

Spiritual Life Commission

By Susan Collins

All the precepts of the Catholic Church, as listed in the Catechism, come into play during the Lenten and Easter Season. Here's a review: 1) attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, 2) confess your sins at least once a year, 3) receive the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season, 4) observe fasting and abstinence days, and 5) help to provide for the needs of the Church. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving play an important role for Catholics during this season.

FEBRUARY

Fat Tuesday – Party before Penance! – Tickets on sale for \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children for a Pancake Supper on Tues., Feb. 24, from 6 – 8 p.m. Students in RE classes are making floats for the parade. Vote on your favorite. Come in costume, Mardi Gras style!

CRS Rice Bowls – Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls and calendars will be available soon in the parish vestibule. Learn about others around the world that benefit from this effort. Write a check for what you collect during lent and place it in the offertory during the Easter season. Indicate Rice Bowl on the memo line.

Ash Wednesday – The Lenten Season begins with a day of fast and abstinence. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m., 12 noon, and 7 p.m. Bring in your blessed palms by Feb. 15 to be used to make the ashes for this liturgy.

Adoration – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Mass at 8 a.m. on all Friday's during Lent (except Good Friday). A sign up sheet is in the vestibule for 30 minute time slots. The exposed Sacrament may never be left alone, therefore two people are needed to sign up for each time slot. Benediction will be at 6:45 p.m. Note: Proper respect for the exposed Sacrament is double genuflection – both knees touching the ground.

Stations of the Cross – This will follow benediction at 7 p.m. on Fridays and is open to everyone, not just the group that is organizing it that night. Schedule is Feb. 27 - Married Couples, March 6 - Knights of Columbus, March 13 – High School Confirmation Class, March 20 – Bilingual, March 27 - Council of Catholic Women, and April 3 – Individual Reflection.

MARCH

Wednesday Soup Suppers – Join us at 6 p.m. for Mass followed by our annual soup supper sponsored by different groups each night. Schedule is March 4 – Knights of Columbus, March 11 – High School Youth, March 18 – Parish Pastoral Council, March 25 – Council of Catholic Women, and April 1 – Middle School Youth. Again, all are welcome, not just the organizing group.

Confirmation Class Retreat – To be held March 13-14 at Longview Ranch, leaving the church after the Stations of the Cross on Friday and returning for Sat. Vigil Mass.

Ordination of Bishop Elect Stika - Mass will be at the Knoxville Convention Center on Thursday, March 19, at 2:30 p.m. (the feast of St. Joseph) Pre-registration is required by parish. Transportation plans are in the works. A Spiritual Bouquet from us will be offered.

24 Hour Fast for CRS – Some of our high school students will be participating this year in a hunger awareness fast to benefit Catholic Relief Services. Please be generous and make a pledge for their cause. The fast will begin on Friday, March 20, at 6 p.m. and conclude at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, with a banquet meal.

High School Mission Trip – This service filled trip will be during the end of spring break on March 25 – 28. We will travel to Alabama to meet with Sandra Smith and work on social justice projects.

Lenten Penance Service – Several visiting priests will be here on Tuesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. for confession.

APRIL

Chrism Mass – Tuesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral in Knoxville. See the priests of our diocese receive the sacred oils for parish use that are blessed by our new Bishop Stika.

Holy Thursday – Washing of the Disciples Feet during Mass on April 9 at 6 p.m.

Good Friday – Outdoor, weather permitting, bilingual Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. Service at 7 p.m. with the Veneration of the Cross followed by the sacrament being placed in the repository. The chapel will be open for individual devotion.

Holy Saturday – Confession will be from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass begins at 6 p.m. with the blessing of the New Fire followed by a candlelight procession. RCIA candidates will come into full communion.

Easter Sunday – Mass at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Spanish. K of C Easter Egg hunt after 11 a.m. Mass.

Paraclete Book Fair – Our diocese religious store will be here after all Masses on April 18 & 19. Many have asked for rosaries, crucifixes, books, etc. so they are just in time for Confirmation and First Holy Communion!

First Reconciliation – To be on Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. followed by lunch for the students and their family provided by Parish & Family Life Committee.

MAY

First Holy Communion – Will be celebrated at the 5 p.m. Sat. Vigil Mass on May 3. Fourteen students are preparing to receive the sacrament. Reception following.

May Crowning – Weather permitting, this will be held at the bell tower between morning Masses on Sun., May 10, as we pray the rosary and crown the statue of Mary.

Confirmation - Bishop Stika will be the celebrant on Sun., May 24, at 11 a.m. Mass here at Notre Dame. Eleven students are preparing for this sacrament.