

**Our Lady of the Wayside
Religious Education Program Newsletter**

432 S. Mitchell
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
(847)398-5011
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Father Ed Fialkowski, Pastor
Fr. Peter McQuinn, Associate Pastor
Sr. Joan Shields, S.N.D. de N. - DRE Grades 1 - 4
Sr. Adrienne Weseman, S.N.D. de N. - DRE Grades 5-8

Religious Education Classes All Tuesday Grades 1-4, 4:00 - 5:15 PM
Alternating Tuesdays: Grades 5-6 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Grades 7-8 7:00 - 8:30 PM




March 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Confirmation Practice 10:00 Mass-Confirmandi Only 6:30-8:00 (M-Z)	2 Earth Day 	3
4 Confirmation Practice 2:00 Mass-Confirmandi Only 6:30-8:00 (A-L)	5	6 Class Gr 1-4 1 St. Communion Song Practice <u>Joy, Joy the Mass</u> p 21-28 Class Gr 7-8	7 Confirmation Practice 10:00 Mass Confirmandi, Sponsor, Parent (M-Z) 7:00-9:00	8 Confirmation Practice 2:00 Mass- Confirmandi, Sponsor, Parent (A-L) 7:00-9:00	9	10 Confirmation 10:00 Mass (M-Z) 2:00 Mass (A-L)
11 Parish Mission 7:30 Fr. Tom McCarthy 	12 Practice for Stations of the Cross Gr 4 Participants 4:00 Parish Mission 7:30	13 Class Gr 1-4 Stations of the Cross for Gr 1-4 Class Gr 5-6 Students will attend Parish Mission	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Class Gr 1-4 1st. Communion Song Practice 1st Communion Banners Due Class Gr 7-8	21 REP Board Meeting Parish Center	22	23	24
25	26 	27 No Rep Spring Break	28	29	30	31



April 2012



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2 Practice for End of Year Prayer Service Participants Gr 2-4	3 Class Gr 1-4 End of Year Prayer Service 4:10 in Church Class Gr 5-6 Rice Bowl Returned Gr 1-4 & Gr 5-6	4	5 Holy Thursday	6 Good Friday 	7
8 Easter 	9 Easter Monday- REP Office closed	10 Class Gr 1-4 First Communion Song Practice Last Class Gr 7-8 End of Year Prayer Service 7:10-Report Cards and Attendance Certificates	11 REP Board Meeting Parish Center	12	13	14
15	16 Practice for End of Year Prayer Service 4:00 Participants	17 Last Class Gr 1-4 Last Class Gr 5-6 End of Year Prayer Service 7:10-Report Cards and attendance certificates for both sets of grades	18	19	20	21
22	23 Practice for First Communion -Children Only 4:0-5:30 April 28 10:30 Mass	24 Practice for First Communion -Children Only 4:0-5:30 April 28 1:00 Mass	25 Practice for First Communion Parents & Children 4:00-5:30 10:30 Mass	26 Practice for First Communion Parents & Children 4:00-5:30 1:00 Mass	27	28 First Communion 10:30 and 1:00 Mass 
29	30 Practice for First Communion -Children Only 4:0-5:30 May 5-10:30 Mass					



May 2012



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Practice for First Communion -Children Only 4:0-5:30 May 5-10:30 Mass	2 Practice for First Communion -Parents & Children 4:0-5:30 May 5- 10:30 Mass	3 Practice for First Communion -Parents & Children 4:0-5:30 May 5- 1:00 Mass	4	5 First Communion 10:30 and 1:00 Mass 
	6	7	8	9 REP Board Meeting Parish Center	10	11
13 	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 REP Board Dinner-6:30 Gathering Space	23	24	25	26
27 	28	29	30	31		

Dear Parents,

Lent began on February 22, Ash Wednesday. On that day, we began a season of doing special forms of charity and being especially generous (almsgiving); of being more conscientious about prayer; and of fasting. During Lent, our relationship with Jesus grows stronger as we prepare to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection of the Lord. We don't often think about preparing for Lent. Yet, preparing for something is one way to ensure that we get the most out of it. Talk with your child about the season of Lent and the things you might do as a family during Lent. We talk about these things in class as well.

