is very important!* Thank you to Scott Zoccolillo who has graciously agreed to prepare the food again this year! More info will be provided in the coming weeks.



### CHANGE OF DATE FOR MARCH FAMILY CATECHESIS CLASS

The March family catechesis day was moved due to a facility conflict. The new date is March 26<sup>th</sup> for the Lent & Seder family day and we will be taking the 7<sup>th</sup> grade to visit the Poor Clares on March 19<sup>th</sup> instead. Please mark your calendars.

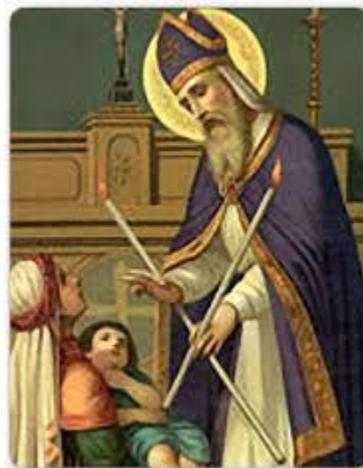


Please use the link below to sign up for the new March Family Catechesis:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4eabac29a7f85-march1/>



Please continue to keep **Deacon Joseph Romans** in your prayers as he recuperates at home after having a heart attack in December.



**FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup>  
FEAST OF ST. BLAISE**