

SS Peter & Paul Parish School of Religion Newsletter



PSR Website – www.spp.waterloo.il.us/psr.html
PSR Coordinator – anitatoth@htc.net

February 2010

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

February Dates to Remember:

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| Feb. 1 | Home School Meeting – 7p in PPC |
| Feb. 3 | PSR Classes
7 th Grade Church Tour 6:30p @ church |
| Feb. 7 | 5 th Grade Family Mass & Reception
10:30a in church |
| Feb. 8 | PSR Board Meeting – 7p in the PPC |
| Feb. 9 | 8 th Grade Teaching mass |
| Feb. 10 | PSR Classes |
| Feb. 17 | ASH WEDNESDAY Mass – 7p in church. Please sit as families. (Both SPPS & Gibault campuses are closed.) |
| Feb. 20 | 8 th Grade Penance & Trivia 10:30a-2p in church |
| Feb. 21 | Parish Youth Mass – 6p |
| Feb. 23 | First Reconciliation -7p in church |
| Feb. 24 | PSR Classes
“The Shack” Book Discussion at GHS
– see article below |
| Feb. 25 | First Reconciliation – 7p in church |

7th Grade Church Tour – Wed., Feb 3!

All 7th Grade students will need to be **dropped off at church this coming Wednesday, Feb 3, at 6:30pm for a tour.** They will be given a history of the sights and symbols that surround them during Mass. Parents are welcome to attend! The kids will be ready for pick-up at 7:45pm.

5th Grade Family Mass & Reception on Sunday, February 7!

Each month we honor students, by grade level, at the 10:30a Mass. Pews will be reserved for the families in the front right side 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!

February 7 – 5th grade

(Please RSVP to anitatoth@htc.net if you haven't already done so!)

March 14 – 6th grade

April 25 – 8th grade

May 2 – 7th grade

Thank you to PSR moms, Mary Mercer and Linda Daniels, who have volunteered to help Cheryl Doerr with the receptions!

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Our 2nd Grade PSR Students and their parents will be receiving the Sacrament of their First Reconciliation this month. Parents can choose between **Tuesday, Feb 23**, and **Thursday, Feb 25**. Both evening services will begin at 7pm in the church.

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 17

Lenten activities for children can be found at:
http://www.catholicmom.com/kids_lent_activities.htm

“Reflecting on the Sacraments”

Confirmation Retreat

On Saturday, March 20, our 8th Grade students and their parents will be meeting at Gibault Catholic High School for their Confirmation Retreat. The program will begin at 9am and will finish at 1pm.

First Eucharist Retreat

On Sunday, March 6, our 2nd Grade students and their parents will be meeting at the SPPS Cafeteria for their First Eucharist Retreat. We will begin at 9:00a and the program will conclude at 11:00a.

Confirmation Project Opportunities for the 6th, 7th & 8th Graders

5rd Grade Reception – Feb 7th after 10:30a Mass.

Food/drink servers needed to serve the 5th Grade families coffee & donuts during a brief reception. Contact: Cheryl Doerr @ mcdoerr4@htc.net

Zahnow Elementary “Winter Carnival” – 20 Feb

Need game and concession stand workers, clowns, helpers to hand out popcorn and balloons. Contact: Julie Taylor @ 939-7566 or Linda at lreese0603@live.com

SSPP Wurstmarkt - Feb 28.

Set-up, dining room, food/drink servers, and kitchen help needed. Contact Staci Wittenauer at wittens@mac.com or 939-7179.

Confirmation Update – Mark your Calendars!

8th Grade Teaching Mass

Tuesday, February 9, at 7pm in church: Deacon Doug will be hosting this parent/child activity to learn more about the Mass and why Catholics worship in the way that we do. This evening is a great opportunity for the Confirmandi and parent to truly understand the symbolisms and meanings of the Eucharist.

Confirmation Penance & Trivia

Saturday, February 20, 10:30am - 2pm in

church: The Confirmandi and their parents will begin with a presentation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church, followed by lunch & trivia in the SPPS gymnasium. This will prove to be a meaningful, yet fun day for all.

LENTEN SEASON BEGINS WITH *ASH WEDNESDAY* MASS

On Wednesday, February 17, the SPPS & Gibault campuses will be closed so that students and their catechists can attend the Ash Wednesday Mass with their families.

ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION: Since Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, it naturally is also a beginning to recover a baptismal focus. *"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."* Though these words do not explicitly mention Baptism, they do recall our baptismal promises to reject sin and profess our faith. It is a clear call to conversion, to that movement away from sin and toward Christ that we have to embrace over and over again through our lives.

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER: *"Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the all-holy one, who gives us life and all things. As we go about our lives, the press of our duties and activities often leads us to forget your presence and your love. We fall into sin and fail to live out the responsibilities that you have entrusted to those who were baptized into your Son. In this holy season, help us to turn our minds and hearts back to you. Lead us into sincere repentance and renew our lives with your grace. Help us to remember that we are sinners, but even more, help us to remember your loving mercy.*

As we live through this Ash Wednesday, may the crosses of ashes that mark our foreheads be a reminder to us and to those we meet that we belong to your Son. May our worship and prayer and penitence this day be sustained throughout these 40 days of Lent. Bring us refreshed and renewed to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen."

