

February 16 & 17, 2016

Volume 10, Issue 21

St. Charles Borromeo Religious Formation Family Newsletter

Contact Information

Information regarding Religious Formation can be found on the parish website at www.stcharlesomaha.org

Religious Formation Office:
402-916-9750
rf@scbccomaha.org

- Jackie Schuler
Director
Ext. 205
jschuler@scbccomaha.org

Upcoming Dates:

Feb 21-23	Parish Mission
Feb 23 & 24	No Class
Mar 1 & 2	Class
Mar 8 & 9	Class
Mar 15 & 16	No Class



Our Mission Statement

To be Christ for one another living the command of Jesus: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how we all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34b, 35 (New American Bible)

ST. CHARLES PARISH MISSION

February 21 6:30

February 22 7:00

February 23 7:00

Next week we will not have class, however, we are encouraging all of our students and their families to attend the Parish Mission lead by Fr. Scott Courtney. Fr. Courtney is a very charismatic speaker that appeals to people of all ages. See the flyer attached below for more information.

LENTEN JOURNEY FOR FAMILIES

This week a "40 Ways in 40 Days" calendar was sent home this week. This provides simple ideas for families to participate in the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent. A copy of that calendar is attached to this newsletter below.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION LENT OUTREACH



During Lent the Religious Formation program will be partnering with the schools of the Omaha Catholic Consortium. The Omaha Catholic Consortium is a collaboration of parishes, schools, parents, and community partners working together to support Catholic education in southeast Omaha. The consortium provides financial and academic support for five Catholic schools – Holy Cross, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette, St. Thomas More, and Sts. Peter and Paul. The following is a list of their most immediate needs. **Please bring any donations to class by March 23.**

GIRLS

- Blue uniform skirts (ages 10-14)
- Red knee-high socks (ages 6-14)
- White knee-high socks (ages 6-14)
- Red button-up sweaters (ages 6-14)
- Blue button-up sweaters (ages 6-14)

BOYS

- Black dress belts (ages 6-14)

GIRLS AND BOYS

- Blue uniform pants (ages 6-14)
- White polo shirts (ages 6-14)
- Red polo shirts (ages 6-14)
- Blue sweatshirts (ages 6-14)
- Backpacks
- Shoes (ages 6-14)
- Socks (ages 6-14)

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

The Lenten Season is upon us and we, as Catholics, focus on preparing our hearts and souls to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ. One way to do this is by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A Religious Formation Reconciliation “homework” sheet was sent home with all children in grades 2-8 this week. An additional copy of that sheet is attached to this newsletter. This sheet is due back by April 6. Reconciliation times at St. Charles Borromeo are as follows:

- Parish Penance Service - Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm.
- February 11, 2016, through March 19, 2016, Reconciliation will be available every Thursday from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and every Saturday from 3:00-4:15 pm.
- Holy Thursday (March 24) - 12:00 Noon
- Good Friday (March 25) - 12:00 Noon

SEDER MEAL

Come and experience the Passover/Seder Meal as Jesus would have observed. Learn how the Last Supper is the basis for our Eucharistic Meal at Mass. Submit a reservation for each person attending and sign up to bring an item for the Seder meal. A free will offering of \$10 is suggested to cover expenses.

Date: 03/12/2016 (Sat.)

Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm CST

Location: St. Charles Borromeo Gym

Sign up with the link below or contact Patricia Getze at 402—916-9173 or NEgranpat@aol.com

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4fa9ab2da_b9-passoverseder/

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS



The SVdP food pantry thanks you for your donations and particularly the critical need items. The next food pantry collections will be weekend of Feb 27/28. Items needed this month are canned meats, canned hearty soups / stews, cereal, jelly, ketchup, flour, sugar, deodorants, shampoos and toothpaste. Your support is greatly appreciated!

SERVICE HOUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help is needed to bus tables and empty trash during our St. Charles Borromeo Fish Frys. If you are interested please contact Adam Stephenson at stephensonaj@gmail.com.
Dates for the fish fry are listed below.

	Feb 19	Feb 26	
Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	

SYMBOLON ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We are offering “Symbolon – The Catholic Faith Explained” during all Religious Formation sessions. No sign up is necessary just join us in the worship space when you drop your child off for class. Learning about our faith never stops. We are all on the journey and need nourishment along the way. Join us for fun, faith, and fellowship.

ASH WEDNESDAY SIGN IN

If for some reason you attended an Ash Wednesday Mass and did not get your child signed in, please let us know so we can adjust our attendance sheets accordingly.

