

February 2020

CATECHIST AND AIDES NEWSLETTER

Lenten Day of Reflection for Catechists

Sunday, March 8, 2020

St. Mary Parish, North Grafton

- ❖ Guided reflections
- ❖ Faith sharing
- ❖ Quiet time for personal prayer and reflection
- ❖ Supper
- ❖ Solemn Evening Prayer

Presented by the diocesan ORE Staff

This program is open to all catechists and will fulfill the certification requirement The Spirituality of the Catechist. All are welcome even if not currently enrolled in a certification program.

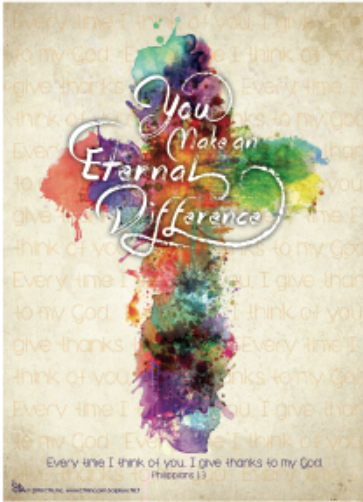


FREE TO ANY CATECHIST/AIDE CURRENTLY VOLUNTEERING IN RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

Catechists and Aides—you give so generously to others. Allow yourself the opportunity to meet Christ at the well and be filled during this Lenten retreat day especially for you!

PLEASE PLAN ON JOINING US! We will get coverage for your classes if needed.

LET DARLEEN KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO COME by March 2nd



CATECHISTS AND AIDES—THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FAITHFUL DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT IN HELPING OUR YOUNG CHURCH COME TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. YOUR GENEROSITY IN SHARING YOURSELF, YOUR TIME, YOUR TALENTS, ETC. ARE INVALUABLE IN BRINGING OUR STUDENTS TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POSITIVE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE IN THEIR FAITH JOURNEY. YOU ALL ARE SUCH A BLESSING FOR OUR STUDENTS. THANK YOU!!!

Intentions for Next Academic Year

AS WE BEGIN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR OUR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR, I WISH TO CHECK WITH YOU AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP AGAIN NEXT YEAR, AND IF SO WHICH CLASS/GRADES YOU WOULD LIKE. WOULD YOU PLEASE EMAIL ME TO LET ME KNOW SO THAT I CAN ADD THEM TO THE SIGN UP LISTS PRIOR TO PUTTING THEM OUT IN THE GATHERING SPACE AREA DURING REGISTRATION. I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU GET FIRST CHOICE OF CLASSES BEFORE OTHERS SIGN UP.



Grades K-5 Last classes—April 5-6th

This year for our last classes I would like to ask catechists in Grades K-5 to plan a short class presentation. It could be a short skit, a reading, a song, sharing artistic work, anything that captures a glimpse of something the students have learned over the year. We will have all classes in the parish hall and allow students in each class to make their presentation. After we will have a small celebration party for all grades with prizes and awards. Please speak with Darleen if there are any questions.



March 7-9

Religious Education Registration for Academic Year 2020-2021

At St. Mary: Registration will be held after all weekend Masses and forms will be available in the Gathering Space during class time on Sunday from 9:15-10:15am and Monday from 4:30-5:30pm. At St. Philip forms will be available all day on Sunday March 8th. Help is needed to cover registration tables. If you can help us out, please contact Jill or Darleen for St. Mary and Carole for St. Philip.

March 8

Catechist and Aide Lenten Retreat 2:00-8:00pm St. Mary Hall & Church

March 15-16

Second Round of Diocesan Inventories (except Sunday Grade 3 due to Grade Level Mass)

Catechists/Aides are asked to take class time for students to complete the spring round of the diocesan inventories. If you prefer to break up the inventory and have students do sections over a couple of classes that is fine also. Or for those of you with younger students, you can choose to perhaps give them the questions orally and have the aide help in having students write down the responses on the paper. There is room for flexibility here so if you have thoughts/ideas on how this might work better for your particular class, please let me know. Once students have completed the inventory, they are to be collected and returned to me in the folders. For those students who might be absent, please mark their names on a blank copy of the inventory and should plan on having that student take the inventory the following week on March 22-23rd. **Sunday Gr. 3 classes will take inventories on March 22nd**

March 20



Grafton Catholic Youth Group Lenten Dinner

Who: All invited

When: March 20, 2020

Where: St. Mary Parish Hall

What: Choice of fish or mac & cheese full dinner

Tickets: On sale at all 3 parishes after all Masses the weekends of 3/7 and 3/14

March 22-23

Inventory Make-ups

March 25th

First Communion Parent Banner Meeting 7:00pm St. Mary Hall

March 28

First Communion Retreat 9:00am-12:30pm St. Mary Hall/Kitchen



Introduction to Church History Instructor: Elizabeth Marcil Chancery, 49 Elm Street,
Worcester, MA 01609 Tuesdays, 4pm - 6pm on FEB 25, MAR 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, APR 7, 14
Contact Darleen if interested in attending

Lenten Teaching Ideas:

Lent is one of our best opportunities all year to make an impact on the daily lives of our students. Help them make these forty days of Lent a time to encounter the Lord and deepen their relationship with God. Below are some ideas from Jared Dees (excerpted from The Religion Teacher magazine) Click on the links to access his ideas and suggestions.

Here are some things to teach and do this week . . .

[Ash Wednesday Lesson Plan](#) - This short and simple lesson plan will help your students begin a great 40-day journey through Lent to Easter.

[Lent Activities](#) - [Here are some Lenten activity ideas](#) to help you plan your Lenten lessons. Find activities, games, books, and worksheet ideas to use in class during Lent.

[The Temptation of Jesus Worksheet](#) - The First Sunday of Lent always focuses on the temptation of Jesus after his forty days in the desert. Help your students reflect on this story with this [First Sunday of Lent Worksheet](#) from [The Religion Teacher's Lenten Activity Pack](#) .

Something to watch, show, or share this week . . .

[The Meaning of Ash Wednesday Video](#) - This is the my most popular catechetical class video on YouTube. In it I explain the meaning of ashes on Ash Wednesday.

[The Number 40 in the Bible \(and Lent\)](#) - The number forty is such a significant number in the Bible and, of course, during Lent. In this video I explain the meaning of 40 in the Bible.

[What Does Lent Mean? Video](#) - This short video explains the meaning and origin of the word "Lent".