



Partners in Faith & Action

February 2016

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Please join, as a family, with the NDV faith community in one or more of our School or Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

- Feb. 7th – NDV First Grade students will be the readers and gift bearers at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. A reception will follow the Mass.
- Feb. 10th – Our Fifth graders will be the readers and gift bearers at our school Ash Wednesday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
- Feb. 17th – Lenten Prayer Service – We will learn about Operation Rice Bowl.
- Feb. 24th – Lenten Prayer Service – Stations of the Cross.

6TH GRADE SPRING TWILIGHT RETREAT

St. Dominic's Church is hosting a retreat on February 5th for all 6th grade Catholic students and their friends). This "twilight" retreat is meant to be engaging, spiritual experiences of Christian fellowship for young people and to hopefully serve as a great invitation and motivator for Confirmation preparation and future involvement in our Catholic communities.

- When: Friday, Feb. 5th, 5:30 p.m.-9:30 pm
- Where: St. Dominic's Church school building – 2390 Bush St. & Steiner St.
- Who: All 6th grade students.
- What: An evening of fun, food, games, prayer, meeting new friends, and growing stronger in your faith. Pizza will be provided. The evening will end with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church at 9 p.m., to which all family members are invited.
- Registration: Each student should bring \$5 for pizza. A waiver needs to be completed by a parent. This can be done on-site on the evening of the retreat or it can be done ahead of time

and brought to the retreat by the student's teacher/minister/chaperone.

- RSVP to Michael O'Smith at dre@stdominics.org by Feb. 4th.

Growing in Faith



FAMILIES GROWING
IN FAITH

Remember, our next Families Growing in Faith gathering is Friday, February 26th at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper in the Church Hall. The program starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. We will focus on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Alex Macmillan, a religion teacher at S.I. will be our presenter. Please bring your Bibles

VALENTINE'S DAY February 14th

SAINTS FUN FACTS by John Sheppard

A kind hearted Roman priest, he aided young Christians being persecuted by Claudius II and was imprisoned. While in custody, he converted 46 members of a guards family to Christianity! Upon discovering this, Claudius sentenced him to death. He is the patron of love, young people and happy marriage.

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St. Valentine

http://www.catholic.org/saints/ff_images/50.jpg

Videos about St. Valentine:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHmVFJ3QIPw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CI9jcT3GqFk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kDRh3U0tcU>



MARDI GRAS

The time leading up to Ash Wednesday is rich with tradition. It is carnival time in Europe and in some cities in the United States, such as New Orleans. The word carnival means “farewell to meat,” and during this time we indulge in rich foods because we know we will be giving up some of them during Lent.

The day before Ash Wednesday has several names. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) comes from the early French settlers of New Orleans who brought their carnival festivities with them. The fat in the name referred to the kind of food that was prepared to use up ingredients that they would need to give up for the Lenten fast. (from *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*)

Mardi Gras will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 9th at the NDV Parish Hall. There will be great food, beverages, raffles, and a sing-a-long. A Kids’ Corner will have arts and crafts. Look for more information in the newsletter.



ASH WEDNESDAY THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 10th and ends before Mass on Holy Thursday evening. The following are fasting and abstinence regulations:

Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. It should be observed by all Catholics 14 years and older.

Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics aged 18 to 59. Fasting means one may only take one full meal on those days.

Lent is a season of grace – a reminder that no matter how we choose to honor the season, we are acting with God’s help. One way we can dramatize that reality is to alter the Lenten questions a bit. Instead of asking “What am I doing for my Lenten journey?” I might ask “Who am I on this journey?”

At the outset of our journey and frequently during Lent we ask ourselves a series of questions that begin with the phrase, “Am I a person who...”

- ⇒ puts the needs of others before my own needs?
- ⇒ is patient and understanding in my dealings with others?

- ⇒ recognizes that I need time for quiet reflection and prayer?
- ⇒ forgives willingly and generously?
- ⇒ admits when I am wrong and seeks the forgiveness of others?
- ⇒ can forego personal pleasure and satisfaction to seek a greater good?
- ⇒ is eager to help those in need—who are hungry, thirsty, sick, lonely, or afraid?
- ⇒ is faithful and loyal and honest?

Matthew’s Gospel also provides some help with “being” questions. Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 aloud and in place of “Blessed are” ask, “Am I a person who...?” This simple reflection on the Beatitudes helps us see how we all need to *be* during Lent. (from *Catechist*, February 2016)



OPERATION RICE BOWL

The goal of Operation Rice Bowl is to put food on the tables of the hungry because, as disciples of Christ, that is what we are called to do. Operation Rice Bowl asks us to do three things during Lent to grow closer to God: pray, fast and give to those in need.

Rice bowls and a Lenten Calendar with stories, recipes, and reflections, will be sent home on February 17th in the Wednesday envelope. The CRS website says that “Families are the foundation of CRS Rice Bowl.” The website <http://www.crsricebowl.org/families> provides 0suggestions for families for their Lenten Journey.

IDEAS FOR LENT

Use as a calendar or game during Lent.

START	Decide on your Lenten sacrifice.		Pray for someone who has hurt your feelings.		Collect food for the poor. \$5
Pray an Act of Contrition.		Clean out closet or toy box. Donate to the poor.		Do something kind for a sibling or classmate.	
	Eat all of your supper without complaining.		Read a story from the Bible.		Invite someone new to sit at your lunch table. Pick up trash even if it isn't yours.
Ask your teacher if you can help with something.		Tell Jesus you love him.		Read the Gospel for next Sunday.	Make a card for a sick person.
	Pray for the Holy Father.		Help out at a parish event.	Call, visit, or write to a grandparent.	
Do someone else's chore in secret.		Pray the Stations of the Cross.		If possible, attend Holy Week services.	