

# ST GEORGE CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

## GROWING AS DICIPLES IN MISSION

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Dear Parents, As I am writing this we just came off of a few warmer day, but we know that it's not over yet for this winter. We know Spring is just a few short months away, we've got this, Again! I pray that you have a safe place to keep warm and to feel secure. We know there are some not so fortunate as we are.

We as a parish and Faith Formation community are anticipating the season of Lent as it approaches. We are having our own Ash Wednesday prayer service on February 22nd at 6:45. Parents are invited to attend with us. It will be held in the gym. I know that is not ideal, however, as a means to keep our children in a safe environment at this time it is the best option we have. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade Faith Formation students along with Deacon Tom are planning the service for us. They will lead prayer, write the petitions and possibly have a few songs for us to join them in singing. Did you know that singing in church is praying twice? If you would prefer to take your child to church for the parish Ash Wednesday Mass at 6:30 you can, just please let us know ahead of time.

During Lent we are asked to pray, give alms and fast. Lenten observances are:

- Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent
- Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means to have one full meal and two small snacks with nothing in between.
- Rice bowls will be coming home on Ash Wednesday, you can invite your family to determine what would be an appropriate amount for your family to share during this time of intentionally looking out for the needs of others.

Some Lenten activities the parish is sponsoring are:

- Stations of the Cross each Friday in church. Our First and Second Year Confirmation candidates will lead one of the Fridays as an opportunity for Service.
- Soup and Theology on Monday evenings. We will serve homemade soup at 6:30 followed by some conversation based a video that Bishop Barron has recorded, looking at some scripture stories on Conversion. This can be a wonderful way to have discussions about our faith, get to know some people in the parish whom you might see but don't really know, and a way to enhance your Lenten Journey.
- Parish Mission beginning at the weekend masses on March 11 and 12. Followed by evening presentation on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings. The presider of the mission will be Fr. Brian Walker.
- Our Adoration Chapel is open all year on Monday to Friday 11:00 am to midnight. Maybe take a few minutes to just sit silently in the presence of Jesus to calm your soul
- Our Sacred Journey Teen club and Middle school students will be presenting the Living Stations to both St Julie and St George Parishioners. St Julie's performance will be held on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and St George

performance will be held on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We're still looking for students to participate.

There are other events being planned, please look through our parish website to see where you might have a chance to give yourself an opportunity to experience Christ in a unique way this year.

Our children will be attending a Reconciliation Service as a community on Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup>. We did this in the gym during Advent and it actually turned out to be a good experience for everyone, including our clergy. Please join us to receive the sacrament and model for your children the need that we will have for forgiveness. Last week our First Communion classes received the sacrament for the first time and I believe it was a holy and prayerful moment for all who attended.

For various reasons periodically your child will be receiving classwork to do at home. This is a good opportunity for you to not only see what topics are being covered during their time here at St George, but also a good lead in for you to have discussions with your child regarding their faith in God, their knowledge of prayers and their basic understanding of what did happen in class. If you see any red flags either during your conversations with them, or with the material in general. Get a peak at their textbooks to see some of their responses. Please let us know. It's always good for us to have some solid critiques so we know the material is sinking in.

Lastly, you may or may not be aware that your child, as a member of the St George community is welcome to participate in our Sports Program. Your child was given a hard copy of Sports camps that are coming in the near future where they may be able to test out whether or not they would be interested to commit to a team or get a taste of which sports they may like. Please look in the material they bring home.

I pray that you and those you love will have a meaningful Lenten journey, as we prepare for Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

Jeanne Lassandrello  
Director of Life-Long Faith Formation