



# Partners in Faith & Action

March 2018

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

--March 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., Family Mass. A reception follows Mass in the Church Hall.

--March 14<sup>th</sup>, Lenten Prayer Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium.

--March 18<sup>th</sup>, First grade students will be the readers and gift bearers at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. This is the Coaches' Thank You Mass. A reception in the Church Hall will follow.

--March 19<sup>th</sup>, Seventh grade students will be the readers and gift bearers at the 8:45 a.m. School Mass. Please wear full uniform.

--March 29<sup>th</sup>, Holy Thursday 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 Tuesday, March 20<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. Please bring your Bibles.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades

## 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 quotes, suggestions, information, and timely thoughts. This year's left-hand pages will occasionally look at almsgiving. During the week, the right-hand page walks through Mark's passion story a few verses at a time with explanations and reflections. The focus on Sunday is almsgiving.

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>



## ACTIVITIES TO DO AS A FAMILY FOR LENT

The following are more activities that 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. You could use the scripture and reflections from *The Little Black Book*.
- + 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..
- + Say "I'm sorry" to someone you've hurt.
- + Do the activities on the Rice Bowl Calendar and put some money in the Rice Bowl as a family.



## 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. The motto of World Day of Prayer is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." Each year, a women's group from a different part of the world writes a prayer service for the day. This year's theme comes from the women of Suriname and is "All God's Creation is Very Good."

## THE TRIDUUM

Easter Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Holy Thursday Mass commemorates the institution of the Eucharist. The washing of the feet of chosen members of the assembly is performed on this day. This represents the service and charity of Christ, who came "not to be served, but to serve." Enough hosts are consecrated at this Mass for the Good Friday Service.

After Mass, the altar is stripped without ceremony and in silence. It reminds us of the stripping of Jesus' garments before he was crucified.

Mass is not celebrated on Good Friday. The solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is celebrated, usually in the afternoon. This liturgy consists of three parts:

\*The Liturgy of the Word—Readings from Isaiah, the Letter to the Hebrews, and the Passion from St. John's Gospel are proclaimed. After the homily, 10 special intercessions are read or sung, including prayers for the Church, the pope, the unity of Christians, those in need, and those who do not believe in God.

- \*Veneration of the Cross—The assembly is invited to come forward and perform an appropriate sign of reverence for the cross, such as touching or kissing the wood of the cross.
- \*Holy Communion—Communion is distributed from the bread that was consecrated at the Mass on Holy Thursday. After Communion, people leave the Church in silence.

Holy Saturday is a day when those preparing for the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil may come to the empty church to spend time in reflection and prayer. (Information from *The Little Black Book*)

## THE EASTER VIGIL



The Easter Vigil is one of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the liturgical year. It is celebrated after sunset on Holy Saturday and is the beginning of the Easter season. It is a celebration of fire, light, water, Word and Sacrament.

The service starts in darkness. The service starts outside of the church, where the new fire is lit and blessed. The Paschal Candle is prepared. The procession enters the Church lighting candles.

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.

After the Liturgy of the Word, the Easter water is blessed, and the new members of the Church are baptized.

The Mass continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

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

## PASSOVER

Our Jewish brothers and sisters start their celebration of Passover after sunset on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

