

St. Christopher Religious Education

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February 2012

Dear Parents,

As I am writing this it is sunny and a bit chilly outside, but as a Midwesterner I know that every day closer to April is a day further out of winter. I pray that we each have a chance to enjoy a part of each of the seasons that God has so generously given to us.

A few weeks ago Bishop Andrew Wypych presided at the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Wypych is a newly ordained bishop and his assignment is to serve in Vicariate V. It was good to have our own bishop come and witness the faith of our parish and our students. Because there were only 50 candidates, he was able to spend some time with each of our students. In my conversations with our students they willingly shared the experience they had. Beyond their nervousness, they seemed to appreciate the brief conversations.

We are now preparing for a change in our liturgical season. We are moving toward Lent. Just a reminder to our Junior High students; we will not be having class on Monday Feb. 20th. The entire student body will attend classes on Wed. Feb 22 from 4:30 to 6:00. This is on the calendar and counts as an absence if the student misses that day. At 5:15 we will have our Religious Education Ash Wednesday Prayer Service. The ashes are placed on our foreheads as a reminder that we are sinners and that it is through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that we will be saved. Please have a conversation with your family of the importance of Lent and of either giving something up or doing something special that unites us with other Catholics. As part of their service to the community, some of our newly Confirmed students will distribute ashes, some will be reading the scripture of the day and some will invite the community to pray our prayers of petition. We invite members of the students' families to join us in church. If you wish to have your child sit with you please speak directly to his or her catechist so that we can keep track of each child. If you wish to join the class feel free to sit with them. **If you are planning to attend the service please park over to the side so there is less confusion at dismissal time, as it is our goal to keep our children safe.**

Our 8th graders will begin preparation for their presentation of the Passion of Christ. This year will be quite different from the previous years. They will present the play after the 5:30 mass on March 31st. As always, it promises to be good, we will be selecting roles next week. If you have an 8th grader I ask you to encourage him or her.

Lastly, we are seriously behind in our income to cover the cost of running the RE program. There are no families who have contacted me regarding payment issues. I ask you to please catch up on your tuition balance as soon as possible.

As we prepare for Lent let us be mindful of God's goodness and blessings!

Jeanne Lassandrello
Pastoral Associate/DRE

Carol Pretkelis
RE Coordinator