

SS Peter & Paul Parish School of Religion Newsletter



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

March 2009
LENT

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” ~ Joel 2:12

March Dates to Remember:

Mar. 3	PSR Classes (Parent Book Discussion “The Shack” – 6:45p @ Gibault)
Mar. 6	First Communion Retreat 9a-11a (See article)
Mar. 8	PSR Advisory Board Meeting – 7p
Mar. 10	PSR Classes (Optional Gr. 5-8 Parent Discussion on Sign out policy @ 6:45p – 7:15p in GHS Library)
Mar. 14	6 th Grade Family Mass @ 10:30a Reception following in SPPS Cafeteria
Mar. 17	PSR - Stations of the Cross All grades! 6:30p-7:30p @ church
Mar. 20	Confirmation Retreat @ Gibault 9a – 1p (See article)
Mar. 21	Youth Mass – 6p
Mar. 23	Parish Lenten Reconciliation - 7p
Mar. 24	PSR Classes
Mar. 30	Chrism Mass – 11:30a Cathedral 8 th Grade Optional Activity
Mar. 31	PSR Classes
Apr. 1-3	Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Vigil)
Apr. 4	<u>Easter Sunday!</u>

Parent Book Discussion

“The Shack” by William P. Young

A discussion on the book *The Shack*, written by William P. Young will be presented by Fr. Stan and Karen Seaborn. They 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!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Wed., Mar 17th!

Please mark your calendars for the change in time and location! All PSR students will need to be **dropped off at church on Wednesday, Mar 17th at 6:30p** for the Stations of the Cross. **Note that the pick up time is 7:30p.** The students will sit by grade but parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend with them!

6th Grade Family Mass & Reception!

On Sunday, Mar. 14th we will be honoring all of our 6th Grade families at the 10:30a Mass. Please have your child advise his/her Catechist if they are interested in participating in the Mass by being a lector, reading the petitions, serving or bringing up the gifts. Afterwards a brief reception will be held for the 6th Grade families in the SPPS Cafeteria. Please plan to participate! You can RSVP to anitatob@htc.net.

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

6th Grade Reception – Mar 14th after 10:30a Mass. Food/drink servers needed to serve the 6th Grade families coffee & donuts during a brief reception.

Contact: Cheryl Doerr @ mcdoerr4@htc.net

A BIG “THANK YOU” TO OUR WURSTMARKT CREW!

The Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Wurstmarkt was a success thanks to the many families and students who donated their time and efforts to help set up and serve. A personal thanks to each of the following families for their support: The Brand family, Browns, Daniels, Doerrs, Eschmanns, Goddards, Heavners, Kowalczyks, Kretchmers, Lattimores, Lueckings, Morans, Notters, Popes, Rices, Rusteborgs, Schneiders, Thompsons, Toals, Toths, Trumans, and Wittenauers. Thank you! We couldn't have done it without your help!

Reflecting on the Sacraments!

First Eucharist Retreat

This Saturday, March 6th our 2nd Grade students and their parents will be meeting at the church @ 9a for their First Eucharist Retreat. We will begin with Adoration in the church & then move to the SPPS gymnasium for a brief formation. The children and their parents will be making a keepsake chalice as a memento of this special time in their lives. The program will conclude @ 11:00a.

NOTE: The cost of making the chalice keepsake is \$10 per child. Please turn in the money to your child's catechist on Wednesday or at the Retreat on Saturday. Thank you!

Confirmation Retreat

On Saturday, March 20th our 8th Grade students and their parents will be meeting at Gibault High School for their Confirmation Retreat. The program will begin at 9a and will finish at 1:00pm. The Reap Team from St. Louis will be providing the retreat. Please see <http://www.reapteam.org/> for their website that can be used as a reference before and after the retreat!

NOTE: Girls, please bring a 2-liter bottle of soda; Boys please bring a bag of snacks to share.

WOULD YOU LIKE FOR GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU PERSONALLY???

<http://www.birthverse.com/mybirthverse.cfm>

Please visit the above website for a fun way to view which Bible verse corresponds to the day you were born! A great memorization opportunity for your kids!

PSR REGISTRATION for 2010-2011 BEGINS IN APRIL!

Registration for the upcoming year begins on Wednesday, April 14th and will continue each week until the PSR Closing Mass on May 12th. Due to the continued economic pressures facing our families, registration fees will remain unchanged from last year.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening at 7p during Lent.

Living Stations of the Cross performed by the youth group will be held Good Friday at 7p.

The Parish Reconciliation will be held on March 23rd at 7p.



March Holy Hero **Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha** "Lily of the Mohawks"

Patron saint of the environment and ecology
Feast day, July 14

Born in New York in 1656, Tekakwitha was the daughter of a Mohawk warrior and a Catholic Algonquin mother. When she was four years old, an outbreak of smallpox took the life of her brother and both of her parents. Tekakwitha also contracted the disease, which left her with poor eyesight and a weakened and scarred body. She was adopted by her uncle, a Mohawk chief, and his wife. Tekakwitha had a sweet and shy personality and obediently helped her aunts work in the fields tending to the corn, beans, and squash. She collected firewood from the forest and water from the streams. Memories of her good and prayerful mother and stories of her Catholic faith remained in her mind and heart and gave shape to her life's destiny.

When Tekakwitha was eleven, a group of French Jesuit missionaries visited her uncle. Her uncle disliked the "blackrobes" and their strange new religion, but tolerated their presence. Tekakwitha was fascinated

by the new stories she heard about Jesus Christ. She wanted to learn more about Him and to become a Christian. Father de Lamberville persuaded her uncle to allow her to attend religious instruction. Tekakwitha was baptized at age 20. Filled with joy, she was given the name Kateri, which is the Mohawk pronunciation of the French name, Catherine. Her family was *not* as joyful, and did not approve of her choice to follow Christ. She became the village outcast. She was insulted, treated like a slave, and even had her life threatened. In July, 1677, Kateri left her village and fled 300 miles through woods, rivers, and swamps to the Catholic mission of St. Francis Xavier near Montreal, Canada.

Because she never received any formal schooling, Kateri was unable to read or write, and led a life of prayer and penance. She tended the young and cared for the poor, sick, and aged. People gathered near her in church, saying they felt the presence of God when she prayed. Kateri loved the Blessed Mother very much and carried the rosary around her neck always. When the winter hunting season took her and others away from the village, she made her own little chapel in the woods by carving a cross on a tree and prayed there, kneeling in the snow. In 1679, Kateri took a vow of perpetual virginity, meaning she would never marry, and would remain totally devoted to Christ for the rest of her life. Her poor health led to her death at the young age of 24. Her last words were, "*Jesus, I love you.*" Moments after her death, her scarred face miraculously cleared and was made beautiful by God. *Kateri Tekakwitha is the first native North American to be declared Blessed by the Church. The final step in her canonization process is awaiting the second verified miracle from her intercession.*



**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 Lent 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!

**UPDATE: THE PSR HAS
COLLECTED ALMOST
400 PAIRS OF SHOES
IN OUR FIRST TWO
WEEKS! Thank you!!!**