



Partners in Faith & Action

January 2016

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

New Year 2016 brings several celebrations. Please join, as a family, with the NDV faith community in one or more of our School or Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

-- Jan. 10th – Family Mass and CLOW at 9:00 a.m. followed by a reception in the Church Hall.

-- Jan. 15th -- The sixth graders will lead the school in a Mass for Peace and Justice at 8:30 a.m. Full uniform please.

-- Jan. 22nd – Our second grade students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at 1:30 p.m. in the Church. A reception will follow in the Cafeteria.

-- Jan. 31st – Our third graders will kick off Catholic Schools Week by being readers and gift bearers at 9:00 a.m., and provide a reception after the Mass.

Additionally, there will be a Prayer Service at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd in the School auditorium celebrating Catholic Schools Week.

CHRISTMAS

Remember, we are still in the Christmas season. Christmas does not end until January 10th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
January 31st -- February 6th

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2016 is the same as last year: “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” This theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities—small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge, and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

The logo features a swirl of colors interacting around a cross, which is at the center of

all Catholic education. The vibrancy of the colors and the movement and shadows in the logo portray the inner-connectivity and community life that are present in our Catholic schools.

This year there are themes for each day of the week. They are celebrating our parish, community, students, nation, vocations, faculty, staff and volunteers, and families. Each makes Catholic schools, and specifically, NDV the successes they are.



FAMILIES GROWING IN FAITH

Remember, our next Families Growing in Faith gathering is Friday, January 22nd at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper in the Church Hall. The program starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. Our discussion will be led by Ms. Pamela Lyons. Our topic is Church. Please bring your Bibles.

MARIST SPIRITUALITY

Br. Sean Sammon, S.M. will speak about “Human and Spiritual Growth Over the Course of a Lifetime” this Saturday, January 9th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the NDV Church Hall. All are invited, but please RSVP to the rectory at (415) 397-0113 if you plan to attend.

PEACE & JUSTICE

During the month of January, we are mindful of those who have worked and continue to work for peace and justice. We also need to remember to work for peace and justice in our own communities. As we pray at our morning assemblies: “O God, in the example of St. Joseph, help us to be builders of unity and instruments of reconciliation.”

A peace prayer from Pope Francis:
“...Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last,

and may the words “division”, “hatred” and “war” be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands.

Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be “brother”, and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

(Invocation for peace (8 June 2014))

CELEBRATE MERCY!

On December 8th, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter’s to begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy which will run through the Feast of Christ the King, November 20, 2016. The scriptural reference for the year comes Christ’s command in Luke 6:36, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Our contemporary society is not one of justice or mercy. Watch television news, listen to radio talk shows, read the morning newspaper and you will see an “us versus them” mentality. We often think of mercy being a sign of weakness.

Pope Francis said: “I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think—and I say it with humility—that this is the Lord’s most powerful message: mercy.” (homily on March 17, 2013).

In the Gospel, mercy is revealed in stories of prodigal son, public sinners, the poor, outcasts, fishermen, the hungry, etc.

During this year, we are called to be merciful. We should ask ourselves: How do we describe other people? Do we use our language to condemn others?

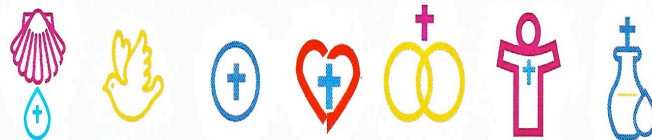
During this year let’s be patient. God is always willing to forgive us. Do we show the same willingness to forgive those in our family, workplace, etc.

(information from the *Catechist*, January 2016)

SACRAMENTS

The sacraments are about our salvation. Take a moment to reflect on all seven sacraments – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance (Reconciliation), Anointing of the Sick, Holy

Orders, and Matrimony. See if you know your sacraments.



Know Your Sacraments

BY JEAN LARKIN

Each of the seven sacraments of the Church has a special place in our faith journeys. Some sacraments are received only one time during a special moment in our lives and others are celebrated many times. Regardless of how often we receive a sacrament it is a powerful moment and has a specific intention and recognizable symbols, and it is celebrated in a special ritual.

See how well you know the sacraments by reading each of the following statements and then identifying the sacrament to which it refers. In the grid, write the statement number in the column below the corresponding sacrament.

- 1 A bishop most always officiate at _____.
- 2 Through _____, God blesses a couple’s love for each other.
- 3 Jesus initiated the _____ during his Last Supper.
- 4 When facing death, _____ brings assurance of God’s love and acceptance.
- 5 With the sacrament of _____, priests, acting in the person of Christ, “unite the votive offerings of the faithful to the sacrifice of Christ their head, and in the sacrifice of the Mass they make present again and apply, until the coming of the Lord” (CCC, 1566)
- 6 In this sacrament, a priest advises you how to avoid sins in the future.
- 7 Water is a primary symbol of this sacrament.
- 8 You receive God’s forgiveness when you receive _____.
- 9 In _____ you receive special gifts that strengthen your faith.
- 10 God blesses your suffering when you receive _____.
- 11 One of the symbols of the sacrament of _____ is a ring.
- 12 You confess your sins to a priest.
- 13 Symbols of the sacrament of _____ are bread and wine.
- 14 Through the grace of _____, a priest has the power to forgive sins.
- 15 _____ is the first sacrament you receive.
- 16 Through _____ the sick receive special strength for what is to come.
- 17 When you receive _____, you are especially blessed with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- 18 _____ is received during Mass.
- 19 When a man receives _____, he becomes a priest.
- 20 A couple receives _____ when they marry.
- 21 Through _____, you become a child of God.

BAPTISM	CONFIRMATION	EUCARIST	RECONCILIATION	MATRIMONY	HOLY ORDERS	ANOINTING OF THE SICK

ANSWERS: Baptism: 5, 14, 19; Confirmation: 1, 9, 17; Eucharist: 3, 13, 18; Reconciliation: 6, 8, 12; Matrimony: 2, 11, 20; Holy Orders: 5, 14, 19; Anointing of the Sick: 4, 10, 16

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