



# Partners in Faith & Action

March 2017

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>, Operation Rice Bowl Prayer Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium. Watch for your Rice Bowl and the calendar guide in your Wednesday envelope.

--March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., Family Mass.

--March 15<sup>th</sup>, Lenten Prayer Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium.

--March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Lenten Prayer Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium.

--March 29<sup>th</sup>, Lenten Prayer 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 questions which you submitted last month. Please bring your Bibles.

## LENT

Lent begins today, Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday evening. It is a liturgical season consisting of 40 days (excluding Sundays) of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The color for this season is purple/violet because it is a penitential season.

We often give up something for Lent, only to start it again once Lent is over. Perhaps this year, we could look at something that is a bad habit or attitudes which need to be changed.

## OPERATION RICE BOWL

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) started Operation Rice Bowl in



1975. The theme this year is, Encounter Lent. "The Good News is no mere matter of words...It is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others." (Pope Francis)

In next week's Wednesday envelope you will receive a Rice Bowl. Tucked inside the Rice Bowl is the 2017 Home Calendar Guide. It contains daily reflections and activities for your Lenten journey. There are also personal stories of people from the countries where our money will be sent to help those who are in need. The countries being served this year are India, Zambia, El Salvador, Mexico, Ethiopia and the Diocese of Honolulu.

Recipes for simple meatless meals enjoyed by people in the countries noted are provided for you to try. Give the money you saved by eating a simple meal to your Rice Bowl. There are several suggestions as to how you can decide how much money to put in your Rice Bowl. Please be generous.

## RECONCILIATION

Lent is a good time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and experience God's forgiveness. Students will experience this Sacrament in the Church on:

March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> grades

March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will join the Notre Dame des Victoires Church Community for Reconciliation at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. This would be a good time for the family to receive the Sacrament together.

## BLACK BOOK

In 1999, Bishop Ken Untener of the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, decided to create a *Little Black Book* to encourage people to spend six minutes a day in prayer.

On the left-hand page is a variety of Catholic traditions and customs, saint of the day, historical tidbits, and other information. During the week, the right-hand page walks through

John's passion story a few verses at a time with explanations and reflections. This type of praying with the Scriptures is called *lectio divina*. The focus on Sunday is prayer.

Using the *Little Black Book* is one way to improve your prayer life during Lent. You can pick one up after Mass at NDV Church while supplies last.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians remembered Jesus' life and death by visiting and praying at places where Jesus lived, suffered, died, and rose from the dead. Churches started inviting people to follow in the footsteps of Jesus without leaving home.

The Stations of the Cross are commonly found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images tracing the events of Good Friday. The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays, and especially on Good Friday.

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>

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.
- + Make a calendar with an activity to do each day, such as invite someone to sit at your lunch table, pray and Act of Contrition, read a story from the Bible, do someone else's chore, run an errand for an elderly person, etc.
- + There is a calendar at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/upload/lent-2017-calendar.pdf> which contains words of Pope Francis and the Church fathers and suggestions for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent.
- + 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.

### CELEBRATE THE SAINTS

We celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick on March 17<sup>th</sup> and the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found at:

March Saints:

[http://jclubcatholic.org/stories/SaintADay.aspx?sjc\\_month=3#SALJC\\_7](http://jclubcatholic.org/stories/SaintADay.aspx?sjc_month=3#SALJC_7)  
[http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=4](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](http://www.islandireland.com/Pages/folk/sets/bl_ess.html)

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The first Friday of March is World Day of Prayer. The day was the idea of Church Women United, an ecumenical Christian women's group working for justice and peace. Each year, a women's group from a different part of the world writes a prayer service for the day. This year's theme is, "Am I being unfair to you?"

See the program at

<http://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>