

# SS Peter & Paul Parish School of Religion Newsletter



PSR Website – [www.spp.waterloo.il.us/psr.html](http://www.spp.waterloo.il.us/psr.html)  
PSR Coordinator – [anitatoth@htc.net](mailto:anitatoth@htc.net)

February 2011

*“These three remain: faith, hope & love. But the greatest of these is love.”  
1 Corinthians 13:13*

## February Dates to Remember:

Feb. 2	Classes CANCELLED due to weather!
Feb. 9	PSR Classes
Feb. 10	<b>First Reconciliation (Opt 1)</b> 7p in church
Feb. 12	<b>First Reconciliation (Opt 2)</b> 9:30a in church
Feb. 13	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Family Mass & Reception 9a in church – Please RSVP # attending to Lois Thompson: <a href="mailto:dct@htc.net">dct@htc.net</a>
Feb. 14	PSR Board Meeting – 630p in the PPC
Feb. 16	PSR Classes
Feb. 20	Parish Youth Mass & Gathering – 5p
Feb. 23	PSR Classes
Feb. 26	First Communion Practice 9a (Opt 1) & 10:30a (Opt 2) BRING FAMILY BANNER!!!
Mar. 2	PSR Classes
Mar. 5	<b>First Communion (Opt 1) – 4p</b>
Mar. 6	<b>First Communion (Opt 2) - 1p</b>
Mar. 9	ASH WEDNESDAY MASS – 7p in church. Please sit as families. (Both SPPS & Gibault campuses are closed.)

### **\*LENT BEGINS MARCH 9\***

Lenten activities for children can be found at:  
[http://www.catholicmom.com/kids\\_lent\\_activities.htm](http://www.catholicmom.com/kids_lent_activities.htm)

## *“Reflecting on the Sacraments”*

### **First Reconciliation**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade PSR Students and their parents will be receiving the Sacrament of their First Reconciliation this month. Parents can choose between **Tuesday, Feb 10 @ 7p**, and **Thursday, Feb 12 @ 9:30a**. If possible, this should be for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade student & parents only to make this a special occasion for the child. Other siblings can attend if necessary, but those with younger children should keep in mind that the service will be long and plan accordingly. PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders & their families as they draw closer to God through the Sacraments!

### **Confirmation Retreat**

On Saturday, April 9, our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students and their parents will be meeting at the Ruma Convent for their Confirmation Retreat. The program will begin at 8:30am and will finish at 2p.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Family Mass & Reception on Sunday, February 13!**

Each month we will honor students, by grade level, at the 9a Mass. Pews will be reserved for the families in the front of church and the children will have the opportunity to participate in the Mass. A coffee & donut reception for the families will follow in the SPPS Cafeteria. Please mark your calendars with the remaining dates:

**March 13 – 2nd Grade**

**April 10 - K/1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

**May 1st – 8th Grade/Confirmation Practice**

## Confirmation Project Opportunities for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reception – Feb 13<sup>th</sup> after 9a Mass.

Food/drink servers needed to serve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade families coffee & donuts during a brief reception.  
Contact: Cheryl Doerr @ [mcdoerr4@htc.net](mailto:mcdoerr4@htc.net)

### SSPP Wurstmarkt - Feb 27<sup>th</sup>.

Set-up, dining room, food/drink servers, and kitchen help needed. Contact Staci Wittenuer at [wittens@mac.com](mailto:wittens@mac.com) or 939-7179.

- *Don't forget, the kids can always volunteer to shovel a neighbor's driveway, babysit for a single parent, or do some extra chores around the house for project credit!*
- *They can also call the Hope Church or Western Egyptian Food pantries and see if they need help stocking shelves.*

## Ss. Peter & Paul Stewardship Committee's **LOGO DRAWING CONTEST**

Needed is a drawing of a ship (named Steward "Ship" ) from SsP&P, identifying the gifts of TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE to remind us of our God given gifts, and that we, as good Christian "stewards", are responsible to share them lovingly with others and return them with increase to God. It will be used as the future logo of the Stewardship Committee. (Maximum size 8 1/2 by 11 inches.)

Prizes will be awarded following age groups:  
Grades 1-5  
Grades 6-8  
High School

All entries must be returned to the school office, PSR, or the church office by Wednesday, February 16, 2011 to be eligible. Winners will be selected by the Stewardship Committee on Monday, February 21, 2011.



### **Fr. Max Gives a Tour of the Church to the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students**

On Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Max gave a wonderful "walking tour" of the church to the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students. He explained many of the images and things that we might see while we are in church. If you have children in those grades – please ask them what their favorite part was and give Fr. Max a big "Thank You" for his time when you see him!

## **Gibault Activities**

### **FEBRUARY 11-13 - Winter Play "Radium Girls"**

Performance times: Feb 11 & 12 - 7PM  
Feb 13 - 3PM

FEBRUARY 15 - Those who have applied to Gibault will receive financial aid/scholarship and class registration information in the mail.

### **FEBRUARY 25 - Junior High Snowflake Dance - Grades 7 & 8.**

Time: 7-9PM  
Admission: 1 canned good or \$2  
Dress: School attire or better (jeans are OK)

MARCH 8 & 10 - Incoming freshmen will register for classes by appointment.

### **MARCH 12 - Junior High Math Contest**

(grades 6, 7 & 8) All local junior high math teachers will receive information about entering this contest.

APRIL 30 - May 2 - **Spring musical**

## Who was St. Valentine?

Every February 14th, in the United States and other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

Different saints, all named Valentine or Valentinus and all of whom were martyred, seem to be potential sources of the beginning of what we now celebrate as Valentine's Day. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers, in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

According to another legend, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize the appeal of a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It is no surprise that by the Middle Ages Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France!

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

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## *February Holy Hero*

### **“Josephine Bakhita”**

**Feast Day: February 8**

**By Stephanie Purcell, SPP Catholic Identity Committee**

Our Holy Hero story for February tells of a woman who was once a slave, but whose spirit was always free. Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan, Africa in 1869. She was kidnapped and sold as a slave at age seven. She was



resold many times and suffered much cruelty for the next eight years until she was sold to an Italian consul. For the first time, she was treated with kindness and was taken to Italy to become a nanny. She attended a school run

by the Daughters of Charity and learned all about God from the sisters. After several months of preparing, she received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Josephine was able to remain with the Daughters of Charity and followed the call from God to become a religious sister herself. For the next 50 years, Mother Bakhita, as she was now called, reflected the love of God in her faith, goodness, and Christian hope. She carried out her simple work as a cook, seamstress, and doorkeeper with love and kindness. Everyone loved Mother Bakhita and saw the goodness of God shining through her. She even forgave those who were so cruel to her when she was young, and knew in her heart that even the terrible things that happened to her were part of her journey to Christianity.

As she grew older, Josephine suffered many years of pain and sickness and died in 1947, at age 78, leaving us with her message of love and forgiveness. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 1, 2000.