



Saint Patrick Faith Formation Newsletter

April 2004

Volume 1 Issue 4

Fitting It All In...Lent, Holy Week, & Easter

Every family struggles with coordinating schedules, managing the necessities of life, and fitting in the seasonal holidays and religious events that add richness to our lives. Now, as you read this, the season of Lent is almost over.

Perhaps your family has adopted some Lenten activities, or maybe your Lenten good intentions are still to be realized. Whichever is your situation, here are some ideas for making the most of the last few days of Lent.

Holy Week

The Triduum, as the Church refers to the days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, is the major liturgical event of the Church year. These liturgies are filled with music and rituals that can be very involving for children. You may not be able to fit everything in, but if you plan in advance, you can probably manage one or two. And, particularly if you have a child who is preparing for either Confirmation or First Eucharist, by all means be certain that they experience at least one of the Triduum liturgies.

Palm Sunday (April 4th) of the Lord's Passion is the beginning of Holy Week. Be sure that you and your children are there for the procession of the palms, and to hear the vivid story of the passion proclaimed in the Gospel. When you go to Church, encourage the family to wear RED.

Holy Thursday (April 8th) is celebrated with only one mass, scheduled for early evening at 7:30pm. This is called "The Mass of the Lord's Supper." The liturgy includes the washing of the feet (Bishop Vigneron will be the celebrant), and at the conclusion of the Eucharist, the altar is stripped and the sanctuary is emptied of all ornamentation. The consecrated body of Jesus is removed from the sanctuary and carried there in solemn procession. This liturgy lasts just a little longer than a regular Sunday mass, so it is a

manageable length of time for children. Children who are preparing for first Eucharist particularly can benefit from this vivid remembrance of the Last Supper.

Good Friday (April 9th) begins with a large cross being carried in procession into the church. At three places the procession stops, and the cantor intones, "This is the wood of the cross." This liturgy also includes the "veneration of the cross," during which members of the assembly are invited to come forward and honor the cross with a kiss or a touch. Again, the "actions" which occur are interesting and involving to children.

The Easter Vigil is the longest liturgy of the Triduum, so it may not be suited to younger children. However, if you have a child who is preparing for Confirmation, he/she should really participate in this event. From the lighting of the Easter fire, to the lighting of the Paschal candle, to the procession of the candle into the darkened church, this is a liturgy of incredible visual power. The liturgy will include the baptism, confirmation, and first Eucharist of adults (Sheryl & Dennis) and children (Arriana & Anthony Bell). It is an unforgettable experience to see adults and young children to be baptized on this night.

The Easter Season

The Easter season is referred to as the "Fifty Day Festival." For these fifty days, from Easter to Pentecost, our focus as a Church is on our baptism into the life, death, and rising of Jesus. This baptismal emphasis can be supported in your family by sharing stories, photos, and mementoes

of each person's baptism. Parents, tell your children why their baptismal day was such an important event for you. Everyone can retell their recollections of the event. A nice ritual for this season is to include a water blessing or sprinkling as part of your family prayer, even at mealtimes or bedtime. (Faith First)

St. Patrick Church Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday, April 3	5pm
Sunday, April 4	7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Parish Communal Penance Service

Monday, April 5	7:30pm
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Holy Thursday - April 8

Morning Prayer	8am
Private Confessions	10am-11am; 3pm-4pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:30pm
Adoration in Chapel	After Mass-Midnight

Good Friday - April 9

Morning Prayer	8am
Private Confessions	10am-11am
Preaching of Seven Last Words of Christ & the Passion	2pm
Good Friday Liturgy	7:30pm

Holy Saturday - April 10

Morning Prayer	8am
Private Confession	3pm-4pm
Easter Vigil Mass	8pm

Easter Sunday - April 11

Easter Masses	7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am
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Faith Formation Activities & Events



St. Patrick Church Easter Egg Hunt & Photo Shoot

On Easter, April 11, 2004, St. Patrick's Church will be hosting a Easter Egg Hunt & Photo Shoot after the 9:30am Mass (\$5 for 4x6 & \$10 for an 8x12). Children must have their parent present at all times.

Seder Meal

THANK YOU to all the teachers, parents, students, and Father Larry who helped make the Seder Meal a memorable one. A special thanks to Art Reardon, who led our children in this sacred meal.

See photos at www.stpatrickrodeo.org/faithformation

Rice Bowls

Students may start returning their Rice Bowls in to their Faith Formation teacher on Thursday.

THANK YOU to students who participated.

Happy Birthday!



Daniel Kendall	5 th	April 3
Leticia Peralta-White	3 rd	April 6
Diana Morales	2 nd	April 16
Kristen Yambao	2 nd	April 20
Chelsea Myers	3 rd	April 28
Allyson Davis	8 th	April 30

Up Coming Events

Thursday, April 8, 2004

NO Faith Formation Class-Holy Thursday

Sunday, April 11, 2004

Easter Sunday!

Thursday, April 15, 2004

NO Faith Formation Class

Thursday, April 29, 2004

NO Faith Formation Class-Confirmation Mass

Saturday, May 1, 2004

First Communion Retreat 9:00am-12:00

Saturday, May 08, 2004

First Holy Communion Mass 10:00am

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Last Day of Faith Formation Classes

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