

April 2010



SAINT MARY MAGDALEN

# Religious Formation Newsletter



## **Dates to Remember**

**March 28 - April 10**

Easter Break, Classes Resume April 11

**April 3**

Easter Egg Scramble-rain, shine, or snow!

**April 14/15, 21/22, 28/29**

Registration for Fall Religious Formation Classes (4-8pm)

**April 14/15**

Altar Server Information - All 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth in Parish

**April 25**

Home study Meeting (required) 10:15  
Last Classes Kindergarten and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

**April 26/27**

First Eucharist Pictures in Church-Anderson Studios (4-7pm)

**April 28/29**

Last Class grades 1-8

**April 30**

First Communion Rehearsal in Church 6:30 pm

**May 1/2**

First Eucharist Liturgies

**May 5**

Catechist Appreciation Dinner (Help Needed)

**May 8**

First Eucharist Liturgy 4:30

## From Mary's Desk

I cannot believe it is April already with the end of classes in sight! The catechists have been so very busy this year working with our youth. Our classes have been doing many service projects, planning Liturgies, attending Stations of the Cross, visiting a Jewish temple, preparing for Sacraments, attending retreats, collecting and making birthday packages for the food pantry, and much, much more! April also finds us busy with final preparations for First Eucharist (we currently have 84 candidates). On April 24/25 for our end-of-the-year celebration, we will all gather together to participate in a closing prayer service and each class will present a skit, song or some way of sharing with us all something they have learned this year. All families are welcome to join us!

### **Registration for Religious Formation Fall Classes Sacraments & Preschool**

Register for First Eucharist/Penance in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Solemn Penance in 4<sup>th</sup> grade (as most youth celebrate First Penance in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Confirmation (9<sup>th</sup> grade prep and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation). **Youth that belong to our parish who are attending Catholic Schools celebrate the sacraments of Eucharist and Penance, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Solemn Penance and Confirmation here.**

### **The days and session times for Religious Formation Classes are as follows:**

**SUNDAY** Kindergarten during the 9:00 and 11:00 Liturgies

Family Program, 10:30-12

Grades 9 & 10, 5:30 - 7:00 pm (Catholic School families call Mary)

**WEDNESDAY** Grades 1 - 8 4:45 - 6:15 pm **OR** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**THURSDAY** Grades 1 - 8 4:45 - 6:15 pm **OR** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

### **We have 2 Home-Study options for your family!**

**Full-year Home Study** will be available for children in (non sacramental prep) grades 1-8 only, with four meetings per year.

**Short-Term Home Study** for those with youth who need to miss up to 6 weeks of class, register your child in a traditional class, fill out the form, and work at home on materials. This option will **not** be available for if your child is in preparation for any sacraments.

**Tuition** fees are \$67 for one child, \$95 for two, and \$120 for 3 or more. *All are encouraged to register, regardless of ability to pay.*

## Classroom Updates

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade - Jill Gautherat**

He is Risen! Thanks Be to God! I cannot believe April is upon us! Soon the flowers will be blooming, and the fun will begin with summer! This is the last month for classes! We will be covering the Holy Spirit, and how He touches our lives in everything that we do. We will also be learning the meaning for "being sorry" and how apologizing for doing wrong makes us feel better! We will also be learning how Jesus is our Savior, by rising from the dead into new life! Don't forget the end of the year skits! The kids are going to be performing a 3-5 minute skit, so bring your video recorder and enjoy! May you be blessed this Easter season!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade ~ Peggy Weingartz**

The second graders have been working hard preparing for First Eucharist which will be celebrated May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> at all Liturgies. We also have been studying the parts of the Mass. March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> our classes went to Stations of the Cross with Deacon Dave. Saturday, March 20, all of our First Communicants came together for the retreat. So many things to learn and share! I invite you to take the opportunity to discuss these activities with your child. Their insights are amazing! If you have not already turned in a copy of your child's baptismal certificate or chalice, please turn in to the office.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade ~ Kelli Habarth**

The third grade has had an awesome year! We learned so many things about being part of God's community. We participated in the Gleaner's Food Drive and collected over 600 pounds of food! We learned about Jesus' journey through the Stations of the Cross. The third graders are excited about the end-of-the-year skits and showing off what they have learned!

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade ~ Diane Neitzke**

What a great year 4<sup>th</sup> grade has had. We have spent time learning the Ten Commandments and how to follow them. We have reflected on the Beatitudes, Works of Mercy, Liturgy and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thanks to Deacon Dave, the fourth graders have a better understanding of what an alter server does and how they assist the priests and/or deacons during liturgy. As 5<sup>th</sup> graders they may wish to sign up to take the formal training to become an alter server.

The community service project the 4<sup>th</sup> grade participated in this year was putting together "Birthday Bags" for Gleaners Food Bank. This is an exciting project for them. They place things in a bag that would make a great birthday for another child including cake mix, frosting, plates and candles. Then they may place anything else they wish to make an exciting birthday for someone else. We got hats, balloons, special prizes, decorations and many, many more items.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade ~ Kevin Blanck**

During March we wrapped up our study of the Old Testament with our celebration of the Jewish Passover. We came to a better understanding of the connection between the Jewish Passover and the Eucharist. We look forward to a review class and the last class which will feature skits performed by the children and an ice cream social at the end. It has been a fun and interesting year for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We hope they have come to a better understanding of our past. Thanks for the sacrifices you make as families to ensure your children are here each week.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ~ Sandi Phillips**

This last stretch of our Religious Formation we concentrate on our unique selves! God made us special in His eyes, male and female. We are taking time to learn **respect** for ourselves and others and the thought process differences between the sexes. It is very interesting what our 7<sup>th</sup> graders have to say and what they think. Through activities and discussions led by their catechists, they are learning, discussing and listening. This is an important time to stay connected with your child; I hope these discussions may open some doors of communication between you and your 7<sup>th</sup> grader! We have also spent some class time with a Seder Meal shared with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Stations of the Cross.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade ~ Elizabeth Slack**

Our focus this month is our understanding of Catholicism. We will be discussing not only our roots to the Church, but how we connect to the Church today, in our everyday lives. Our discussion will also include the many different symbols and signs used in the Catholic Church and what they mean.

### **Family Program ~ Diane Neitzke**

The family program has been busy living their faith through the community service project done during each session. We have made cards, prepared meals and tied prayer quilts for families. We have made pillows for LACASA and members of our own community. Then we have decorated bags and cards for meals on wheels. The family program will finish the year with a potluck where we will pray and community for one last time as a group.

### **Home Study ~ Elizabeth Slack**

Our home study families have been diligently working on their books to further their religious formation education at home. This year, 41 students have benefited through our Home Study Program. Our next and final meeting for this year is Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am.