

Religious Education PREP Newsletter

Issue: March 2017 St. Mary Magdalen Church



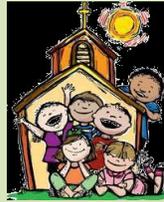
NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED

Lent began this past Wednesday! While Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, many of us go to church to be “marked with the sign of our faith – a cross – with ashes made from the previous year’s leftover Palm Sunday palms. It’s a reminder every time we look in the mirror that we are beginning a season where we are supposed to practice our faith in a more intentional way.

We use this time to pray. Maybe we add a Lenten devotional; maybe we say a decade of the rosary for a special intention, or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy that was so important to Pope John Paul II. Whatever you choose, even just spending some quiet time with God, it can bring you to a new relationship with your Creator! Maybe each day your family could choose a different saint, and try to figure out how you could all act more like that person that day!

We also fast during Lent. Fasting is supposed to be a spiritual as well as a physical purification; we’re used to hearing about it today as a way to “cleanse” our physical systems, but it gives us a deeper cleanse if we let it! The Church has two different laws in Lent that people often confuse. We are asked to **fast** – all those from 18-59 – which means to not eat between meals and to limit what you do eat to one full meal and two lighter meals on both **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. If you are over 14, you are also asked to **abstain** – which means eat no meat – on all Fridays in Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday. It’s hard to remember because of the different age requirements, so I know my mom always just had us do both every Friday during Lent no matter how old we were! A little sacrifice is good for the soul – and it helps if you aren’t making two separate meals, one with and one without meat every Friday! There are a lot of other ways to fast, too – maybe limit social media, screen time, or any other habit that is running the risk of taking us over!

Finally, we are asked during Lent to give alms – that means charitable giving. Instead of buying a candy bar, or renting a movie, put that money in the poor box here at church. It’s used by our St. Vincent de Paul Society to help those in our parish who are in need. Whatever you choose, let it bring you closer to God!



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ~ Calendar – read carefully!
- ~ March Family Day
- ~ Field trips for grades 6 & 7

March Family Day

Sunday, March 26th, 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 [signupgenius](#). We’re going to celebrate a Catholic Seder, so we need to know numbers a little earlier so we can have enough of the food required!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!

Clocks “spring” ahead and we lose an hour! Don’t be late!

First Communion Parent Gathering

Parents of students who will be making their First Communion in May 2018 need to attend this orientation on Wednesday, March 22nd, at either 9:30AM or 7PM in the church hall.

We will have registration forms available for the sacrament as well as information about the process and what is required for the sacrament next year.

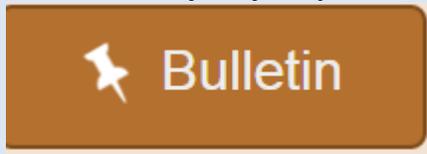
Confirmation Parent Gathering

Parents of students who will be making their Confirmation November 2017 need to attend our gathering on Wednesday, March 8th, at either 9:30AM or 7PM in the church hall. Please bring your registration, attendance, Form A and sponsor information forms as well as a choice of class time on Sundays in the fall – either 10AM, 5:45PM, or 7PM. Classes are 1-1/2 hours each.

6th Grade Interfaith Seder Field Trip

The 6th grade field trip for students and their families (which counts as a family day if the family attends with them) is Sunday, April 2nd, from 4-6:30PM at Congregation Beth Shalom at the intersection of Baynard Boulevard and 18th Street. They will also need numbers in advance! The link to the permission slip is also on the website at [Seder Permission Slip](#)

Have you checked out the parish website lately?
It's user friendly on your phone, too!



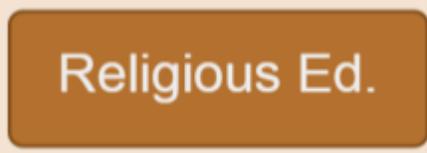
FOR THE LATEST BULLETIN:

www.smmchurch.org/sunday-bulletins



FOR SACRAMENT INFORMATION:

www.smmchurch.org/sacraments



FOR PREP INFORMATION:

<https://smmchurch.org/religious-ed>

NEW REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS WILL BE POSTED
HERE SOON!

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 19th. 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 at [Poor Clares Permission Slip](#)

Lenten Ladies' Day Retreat – Saturday March 18th at St Helena's with Deacon Jasper, this should be great! See bulletin for details!

MARCH CALENDAR

March 4th – no youth & family Mass this month

March 5th - regular classes all grades pre-k through 8
ASH PRAYER SERVICE for all grade levels at
10:30AM in the GYM parents welcome!

March 8th – Wednesday – Confirmation gathering for
parents – see page 1 for more

March 10th – Lenten Soup and Stations – 6-7:30PM –
RSVP with Theresa Stamegna at
smm youth@smmchurch.org so we can have
enough soup, you just bring a salad or side
(meatless, of course – it's a Friday in Lent!)

March 11th – belated Valentine's Dinner for married
couples in the hall check bulletin for details!

March 12th – CLASSES FOR GRADES K-8 **TIME "SPRINGS"**
FORWARD AT 2AM, DON'T BE LATE FOR CLASS!

March 18th & 19th –School Tag Sale

March 19th - regular classes all grades pre-k through 8
AND
7TH GRADE TRIP TO POOR CLARES

March 22nd - Wednesday – Communion gathering for
FIRST GRADE parents – see page 1 for more

March 26th - FAMILY CATHOLIC SEDER – GRADES 1-8 AND
THEIR FAMILIES GO DIRECTLY TO THE CHURCH HALL
KINDERGARTEN WILL HAVE CLASS AS USUAL

March 27th – I will be on retreat this week and unavailable

April 2nd – Interfaith Seder see box for details

April 8th – Palm Saturday Pilgrimage with the Bishop –
See the youth ministry page for more details!

CHURCH FEASTS THIS MONTH

March 17th - St. Patrick
A special day for the Irish!

March 19th – St. Joseph
Tell you father how much you love him!

March 25th – Feast of the Annunciation
When the angel came to Mary