

St. Mary Magdalen

Religious Formation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY

- 2, 3 Class - grades 1-8
6 **Family Program, K
9th gr. class - 11am (starts with
Liturgy)**
9, 10 Class - grades 1-8 (Touching
Safety/Safe Sheep Program)
13 **Home Study Meeting 10:15
K-Safe Sheep, 9th gr. classes**
16, 17 Class - grades 1-8
19 **FAMILY FUN NIGHT 7pm**
20 NO CLASSES
23, 24 Class - grades 1-8
24 **Fr. Dave's class on
Forgiveness 7pm**
27 **Family Program, K, 9 classes**

MARCH

- 2, 3 Class - grades 1-8
3 **Fr Dave class on Penance 7:00**
5 **Solemn Penance Retreat 8:45-12**

From Mary's Desk

Well now that winter has settled in, I really miss my daughter in Arizona!! She and my mom keep calling and telling me about the beautiful, sunny weather they are having!

This month we will be starting our new Safe Sheep program with our youth in grades K-5. As a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Safe Environment, this new program was designed with our youth in mind. Todd Gale used to come and work with our youth years ago on Confirmation retreat with ventriloquism and puppets. He uses the puppets and animation to talk about the serious subjects of SAFE-being safe, safe adults, safe friends, and extra safe adults. He reinforces the importance of family rules and talks about saying no, then go, and then show a safe adult what is going on. All of this material can be located on line at www.safesheep.com as well as the sheets our catechists may use in class.

Many parents want to opt out of these programs, because they feel it may scare the child or contain too much information. However, since we started the touching safety programs here at St. Mary Magdalen, I know we have helped several youth and their families. To me, teaching our youth to say no and to be safe is so important in their lives, especially when society teaches them to go with the flow. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Family Fun Night is coming to St. MM!!! Join my husband, Mike, and me at this wonderful evening designed for the entire family on Saturday, **February 19, at 7!** There will be a game room, movie room, open gym and more!

New Members needed: I would like to invite you to join the formation team! We have about 18 members to set the goals and help with the direction of the program. We also need more catechists for next year. Please call or email Nicole, Karen or me for more information!

A syllabus for each class can be found at www.saintmarymagdalen.org.
Learn more about our textbooks at www.webelieveweb.com.

Classroom Updates

1st Grade ~ Jill Gautherat

February is here and there is a lot to cover in first grade! Starting off the month we will be covering Chapter 22 and 23 learning about the Eucharist and Celebrating the Mass. The Safe Sheep Program will be on the 9/10, and we will be covering the Stations of the Cross on the 16/17. The last week in February we will be covering Chapter 19, Celebrating God's Forgiveness.

2nd Grade ~ Diane Neitzke

It has been a busy year for second graders; many of them have made their first penance. Now they will spend the rest of the year learning more about the Eucharist. They will gather again in April with their parents for a retreat as the final preparation for First Communion. Also, they have been collecting money for good deeds that will be placed in the Alms box at the end of the year.

3rd Grade ~ Diane Neitzke

The 3rd grade participated in the religious education Liturgy by reading the general intercession. They did a fantastic job! The next few months they will spend some time reflecting on reconciliation, healing and eternal life. The third graders have also been providing table decorations for Magdalen's Kitchen. In December one class made trees and in January another class made snow decorations.

4th Grade ~ Diane Neitzke

In fourth grade students are beginning to concentrate on reconciliation in preparation of Solemn Penance in March. As part of the final preparation they will participate in a retreat with their parents early in March. Also, they are memorizing the Act of Contrition. They will be gathering items for birthday bags for Gleaners as a way of living their faith.

5th Grade ~ Jennie Ross

The 5th graders are working on finishing up the Sacraments of Healing. We will talk about Anointing of the Sick and also get to reflect on touching safety with a new program. In looking ahead, in March we get ready to host the Penance Reception for the 4th graders so be watching for a form to come home with your child.

6th Grade ~ Kevin Blanck

The 6th grade classes are finishing their study of the Old Testament with discussions on the Wisdom books and the division of the Kingdom. We look forward in March to participating in a Passover meal and connecting that meal to our Eucharist. We have been moving through the bible

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in chronological order from day one. Our goal this year has always been to study our Jewish ancestors so that we may further understand our own faith. As we talk about Jesus we remember that he too was Jewish. If you have any questions please feel free to e-mail me at kevin@bladerunnerslandscape.com

7th Grade ~ Diane Neitzke

Much of the remaining lessons for seventh grade will be on the sacraments. They will look at each sacrament with depth and understanding. Throughout the year they have been giving up one candy bar (or pocket change) every week to collect money to purchase gift cards for gas or food for those in need.

8th Grade ~ Elizabeth Slack

Our 8th grade classes will continue working in the third and fourth unit of our book. Our lessons and discussions will focus on how we can make tomorrow better with God's help by the things we do today and how we can keep our faith in changing times.

Family Program ~ Diane Neitzke

The family program comes together approximately twice a month for their religious formation. They gather as a family and reflect on the gospel, pray and live their faith through service projects that the families put together. We have made prayer blankets, cards for nursing homes and seniors.

Home Study ~ Elizabeth Slack

The Home Study Program has grown to include 40 families; totaling 54 youth in Grades 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Many parents have indicated they are learning right along with their student; what a wonderful testament to our program. Our next Home Study meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 13, at 10:15 am. If your child is not yet registered in a traditional class, please consider the Home Study program and sign up in the office.

