

# Holy Name Faith Formation

## St. Boniface/ St. Wenceslaus Family Newsletter



February 2012

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interest, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”*

*1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

**LENT IS THAT SPECIAL TIME IN THE CHURCH YEAR WHEN EACH PERSON IS CHALLENGED TO REFLECT UPON HOW SHE/HE IS LIVING OUT JESUS’ COMMANDMENTS TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE EACH OTHER.**

**Why Ashes on Ash Wednesday?** – Why does the priest or deacon make the sign of the cross on our foreheads with a smudge of ashes on the first day of Lent? Since ancient times, ashes have been a symbol of sorrow. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter, and we prepare best by feeling sorry for our sins and turning away from them. We resolve to sin no more and to be ready to celebrate the new life of Easter as new persons. Ashes are also a symbol of our own mortality. When Adam and Eve disobey, God tells them they will have a life of toil and suffering. God also tells them they will die: “...you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). As you receive ashes, listen for the minister to say, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel” (based on Mark 1:15), or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return” (based on Genesis 3:19).

**The Tradition of Almsgiving** – During Lent, we prepare ourselves for Easter by renewing our commitment to live as disciples of Jesus so that we might share in Christ’s new life. One of the traditional practices we emphasize during Lent is almsgiving. *Almsgiving* comes from a Greek word that means “mercy”. We “give alms” or show “mercy” to those in need by reaching out to share our time, talent and treasure. Almsgiving not only helps others; it also unites us with Jesus. When we help those in need, we do as Jesus did.



**Mary’s Meals** – The focus of our almsgiving this year will be Mary’s Meals. Information about Mary’s Meals is available in the February bulletin and in upcoming Lenten Family Packets. Families will receive a container to place donations in. Youth will bring donations to class each week. Dollar amounts will be totaled each week and for every \$11 collected we will add another bowl to our “Wall of Caring”. Our goal is to collect enough to feed as many children as we have children at Holy Name. For more information on Mary’s Meals visit: [www.marysmeals.org](http://www.marysmeals.org)

**QUEST Retreat in March** – QUEST is an overnight retreat for high school freshmen and sophomores. It is a chance to get away from the regular routine, talk about important life and faith issues, and have FUN with other area teens. A Quest Retreat will be offered on March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at Camp Tanglefoot in Clear Lake starting at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday and going through noon on Sunday. Cost is \$25. Young people who attended last year highly recommend it!

**Thank You** for all of the pop tabs collected: **71.4** total pounds of aluminum from Holy Name are going to support Ronald McDonald House. Kindergarten youth each received \$3 in McDonald gift certificates for being the winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> session challenge. Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth will be enjoying a pizza party for being the winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session challenge. **Keep collecting!**



**High School Movie Night Feb. 15** – See attached flier.

**Possible Names For Cluster** – The young people of Holy Name Faith Formation are selecting possible names for our six parish cluster. Tenth grade youth, confirmation candidates, are currently researching saints to start the process of choosing a cluster name. The group is working on their computers in class to research saints who had attributes they deem important for a cluster. When this group narrows down the possibilities, they will present their findings to other grades who will determine three top choices. This is going on in all five faith formation programs in our six parishes. Adult parishioners will make the final decision from among the options presented to them by our youth. Our young people are an important part of the process!

**Angels, Moses Story Craft, Stickers & Fishing** – What do all of these things have in common? These are all activities that the youngest among us have been doing in recent months to learn about faith in fun ways. Kindergarten youth made angels as a way to learn about the angel that appeared to Mary telling her that she would be the mother of Jesus. First grade talked about the life of Moses while making a related craft. Second grade continues to work in their book “God’s Gift of Eucharist” which includes placing stickers in the Scripture stories. Grade three learned about the qualities of a good disciple using fishing poles to go fishing for “keepers” (those fish with qualities of discipleship on them). These are just a few of the many ways our catechists engage young people in learning about their faith.



In this year’s Vacation Bible School we will discover that everything is possible with God and the SKY is the limit! Look for details in coming months.