

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV Issue 7

March 2020

NO CLASS – Feb 26th/ March 1st (Ash Wednesday break)

Lent

At RE:

Prayer: Many classes will add some prayer time to class. We will all pray the Stations of the Cross together on April 1st/5th. Parents and families are welcome to join us this day.

Almsgiving: On March 4th/8th students will bring home baby bottles for our Lenten Almsgiving project. These bottles are to collect loose change or any money to benefit Essential Pregnancy Services. EPS helps those in need that are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy with medical assistance, parenting classes, and baby supplies. These bottles (empty or full) are due March 18th/22nd.

At Home:

Prayer: Your family could add some other 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. Kids are not obligated to fast on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday like adults, but they still could by eating less or cutting out between meal snacks. Abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent helps us call to mind Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and the poor around the world. Giving something up for Lent does not have to mean food; it could be something like electronics. We can also give up a bad habit, a sin we always fall into, a bad attitude, etc. (but these are things we don't want back after Easter – but Lent is a time to work on it for good).

Almsgiving: While we will be helping EPS at RE, you can still practice almsgiving at home in different ways. Volunteer together at a food pantry, or choose another organization to donate money or goods to (Gretna Neighbors, Least of My Brethren, Heart Ministry Center, Siena/Francis House, etc.)

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 11th, 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. We will also be honoring and congratulating the Irish Person of the Year: Joan Ingram. 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. Some teachers will bring their kids up to watch the dancers during the 5:30 class.)

We still need more help! If you or your 7th-12th grader would like to volunteer that night in the kitchen, dining room, or game area please go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAEAE22A6FD0-stpatricks3>

St. Patrick's Parish: St. Patrick's Day Hooley

www.signupgenius.com

Many hands are needed for this family fun event to honor our patron, St. Patrick.

Prayer for St. Patrick's Day

God of all people, today we celebrate Saint Patrick and all he means to us.

Saint Patrick told the people of Ireland about the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Saint Patrick baptized people and built churches.
Saint Patrick shared his faith with others so they would know you.
Saint Patrick told the people of Ireland the good news of your love.
Help us to be like Saint Patrick and share the good news of Jesus Christ with others in our world.
Amen.

Security

A reminder on new security and door locking:

1. All doors into the Parish Center and the lower level are unlocked before and after classes
2. Doors will be locked during class
3. Some doors that had been propped open will now be closed, but unlocked
4. Any students arriving more than 5 minutes late to class will need to use the intercom for entry
5. Any parents arriving earlier than 5 minutes before class dismisses will have to use the intercom for entry
6. The church doors will be open Wednesday evening for any parents who would like to come in and pray during class

2020-2021 RE Registration

Registration for classes next year will begin March 26th. On that day, forms will be emailed to families. Forms can also be printed off the Religious Ed page at www.stpatricksgretna.org 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 Totus Tuus for those entering 1st-6th grades will be June 22nd-26th 9am-2:30pm. And Totus Tuus for those entering 7th-12th grades will be June 21st-25th 7-9pm. VBS for pre-schoolers and those entering kindergarten (ages 3-5) will be June 15th-19th from 9-11:30am. Forms and sign up for these will be available in April.

2nd Semester Calendar

Feb. 26th/March 1st: No Class – Ash Wednesday Break
March 11th: Hooley – classes as normal
March 18th/22nd/25th/29th: Reconciliation during class
March 22nd/29th: First Communion Family Day
April 1st/5th: Stations of the Cross during class
April 8th/12th: No Class – Easter Break
April 25th/26th: First Communion Rehearsal, Pictures, and Mass
April 29th/May 3rd: Last Day

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

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