

Lenten Questions

Why do we Fast during Lent?

After his baptism, Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray. He was then able to reject the devil's temptations and focus on the Good News of Salvation. During Lent we follow the example of Jesus as we fast, pray and give alms to those in need. By giving up meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent, we seek God's strength to overcome temptation and be faithful to the Gospel.

Why is Easter celebrated on a different date every year?

Church leaders felt that Easter needed to be observed on a Sunday to commemorate Jesus' Resurrection. Therefore, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox or the first day of spring. Ash Wednesday, then, is 6 weeks back from Holy Thursday.

What is the difference between a "candidate" and a "catechumen"?

A candidate is someone who has been previously baptized in another Christian Faith. At the Easter Vigil, candidates will be confirmed and receive their First Communion.

Catechumens are those individuals who have never been officially initiated into a church community. At the Easter Vigil they will be baptized, confirmed and receive communion.

What is the Paschal Triduum?

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday. The remainder of Holy Week—beginning with the mass of the Last Supper of Holy Thursday, and including Good Friday and Holy Saturday—are called the "Triduum"—which means three days.

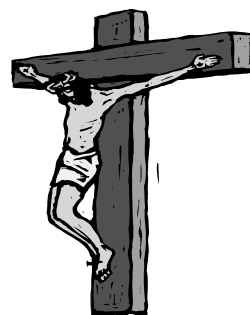
St. Boniface Church

Issue 24 February 11, 2010



Dates to Remember

Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday
Feb. 21- 1st Eucharist Parent Mt. 10:00 AM
Feb. 22, Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29, Stations of the Cross at 7:45 AM
Stations on Thursdays after 7 PM Mass
Lenten Bible Study begins on Mondays of Lent at 7 PM in Rectory Basement.
Feb. 26- March 1- Winter Break
March 7 Confirmation Retreat at MD
March 12- 14 DYC Convention
March 14—St. Boniface Reconciliation at 4:30PM
March 26- End of Third Quarter
March 27 1st Eucharist Retreat 9—12
March 28—Palm Sunday
March 31 Report Card
March 28- April 4 Holy Week
March 29—Live Stations of the Cross—7th Grade
April 1-5 Easter Break
April 10 -First Eucharist 4:00 PM
April 29 Confirmation St. Mary, Carlyle 7:00 PM



Faith Formation Parent Connection

Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

February 17 begins an important liturgical season with Lent and Sacramental Preparations. I feel it is very important time for families to engage their members with Lenten Activities. Lent is a season when we remember the sacrifices Jesus made for us. It is a time to reflect on our short comings and seek forgiveness but also be aware of people around us who need our help through prayer and sharing of ourselves. This issue of the Parent Connection is full of ideas and activities to help your family journey through these six weeks of Lent.

Although family life can be very hectic, consider gathering together for a few minutes on the eve of Ash Wednesday to determine one way in which you, as a family, will pray, fast and give alms throughout Lent. Together, we can make this Lenten Season a meaningful one for you and your family. Blessings to you and your family.

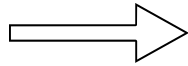
Sincerely In Christ,

Lenten Practices

- Prayer**— Stations of the Cross (see Dates)
Rosary, Meal Prayers
Penance Services (See Dates)
Pray for First Communicants & Confirmands, RCIA Candidates
- Fasting**— Operation Rice Bowl (box sent home)
Say "No" to TV, Video Games, Soda, etc.
Prepare Lenten Meals
Follow Lenten Regulations for Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, & Fridays of Lent
- Almsgiving**—Works of Charity & Justice
Operation Rice Bowl
Donate to Faith Formation Service Project (see page 2)

Lenten Service Projects

Operation Rice Bowl
Aluminum Tab
Collection
Now thru March 26



Stations of the Cross
Stations of the Cross on
Mon. Mornings at 7:45 AM
Feb. 22, Mar. 8, 15, 22, & 29
and Thursday Evenings
Feb. 18, 25, March 11, 26

Living Stations of the Cross
will be presented by 7th grade
on Mon. March 29



Web- Cites

- www.faithfirst.com
- www.domestic-church.com
- www.catholic-mom.com
- www.plfaum.com
- www.catholicculture.org
- www.orb.crs.org
- www.sermons4kids.com
- www.findinggod.org
- www.loyolapress.com

Lenten Service Projects

K— Toothpaste **5th Gr— Kleenex**
1st Gr— Bar Soap **6th Gr— Toilet Paper**
2nd Gr Shampoo **7th Gr— Paper Napkins**
3rd Gr— Deodorant **8th Gr— Paper Towels**
4th Gr—Dishwashing Detergent
Collecting March 8-19 Only



NEW or GENTLY USED SHOE COLLECTION
The High School Youth Ministry is collecting shoes for the needy during the month of March. Place shoes in the bins found in the entrance of Church.

Lenten Schedule

Shrove Tuesday—Plan activities that will help your family be ready for the Lenten Season.
Ash Wednesday—Start a journal. Reflect on each week's theme.
Week 1- A life of Prayer. Focus on the role of prayer in your Christian Life. Set up a Prayer corner where members list prayer needs. Set up 7 candles or votive lights in the form of a cross. Light a candle each week.
Week 1—Self-Control Focus on your Lenten sacrifices; giving up TV, collecting items in your house that are no longer used and donate to others, use less energy, water, and recycle.
Week 3—Service to God Focus on helping others and living like Jesus in your daily life.
Week 4— Forgiveness Attend parish Reconciliation service on March 14 at 4:30 PM. Focus on forgiving others.
Week 5- A Life of faith Focus on how faith is the foundation of a Christian Life.
Week 6—Holy Week Focus on and attend the events leading up to Easter Sunday.
Easter Sunday—CELEBRATE the RISEN CHRIST

Lenten Suggested Home Activities

Ask your children what they are learning in their Faith Formation Classes

- Select an idea or activity to follow throughout the six weeks of Lent.
- Visit the elderly especially those who are in the nursing homes.
- Participate in **Operation Rice Bowl** (Sent home with child)
- Check out the web-cites for family activities (see Page 2)
- Celebrate the Eucharist together as a family on weekends:
Sat. 4:00 PM & Sun. at 9:00 AM
- Participate in the parish activities: Stations, Scripture Study, Reconciliation, Triduum, Easter Vigil
- Contribute to the FF Lenten Service Projects (see Page 2)
- Participate in the Liturgy of the Word with Children at 9:00 AM Mass
- Participate in the events listed in Dates to Remember (Page 1)
- Discuss the Questions of the Week found in the weekly bulletin.

Special Projects to do at Home

- * **Make a Lenten Prayer Center.** Decorate it with a purple cloth, a cross, Operation Rice Bowl, or just a candle. Have paper and a pen ready for special intentions.
- * Have a Poverty Meal and talk about how it feels to have such a small amount of food. Donate the difference of the money you would have spent for food to Operation Rice Bowl.
- * Place a Good-Deed Jar on the Table. At the end of each day place beans, pennies, buttons, whatever works for you of good deeds that each person of the family did for others.
- * Helping Hands Basket— Trace hands on colorful paper & cut out. Place a hand in the basket each time someone helps others, or place hands on a tree. Be Creative.

Youth Ministry News

Spring Activities for Jr. High

Easter Egg Fund Raiser and Service Project - March 28
Mother's Day Flower Sale - May 9

Spring Activities for High School

Monthly Meeting—3rd Sunday of the Month
Service Project— Collecting new and/or gently used shoes during the month of March.
DYC Convention— March 12-14
Blessing of Graduates—May Liturgy-TBA