Then, throughout Lent, share moments of generosity, prayer, and fasting with your child. Together, we can help your child have a meaningful Lent.

Sister Joan and *Sister Adrienne*



PARISH MISSION

Our Lady of the Wayside Parish is having a Parish Mission given by Father Tom McCarthy on the evenings of March 11, 12, 13 at 7:30 in Church.

TRIDUUM: THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Holy Thursday—Remembrance of the Last Supper

Good Friday—Marks Jesus' Crucifixion

Holy Saturday—The Resurrection Ends the Triduum

Easter Sunday—Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection

Each family should try to choose one of the Triduum evenings to join with the parish community in the celebration of one of these special days in the liturgical calendar. Times of the Masses/Services are on page 9 of this newsletter. We hope to see you in Church.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

FROM *Sister Joan Sister Adrienne*

We are very grateful to the Religious Education Board Members for their support, input and help in setting direction for the Religious Education Program. Thanks to our excellent Parish Staff for all they do and to our superb editor of *Inside Wayside*, Louise Dickey, REP secretary, who have been most conscientious and dedicated in every way.

A big thank you to all the parents who have volunteered their time for the safety patrol, hall monitors, babysitting, room parents, help with Open House, Confirmation reception, etc. Lastly, a thank you to all the parents for your cooperation and support of our endeavors. We are indeed blessed with many wonderful people to work with in the Religious Education Program.

END OF THE YEAR PRAYER SERVICE/LAST CLASS

Tuesday, April 3- Grades 1-4 - End-of-the-Year Prayer Service in Church, followed by class. Students are to go to class first, then attend the Prayer Service with their teachers and return to class until 5:15.

Tuesday, April 17 - Grades 1-4 - Last Class 4:00-5:15. Report cards and attendance certificates will be distributed.

Tuesday, April 17- Grades 5-6 - Last Class - End-of-the-Year Prayer Service in Church at 7:10, followed by class. Students are to go to class first, then attend the Prayer Service with their teachers and return to class until 8:30. Report cards and attendance certificates will be distributed.

Tuesday, April 10 - Grades 7-8 - Last Class - End-of-the-Year Prayer Service in Church, followed by class. Students are to go to class first, then attend the Prayer Service with their teachers and return to class until 8:30. Report cards and attendance certificates will be distributed.



The Religious Education Program continues to be very successful because so many of you have come forward and volunteered your time. We are truly appreciative of all you do to help our parish children grow in their faith! Thank you !!

In planning for next year, there are six areas where your help is most greatly needed!! They are: catechists, catechist assistants, safety patrol, hall monitors, attendance helpers and babysitting. Please consider volunteering for one of these rewarding and meaningful positions!!!

TUITION AND FEES - 2012-2013

All tuition and fees are to be paid before the first class.

Tuition: Grades 1-8 - \$240 per child
Non-Parishioner Fee (per family per year) \$280

Fees: First Eucharist - Grade 2 - \$75
Reconciliation - Grade 2 - \$50
Personal Bible, Grade 6 - \$15
Retreat, Grade 7 - \$40
Confirmation, Grade 8 - \$115
(includes confirmation retreat and gown)
Late Registration Form Fee - \$60
(received after April 30, 2012)
Non-volunteer Fee - \$140

Registration and Volunteer Forms are to be completed and returned no later than April 30, 2012 to the Religious Education Office.

REGISTRATION FORM, VOLUNTEER
FORM, TUITION AND FEES:
DUE: APRIL 30, 2012

From the Religious Education Board

Registration forms are being sent out this month. You will only receive yours if your tuition/fees have been paid for the current school year. If you are unable to make your final payment, please contact Sr. Joan or Sr. Adrienne for assistance.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Parents who have an outstanding account from this year will not be permitted to enroll their children in the Religious Education Program for the 2011-2012 year. Any parents who are having financial difficulties are to call Sister Adrienne or Sister Joan to be placed on the Scholarship Fund. Parents who have made no contact will not be receiving a Registration Form and Volunteer Form for next year through the mail. All Registrations and Volunteer forms for 2012-2013 are due in to the Religious Education Office by April 30, 2012.

