

March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday Blessings!

Today is Ash Wednesday, the start of the season of renewal. Too often I have thought of the holy season of Lent as a time of deprivation. It is my goal and the goal for the students and staff of Father Allouez Catholic School to experience Lent as a time to reach a new level of experiencing God's grace.

Fishing for a Deeper Connection with Christ



The Families at the St. Matthew Campus decorated a fish and committed to an act of prayer, fasting or almsgiving as family. As a reminder of our promise, a sea of beautiful fish welcome us as we enter St. Matthew Campus. We would love for the families to take a picture while you are involved with your promise for Lent and send it to school. We can add the pictures to our display.

Prayer

We will pray for one another during Lent so that we do catch a deeper connection to Christ. As the students and staff leave church on Ash Wednesday they will receive an Easter egg with the picture and name of a student or staff member at Father Allouez School. They will pray for that person all through Lent. The school will be having an all school retreat on the afternoon of Holy Thursday. During the retreat they will find out who their prayer partner was. Ask your child who their prayer partner is for Lent. If they don't remember, email their teacher. You can also pray as a family for the student or staff member of FACS that your child has been given.

We will also be praying the traditional prayers of the faith during Lent.

St. Matthew Campus

- The Stations of the Cross will be set up throughout school and each teacher will take their class around and talk about the stations and say a prayer at each station.

Resurrection Campus

- Stations of the Cross in Church - March 26 - 2:30
- Divine Mercy Chaplet in Church - April 9 - 1:00

Reconciliation will be scheduled at each Campus during the season of Lent.

Fasting

Every age group is approaching this facet of Lent in a different way depending on the age of the child. I have included how our youngest and oldest children are learning about this Lenten practice.

Early Childhood

Fasting/Penance-is a difficult concept at this level, so the EC teachers have come up with a concrete idea for the students. They will be discussing how Jesus gave up his life so we could be born, and how it is hard to give things up-especially if we like them very much. The EC families will discuss this idea of giving things up/sacrifice at home as a family. Then they will work with their child to select one of his/her favorite toys to give up for Lent. **(Please choose something that is not needed to fall asleep each night!)** They will send the toy to school in a bag and labeled. Each child will place his/her toy in a large box in the classroom and it will be put away for the 40 days of Lent. During Lent we will discuss how hard it might be to not have that toy, and how hard it was for Jesus to have to die. The toy will be returned after Easter and we will talk about how hard it

was to wait, but that something good happened! Jesus rose from the dead and we got our toy back!

The middle school students will be identifying something they are giving up for Lent but also identifying how to turn that sacrifice into a positive. Examples: Give up soda and donate the money to “Feed My Starving Children”, give up screen time and play a board game with a sibling.

Almsgiving

Both campuses will be collecting money for “Feed My Starving Children” which is a nutrition outreach program that provides high nutrient meals for children in third world countries. Our 7th and 8th grade students as well as many of our families participate in a meal packing program each October. During the time our students work they pack enough meals to feed over 200 children for an entire year. This is a very powerful program that I hope you will encourage your child to donate a few dollars of their money toward.



7th and 8th grade students getting instructions before they go into pack food for “Feed My Starving Children” The best part of the day is getting to wear the hairnets!

Please keep us in your prayers as we journey through Lent with your children. We hope that some of the prayers and ideas we introduce them to will help them catch a deeper connection with Christ.

Lenten Blessings,
Kay Franz