

PARENT PAGE

JANUARY 2012

ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
2001 Woodman Drive, Kettering, OH 45420 254-0622

JANUARY 1 - Sunday
Solemnity of Mary
NO CLASSES

2 - Monday
NO CLASSES

8 - Sunday
Baptism of the Lord
National Vocations
Awareness Week
Coffee and Donuts
8:30am RCIA/Family
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am Early Childhood
***Progress Reports go home on 8/9**

9 - Monday
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8
4:30 or 7:00 pm
Reconciliation Parent Mtg

15 - Sunday
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am RCIA
10:30am Early Childhood

16 - Monday
M. L. King, Jr. Birthday
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8

18 or 19 - Wed/Thurs
7:00pm Gr. 8
Conf. Prep Meeting for Parents and Students

22 - Sunday
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am RCIA
10:30am Early Childhood

23 - Monday
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
4:15-5:45pm *First Reconciliation Zacchaeus Day—Gr. 2*
6:30pm Gr. 6-8

29 - Sunday
9:45am Gr. 6-7 ONLY
10:30am RCIA
10:30am Early Childhood
1:30-6:00pm *Afternoon of Reflection - Gr. 8 Confirmation Students, WC*

30 - Monday
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8

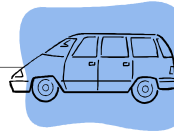
Happy New Year!!!

We wish you and your family a Happy New Year filled with many blessings. Here are just a few thoughts for getting the year off to a great start!

If you're more likely to be doing yard work on Sunday morning than attending Mass, and if most dinners in your house begin without grace, don't worry-you're not alone. But you're not alone either in a desire for a richer faith life for your family. Not sure how to get started? Commit to these basic items for the New Year.

1. Go to Mass each Sunday: As Woody Allen said, "Ninety percent of life is just showing up." Get yourself to Mass and see what God has to say to you. Just show up!
2. Pray with your kids before dinner and bed: Whether you pray in your own words or use traditional prayers (Bless us, O Lord; Hail Mary; Our Father), your children will begin to understand that prayer is important enough that we do it twice a day.
3. Hang up a cross: if your house has plenty of artwork and kids' photos on the walls but is lacking a cross, that sends a message to kids about the family's priorities. Get a cross or a crucifix. There are thousands of styles.

From At Home with our Faith, September 2011



Dropping off and picking up students....

For the safety of our students we remind parents of our policy to observe extreme caution in the parking lots and in cautioning drivers to respect the drop off area in front of the school. Please do not pull up past the parking spaces on the north side of the church. Students are walked out to the area including the handicapped parking. Thank you for your cooperation in this important safety issue.

Growing Peace at Ascension



The catechists talk about each of the components of the Pledge with the students in the classroom. We encourage you to talk to your children as well. One of the components is "To Listen". To listen carefully to others, especially those who disagree with us, and to consider others' feelings and needs rather than having our own way. This component is covered on pgs. 10-12 of *Families Creating Circles of Peace*.

Students who are observed living out any of the components of the Peace Pledge are given a certificate of recognition by the catechist, and the student's name is entered in a monthly drawing to receive a "peace bear." December Peacemakers will be drawn when we resume classes on January 8th/9th.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports for students in Grades 1-8 will be sent home with the students on January 8/9. If you do not receive one, please check with your child's catechist.

Please sign and return the portion at the bottom of the report to indicate that you have received the report. We are very interested in any comments you might have.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 16TH

I Have a Dream ...



Here's an idea for a ritual to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and help children recall our responsibility as Christians to create a world where everyone's dignity is respected and where all people have what they need to live full and healthy lives ...

