



Partners in Faith & Action

March 2016

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

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

--March 13th, 9:00 a.m., Family Mass.

--March 9th, Lenten Prayer Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium.

--March 18th, Mass celebrating the Feasts of St. Joseph and St. Patrick in the Church at 8:30 a.m. We will sit in Faith Families. Full uniform.

--March 25th, Agape Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium.

Growing in Faith



FAMILIES GROWING IN FAITH

Remember, our last Families Growing in Faith gathering this year is Friday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper in the Church Hall. The program starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. Fr. Rene will be answering your questions about faith, and program evaluations will be completed. Please bring your Bibles.

RECONCILIATION

Lent is a good time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and experience God's forgiveness. Our Lenten Prayer Service today led by our Second Grade students reminded us about God's forgiveness. Students will experience this Sacrament in the Church on:

March 2nd at 9:00 a.m. – 4th & 5th grades

March 3rd at 9:00 a.m. – 3rd & 6th grades

The 7th and 8th grade students will join the Notre Dame des Victoires Church Community for Reconciliation at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4th. This would be a good time for the family to receive the Sacrament together.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last

day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

On Good Friday 1991, Pope John Paul II meditated on a new set of Stations based on the events of the Passion as found in Scripture. You can find Scriptural Stations at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/stations-of-the-cross/scriptural-stations-of-the-cross.cfm>

The Stations of the Cross are commonly found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images. The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays, and especially on Good Friday, the day of the year upon which the events actually occurred. You may find more about the Traditional Stations of the Cross at these sites:

<http://www.ainglkiss.com/stations4kids/> which includes prayers/reflections for parent and child. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0qv7c4PsrA> has a Stations for children with the 15th Station: Jesus Resurrection.

Printable Stations:

<http://www.catholicicing.com/printable-stations-of-cross-for/>



ACTIVITIES TO DO AS A FAMILY FOR LENT

The following activities can be done as a family as we continue our Lenten Journey:

- + Make up a family prayer to use during Lent.
- + Have a no TV family night. Play games and talk to each other.
- + Go to Mass together.
- + Read the Scripture together.

- + Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family.
- + Pray together.
- + Take a walk and pick up litter.
- + Take a walk and enjoy God's creation.
- + Visit someone who is lonely.
- + Say "I'm sorry" to someone you've hurt.
- + Go through your closets and give things to those in need.
- + Do the activities on the Rice Bowl Calendar and put some money in the Rice Bowl as a family.
- + Do a family service project. You might make Easter cards/greetings for a relative, friend, shut-in, someone who needs encouragement. Or you could gather toys, food, clothes, or personal care items to donate to the poor.

WHEN YOU CAN'T FAST FROM FOOD

While Lenten fasting traditionally refers to giving up certain foods, there are other ways to "fast" too. Fasting can range from the electronic—fasting from television, the laptop, or phone—to giving up alcohol or smoking. Maybe it's canceling cable television for the 40 days of Lent. A person could fast from shopping at the local mall and making unnecessary purchases.... You can fast by checking closets, cupboards, storage rooms and the garage, and donating unused items to folks who really need them. Fasting could mean not going out to eat, and then donating the money to the CRS Rice Bowl.... (from *The Little Black Book*)

CELEBRATE THE SAINTS

We celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick on March 17th and the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th.

More information can be found at:

March Saints:

http://jclubcatholic.org/stories/SaintADay.aspx?sjc_month=3#SALJC_7

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=4 -- St. Joseph

Activities can be found at <http://www.dltk-holidays.com/patrick/index.html>

Blessings:

http://www.islandireland.com/Pages/folk/sets/bl_ess.html



THE TRIDUUM

Lent officially ends at sunset on Holy Thursday, giving way to

the most important days of the liturgical year, the Easter or Paschal Triduum. Triduum means "three days." The Triduum is the heart of the liturgical year and of our faith. It begins at sundown on Holy Thursday and ends at sundown on Easter Sunday.

The Mass on Thursday reminds us of the seder meal Jesus shared with his disciples before he died. Unlike the other Gospels, John's Gospel does not tell us about what Jesus did with the bread and wine. John focused on Jesus' washing of the disciple's feet. After washing their feet, Jesus commanded his followers, "As I have done for you, you should also do." This is called the "Mandatum." That is why this day is referred to as Maundy Thursday. Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment.

The washing of the feet during the Mass reminds us that Jesus came to serve others, even to the point of giving his life for us. He freely accepted his suffering out of love for us and obedience to his Father.

At the Holy Thursday Mass, the priest consecrates the hosts that will be used in the service on Friday because there is no Mass on Good Friday. The hosts are incensed and brought to the Tabernacle or Blessed Sacrament Chapel in a solemn procession.

At the end of Mass on Holy Thursday, all of the altar coverings and decorations are removed in silence. This reminds us that Jesus was stripped of his garments and helps us focus on Jesus.

Services on Good Friday remind us of Jesus' passion. Services may include the Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Communion. There are often reenactments of Jesus' passion story, meditations on the words from the cross, and Stations of the Cross.

The Easter Vigil is one of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the liturgical year. It is a celebration of fire, light, water, Word and Sacrament. The readings for the Vigil follow the story of salvation from God's creation of the world, the sparing of Noah and his family from the flood and the deliverance of God's people from Egypt to the Gospel accounts of Jesus' rising from the grave to redeem all people.

Check your Parish schedule for the times of each of these services. Share these meaningful celebrations as a family.

