



# Religious Education

## March 2020



The Lenten season began on Wednesday February 26th with distribution of Ashes reminding us of our need to repent and believe in the Gospel. During the next few weeks of Lent, your child along with our parish family, those in our RCIC and RCIA who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation into full communion with the Catholic Church and the entire Church throughout the world will be entering into a more intentional and spiritual journey in preparation for the great Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during these weeks, may our faith grow stronger by increasing our love for God and others, stretching our hearts to be more charitable, and making our celebration of Easter especially meaningful.

In addition to receiving a personal Lenten reflection aid, each student received a little "My Gift of Gratitude" sacrifice box to be used on a weekly basis. The children should bring their sacrifice offerings to class each week. Please help your child be creative as to how they will meaningfully translate their sacrifices into monetary offerings. These offerings will be used to assist our Parish Outreach Programs. By participating, the children assist as good stewards of God's gifts, and blessings. They join with our entire Parish Community in furthering the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

***"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)***

### **Spring Fundraisers to benefit St. John's Religious Education and Elementary School**

Thank you in advance for supporting St. John's Religious Education and Elementary School by participating in our **Gertrude Hawk Candy and Butter Braid Fundraisers**. Orders will be ready for pickup on Wed April 1st. Please keep in mind that the Butter Braids will be frozen when they arrive and are perishable. Your prompt pickup would be gratefully appreciated as we do not have ample freezer space for storage.

### **Religious Education Registration For the 2020/2021 School Year**

Registration Forms will be electronically mailed by April 1<sup>st</sup> to all registered families. It is our hope that all forms will be returned by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Forms will also be available on St. John's Web Site. If you do not receive a form or have difficulty with the web site, please call the Rel. Ed. Office at 717- 235-2439.

### **Planning is underway for our 2020-2021 Religious Ed program.**

#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Formation:**

This opportunity is open to any Adult who wishes to assist as an aid with our Pre-School and/or our Sacrament Prep program in our School or Rel. Ed.

#### **Course Dates: Part I**

Mar. 2-3, Apr. 6-7, May 18-19

#### **Course Dates: Part II**

Aug. 24-25, Sept. 7, Oct. 12, Nov. 16

#### **Catechist Teams are also needed per grade level.**

If you desire to assist or if you know someone who would like to assist as a Catechist, Aide, Teen Assistant, Hospitality-Family Ministry Team Person, etc. please take the time to personally invite them to serve with us, and help attend-to the various levels and needs of our Youth. Lots of Volunteers are needed to assist with our growing programs.

#### **Vacation Bible School – June 21st– 25th**

The theme this year is "Miraculous Mission". We will be hosting VBS this year. Adult and Teen volunteers are needed to help make this a fun-filled learning experience. Please call the Religious Education office if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering. Diocesan clearances are needed for all adults. *(These can be procured FREE of charge)* Watch future bulletins for more details and registration information.

#### **Upcoming Lenten Events**

- 3/4 – RCIA Diocesan Retreat
- 3/6, 3/20 & 4/3 – Lenten Seafood Dinners 4-7pm in the Social Hall
- 3/11 & 3/12 – Lenten Penance Service – 6:15pm (MC)
- 3/19 - Italian Mass 6pm (MC) Reception following in the Social Hall (Feast of St. Joseph)
- 3/26 – Gr. 2 First Communion Parent Meeting 6:15pm in the Social Hall
- 3/28 – Gr. 8 Conf. Retreat for Cand/Sponsor – 10am-5pm

#### **Stations of the Cross**

All Fridays during Lent at 7:00pm (MC)

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Every Wednesday during Lent at 6:15 (MC)