

GOOD SHEPHERD GAZETTE

Welcome to the third edition of the Good Shepherd Gazette! I hope you enjoy reading all our news.

Thank you to all our youth participating in the Youth Mass on March 6th!

Lent is right around the corner and begins with our Ash Wednesday celebration March 9th. Mass is at 7:00. Good Shepherd host Stations of the Cross every Friday night during Lent with different ministries sponsoring a night. Rel-ed grades 1st-7th are hosting on March 25th. Your child may have volunteered to come read and sing. Please join us at 6:15 for Stations with soup and sandwich dinner at 5:30 and Mass for the Annunciation at 7:00.

Catholicmom has many resources for children to assist with Lenten activities. Lesson plans for homeschooling parents are also included at this site. http://www.catholicmom.com/kids_lent_activities.htm

Please mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School** which will take place on June 20-24th. Please watch the bulletin for sign up materials. We would like all our younger youth to participate and our older youth help out.

Kindergarten The kindergarten class has talked about how Jesus was part of a family and was a child once, just like us. We discussed ways that Jesus taught people about God's love and that we too can show God's love by caring for and helping other people. We were reminded that Jesus is always with us and we can pray to Him anytime, anywhere, with any words we choose. Our favorite activities so far have been dressing up and playing different roles in our story of Zaccheus-(which was confused with zucchini), and making Valentines and bookmarks for people we love. In the coming classes, we will be "acting out" our bible story of Jesus blessing the children (Mark10: 13-16). We will talk about baptism and belonging to the Catholic Church. We will discuss the ways we take part in Mass on Sunday, and how we thank God for everything He has given us. We will learn about saints and discover ways we can show our love for God as the saints did. We will also be talking about Lent and Easter and learn ways we can "help", "pray", and "share" to show others we are growing as children of God. -Judy Thiess and Patricia Mullin

1st Grade First grade, Saint Anne's room, has been learning about living in our community and our families. We have discussed that we are all different from each other but are all children of God. Darlene showed us pictures of Saint Anthony's school in Haiti. The students were suprised by how little food and other material things that the children have in Haiti. We have been working on drawings of the stations of the cross. Many of the children are bringing back their take home papers. We have a contest running for whoever brings the most back. The winner for the first half of the year was Riley Lenz. – Amy Bowman and Tara Maestas

2nd Grade Second grade has been busy learning how to talk to God through prayer. We are especially focusing on the Lord's Prayer and The Hail Mary. We will begin our First Eucharist formation soon. Please go over your child's lessons at home.-Mary Cullen and Dede Yoko

3rd Grade The third grade children were actively engaged in learning more about the Holy Family including how important St. Joseph's role was as Jesus' foster father. We worked on the meaning and components of the Paschal Mystery.

We had a lively classroom discussion about the Holy Spirit, including Pentecost, the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit, and how the Holy Spirit is always with each of us acting as our advocate, helper and guide. We explored why the Holy Spirit is part of the Holy Trinity. Why "we are the church" and the Body of Christ was reviewed and we touched upon the Apostles, the Pope, Bishops, Priests and the Catholic Community - People of God.

With the Adoration and Benediction Service on the evening of January 30, we diverted our attention that day to talk about the importance of such a service and took a look at the various items used during the service, more specifically the monstrance and humeral veil.

The story of Saint Paul and his conversion was discussed and the children put together skits in class to act out his conversion. We learned about Saint John Neumann, the first American bishop to be named a Saint. The children gave examples of their heroes leading into a discussion about the Heroes of the Church and our Faith - The Saints and the Communion of Saints.

We learned how we can actively be part of the Body of Christ. Some of the children showed interest in becoming altar servers and we would encourage parents to email to Dave Maltby at dave.maltby@gmail.com or 365-4707 additional information. The children will be participating in the Children's Mass on March 6th and the "We adore you O Christ and we praise you" Stations on March 25th at 6:15 p.m. in preparation for Easter. Our class will be focusing on the 5th Station and 6th Station. They have already created drawings of these stations and we will be looking for volunteers to read and participate. The children realize that they all have special talents that they can give to our community.

