

PARENT PAGE

APRIL 2007

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

MARCH 29—Thursday
7:00pm *Education Comm.*

APRIL 1—Palm Sunday
8:30am *RCIA*
10:30am *Early Childhood*

2—Monday
NO CLASSES

8 - Easter
NO CLASSES

9 - Easter Monday
NO CLASSES

15—Sunday
Registration begins

9:00am *RCIA*
10:15am *Gr. 6-8*
10:30am *Early Childhood*

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

21 - Saturday
1:30-4:30pm *Jesus Day*

22 - Sunday
9:00am *RCIA*
10:15am *Gr. 6-8*
10:30am *Early Childhood*
1:30pm *Confirmation*
Afternoon of Reflection

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

27— Friday
7:00pm *First Communion*
Family Night

29 - Sunday
9:00am *RCIA*
10:15am *Gr. 6-8/Prayer*
10:30am *Early Childhood*

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

MAY 3- Thursday
7:00pm - *Education Comm.*

6—Sunday
9:00 *RCIA*
10:30 *Early Childhood*
1:00pm - *EC Picnic*
1:30pm *Conf. rehearsal*

7 - Monday
4:15pm *Gr. 1-5*
7:00pm *Gr. 6 Confirmation*
Orientation

Ascension Prepares to Celebrate Holy Week

Throughout Lent, we have been performing acts of prayer, fasting, and service in preparation for the greatest of all our holydays - Easter. The most solemn week of the church year, Holy Week, begins on April 1 with the Passion (Palm) Sunday celebration and concludes with the Easter Triduum. We hope your children have enjoyed using the "Little Purple Book."

Rice bowls may be placed in the containers at the entrances to the church, or they may be turned in to the RE Office after Easter.

We encourage you to take part in the Holy Week liturgies with your children. The best way to learn about these celebrations is to participate in them.

The **Easter Triduum** (3 days) begins with the **Mass of**

the **Lord's Supper** on the evening of **Holy Thursday**. What better way to develop an appreciation for the great gift of the Eucharist than by participating in this beautiful liturgy? Encourage your children to participate in the Washing of the Feet to recall Jesus' command to love one another.

Good Friday features the powerful ritual, the **Adoration of the Cross**. Who can fail to be moved by the sight of Ascensionites solemnly bringing their own personal crosses to the cross in the sanctuary?

Included in this Family Envelope is a family prayer ritual for Holy Thursday.

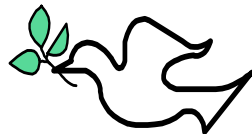
The **Easter Vigil**, the greatest of all our liturgies, begins outside with blessing of the new fire and includes the Service of Light and the baptism and reception into the Church of adults and children who have been preparing through the RCIA process.

Whether you and your children renew your baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil or at one of the Easter Sunday Masses, help them connect the meaning of this ritual to their own baptism.

Gr. 5 and Gr. 8 Parents:
Your child's scores from **ACRE** (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) were mailed home. If you have any questions/concerns, please call the office.

Growing Peace

The concept for April-May is **"TO RESPECT NATURE."** This concept is covered on pp. 16-18 of the booklet. Families are encouraged to use one or more of the activities.



Congratulations to the Peacemaker of the month for February: Doug Wahl (Gr. 4)!!!

Easter Ritual

Easter lasts until Pentecost. During the seven weeks of the Easter season, the Paschal Candle will be lit in church to remind the community that the Risen Lord is in their midst. The family is encouraged to light a white candle (decorated, if desired) as a reminder of this mystery.

Progress Reports...

go home on April 15-16 for Grades 6-8 and on April 22-23 for Gr. 1-5. Please return the signed bottom portion of the form.

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

Spring Break

Please note
Ascension RE classes will be on Spring Break
April 1-2 (except RCIA and Early Childhood will meet)
and April 8-9

End-of-the-Year

Early Childhood: May 6, Class, followed by awards. Picnic at 1:00 p.m.

Elementary: May 14, Mass and awards ceremony.

Middle School: April 29-30, including closing prayer service and awards. Watch for information in *Youth News* about an end-of-year celebration!

Early Childhood

The Early Childhood classes end on May 6 with a short program after Mass in the PAC, followed by a picnic at Lofino's Park. Details will be sent home.

Middle School

Service opportunities: May 12-13, Mother's Day rose sale; June 22-24, Parish Festival, plus setup and clean up.

Last regular class for Gr. 6-8: April 29-30.

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

7th graders: several classroom assistant slots will be opening up for the 2007-08 school year in the Early Childhood Program on Sunday mornings. See Mrs. Fargey or Mrs. Graham, if you are interested.

First Communion

A letter will be mailed home about Jesus Day on April 21 and Family Night/practice on April 27. Completed home books and banners are due on Jesus Day. Thanks to those who volunteered to help at Jesus Day and on Family Night - we'll be contacting you soon!

Confirmation

Grade 6: Confirmation meeting for parents and students on Monday, May 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Witzman Center. Letters will be mailed out. Please bring the Confirmation registration form with you.

Grade 7: Binders with Sponsor Reflection pages #1 & #2 were due on March 26.

Grade 8: Update letters have been mailed to parents. Binders with all work complete were due on March 26.

Afternoon of Reflection: 1:30 p.m. on April 22 in the Witzman Center. Parents and sponsors will join the students for the closing ritual in the church at 5:00 p.m. Please be sure to bring the candidate's baptismal candle.

Practice: in the church at 1:30 p.m. on May 6. Candidates must be accompanied by the sponsor or proxy.

Confirmation Mass: 7:30 p.m. on May 9, followed by a reception in the Witzman Center.

Collection

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.

- Barsoap, liquid soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid

Registration

Registration for the 2007-2008 school year will begin on Sunday, April 15. All students who are currently enrolled will bring home a re-registration form with this newsletter. All others should stop by the RE Office to complete a registration form. Preschoolers must be 3-years-old by September 30, 2007 in order to enter the Early Childhood program.

Fees must be paid at the time of registration. Beginning May 15, fees for the 2007-2008 school year will be: one child, \$85; two children, \$170; each additional child, \$40. **Families who register and submit full payment by May 14 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

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.

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.

Education Commission

March minutes: recommended a survey be sent to families with children younger than 3 to determine faith formation needs; completed review of actions items, now pending until the completion of the new parish pastoral plan; recommended approval of the RE and School calendars for 2008-08; reviewed School dress code proposal; again recommended that catechetical professional development activities be funded from Education Ascension funds; discussed expiration of two school positions in 2007.

Meijer Guest Card

Thanks to those who are helping us earn money to purchase bibles for our second graders and Middle School students. If you shop at Meijer, please sign up for their Community Rewards Program. Our number is #571556

New Coordinator of Religious Education

You may have noticed a new name on the re-registration materials. Sue Graham, who has been my assistant for over 12 years, will become the new Coordinator of Religious Education on July 1, upon my retirement from full-time ministry. I will continue in a part-time capacity as Sacramental Preparation Coordinator, with responsibility for Children's RCIA, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.

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!

MARYELLEN FARGEY
Coordinator of Religious Education

254-0622
ascensionre@juno.com