Live Out the Feasts at Home

Lent

Feb 21	St. Peter Damian	spend time in prayer today as a family. Pray the Liturgy of the hours
Feb 22	Feast of Chair of St. Peter	Eat this chair of St. Peter
Feb 23	St. Polycarp	say his Prayer of Martyrdom for those in danger of martyrdom



The St. Charles Religious Formation program is on Facebook (StCharles RF) and Twitter (St Charles RF). Find us, like us, friend us. Stay connected and get up-to-the-minute information.

ONLINE SHOPPING WITH AMAZON SMILE



When shopping online don't forget to shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to St. Charles Borromeo. Bookmark this link and support us every time you shop.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0672912>

Felt Saint Banners

Blank felt banners were sent home with all 8th grade students before the break. These banners are to be decorated with their Confirmation name, and **turned in by April 27** to be hung up for Confirmation.

Instructions were attached and can be found online and in the Confirmation



CLOW / First Communion Preparation

If you have a child who is preparing for the Sacrament of 1st Communion, we ask that they no longer leave Mass to participate in CLOW. It is important that the children begin to understand the Mass and the preparation for the Eucharist during Mass.

If you have any questions, please contact the RF office.

CONFIRMATION PARISH COMMITMENT CEREMONY

The Parish Commitment for students being confirmed in May will be the weekend of **March 19/20. PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE CHANGE!** If you have not yet signed up for your preferred Mass time please use the link below to do so ASAP. If you already signed up for the old date please revisit the site to make sure your Mass choice on the new date still works. We ask that either the candidates sponsor or parent attend with them as well.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/g/0/10c0b45adaf23abf94-parish>



CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Below is the link to the Confirmation Checklist

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fZ319WY_reiN9wW4ziW0VJppm0TbMbxehO-ZdnXS4/edit?usp=sharing

Find all pertinent Confirmation information here:

<http://stcharlesomaha.org/faith-formation/sacramental-preparation/confirmation>

February 1, 2016

RE: Religious Formation Homework

Dear Parents:

The Church views the role of parents in the religious formation of children as both a privilege and an obligation. When we present our children to the Church to be baptized, we are distinctly reminded that we have the responsibility "to bring [their children] up in the practice of the faith" (*Rite of Baptism of Children 56*). This obligation and privilege extends to regularly celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is important to remember that it is within the family that our children first come to faith. And, it is within the family that our children will continue to practice their faith and witness the daily example of Catholic believers.

Again this year we are giving a Religious Formation homework assignment for all Religious Formation children who are in the **2nd grade or above**. It is a parish expectation that all children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation twice a year, at the very least. This usually means once during the Advent season and once during the Lenten season. The Religious Formation Department provided the opportunity for your child to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Religious Formation class in the season of Advent. Since we have limited time with your child during Religious Formation classes each year we would like to ask that you, as parents provide the second opportunity for your child to receive this Sacrament during Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Once your child has completed the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please return the bottom portion of this letter to the Religious Formation office. If for some reason your child choose not to celebrate the sacrament, we ask that he/she visit with a priest and ask for a prayer of blessing.

St. Charles Borromeo offers several options for your family to receive Reconciliation. Below is a list of times when the Sacrament is offered:

- Parish Penance Service - Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm.
- February 11, 2016, through March 19, 2016, Reconciliation will be available every Thursday from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and every Saturday from 3:00-4:15 pm.
- Holy Thursday (March 24) - 12:00 Noon
- Good Friday (March 25) - 12:00 noon.

Please note: There tend to be longer lines during Holy Week so you may choose to attend one of the earlier times to avoid that. If none of these times work for your family, feel free to visit neighboring parishes to receive the Sacrament.

Please complete the bottom of this form and **return to the Religious Formation Office by April 6, 2016**. If you have any questions, please contact me at jschuler@scbccomaha.org or 402-916-9750.

God Bless!
Jackie Schuler



Child's Name (first and last) _____ Grade _____

Religious Formation Class Day and Time _____

Parish where Sacrament was received _____ Date received _____

Parent Signature _____



Parish Lenten Mission
(For the entire family)

Sunday, February 21
6:30 p.m.


Monday and Tuesday, February 22-23
7:00 p.m.

