



*St. John the Baptist Catholic Church*  
*PSR News*  
*February 3, 2020*

## **Holy Family**

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. God showed the world a family in which, as Pope Leo XIII teaches, "all men might behold a perfect model of domestic life, and of all virtue and holiness." The harmony, unity, and holiness which characterized this Holy Family make it the model for all Christian families. We have so much we can learn by reading the scripture passages related to the Holy Family. Consider reading them as a family this month.

Pope Francis' intentions for February are:

Listen to the Migrants' Cries: We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

## **Let the children come to me**

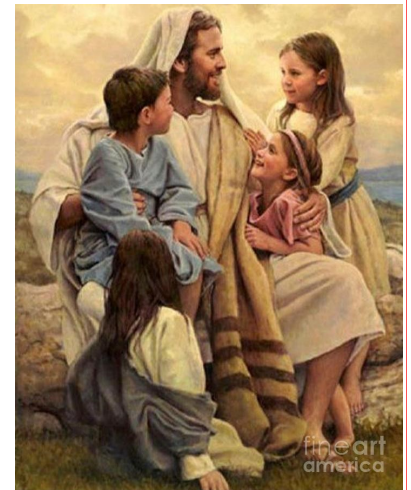
As we prepare our 2nd grade students for 1st Communion, I reminded parents this month to be sure to bring their children to mass as we will be discussing parts of the mass and it helps that they see it before we discuss it. Some may say young children shouldn't be at mass. But that isn't true. Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

When they are baptized, the children, become part of God's family, the Church community. Just like other family gatherings, they should be welcomed.

So what are some ways that we can help these little ones get more from mass.

- Read the Gospel and talk to them about it before coming to mass. This could be done throughout the week. It is a great family activity. This will help them understand it better before they get to mass.
- Consider sitting closer to the front of church. Imagine being a little one and adults are all around you. You can't really see what is going on. It would be easy to get distracted or uninvolved if you could only see someone's back.
- Ask your child to especially pay attention to a part of the mass each week. Then as a family discuss what they saw and heard and the importance of it.
- Talk about why it is so important to come to mass on Sunday and spend time with Jesus.

Finally, remember to pray for and with your children. You are their primary educators of the faith. They learn from you how important the mass should be in their lives.



## Lent

The first twenty five days of February fall during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of February are the beginning of Lent. The liturgical color changes to purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

Wednesday, February 26th, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

- The Law of Fasting (which binds those from age 18 through 59) allows only one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.
- The Law of Abstinence (which binds those of 14 year's and over) forbids the eating of meat. By doing these and other penances we can realize that interior change of heart is so necessary for all Christians. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is sinful.

## Thank You

Thank you to the parents of 5th and 8th grade students who allowed their children to take the ACRE test. This test was especially important this year as it will give me a bench mark so we can find ways to improve the program for your children.

## Help needed

Parents we are always in need of volunteers for our parish youth programs. Here is where we need your help.

- High School youth group—We need chaperones for outings, volunteers for Sunday nights and event coordinators.
- Jr. High Youth ministry program will begin next fall. We will meet monthly. We are looking for volunteers for these monthly meetings to be group leaders, help supervise the children, help with the pizza dinners, and chaperones for any offsite activities.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word—We need people to be in the rotation of leading CLOW at 8:30 mass. Right now it would be about a once a month commitment. We also are looking for teens in 7-12 to lector for CLOW.
- PSR—Its never to early to plan for next year. If you are interested in being a catechist or an aide, we can start training you now. Ideally, we would have 2 catechists in every classroom so they aren't teaching every week. There is no PSR tuition charged of volunteer catechists children .



For more information about any of the volunteer opportunities, contact Teresa Palmer at 513-378-9086 x 218 or by email at [tpalmer@stjb.net](mailto:tpalmer@stjb.net) *All volunteers will need to take the Child Protection class for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and have an online background check done.*

## Youth Group Happenings in February Sunday's 5:30pm-7pm



Come join us this month! In February we will:

- Sunday Youth night in the Jr. High Building February 2 & February 16.
- Tubing at Perfect North Slopes on February 9. *Permission slip required prior to event.*
- Helping with Bountiful Hearts meal on February 22. *Permission slip required prior to event.*
- And much more

Contact Eric Barrow for details  
@ 513-349-1629 or  
win8514019@gmail.com

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### February

- \* February 3 - Confirmation Acts of Love due
- \* February 3 - Confirmation Parent / Sponsor Worksheet #2 due
- \* February 17 - Confirmation Letters to Candidate due
- \* **February 19 - NO PSR**
- \* **February 26 - 7th and 8th grade PSR meet at new church for 7pm Ash Wednesday mass**
- \* February 29 Womens Christ Renews His Parish Retreat (All women are welcome)

### March

- \* March 2 - Confirmation Parent/Sponsor Worksheet #1 Due
- \* March 3 - 1st Communion Parent / Child meeting
- \* March 7 - Men's Christ Renews His Parish Retreat (All men are welcome)
- \* March 8 - No Children's Liturgy of the Word at 830 am mass
- \* March 8 - FACS Meeting at 9:55 Junior High Building