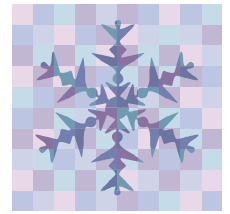


ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION NEWS FEBRUARY 2018



Dear Faith Formation Families,

Welcome Ordinary Time. Welcome winter and the second half of the EFF year. And before we know it; Welcome Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14! During Lent we are called to leave winter attitudes behind and change ourselves to become better people. The season of Lent is the Church's sacred springtime. It is a time for preparing our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter.

Classes continue to move through weekly lesson plans. Parents / guardian, thank you for your participation and commitment to your children's continuing faith formation.

WHEN IT SNOWS.....

Elementary Faith Formation is cancelled if Cherry Hill schools cancel. Elementary Faith Formation is also cancelled if Cherry Hill schools cancel after school activities due to inclement weather. All families are notified of class cancellation through our participation in the Honeywell Instant Alert System.

FIRST EUCHARIST

Preparations for the celebration of children eligible to receive First Eucharist are underway. On February 8 & 11, First Communion candidates and their parents will come together for the second prep event of our parish Living in the Light Eucharist. **REMINDER: All 1st Eucharist date choices must be submitted to the EFF office by Feb. 19 to assure your preferred date.**

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins this year on February 14th, Ash Wednesday (coincidentally it is also Valentine's Day!). Wednesday Faith Formation classes, grades 5 & 6, will join the parish community in Church for Mass and to be signed with blessed ashes. The children will not report to the school. They will report to the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space of the church by 7:15pm to check in with their catechist for attendance. Parents are expected to attend Mass and to sit with their child. **Students will be dismissed from Church.**

LENTEN OUTREACH / OPERATION RICE BOWL

As a community, COL is participating in Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl. All students will bring ORB boxes home. Donations are due either at Mass on Palm Sunday, March 25 or can be returned during EFF class the week of March 26.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

COL is offering a series of Soup Suppers during the weeks of Lent ; 6-7pm in St. Mary Room of the Parish Center. Please see the bulletin or parish website for specific information.

EFF CALENDAR UPDATE

Thursday, Feb. 8, 6pm – 1st Eucharist prep event II

Sunday, Feb. 11 – 11am Mass: Rite of Acceptance for all preparing to celebrate a sacrament

Sunday, Feb. 11, 1pm – 1st Eucharist prep event II

Monday, Feb. 12 – Gr. 2 Mardi Gras hosted by COL Grandparent Ministry

Monday, Feb. 12 – Gr. 5E Church Tour

Tuesday, Feb. 13 – Gr. 2 Mardi Gras hosted by COL Grandparent Ministry

Wednesday, Feb. 14 –ASH WEDNESDAY –Gr. 5 & 6 Mass & ashes

Monday, Feb. 19 – President’s Day – NO EFF CLASSES

Monday, Feb. 19 – All 1st Eucharist date choices due

Tuesday, Feb. 20 – Gr. 4 Parent visitation

Wednesday, Feb. 21 – Gr. 5 Church Tour

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 24 & 25 following the 4:30pm & 11am mass – anointing of the sick

Monday, Feb. 26 – Gr. 4 Parent visitation

REMINDER: Children who did not celebrate 1st Reconciliation in December will do so on Thursday, March 22, 7:00p.m. during the parish Lenten Reconciliation Service .

VBS 2017: This summer’s Vacation Bible School “Shipwrecked” will run from Monday, July 16 – Friday, July 20, 9am – Noon. Stay tuned for registration information.

PARISH SOCIAL – “SPRING FLING” –SATURDAY, APRIL 28

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION IN COMING WEEKS

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine’s Day AND a Lenten season of transformation and grace!

*Blessings,
Ginny*



*A Lenten Prayer
Jesus, open my heart this Lent
so that I might see more clearly
the obstacles that keep me from you.
Give me the courage to change
in those areas of my life that need change.
May I be a true witness
of how to pray, fast, and share with others –
this Lent and always. Amen.*

