



SAINT CECILIA CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

"Higher education starts here"

April 16, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This year for Lent, the students were sent home with the "40 Days + 40 Items" challenge that included a large trash bag and instructions on how to donate one piece of clothing for each day of Lent. At the end of the Lenten season, families were encouraged to donate their clothing bag to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Since the season of Lent ends once Holy Thursday begins this week, I wanted to remind families that there is still time to complete the challenge. Parents are encouraged to drop off their donations directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Society or drop them off for the Home & School Garage Sale that takes place on April 27 and 28. Donations can be dropped off at the school gym any morning during drop-off (7:45 - 8:15 AM) next week (April 24-26). Any items not sold during the Home and School Garage Sale are then donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Holy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum (pronounced *trij-oo-um*) and since students will be out of school during the Triduum, I wanted to share the Cathedral's schedule and information on some family engagement items for those Holy Days. Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7:00 PM at the Cathedral and it takes place on Holy Thursday, April 18. Although Holy Thursday marks the official end of Lent, Catholics do not abandon their Lenten promises until the celebration of Easter begins. Holy Thursday (also known as Maundy Thursday) is when we focus on the Last Supper, when Jesus observed the Jewish feast of Passover with his apostles, washed their feet, and instituted the Eucharist. In Mass that evening, there will be 12 individuals from our parish who come forward and have their feet washed by Archbishop Lucas.

One way to bring Holy Thursday into your home either before or after Mass that day is to hide 30 pieces of silver (nickels or quarters) around the house. Read aloud Matthew 26:14-16 to have a short discussion on Judas' role in the Passion. Have your kids search for the 30 pieces and watch how the children interact with each other. If they become pushy during the activity, have a conversation about how dangerous greed can be and how easy it is to make bad decisions where money and power are concerned. Those 30 pieces can then be donated to the Poor Box in the Cathedral the following night.

Good Friday is on April 19 and the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion takes place at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. This is also a day to spend focused on Jesus' suffering and death. Some people dress in black, or in dark colors. It can be challenging to keep little ones solemn and somber. For those with small children, have them work on quiet activities like crafts or coloring pictures of the Stations of the Cross. On Wednesday after school I'll be sending out some activity packets for you and your family for quiet activities, coloring items, and some worship enrichment worksheets. Feel free to print them off and use them at home or at Mass (shh don't tell Fr. Grewe I said it was ok for them to stay busy during these long Masses coming up). When you attend Church that evening, there will be a point in the service in which parishioners can come up and kiss Jesus' feet on the cross.

Easter Vigil is on April 20 at 8:00 PM in the Cathedral and Easter Sunday Masses are at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, and 5:30 PM. Each family seems to celebrate Easter according to their own family traditions, so I did not think it necessary to share ideas at this time.

From all of the students and staff at St. Cecilia Cathedral Grade School, we pray you have a blessed Easter holiday with family and friends.

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Pick