

PARENT PAGE

APRIL 2011

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

APRIL 3 - Sunday
4th Sunday of Lent

8:30am RCIA - Family Session
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am Early Childhood

4 - Monday

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

8-9 - Fri/Sat

5:00pm - 5:00pm
YM 24hr Food Fast

10 - Sunday

5th Sunday of Lent
Registration begins

9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am RCIA
10:30am Early Childhood
COFFEE & DONUTS

11 - Monday

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

16 - Saturday

1:30-4:30pm First
Communion Jesus Day -
Books Due

17 - Sunday

Palm Sunday
Progress Reports Home

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

18 - Monday

Progress Reports Home

4:15pm Gr. 1-5
First Communion Banners
due
6:30pm Gr. 6 & 8

22 - Good Friday

24 - Easter Sunday

NO CLASSES

25 - Easter Monday

NO CLASSES

29 - Friday

6:30pm First Communion "A
Walk Through the Mass"
Family Night

30 - Saturday

5:00 Mass First Communion

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

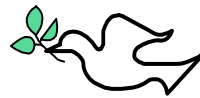
Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm
Good Friday Services at 1:00 and 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil - Saturday at 9:00 pm
Easter Sunday Mass Times
8:30, 10:30 am & 12:15 pm



Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time

Lent is such an important season for Christians that one would think the word itself has some deep spiritual meaning. Actually the word Lent means "spring," probably because so much of Lent takes place during the spring season. Lent ends at sunset on Holy Thursday, and the Triduum begins. These are the three holiest days in the Church calendar. The first day begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, during which we remember the Last Supper. The first day of the Triduum extends through the night and includes the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. The second day of the Triduum begins at sunset on Good Friday and lasts until sunset on Holy Saturday. There are no ceremonies in church. Our minds are on Jesus, who rests in the tomb. The third day of the Triduum begins at sunset on Holy Saturday with the Easter Vigil. The ceremonies of the Easter Vigil include the blessing of fire, of water, the Baptism and Confirmation of new members of the Church, and the first Mass of Easter. The day ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Easter is not just one day, but 50 days of joy. The Church wears white because of the celebration and sings Alleluia over and over. The season includes the great feast of the Ascension, when Jesus returned to the Father, and concludes with Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit came to the Church just as Jesus promised. The second phase of Ordinary Time begins the Monday after Pentecost, and green becomes the color of the season. Ordinary Time extends through the last Sunday of the Church year—the feast of Christ the King—to the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent—November 27. During this time we are growing in our knowledge of God's plan for us.

Growing Peace



The catechists talk about each of the components of the Pledge of Nonviolence with the students in the classroom. We encourage you to talk to your children as well. One of the components is "To Respect Nature: to treat the environment and all living things, including our pets, with respect and care." This component is covered on pp. 16-18 of *Families Creating Circles of Peace*. Families are encouraged to use one or more of the rituals on page 17.

Congratulations to the Peacemakers of the month for February: Second graders, Jacob Woolf and Will Bowling.

May you and your family experience the peace and blessings of the Easter season!

2011 Parish Festival Theme Contest



Can you design the Ascension Church Summer Festival theme and logo for 2011? The winner will receive free food during the festival, a Sunday ride band, a T-shirt, and an honorary chairman badge. Deadline for entries is Friday, April 15. Winner will be contacted by phone and announced in the church bulletin in April. Entry forms are available in the RE Office. For more information contact Festival Committee Members: Kevin Cochran 545-4371, Dan Bitler 776-5435 or Donna Sheetz 294-1644



End-of-the-Year Activities

Early Childhood:

May 1
Last day of Class,
followed by awards
Picnic at 1:00 p.m.
Lofino Park

Elementary:

May 9
Last day of class
Mass and awards ceremony

Middle School:

May 1-2
End-of-the Year Prayer Service
and Awards

Early Childhood

The Early Childhood classes end on May 1 with a short program after Mass in the PAC, followed by a 1:00 p.m. picnic at Lofino's Park.

Middle School

Service opportunities: 7th Gr. - April 8-9, 24 hr. Food Fast, May 7-8, Mother's Day rose sale; June 24-26, Parish Festival, plus setup and clean up.

Please note in the registration materials: Classes are limited in size; please register early to get your first choice.

First Communion

A letter was sent home on March 28 about Jesus Day and "A Walk Through the Mass"/Family Night. Completed home books are due on Jesus Day. Banners are due on April 18. Thanks to those who volunteered to help at Jesus Day and on Family Night - we'll be contacting you soon! We are still in need of a few more for Jesus Day. If you can help, contact Sue Graham in the RE Office at 254-0622. Thanks!

Confirmation

Grade 6: Confirmation Orientation meeting for parents and students on Tuesday, May 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Witzman Center. Letters will be coming home soon.

Grade 7: Confirmation Parent/Student meeting on May 3rd and 5th, 7:00 pm in the Witzman Center. Please attend the date most convenient for you.

Grade 8: Letters have been sent home to all newly Confirmed with final Sponsor and Service reflection sheets. Binders with all work complete are due on May 1st.

Value of Catholic Education

Because you send your children to Ascension's RE classes, we know that you appreciate the education and values your child is learning. We welcome other children, who, for whatever reason, have not been baptized or enrolled in religious education classes. If you know of other parents who might be interested in exploring the options available to their children, please encourage them to contact the RE Office

Registration

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year will begin on Sunday, April 10. All students who are currently enrolled will bring home re-registration information in their Family Envelopes this month. All others should stop by the RE Office to complete a registration form. Preschoolers must be 3-years-old by September 30, 2011 in order to enter the Early Childhood program.

Fees must be paid at the time of registration. Beginning May 10, fees for the 2011-2012 school year will be: one child, \$85; two children, \$170; each additional child, \$40. **Families who register and submit full payment by May 9 will receive a discount by paying: one child, \$75; two children, \$150; each additional child, \$35.** Should your plans change before classes begin, fees are fully refundable



Collections

- * Rice Bowls may be turned in after Easter to the RE Office.
- * The final collection of the Gr. 1-8 school year will be a soap collection for the Food Pantry at Greenmont-Oak Park Church. The collection will take place on the final day of classes during Mass or prayer services. Items needed include: barsoap, liquid soap, shampoo, laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid.



Meijer Guest Card

As always, thanks to those who are helping us earn a little extra money to defray expenses for our program and purchase bibles for our sixth graders. If you shop at Meijer, please sign up for their Community Rewards Program. Our number is #571556. We receive .5% of your purchases made with cash or a debit card and 1% of purchases made with a Meijer credit card. If you need more information, please stop by the RE Office and ask for a brochure.



Volunteers

Recruitment of volunteers is underway. Although we cannot pay our volunteers, we do not charge fees for their children, as a token of our gratitude for the time and effort they put into training, preparation, and teaching. We need catechists, classroom assistants, special education tutors, child care providers, and office help. Please look over the volunteer form to see how you might use your gifts and talents in our parish's catechetical ministry.

Progress Reports...

go home on April 17-18.

Please return the signed bottom portion of the form.



Why do Catholics bless themselves when they enter and leave church?



Old Testament Jews washed with water before entering the Temple precincts. Building on a ritual familiar to the Jews, John the Baptist used water to represent repentance of sin and purification. So when we cross ourselves with holy water entering and leaving the church, we recall that history. But we also refer to our Baptism when the priest used water to symbolically wash away our sin and protect us from evil.

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!

SUE GRAHAM
Coordinator of Religious Education

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