

Fourteen Holy Helpers/
St. John XXIII Religious
Education Newsletter

March 2017

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The Lenten Season is once again, upon us. Tomorrow, we will be beginning the second week of Lent. Have you and your family decided how you will prepare for Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday? There are three things that the Catholic Church asks us to do to prepare. We are asked to pray, fast, and give. These really are very simple things to do even with young Children.

Upcoming classes: March 18th, 25th
April 1st

Lenten Family Experience: We will be holding our Lenten Family Activity on **Saturday, March 18th in the Fourteen Holy Helpers School Cafeteria.** Because of the new date, we are unable to use Ebner Hall as we previously planned. We will have to make the best of our limited space here in the school. **Please plan on attending this family activity with your child.** We will begin at 9:00 AM and finish by around 10:30 AM.

God's Little Angels: Our little service group will still be meeting in the school cafeteria on Saturday, March 18th from 10:30 AM until 12:00 PM. Parents, please plan on staying to work with your child as we create Easter crafts for the recipients of Meals on Wheels. Anyone who has another place in mind to receive our treats, please let me know and I will divide the completed projects for you to deliver to your favorite nursing home or assisted living facility.



Stations of the Cross: The Stations are a special way of praying during the Season of Lent. They follow Jesus' journey from condemnation until his burial in the tomb, which was gifted to him by Joseph of Arimathea. We are suggesting that young children attend or participate in the Children's Stations of the Cross, which will be taking place at Fourteen Holy Helpers Church on Friday, March 31st at 6:30 PM. (Please see the flyer the children are bringing home, today, if they are interested in participating). Children in grades 5 - 10 must attend either the Stations on the 31st or the Living Stations which will be presented by the Confirmation students on Friday, March 24th at 6:30 PM as a part of their regular religious education program.



The Retreat for First Eucharist will take place on Saturday, March 25th after regular classes. We ask that one parent attend the retreat with their child. Parents should plan on arriving by 10:30 AM. We will provide a snack for the children before the retreat begins and then we will take a break for a snack of carrots and celery sticks around 12:00 PM.

Final Class of 2016-2017 will be held on Saturday, April 1st from 9:00 until 10:30 AM. The report cards and registrations for next year's classes will be sent out sometime in April or early May. Please plan on attending Sunday Mass, praying with your child, and talking to your child about their faith during the spring and summer months. Please remember that God doesn't take a vacation from watching over us, neither should we take a vacation from Him. God Bless!



The Religious Education Department is once again hosting a Pilgrimage to Seven Churches.

The bus will leave from St. John XXIII Parish after 7:00 PM Mass on Holy Thursday, April 13th. We will return to the church around 11:15 PM. The cost of the tour is \$9.00 per person with a cap of \$25 for a family of three or more. Please make reservations by calling the Religious Education Office at 674-2180 or the St. John XXIII Rectory at 823-1090 to reserve your seat. Payment must be made by Friday, April 7th. Checks can be made out to St. John XXIII Parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OUR PARISHES:

Fourteen Holy Helpers:

Stations of the Cross and Benediction will be held every Friday evening at 6:30 PM during the Season of Lent.



A Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Holy Family Home School will be held on Saturday, March 18th from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM in Ebner Hall. The cost is \$8.00 for an adult and \$5.00 for a child 3 – 10. The maximum cost for a family with 3 or more children is \$30.00.

A Parish Fish Fry will be held on Friday, April 7th from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM in Ebner Hall. Presale tickets are \$11 and at the door they will be \$12.

St. John XXIII:

A Parish Retreat: is taking place on Thursdays during the month of March. The first session was held on March 9th but there still are three more sessions that you can attend; March 16th, 23rd, and 30th. They begin at 7:00 PM and end at 8:15 PM. A short social follows each session.



Lenten Soup Suppers will be held on Tuesday, March 14th and 28th in the parish hall on Arcade Street. The dinner begins at 5:30 PM and ends by 6:30 PM. A free will offering will be taken.



A Saint Joseph's Table Dinner will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday, March 20th at 5:30 PM. St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of Sicily. The St. Joseph's Table is a meatless meal served in thanksgiving to St. Joseph for saving the people of Sicily from a famine in the Middle Ages. Why not start a new tradition and come to share in this special event. A free will offering will be taken.

Stations of the Cross will take place at the church every Friday evening at 7:00 PM. On Friday, March 17th, the catechists and their families will share in this special Lenten prayer service with you.



Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 8th. That is the day that the Easter Bunny will be returning to St. John XXIII for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon. The party will last from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM. We would like to send out a special, "Thank you", to Dr. Amy Rappold for sponsoring this event.