GRADE SIX POLICY

Attendance at sixth grade religious education classes is a pre-requisite for entering the two-year Confirmation Preparation Program in Grades 7 and 8. Any student not in class for grade 6 will not be permitted to enter the two year preparation program for Confirmation for the year 2012-2013.

Since Grade 2 is a sacrament year, children in Grade 2 are required to attend class at Our Lady of the Wayside on Tuesdays, from 4:00-5:15 weekly for their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist reparation. Students entering Grade 2 must have had formal religious instruction the previous year, otherwise they will be placed in Grade 1.

Stations of the Cross by Sister Adrienne

Through the centuries, faithful disciples of Jesus have followed in the footsteps of His Passion, literally, in the places where it happened. It began in the fourth century, after the time of the persecution of Christians ended. Pilgrims began to flock to Jerusalem, especially during Holy Week.

A focal point during that time was the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which was built in 335 by the Emperor Constantine. This church marked the tomb of Jesus. The thousands of pilgrims who came from all over the world would begin their walk where Jesus did, at the Garden of Gethsemane, and proceed to Calvary along the route Jesus had followed. They would stop at significant points or "stations" to pray along the way until they got to this Church and there they would celebrate the Eucharist.

During the Middle Ages, 500-1500, this practice of praying the stations developed further. Right after the fall of the Roman Empire, there were times of great chaos, confusion and suffering, followed later by plagues, wars, and much suffering. Not everyone had the means to be able to go to Jerusalem in the Holy Land. Also, there were some centuries when the Holy Land was totally inaccessible to Christians. In order not to lose this precious heritage of Stations, people transported this practice to the cities, villages, and churches of Europe, where everyone who wanted to, could participate. They did this by constructing images representing significant moments in Jesus' suffering along his way to the Cross.

Then as the influence of Christianity touched people's minds and hearts, they grew more interested in his humanity. They became more interested in the details of his life, his feelings, his sufferings. Suffering through hard times themselves, people loved Jesus for coming to share in their pain, to ease and heal them, and bring them hope.

Because most people couldn't go to Jerusalem, the stations were pictured in some way to be erected in churches, chapels, in parishes, monasteries, and cathedrals, in cities and towns all over the world. People could pray the Stations of the Cross alone or with others anywhere. Most churches today have them on their walls. There are also many outdoor representations of the Stations of the Cross. We often use small prayer books using pictures on one side of the page and a reflection to go with what happened in each Station. If we want to pray the Stations, but fourteen seems like too much all at once, we can pray just a few or even only one. We can even take a few days to hold just one in our minds and hearts before moving on to another. The important thing is to feel Jesus' love, to thank Jesus, to listen to him, and to tell him of our concerns, hopes and dreams, and then to listen again. In sharing our heart's secrets with Jesus we can give to God the only gift he cannot give to himself-us!

The traditional number of Stations is fourteen, although sometimes we add the 15th Station to include the Resurrection. The number fourteen did not become standard until the 18th century. We can enrich our spiritual lives, especially during Lent by praying this beautiful age-old devotion in the Church often.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

During the Lenten Season, we are asking the students to participate in a mission for those who hunger and thirst throughout the world, especially this year in Madagascar (agriculture), Vietnam (education) El Salvador (water/sanitation), Zambia (microfinance) and India (mother and child health) as well as areas in the United States.

The students have brought home Rice Bowl Mission Banks. Please choose a place in your home for your rice bowl that will be seen easily and often, to remind you and your children to make sacrifices for those who suffer from hunger and want. Your kitchen table, dining room table, or a counter in your kitchen would be a very visible place for the rice bowl.

Please return the rice bowl banks to homeroom teachers on or before Tuesday, April 6, or April 13, 2012. .