Featuring Fr. Scott Courtney

St. Charles Borromeo Church
7790 South 192nd Street

Gretna, Nebraska

Fr. Scott Courtney has become a well known speaker in our area and is especially known for his emphasis on the Scriptures. This Lent he intends to focus on the "Year of Mercy" which has as it's theme, "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy". His appeal reaches people of all ages and levels of commitment. He is one of the few speakers who regularly brings back those who have previously heard him.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>A LENTEN JOURNEY</p> <p><i>Sharing God's Love Daily in Our World</i></p>			<p>10 ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Attend Ash Wednesday Mass and pray especially for those in need this day.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Sign up to receive daily Lenten text message – Text @scblent to 23559</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Practice Almsgiving – Collect coins during Lent to donate to your favorite local charity.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Unplug yourself today. Turn off the TV and other forms of technology and spend time playing a game or reading a book instead.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Look for signs of God's presence in your world today.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Take part in a daily Mass this week or spend time in Adoration (offered every Saturday 8am-4pm at St. Charles)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Prepare a bag of food and other supplies to keep in your car to give to the next homeless person you meet.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pray the Rosary as a family. For help visit http://www.newadvent.org/images/rosary.pdf</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Smile at 10 strangers today.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Attend Stations of the Cross (6:00 p.m. at St. Charles) Consider coming early or staying after for the fish fry.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Donate an hour of your time to your favorite charity or consider joining the St. Charles group at the Open Door Mission – Feb 20 see bulletin for details.</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Attend the Parish Mission (6:30 p.m. at St. Charles) and/or call or visit a friend or relative who is sick or alone.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Attend the Parish Mission (7:00 p.m. at St. Charles) and/or give someone a hug today.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Attend the Parish Mission (7:00 p.m. at St. Charles) and/or share your favorite story about Jesus with your family.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Write three general notes of encouragement, and send them to complete strangers.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>As you pray before your meals, include a prayer for those who will go hungry today.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Let someone go ahead of you in line or give up your parking space.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>BOGO (buy one, give one) Donate the extra food you purchase to the St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. Charles this weekend.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Look for signs of God's presence in your world today.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Donate women's clothing, jewelry, shoes, and accessories to The Humble Lily. See bethlehemhouseomaha.org for more info.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Spend an hour cleaning up garbage and litter in your neighborhood.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Leave an anonymous gift – flowers for a receptionist, chocolates for the postman, spare change on a vending machine.... Use your imagination!</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Be a door holder today – every time you enter a door, hold it for the person behind you.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Join your prayer with others and pray for peace on this World Day of Prayer.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Spring clean! Donate any unwanted items to St. Vincent de Paul or the Sienna Francis House.</p>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>6</p> <p>Look for signs of God's presence in your world today.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Read one spiritual book this month. For suggestions visit Adoremus Books, Gloria Deo, Cosgraves, or dynamiccatholic.com</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Lend a hand to someone in need today.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Buy or make a blanket for the homeless. Visit omahaprojectlinus.org for more information.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Send a special note of appreciation to a coach, teacher, parent, child, spouse, sibling or anyone you know who needs a pick-me-up</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Help keep our world clean. Drop off clean, used plastic bags to the parish for volunteers to make into mats for the homeless.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Read the Sunday readings with your family before Mass this weekend. These can be found at usccb.org under the Bible tab.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Look for signs of God's presence in your world today.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Share a talent that you have with someone today.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Read the passion account in the Bible. Mark 14:12-15:47</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pay five people a compliment today – BE GENUINE!</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Sign up to help with a parish ministry. Ministry signup sheet can be found at stcharlesomaha.org under the "get involved" tab.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Give up snacking between meals today and offer it up for the souls in purgatory.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Stop at least five times today and say a short prayer such as "Jesus, I love you" or "Thank you, God."</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Look for signs of God's presence in your world today.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Forgive someone. Apologize to someone.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Attend the parish penance service (7:00 p.m. at St. Charles)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Tomorrow is Holy Thursday. Read about the Lord's Supper. Matthew 26:17-29.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Take part in the Mass of the Lord's Supper. (7:00 p.m. at St. Charles)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Fast and abstain today. Participate in the Good Friday Service (7:00 p.m. at St. Charles)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Eat simply today and donate the money you saved.</p>
<p>27 EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>Celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord!</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of preparation for the Easter season when Christians are called to renew their commitments to spiritual practices like Fasting, Praying, and Almsgiving. The season is intended as a time for personal conversion leading up to Easter. The belief is that our consistent participation in these practices — like exercise we do for our physical health — is a form of purification that improves our spiritual well-being by stripping away all that is unnecessary and by becoming more mindful of our ultimate dependence on God in our lives. Lent is an annual opportunity to grow in our faith, which means it's about much more than giving up unhealthy foods or treats. It is about abstaining from whatever is unhealthy in our lives — gossip, laziness, anger — and, most importantly, <i>taking concrete steps to do something more</i>. Challenge yourself this year, and go beyond the clichés of "giving up" something. Now is a great time to take stock of your spiritual life and to grow in it. Use these ideas or create your own to help this be your best Lent yet!</p>				<p><i>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.</i> - Matthew 25:35-36, 40</p>	