



MIDYEAR NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

BAD WEATHER NOTIFICATION: ALL announcements concerning class cancelations are made only through the Remind Notification System. PLEASE **DO NOT** CALL THE PARISH OR SCHOOL OFFICES. If you are not subscribed to the Remind Notification System, please do so now! Simply text 81010. At the @ symbol, type in your Class Code - for Sundays: **smos2014** For Tuesdays: **smostues** Notification will also be listed on the WSTW/SDEL Snowwatch website.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

January

12 & 14	Progress Reports sent Home. Due back, signed, on 1/26 & 28	
26	Confirmation Meeting #1 for registered 9 th graders	6:30 pm in church
27	First Eucharist Orientation Meeting for parent & child	6:30 pm in church

February

16, 18	NO RE CLASSES SUNDAY OR TUESDAY – PRESIDENT’S WEEKEND	
21	Family Mardi Gras Celebration	6:30 – 8:00 pm in Social Room
21, 23, 25	Eucharist Book turn in #1	

February 26 is Ash Wednesday. Mass at 8:30 am 7:00 pm. Liturgy of the Word with Ashes at 12:15

March

8	Daylight Savings Time begins!	Spring forward 1 hour!
14	First Eucharist Retreat for Parent and Child	9:00 am 12:30 pm-church
13, 15, 17	Eucharist Book turn in #2	
29	Last Sunday RE Class – attendance is expected in class and at 10:30 closing Mass in church	
29	Deanery Lenten Reconciliation Service	7:00 PM St. Margaret of Scotland
31	Last Tuesday RE Class - family attendance is expected at 5:00 pm Mass in church	

April

4	Easter Egg Hunt & Activity	church/parish grounds	10:00 am
5	HOLY WEEK BEGINS WITH PALM SUNDAY		regular Saturday/Sunday Mass schedule
9	Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord’s Supper	7:00 pm
10	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross @ Noon	Passion of our Lord at 5:30pm
11	Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil	8:00 pm
12	Easter Sunday	Mass Times: 8:30 , 10:30 am & 12:15 pm	
23	First Eucharist Rehearsal for April 26 group		6:00 pm in church
26	First Eucharist Celebration #1	children report at Noon	12:30 Mass
30	First Eucharist Rehearsal for May 3 group		6:00 pm in church
May 3	First Eucharist Celebration #2	children report at Noon	12:30 Mass

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

RUNNING LATE FOR CLASS? Please remember that if you're running late for class, you can bring your students around to the back doors of school. Please do not simply drop of and drive off until you see that your child has entered the building. There are only door monitors out front until 10 minutes after start time. Someone is always at the back doors.

ABSENT? *Diocesan policy states that after 4 – 5 absences in a year, a student might not be moved to the next level. Please keep absenteeism to a bare minimum. I cannot 'excuse' an absence when missed work is completed and handed in (and I do keep track), but it does go a long way, in my book, toward keeping students moving forward despite conflicting schedules. If your child's extracurricular schedules change, making RE attendance an issue, all it takes is an email, phone call, or best – stop in and talk with me about it so that we can work out a plan. I am always open to that, but I cannot deal with issues that I know nothing about. Please remember that when your student is absent, make up work is sent home. That work (the completed Gospel Weekly and weekly review sheet) are to be completed and returned, along with the signed green 'We Missed You' paper. Mass attendance also goes a long way in helping students understand and live what they are learning.*

WE COULD ALL USE A LITTLE HELP. *Parents, from time to time we need a little back up with regard to sitting in on a class when an aide needs to be absent and to help with classroom management issues. This year seems to be a little more unsettled than most with regard to classroom behavior and participation. Please, please speak with your students and make sure that we can ensure respectful, Christ-like behavior in class. Our catechists are very dedicated volunteers who love this ministry. God actually has blessed this parish with great people who feel called to share our common Catholic faith with the children of our parish. Please help us help them to offer the best that we have for our students.*

PRAYERS

Children should know the common Catholic prayers that the Church teaches. Parents, as a child's first and primary teachers in faith, should take an active role in teaching these prayers to their children and in praying with them. Here are the prayers that should be committed to memory for each grade level/grouping. Please work with your children to help them know these prayers. Praying together at nighttime is a great way to keep the prayers active and in their minds.

K & Gr 1: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, mealtime and bedtime prayers.

Grades 2 & 3: Above; Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, knowledge of Rosary & Stations of the Cross

Grade 4: All above; Brief Acts of Faith, Hope, & Love; Prayers and responses at Mass; Rosary, Stations

Grades 5 – 8: All above; Nicene Creed, and knowledge of prayers in bible, written by saints, the psalms, and also be familiar with other forms of personal prayer (using their own words, etc.)

Helping our young people keep an open, active dialog with God, no matter what form, is most important to their spiritual growth. Weekly Mass, daily prayer, praying with and for others, celebrating Reconciliation when needed. These, along with following the Commandments, practicing the Beatitudes and Works of Mercy all make for a sturdy, rooted faith. In today's world, we need to give them as sturdy a base as we can. Our goal is to help you, as their parents, reach that goal.

We've only 10 weeks to go! Let's make them count! God Bless us, every one!