February Holy Hero

“St. Francis of Assisi”

Patron saint of Catholic Action

Feast Day: October 4

By Stephanie Purcell, SPP Catholic Identity Committee

(This is a series that will be added to the Newsletter each month to help us recall the lives of godly people who dedicated their lives to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to those among them. Please share these stories with your children over dinner some night!)

I was born in Assisi, Italy many centuries ago in the year 1182. The day of my baptism, I was given the name Giovanni Bernardone, but my father, a wealthy fabric merchant, loved all things French, and changed my name to Francesco (Francis). As a young man, my future was guaranteed in my father’s business. I led a carefree life wearing the finest clothes and attending parties with the rich. Even during this time of my life, I felt a special sympathy for the poor, and often gave to the needy. I was taken as a prisoner of war in a battle between my city of Assisi and the city of Perugia. It was during this time that my thoughts began to turn from war to peace. After my return home, I gradually felt the Lord calling me to a more serious and spiritual life. I had a vision in which God said to me, “Francis, rebuild my Church.” I rebuilt the local church with my own hands, but soon understood God meant rebuild His ENTIRE Catholic Church through works of mercy.

At age 27, I heard a sermon that would change my life forever. The priest spoke about the gospel story (Matthew 10:9) in which Jesus told his followers to go forth and proclaim that the Kingdom of God was upon them, that they should take no money with them, not even a walking stick or shoes. This inspired me to live a life of poverty. Many of my friends laughed and made fun of me when I gave away all my money and worldly possessions. So there I was, barefoot and wearing poor shepherd’s clothes, preaching to the people about repentance; peace with God, peace with others, and peace with oneself. I looked upon all people, rich or poor, and all the creatures of the earth, as my brothers and

sisters because we were all created by the same God.

In 1209, I took my first twelve followers and traveled to Rome to ask Pope Innocent III for permission to start a new religious order. The Pope agreed, and I became the founder of the Franciscan Order of Preaching Friars. The brothers and I lived in community, leading a simple, humble life. We wandered through the towns, cheerful and full of song, preaching the Gospel of the Lord and showing honor, respect, and love to each person we met. My new order grew quickly, and I also helped St. Clare of Assisi start an order of sisters known as the Poor Clares. I discovered that the richness of life does not come from money or worldly goods, but from imitating Christ in His poverty and humility, and loving each person, be they beggar or king.

While gazing at a crucifix in 1224, it was made known to Francis that he should be transformed to resemble Christ. As a result of this vision, the marks of the real and painful wounds of Jesus were left in his hands, his side and his feet (the stigmata). These marks remained with him until his death in 1226.

Parent Book Discussion

***“The Shack”* by William P. Young**

February’s book discussion will be on the book *The Shack*, written by William P. Young. Fr. Stan and Karen Seaborn are offering two opportunities to come together in discussion: Tuesday morning, February 23 from 9:30am – 11:00am at SS Peter & Paul Church, and on **Wednesday evening, February 24, at Gibault Catholic High School Library from 6:45pm to 8:15pm.** We are holding it at Gibault in order to allow parents of PSR students to attend this discussion while their children are in class.

Anita’s note: Please make plans to attend if at all possible since the parish is trying to make it very convenient for PSR families to participate! THANKS in advance for your attendance!



**Ss Peter & Paul Parish
School of Religion (PSR)
wants your SOLES!
Yes, we mean shoe
soles!**

**YOUR DONATED
SHOES WILL BRING

***CLEAN WATER
FOR HAITI!!!*****

<http://shoeman.org/file/home.html>

Did you know that HAITI is 80-85%
Roman Catholic? Let's reach out and
help fellow Catholic families by ensuring
them the basic need of clean WATER!

Here is what will happen with your donated shoes:

Shoes collected by Ss Peter & Paul PSR will be picked up by George "The Shoeman" Hutchings & Eagle Wings Ministries. (See website above) They will sell the shoes for 35 cents per pound. This is how they fund the purchase of water drilling equipment to drill for fresh water in Haiti. The shoes eventually end up in South America where people can buy them for pennies and the Haitian people will have a fresh well drilled for clean water distribution in the local community. It's a winning situation all around!

[100,000 shoes will make the water run in Haiti!](#)

So, if money is tight and you haven't been able to help the Haitian earthquake victims with a monetary donation, try donating your old shoes. This is something practical that everyone can participate in...even the youngest in your family! *Please help us reach our goal of 2,650 pairs of shoes* - 265 PSR children times 10 pairs of shoes donated by each child would reach that goal! Bring your shoes on Wednesday evenings during the month of February between 6:30p-8p to either SPPS or Gibault. Consider reaching out beyond your own family and collecting shoes from friends & neighbors as well! This would also make a wonderful Community or Parish Confirmation Project for your 6th, 7th or 8th Grade PSR student!

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HELP**