Please open your eyes and hearts to the realities of others' needs. You can be assured that God will indeed bless your generosity with a fruitful Lent and a Joyous Easter. **Please convert your coins to dollar amounts or checks when you return your banks to the catechists.**

Thank you,

Sister Adrienne Sister Joan



Vacation Bible School

If we do not have two directors for Vacation Bible School by Friday, April 13, this program will be canceled for this coming summer. Please call Sister Joan or Sister Adrienne to volunteer as soon as possible-847-398-5011.

Mary Kiaupa and Danielle Kenney will assist the new Co-Directors in planning and organizing this year's Vacation Bible School.

Little Saints Song, Stretch & Storytime

Who: Young children (2 - 6) along with their parent/caregiver. Siblings are welcome.

What: Have fun sharing faith with family and friends!!! Listen to Bible stories, learn about Saints who lived long ago, pray, sing and stretch!!!

When: Tuesdays @ 10:30 11:00 a.m. No registration required.

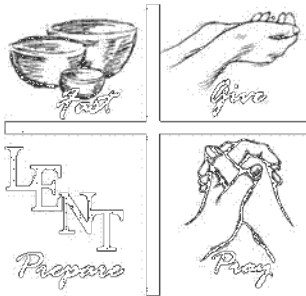
Where: Rectory/Church Basement (enter in doors from the Walnut Street parking lot)

Cost: None

Questions contact: Michelle Greazel 847-506-1324 greazelml@hotmail.com or

Laura Doherty 847-590-5727 lauradoherty6@gmail.com





Lenten Practices

By Sister Joan

Each Lent the children of OLW are asked to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, and contribute to these cardboard banks throughout the season. They learn about the needs of others, pray for love and unity to exist in all people, and fast according to Lenten regulations.

Contributing to the rice bowl that people put in a permanent place in their homes is a way of practicing an ancient Christian tradition known as almsgiving. Almsgiving is an expression of charity that demands love of God and others in imitation of Jesus, who, in dying on the cross, gave His entire life for us.

Although Matthew 6:1-4 tells Christians to give alms in secret, Operation Rice Bowl calls people to advocate for the poor. Pope Benedict XVI tells us that almsgiving can witness God's love on earth. It also brings givers closer to God and his people, and brings great joy. Charity feels wonderful.

Of the three Lenten practices, perhaps "fasting" is least understood by many. It is important to consider this ancient practice that Jesus himself renews through his own desert experience. In Jesus' time only religious fasting was known; today political and social fasting exists (hunger strikes); health and fasting (vegetarians) to mention a few. These fasts in themselves have nothing to do with religious reasons.

Fasting in itself is something good and advisable as it improves our reverence before God and acknowledgement of our sins. Many of the great world religions encourage fasting at specific times of the year as part of their religious practice. This occurs during Ramadan for Muslims and for Jews during the feast of Yom Kippur. Fasting implies an attitude of faith, humility, and complete dependence on God. We must empty ourselves in order to be filled by God.

Lent is a time to fast from certain things but also a time to feast on others. Fast from discontent, anger, bitterness, self-concern, discouragement, laziness, and guilt. We can feast on gratitude, patience, forgiveness, compassion for others, hope, commitment, truth, and the mercy of God. Lent is such a time of fasting and feasting.

The highest and most sublime of the three practices is prayer in all its forms, traditional, spontaneous, meditative, and simply rejoicing in God's presence with no words at all. Prayer will always be the best and surest way to reach God and allow his grace and love to permeate our being. It will draw us so close to Him that this union will be apparent to others, who will want to share this joy. A prayerful Lent will ensure a most beautiful Easter celebration!



LENT/EASTER SCHEDULE

2012

Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent, 7:30 pm in Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is March 26, 2012 at 7:30

Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 5

9:00 am Morning Prayer
 7:30 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
 Adoration in the Gathering Place until midnight
 11:55 pm Night Prayer/Closing of Adoration

Good Friday, April 6

9:00 am Morning Prayer
 12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross
 *3:00 pm
 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday, April 7

9:00 am Morning Prayer
 2:00 pm Blessing of Easter baskets (in church)
 7:30 pm Easter Vigil Liturgy

Easter Sunday, April 8

Masses at 7:00, 8:15, 9:45, and 11:30 am

*Service at 3:00 P.M. is duplicated at 7:30 P.M.

