

Faith Formation Family News

Week 11

March 9 & 12, 2008

Please Note

There is a date change for the May 7 class...Faith Formation for Children originally scheduled for May 7 will be moved to May 14 due to Confirmation.

Faith at Home

We will be learning about the sacraments in our next two classes. Quiz your kids on them: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, Holy Orders.

Lectionary Link

5th Sunday of Lent

Did you know that the shortest verse in the entire bible is just two words (NIV)? See if you can find it at [John 11:35](#).

This week's gospel is the story of how Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead. Imagine you were there. Lazarus was sick and very close to death. You send a messenger to Jesus but he waits two days before coming. You prepare Lazarus's body for the grave and see to his funeral, and several days later, Jesus finally comes to town. Where has he been? Why did he let us down? If only Jesus had come earlier he could have saved Lazarus!!

Jesus mourns for his friend, and then decides to open the tomb. Can you smell the stench of death coming from the tomb? But more comes forth from the grave – Lazarus, brought to life, back from the dead!

Dig a little deeper

Question for Children: Some things in life require death for new life to take place. Think of a seed that must die to grow into a plant or a candle that must give itself up to make light. What sacrifices do you make to shine as a light to others?

Question for Adults: What has Christ brought back from the dead for you? A marriage? A friendship? Pray for those things that need new life.

Coming Up

*Next Children's Faith Formation classes:
Session 12, March 30 & April 2

*Our Lady of Light's Lenten Reconciliation Services: Thursday, March 13th at 2:00 & 7:00 pm

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 16th – Passion/Palm Sunday

The Passion is read and palms are blessed at this Mass. We use palms to remind us of Jesus' final

journey into Jerusalem. He was greeted by shouts of joy and waving palm branches.

Thursday, March 20 – Holy Thursday

The Mass this evening is the celebration of the Lord's Supper like no other time in the year. The priest washes the feet of parish members, and it is the last celebration of the Eucharist until Easter Vigil. Remember in Scripture, after this final celebration of the Lord's Supper, Jesus is taken away to be killed. Mass is at 7:00pm.

Friday, March 21 – Good Friday

Today is the only day all year that Mass is not celebrated. After the final service of the day, the Christ candle is extinguished and the tabernacle is left open and empty. Stations of the Cross are held at noon, and the reading of the Passion is at 3:00 & 7:00pm.

March 22nd – Holy Saturday

All year, adults and children have been preparing to come fully into the Catholic church family. They were called Catechumen and Candidates, then Elect as the time for their sacraments neared. At the Easter Vigil Mass they will be baptized, receive First Holy Communion, and be Confirmed. What an exciting day for our Church family! The Easter Vigil Mass takes longer than a normal Mass – usually around 2 hours, and must begin after sundown. This year it is currently scheduled at 8:00pm.

March 23rd - Easter Sunday

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad! Jesus Christ has risen today, *Alleluia!*

Did you notice we have not sung the Alleluia once during Lent? Easter Sunday is the day we break into song once again – our somber time of sadness and repentance has made way for a time of rejoicing.

Had there never been an Easter Sunday, there would not be a Christian faith. Jesus' death was no miracle, but his resurrection was proof that he was God. He spent those days in the darkness with all our sin and rose, victorious on the third day. His defeat of death and sin makes way for us to spend eternity in heaven. *Alleluia!* Mass times are 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 (Church) and 8:45, 10:45 (Parish Center).

So, do we have to go to all the services? For a full understanding of the meaning of Easter, yes. Starting with the Palm Sunday procession into Jerusalem, Jesus is set up to die. The days pass by, each with their own meaning and important events, and build one upon the other to the finale of Easter Sunday. If you have never experienced the fullness of Holy Week, make this your year.

Looking ahead to next year...

Please consider the following questions and bring your responses back to the next Faith Formation session.

1. My preferred time for Faith Formation for my family is:

- Sunday morning, after the 10:30am mass
- Wednesday afternoon starting at 4:00pm
- Wednesday night starting at 6:30pm
- Sunday afternoon, before the 5:00pm mass
- Other: _____

2. Please rate the following in terms of importance to your family's Faith Formation (1-most important, 5-least important):

- ___ Family-oriented Faith Formation time
- ___ Religious Education classes for children
- ___ Parent-oriented Faith Formation time
- ___ Adult-Faith Formation
- ___ Seasonal family-oriented liturgies or services (ex. Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross)

3. Please check those that you found to be valuable this year and would like to see again next year.

- Registration Weekend
- "Family Notes" FF Newsletter
- "Family Take-Out" (monthly mini-magazine handout)
- Opening prayer & gathering services before each session
- Presentations for parents
- Coffee during Faith Formation
- Family Advent Day

4. Please check those you would like to see for next year:

- Beginning or end of year picnic or potluck
- More all-family events
- Occasional family meal-sharing (like cookouts or pancake breakfasts)

5. Please contact me about:

- Serving as a Catechist (teacher) next year
- Serving as an Assistant Catechist next year
- Helping to plan or coordinate all-family events
- Serving on a Family Faith Formation planning board

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please share any thoughts or suggestions you have regarding the program this year or for next year:
