



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Partners in Faith Newsletter

3-6 April 2011



Prayer of the Week (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Merciful God, today we remember the story of the Prodigal Son. Like the forgiving father, you set a wonderful banquet before us when we turn from our sins and come home to you. As we share this meal, help us to remember those we need to forgive. We thank you for this food and for the gift of our family. Amen

FRIDAY STATIONS

THANK YOU to all of the religious education teachers who provided soup or bread for the weekly soup and supper at the Parish Hall this past Friday. As always, you surpassed all expectations. We are blessed to have such dedicated catechists!

RICE BOWL

We are in the middle of our annual effort to provide help for the poor, known as the "Rice Bowl." By now all of your children should have received their rice bowl from their teachers. Although this is not mandatory, we encourage everyone to take this opportunity to help those less fortunate during the Lenten season. This money will be used to help poor children in Haiti, Indonesia, Senegal, Honduras and Kenya. Please be as generous as you can. We will be collecting the rice bowls on the first class back after Sunday. Mark your calendars for **1 or 4 May**. It is important to bring them back not later than those days because we need to count the money, deposit it in the bank and then write a check for the full amount to Catholic Relief Services. They will send the money to the countries in need.

RECYCLING

Our Pastor, Father Juan, would like to increase our commitment to recycling, doing whatever we can to reduce our use of natural resources. To make it easier for us all to contribute, he has placed recycling containers for aluminum cans and paper/cardboard products in the foyer of the Pastoral Center. Please use these receptacles rather than throwing recyclable items in the trash.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

As we get closer to the end of the year it becomes more and more critical for you to ensure all of your requirements for the sacrament have been met. Please make sure you have provide your birth and baptismal certificates to Debra in the front office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will be hosting a wonderful week of fun for the children between pre-school and 5th grade ages from 6-10 June here in the Pastoral Center. "Pandamania" will not only be fun, but informative as well. Your children will learn more about the love of God in their lives through the various stations they will attend each day. We are only charging \$10 per child for the whole week of activities. Classes will begin at 8 am each day and run through 12 noon. The kids will attend Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and will have a snack period each day as well. They will learn new songs, listen to bible stories, play games and make crafts. You won't regret sending them for this fun filled week of adventure with our God! Registration opens NEXT WEEK. We are limited to the first 100 kids, so don't delay in turning in their registration forms to Debra. Forms are available in the Religious Education office and can be turned in as of 10 April.

WHY DO CATHOLICS BLESS THEMSELVES WHEN THEY ENTER AND LEAVE CHURCH?

When we bless ourselves with Holy Water we are recalling our baptism and the promises that were made in our name at that time. We are also recalling our Jewish roots, as they always washed with water prior to entering the Temple precinct.

SAINT OF THE WEEK **(St Isidore the Farmer)**

St Isidore was born in 1070 in Madrid to very poor parents. He worked his entire life for a wealthy landowner. His wife also became a saint. They had one son who died as a child. St. Isidore loved the poor and loved the animals. The miracles of the multiplication of food occurred when Isidore fed a flock of starving birds and on another time when he shared his food with a large group of beggars. He died in 1120.

Mass Schedule – Saturday – 5:30pm, Sunday – 7:30, 9 am, 1045 (Spanish) and 12:30pm