SECRETARY S DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

LOUISE DICKEY is a special kind of person who warmly welcomes everyone who comes into the Religious Education Office.



Louise has many tasks, and wears many hats as she generously ministers to catechists, school teachers, parents and children in the Parish Religious Education Program and School. She is an outstanding secretary in helping all of us meet our deadlines. We are very fortunate to have her for our secretary, and we wish to express our gratitude to her for all that she is and does.

Christmas 2011



The gift this Christmas for the Religious Education program was Abbey Press all-in-one Holy Family Sitter statue that is crafted of stone resin. This unique sitter-style Holy Family statue ornament is made from plastic resin that has a stone look and finish. A beautiful sitter-style statue that can be displayed year round or during the Christmas holiday! The figures were very delicate and most attractive.

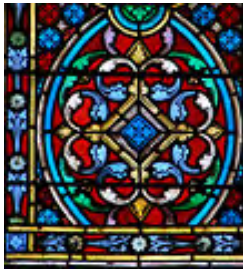
News from the REP Classrooms

1st Grade by Kryz Tischer

We recently had a wonderful tour of our parish church with Father Peter. (Thank you!) We saw beautiful stained glass windows, and Stations of the Cross on the walls. We are learning about Jesus, how he loved us and died for us.

We will be walking the Stations of the Cross with Jesus during the Lenten Season as we prepare our own booklets to better understand what the stations mean to us, and how we can be more like Jesus, and as we attend the Stations of the Cross in church with the other grades. In the Easter video, we will see that Jesus rose to new life, just as we will.

As we finish off the year we will learn that the Holy Spirit is with us to guide us on our path.



2nd Grade by Kathy Wolan

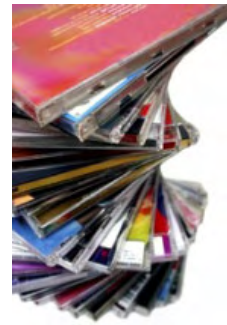
The second grade REP students were treated to a class on the sacred vessels by Father Peter. They spent Sunday, February 19, enjoying Stone Soup and participating in activities to prepare for their First Eucharist. There will be many practices with Mr. McMahon to learn the special song they will sing on their First Communion Day and many practices of receiving communion. It always amazes me how fast the time after Christmas goes, with crafts and practices squeezed in and so much to learn. Before we know it they will be bringing in their banners in preparation of their big day.



3rd Grade by Jennifer Vesely

During the Christmas season, the 3rd grade collected gently used books and DVDs to donate to a children's non-profit organization. The children truly took their stewardship to heart; over \$3,000 worth of books and DVDs were donated to those in need.

The students also spent class time learning the parts of the Mass and recently participated in a 3rd grade Mass. Each child played a role in the Mass and Father Peter presided. It was a wonderful way for the students to participate in the celebration as a community.



4th Grade by Carol Martini

4th Grade students prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To get the kids to think more deeply about sin, fourth graders will not only examine their conscience and recall times they have sinned, but will be expected to tell the priest WHY they committed that sin. Preparation for this will include in depth conversations on how to make better choices.

Our students are discussing the change in seasons from Ordinary Time to Lent. We discuss how each one of us plans to spend these forty days of Lent, preparing for the greatest feast of the liturgical year. Students will be asked to make a special effort to pray, give up a few things they enjoy, and try hard to do good deeds.

The year will end much too quickly, but we are confident these terrific 4th graders will leave with a stronger understanding of their Catholic faith.



RECONCILIATION

News from the REP Classrooms

6th Grade by Susan Farrell

The 6th grade classes have been studying Old Testament stories using the Bibles they received at the beginning of the year. They have moved from Adam and Eve, through Joseph, Moses and are currently on the prophets and kings.

The students participated in a service project by having a bake sale in conjunction with the REP Pizza Party with the proceeds donated to St. Mark's Parish.



7th Grade by Joanne Lundquist

The 7th graders continue to work hard as they finish preparation of their 1st year Confirmation Process.

