

Elementary Youth Ministry

Newsletter



Welcome Parents and Students

October 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

Most Blessed Sacrament School of Religion is off to a fantastic start. Thanks to our dedicated parents, students, volunteers and catechist, this year promises to be the best one ever. Currently we have 25 students in our elementary program . Twenty-one students attend Wednesday night classes and

four students are homeschooled. Students have been working hard in class and the teachers are doing an exemplary job. Before each class we come together as a group and pray one decade of the rosary. You are welcome and encouraged to join us.

The School of Religion has planned a very exciting year. Please look for more information to come home in the Wednesday folders and in this monthly newsletter. God bless,

Monique Borum
Elementary Coordinator

October Events

- 10/13 - 1st Communion Parent meeting 10AM
- 10/14 - Rosary Rally, 10:45am (bring your rosary)
- 10/20 - Service for Christ Saturday "Prayer Garden" 10:am - 12 noon (lunch will be served)
- 10/28 - World Youth Day
- 10/31- Vigil Mass, 7PM, Autumn Festival, All Saints Celebration 6:30-8:30PM



"Why Do We Have to Go to Mass?"

Dear Parents,
Even though your love for the Eucharist strengthens you in your commitment to bring your children to Mass every weekend, the hurdles you face are no less difficult;

You may wonder whether struggling with an active preschooler during Mass is really a good idea - especially if you get disapproving looks from the people around you!

Your elementary- age children may ask why your family goes to church when none of their friends have to go.

Your middle-school child might protest that Mass is

boring and ask why your family can't go to the Protestant church where kids have fun on Sunday mornings.

Your teen may insist that there is no need to go to Mass because he or she can talk to God just as well at home.

While your response to these situations may vary, they all boil down to the basic question: *Why do we have to go to Mass?* How to answer that question- for yourself and for your children- will have a lasting impact on the spiritual life of your family.

You may be tempted to dismiss the question with a curt,

"Because that's what this family does!" Or worse, "Because that's what the Church says we have to do!"



Reminders



- * Please encourage your child to remember to complete their homework assignments.
- * Dinner is served from 6:00 - 6:20PM.
- * 10/24- Candy Donations for Autumn Festival due.
- * Liturgy of the Word for Children each Sunday at both 9AM and 11:30AM masses. (Help is needed)

“Why Do We have to Go to Mass?” (continued)

But what do those answers say about why we go to Mass? Does it make anyone—including you—more interested in going to Mass? Or does it just reinforce the negativity that everyone is already feeling?

and appreciate the importance of the Eucharist.



4. God has a special message for us.
5. We need to talk to God.
6. People need our prayers
7. We stand up for what we believe.

Ten Good Reasons to Go to Mass

The purpose of this newsletter is to help you answer the question, “Why Do We have to Go to Mass?” in ways that will encourage and inspire. Each month we will address one of the ten good reasons to go to Mass. Your children will remember your efforts

1. God Asked us to make one day holy.
2. Jesus gave us the gift of himself.
3. We need to be part of a community.
4. God has a special message for us.
5. We need to talk to God.
6. People need our prayers
7. We stand up for what we believe.
8. We know we make mistakes
9. We need ritual in our lives.
10. We need to experience something bigger than ourselves.

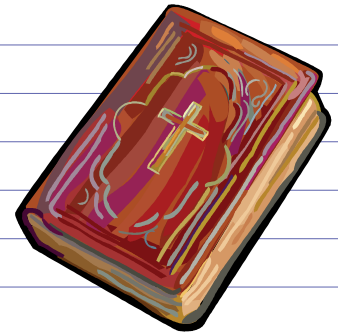
Adopted from *Catholic Parent Know How Magazine*

1. God asked us to make one day holy.

When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, he reminded us to set aside one day for God. When we go to Mass each week, we begin to see everything from a different perspective. We have the opportunity to reconnect spiritually. We begin see in the depths of our being that God is in charge. We can let go of our own agenda. We can look forward to

going to Mass because we know that God will inspire us, guide us and strengthen us for the week ahead.

“Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath to the Lord, your God” (Exodus 20:8-9)



Saint of the Month – St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi, (1182-1226) lover of all creation, champion of justice, patron saint of animals and the environment, founded the Franciscan Order. His feast day is October 4. The patron saint of Italy, is affectionately called Il Poverello, the Little Poor One, because he lived and preached a life of simplicity and poverty. He did not, however, start life

that way... St. Francis' father was a wealthy merchant, and Francis in his youth was a wild *bon vivant*: he loved to sing, and was a troubadour; he loved fine clothes. But when the town of Assisi fought Perugia when Francis was twenty, he was captured and spent a year in prison. Once free, he completely changed his life: he gave all he owned to the poor,

he tended lepers, and preached a message of poverty, humility, and joy.

Francis spent years wandering, preaching, and singing canticles. He set up a community to live by his ideals. At that time, the Catholic Church embodied the strictest type of hierarchy; Francis preached a humble faith, much closer to the life of Christ.