Faith Formation of Good Shepherd

Terms reviewed during this time were Messiah, disciples, Paschal Mystery, Pentecost, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Apostles, Pope, Bishops, Priests, Saints, Communion of Saints, All Souls Day, All Saints Day. The children have worked on word scrambles, crossword puzzles and word searches reinforcing new and familiar terms. We were tasked with learning the Hail Mary Prayer this year, however, after realizing that the students know this prayer, we are currently learning the Hail, Holy Queen Prayer. –Allison Barlow and Elizabeth Roberge

4th Grade The 4th grade has been spending the last few months generally working on the Creed. A little of that has involved sacred scripture, living Christ's example, Christ as the good shepherd and the corporal works of mercy. We made commercials advertising why we should live as Christians, we played charades about the corporal works of mercy and we just did a section review Jeopardy-style. There's more excitement to come. The kids are really excited about making cards for the sick of our parish (an example of one of the corporeal works of mercy) and we'll be doing some cool stuff on Stations of the Cross.

-Stephen Nagy and Rich Stewart

5th Grade The fifth grade class is completing our second unit: We Worship, in which we learned all about celebrating the Liturgy and the Sacraments. We have learned that we are called to take what we have learned and put it into action, through service to our families, our church and our community. We will learn more about this in our next unit: We Live, where we will be learning about how we are to live out our Christian Morality. In service to our church community, we completed three small projects this past month. We wrote Epistles about Communion for our Second Graders who will be receiving their First Communion soon. We made Valentine cards for those we pray for each week in the Prayers of the Faithful, and we created the Prayers of the Faithful for the Youth Mass. -Jack Harris and Patricia Clark

6th Grade The 6th grade has been continuing to discuss the message of the weekly gospels. We have been focusing on Jesus' public ministry through his teaching and healing. We have connected the gospel and doctrine to our everyday life with examination of the interconnectedness of the web of life, the power of words (bullying), Vietnam War refugees, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., and today's positive newsmakers within our community and world. We are also continuing our work with learning our prayers and how to pray the rosary.-Dena Owens and Jody Hall

7th Grade January was a busy month for the 7th grade class. We studied the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke and related their teachings to our everyday life now. We also spent time learning about the Beatitudes and the meanings of each one. As a class, we wrote our own Prayers of the Faithful for the Youth Mass on March 6 - the class came up with some wonderful prayers!! In February we only have one class, and our group signed

up to feed the homeless the night of February 20. As a group we all pitched in to cook items at home, at church we set up, served dinner and cleaned up afterwards. We know the importance of helping others!!

–Kris Modica and Memi Taylor

8-12th Grade-Have you noticed the three Old Testament stained glass windows in our worship space? Creation, the promises made to Abraham and the Law given to Moses; these represent three covenants God made with his people. In our sessions we have studied these passages and what covenants are. Special thanks to Jack Harris who visited us and re-told the story of Abraham and Isaac. He separated the girls from the boys so that we could put ourselves into history! Also special thanks to Margaret Hickman who shared a personal story of a promise broken so that we could understand covenants in a special way. As I write this update, Carol Bryan is readying to share with us how lectors prepare for reading the Word of God at mass so that we can prepare for the Youth Mass here at Good Shepherd. Please plan on attending the Youth Mass on March 6th. You might begin by reading the readings for that mass together as a family. Deut 11:18,26-28,32 concludes Moses' second discourse on the Law; Rom 3:21-25,28 in which Paul tells us we are justified by grace and faith; Mt 7:21-27 concludes Jesus' sermon on the mount. Hope to see you all there. Wayne Stambaugh and Claudia Stewart

Youth Group On Mar. 5th there is a food fast and service project in Suffolk for LPA 4 which ends on the 6th with 11am-mass at St. Mary's. Attending youth should collect money to be sent to Haiti. We will be cleaning up a cemetery that has become overgrown. Each youth should bring sleeping gear as we are staying in an empty cabin (making beds on the floor). Another event we have coming up is the Mini Conference for LPA 4 at Resurrection on March 19th (9am - 5:30 mass). This day will be a small version of the youth conference in the summer, there will be 4 break out sessions, games, a key note speaker, food, and fun. We, (good shepherd) are in charge of supplying some of the food for lunch so, I am collecting money (\$5) from each youth. As always, we will be hosting Stations of the Cross on April 15th at 7pm. Mary Langhill will be running this, she will be putting together music and readings and will need as many youth to help as possible. We have been invited to attend a 70's Dance at St. Mary's April 30 the cost is \$7. Youth can dress up, eat good food, dance and have fun. Finally, our Spring Plant Sale orders start on April 10th through Easter. I will need youth to help please as this is an important fundraiser for us! Our next meeting is April 10th 7-8:30pm -Michelle Lenz

Adult. Please come join us on Monday nights beginning on Mar. 8th for a Lenten Reflection on Drawing Closer to Christ. We will meet at 7:00 in the chapel for evening prayer and begin our reflection immediately following. Take this special Lenten time to share your faith and reflect on Jesus Christ with your fellow parishioners. No sign ups are required.