They will be revisiting the Seven Sacraments and learning to be followers of Jesus. Three Homily Evaluations were to have been completed by now and as well as their Individual Service Projects.

They have five hours of service due this year. It is very nice to see the hard work many of them have done on their service hours. We will talk about Lent and making sacrifices. The Seventh grade students helped with the Confirmation Reception on March 10th making it a memorable event for the 8th grade Confirmandi.



8th Grade by Jim Sherry

The beginning of the new year has been very busy!! Students finished up their preparation for Confirmation and passed their Confirmation tests with flying colors! Confirmation with Bishop Rassas on March 10th was a beautiful and solemn event.

Now that we are newly Confirmed Christians, we will shift our gaze a little from the Sacrament we received, to the practical practice of our faith. We will talk about Lent as we are entering into one of the holiest seasons of our faith why do we have Lent on our liturgical calendar, what are we preparing for, how do we prepare?

We'll also start looking at our alternate "Morality" textbook and begin talking about how we live out our lives as witnesses to Christ now that we are confirmed (strengthened) in our faith through the sacrament of Confirmation. "Life in Christ" is the third pillar of our faith as expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1st pillar, what we believe - the Creed; 2nd pillar, how we celebrate/worship - the Liturgy; 3rd pillar, how we live a moral life - Life in Christ; 4th pillar, how we Pray to God - Christian Prayer). [As an aside, if you don't have a Catechism alongside your Bible at home, please purchase one! It's a great source for learning the what and why of the true teachings of the Catholic church as opposed to the version sometimes presented to us by our culture and the media.]

At the end of March, we will do our world famous multimedia "Stations of the Cross", with assistance from Wayside's fantastic Youth Minister, Kevin O'Connell and some of his Peer Ministers. Our final class will be on April 17th which will end with a pizza party with all the 8th grade classes. It's been a great year so far and we look forward to a fantastic finish and a future where our newly initiated Catholic young "adults" will get fully involved with our parish ministries and mission!





SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion Masses will be on two Saturdays:

APRIL 28 - 10:30 AND 1:00 AND MAY 5 - 10:30 AND 1:00

At the First Communion Meeting on Monday, January 9, second grade parents signed up for the date of their child's First Communion. All the children will be participating in the First Communion Mass by singing a special gathering song at the beginning of Mass. The First Communion song is being taught by the catechists, teachers, and Dan McMahon, our Parish Music Director. We are having a professional photographer take a video of the First Communion Masses, therefore, no other video cameras or flash cameras are permitted in Church. Parents who are purchasing a First Communion DVD are to return their form as soon as possible with a check made out to Tomcat Video.

First Communion ***banners are due no later than Tuesday, March 29.*** First Communion attire is as follows: girls wear white dresses with a white veil or a wreath of flowers, and dress shoes; boys wear dress trousers (jacket optional), white shirt and tie, and dress shoes. The seating arrangement in Church this year begins with the letter, **F**. Parents of First Communicants will receive a communication on Tuesday, April 3 with last-minute reminders and a First Communion seating chart for all four Masses. Parents are requested to review with their child each week the lesson that was previously taught in class, as together, the parents and catechists prepare the children to meet Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

SEVENTH GRADERS-FIRST YEAR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

As part of their preparation for confirmation, 7th graders participate in group projects as well as individual service hours, as follows:

- 1) Collection of food for needy people for Thanksgiving
- 2) Monetary contributions to the Catholic Relief Fund during Lent (Cardboard Rice Bowl banks are used for this purpose)
- 3) Participation in the Confirmation Reception for the eighth graders, which includes: setting up, serving, and/or cleaning up after the reception, as well as bringing homemade cookies, bottles of water.
- 4) 5 hours of service are to be completed middle of February.

Students are also required to write four homily Evaluations of Sunday Masses they attend.

There will be a three-hour retreat probably during the month of November or January for the 7th graders. It takes place on a Saturday morning, from 9:00-12:00.

Near the end of the year (March or April), students are given a listing of possible Service Projects that they can complete in the summer, so as to meet their 20-hour service requirements for Grade 8.



Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them
the fire of your love.