Share together briefly the dreams you have for your family, for the people of our country, and for all the people of the world. Write your own "I Have a Dream" speech as a family and talk about what you can do together as a family to make these dreams more of a reality. Conclude with prayer:

*Lord, our God,
Your servant, Martin Luther King, Jr.
Had dreams of a world
Freed from oppression,
Freed from violence,
Freed from racism, repression, fear, and ignorance.
He had dreams of your kind of world -
Where the lowly would be raised up
Where the mighty would be made low.
We thank you, Lord, this day, for the life of Martin Luther King.
He is a model to us and a witness to how your Spirit can work for healing in this world.
May we, too, be your servants and healers in this world.
We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Middle School

Family Ski Trip - Jan. 21-22. Sat. retreat and overnight and Sunday skiing. Open to JH & HS youth and family members. Flyers and reg. packets at church doors. Deadline Jan. 10th.

Service Opportunities: Each 6th grade student should choose at least one service opportunity during the year; 7th graders - at least two; 8th graders - at least two short term and one long term.

First Reconciliation

Parents meet on January 9 to discuss ideas for final preparations for First Reconciliation, which will take place in church at 11:00 a.m. on February 4. Meeting times are either 4:30-5:30 pm or 7:00-8:00 pm in the Witzman Center. Child care will be provided for the afternoon session. Please choose the time most convenient. Zacchaeus Day activities will take place during class time on January 23; **class will end at 5:45 p.m. that day.** *Volunteers are still needed. If you can help, please contact the RE Office!*

First Communion

Parents of First Communion candidates are reminded to turn in the yellow Sunday Mass reservation form that was given to you at the meeting in October.

Confirmation

Grade 8: There will be a Parent/Student Meeting, January 18 or 19 at 7:00 pm in the Witzman Center. Afternoon of Reflection January 29 from 1:30 to 6:00 pm beginning in WC. Sponsors arrive at 4:00 for end of retreat and practice for Confirmation. *Sunday 8th Grade students will not have class that day.* Sponsor reflection #2 due Feb. 6. Confirmation this year will be held on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm.

ACRE

Students in Grades 5 and 8 will take the National Catholic Education Association Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (NCEA ACRE) January 8/9. A letter with more details was sent out to parents with the students in those grades.

**Vocation Awareness Week
January 8-14, 2012 ...**

... a time set aside to reflect on our vocational call to marriage, vowed religious life, priesthood, or the single life. In your family, perhaps at an evening meal, we invite you to discuss with your family:

- * a good memory you have of a priest, deacon, brother, or sister who has made a difference in your life
- * how priests, deacons, vowed religious, and lay people serve others in our parish and throughout the world
- * how you discerned God's call to live your life as a married or single person and whether you ever considered a religious vocation
- * whether you know any talented and generous women or men who could be encouraged to serve the Church
- * pray the following prayer each day during the week that all people may be open to *Receive the Gift, Share the Light, Live the Life to which God calls us.*

Prayer for Vocations

*Loving God,
you chose Jesus
as your beloved servant.*

*Through baptism you also call us
to be your chosen servants.*

*Show us the path to follow and be with us on
our journey.*

*May your Spirit
guide women and men
to serve the church.*

*Bless us with your grace now and forever.
Amen.*



Parent Pamphlet Rack ...

located in the upper connector between school and church is stocked with many different titles. Check it out! You are welcome to take what will be useful to you.

Also available in the office ...

- Ascension RE refrigerator magnets
- Children's Stewardship envelopes
- *Family Prayer, Family Times* (\$10)
- *Growing in Love* (K-8 parenting booklets on sharing Catholic values on human sexuality) \$1 each
- *Handbook for Today's Catholic Teens* (\$5)

Do you have a Meijer's Credit Card??? Ascension Religious Education is participating in the Community Rewards Program. Our number is **571556**. Please help us raise funds to purchase Bibles for our classrooms and Confirmation candidates each year! Visit: <http://www.meijer.com/rewards>



The "Hour of Praise" is a unique prayer experience with lively Praise & Worship music, personal witnesses, and heartfelt prayer meant to touch the lives of those who participate. It is sponsored by the Dayton Deanery Evangelization Team with the help of the Archdiocesan OEC on Sunday, Jan. 8th from 7-8pm at St. Luke Parish, Beavercreek. All are welcome to come and celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord.

Please call or stop by the RE Office if we can be of assistance. You are the most important influence in your child's faith formation; we are here to assist you!

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