

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

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March 2017

## No Class – March 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday Break

### Lent 2017

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - March 1st. Masses at St. Patrick's are 7:30am, Noon, and 6pm. Students came home with Lent posters to help them and their families with the three traditional practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Here are some helps for you and your family:

Prayer The poster had one person or group the kids could pray for each day of Lent. Every day they could say an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be (or some other prayer they know) for that person. You could do this as a family, too. Your family could also add some family prayer during Lent. Maybe say Grace if you don't normally, say a Rosary each week, or commit to attending Mass every Sunday if you don't already.

Fasting Fasting means 3 things: eating less, abstaining from meat on Fridays, and giving something up. For adults we must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by eating only one full meal. Kids can also fast those days by eating less or cutting out between meal snacks. Abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent is really not too hard of a sacrifice, but can help us remember all those people in the world that cannot even afford to eat meat. While those under 14 are not obligated to abstain, this really is an easy practice for anyone of any age. Giving something up for Lent does not have to mean food. We can give up a bad habit, a sin we always fall into, or a bad attitude.

Almsgiving This means to help those in need. Rice Bowls from Catholic Relief Services will be available to pick up on Ash Wednesday. This helps the poor around the world. Your family might choose to donate some clothes or household items to a thrift store or shelter. You could also volunteer together somewhere. One suggestion would be to go to the 10:00 Sunday Mass at Holy Family downtown and stay after Mass to help with their sack lunch program for the poor and homeless. At Religious Ed we will be collecting items for the Gretna Neighbors. Students can bring in toiletry items to RE class to stock their shelves:

- bar soap
- shower gel
- shampoo
- combs and brushes
- deodorant
- shaving cream
- razors
- toothpaste
- tooth brushes
- floss

### World Day of Prayer

Be a part of the 2017 World Day of Prayer hosted by St. Patrick's. Join in with the Gretna area Christian community on Thursday, March 2nd from 10:00-11:30 am as we pray along with the entire world for the women and children of the Philippines. This event will begin in church with an ecumenical prayer service written by the Philippian Women's Committee. Fellowship and refreshments will follow in the parish center. Help us welcome in the men and women of other faiths who will join us for prayer and a little taste of the Philippines.

### Disciple Maker Index Survey

Parishioners are encouraged to complete the national survey that opened last week via your email, or by using this generic link: [www.DiscipleMakerIndex.com](http://www.DiscipleMakerIndex.com) or by paper copy located inside the parish office. Note:

if a household shares a single email only one person will be able to use the link from the email they received. We invite the other adult members to take the survey by use of the generic link, listed above. Your responses are important! Results to be provided this summer. Thank you for your participation.

## **St. Patrick's Day Family Hooley**

Hooley is Irish for party, and our parish will again be having this family friendly celebration of our Patron Saint. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, all families are invited to enjoy food, entertainment, games, and fun. From 5:00-7:00 in the Parish Center we will be offering corned beef and cabbage, hot dogs and chips, desserts, St. Paddy's games, and lots of good prizes. The best thing: it's all FREE. This year's entertainment is Irish dancing from the Craoi Na Tire dance group around 5:30. So, when you pick up your child from RE that night, stay and have a meal and some fun. Or, come early before the 7:00 class. (We recommend 5:30 students attend with their families after class at 6:30 instead of before class at 5:00.)

We still need more help! If you or your 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader would like to volunteer that night in the kitchen, dining room, or game area please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4caee22a6fd0-stpatricks>

## **2017-2018 RE Registration**

Registration for classes next year will begin March 22<sup>nd</sup>. On that day, forms will be emailed to families. Forms can also be printed off [http://stpatsgretna.org/religious\\_ed.htm](http://stpatsgretna.org/religious_ed.htm) or can be picked up in the RE office. Remember, classes fill up fast, and are first come first served.

## **Summer Programs**

More info will be available next month, but many of you are already planning summer activities. This year VBS for pre-schoolers and those entering kindergarten (ages 3-5) will be June 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> from 9-11:30am. Totus Tuus for those entering 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades will be June 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 9am-2:30pm. And Totus Tuus for those entering 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades will be June 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm.

## **From "The Lorica" or "St. Patrick's Breastplate"**

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.

## **Upcoming Events**

### March

1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> – No class Ash Wednesday break

15<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day Family Hooley, 5-7pm, Parish Center \*classes as normal\*

19<sup>th</sup> – First Communion Family Day (A-L), 11am, Parish Center

22<sup>nd</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> – Reconciliation during class

### April

2<sup>nd</sup> – First Communion Family Day (M-Z), 11am, Parish Center

12<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> – No Class, Holy Week & Easter

22<sup>nd</sup> – First Communion Practice & Pictures, 9:30am

22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> – First Communion Masses, 5:00, 8:00, 10:00, Noon

### May

3<sup>rd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> – Last Day

**Don't hesitate to contact me with your questions, comments, or concerns:**

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