

February 10, 2010

Dear Middle School Parents:

Peace and blessings from the CFF Office on the brink of this Lenten season. I hope you and your family will find strength and comfort through prayer, fasting and almsgiving during these forty days of preparation for the resurrection of our Lord. As we come to the end of the CFF year, I wanted to make you aware of the many exciting events coming up in the next two months.

During February and March, the 6th graders will continue working in the book *Faith First Level 5*. They will begin the month of February learning about Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season by exploring ashes and making pretzel chains reminding them to pray during Lent. In March, they will focus on Chapter 8 (“The Promise of a Helper”) which explains why the four accounts of the Gospel were written and why Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit after his death; Chapter 9 (“Different Gifts, the Same Spirit”) which describes the various images of the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit works in our Church and our lives today; Chapter 24 (“Pentecost: A Scripture Story”) which explains how the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost; and Chapter 10 (“Thy Kingdom Come!”) which shows how we can use our different gifts to serve the Church as the Body of Christ.

During this same time, 7th graders will continue working in the book *Faith First Level 6*. They will also begin the month of February learning about Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season by exploring ashes and making God’s eyes reminding them to pray during Lent. In March, all lessons will focus on various aspects of Jesus’ life including his Passion and Death (Chapter 9), his resurrection and ascension (Chapter 10), the Last Supper (Chapter 16) and Holy Week and Easter.

And the 8th graders will also continue working in the book *Faith First Level 6*. Their focus will be on Chapter 17 (“The Sacraments of Healing”) which follows up on the Together in Faith session on Anointing of the Sick; Chapter 18 (“Called to Serve the Church”) which explains the sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders; Chapter 19 (“Our Call to Holiness”) which looks at how we can live a life according to God’s will; and Chapter 20 (“Making Choices”) which explains Pentecost how we make moral choices and form our consciences.

In addition to the classroom sessions for your children, please remember that all families are expected to attend the following events as part of your child(ren)’s faith development. Please mark your calendars.

- Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 P.M. This participation in the Mass is a wonderful way to begin the season of Lent and prepare ourselves for Christ’s resurrection at Easter.
- Together in Faith Event celebrating the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. This event will be held on Tuesday, February 23 and Wednesday, February 24 from 5:30-7:45 P.M. Every CFF family should have received an invitation and registration in the mail. Registrations are due back to the CFF Office by Monday, February 15. There is no cost to attend the Together in Faith Events because the fee is already built into your tuition payment.

- Lenten Penance Service on Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 P.M. This participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to heal the soul and prepare for Christ's resurrection at Easter.
- Together in Faith Event celebrating the Sacraments of Service (Marriage and Holy Orders). This event will be held on Tuesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 14 from 5:30-7:45 P.M. Every CFF family will receive an invitation and registration in the mail. Remember, there is no cost to attend the Together in Faith Events because the fee is already built into your tuition payment.

And finally, just a reminder that our CFF year ends with the Together in Faith event on the Sacraments of Service and will resume again in the Fall of 2010. You can expect progress reports to come home in April and registration forms to come home in August.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the CFF Office at 468-5718.

Peace and blessings,

Deborah Gretzinger
CFF Facilitator Grades 6-12