

St. Brigid Religious Education
7175 Avery Road
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Volume XIII, Number 5

February 2012

ST. BRIGID CELEBRATES

25 YEARS!



St. Brigid Parish was founded in July 1987, and this year's twenty-fifth anniversary celebration will begin on **St. Brigid's Feast Day, February 1!**

The first parish-wide event will be **Vespers**, the *Evening Prayer of the Church*, at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012**. **Bishop James Griffin**, who was the Bishop of Columbus at the time, will preside at Vespers and deliver the homily. St. Brigid Children's Choir and Adult Choir will be singing along with the cantor and congregation! You will definitely want to be there!

St. Brigid Religious Education Students in grades 2, 4, 6, and 8, have signed prayer cards which will be given to all who attend Vespers that evening.

Vespers will be followed by a Reception in Msgr. Hendricks Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. More events and programs will be announced following the official beginning of our year of celebration! Stay tuned and be ready to celebrate "in the good old Irish way!"

JUST WHAT IS "VESPERS"?

Vespers is the official Evening Prayer of the Church, part of the Liturgy of the Hours. *The Liturgy of the Hours*, also called *The Divine Office*, is the second public prayer of the Church. Mass, of course, is the primary public prayer of the Church.

The *Liturgy of the Hours* is meant to call people to prayer throughout the twenty-four-hour day. Since Vatican II, pastors have been encouraged to see that some portion of the *Liturgy of the Hours* is observed within their parishes. Here at St. Brigid, from the beginning of the parish, *Vespers* has been prayed in common during the seasons of Advent and Lent and on some special occasions!

Vespers begins with the invocation intoned by the leader, "O God, come to my assistance" answered by the congregation "Lord, make haste to help me! Glory be to the Father..." This is followed by an opening hymn, the lighting of incense and the singing of Psalm 141 ("Lord, may our prayers rise like incense"), two Psalms and a canticle (New Testament at *Vespers*), followed by a brief reading from Scripture. A homily may be included which is followed by singing *The Magnificat*, praying General Intercessions, similar to the *Prayer of the Faithful* at Mass, the Our Father, a concluding prayer and blessing.

Don't worry! Everything you will need to participate will be included in the program for the evening! ***Come, be a part of it all!***



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FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 8:50-12:10 for all students preparing for their First Communion here at St. Brigid. This is always a glorious opportunity for the children in both St. Brigid Religious Education and St. Brigid School to come together before their First Communion to learn more about this special sacrament: how special it is to receive Jesus into their very bodies and how it connects them to the entire world!

During the workshop, children will practice receiving the host and the chalice, they will experience first-hand the distribution of goods throughout the world. They will learn all of the songs they will sing for their First Communion Mass and play "First Communion Bingo!" They will also make Valentines for Veterans and watch a brief movie *Maria's First Communion*.

All of this is meant to draw them more deeply into their immediate preparation for receiving this great gift of the Eucharist and to unite them to one another and to the entire parish.



RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

AND BOOKS SALE

February 4th before and during the First Communion

Workshop, and following Saturday's Mass, February 5th before and after all Sunday Masses, and February 6th and 7th before and after the First Communion Parent Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday as well as from 4:30-7:00 on both Monday and Tuesday . Please note, those who have already volunteered to help will be contacted by e-mail. Those wishing to volunteer, please contact Ermagene Kelly at 761-1176 or by e-mail at ekelly@midohio.twcbc.com.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Congratulations to Mrs. Gadek's second grade class and Mrs. Fabiano's fourth grade class who have won the *Little Red Wagon Award* for 2011! Both classes had all but one student participating in the *Christ Child Collection* and thus have tied for first! The Little Red Wagon will be coming to their classes in the near future (before Lent!) Congratulations students and parents!

On behalf of all of the infants and children who received your gifts, thank you to each and every child and parent who contributed to the collection! You have made a difference in the lives of these children and their mothers!

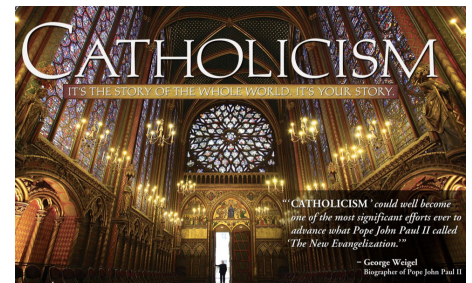


CATHOLIC MORALITY COURSE

Deacon Frank Sullivan is presenting the *Catholic Morality* course starting Wednesday, January 25 and continuing through Wednesday, February 15. The topics are *Conscience and Conversion*; *Catholic Decision Making*, *Catholic Social Teaching*, and *Contemporary Moral Issues* respectively. Classes are from 7-9 p.m. in the Kelty Library. To register for any or all classes, call 761-1176.

STAY TUNED FOR CATHOLICISM!

Within the next month you will be invited to experience *Catholicism* in a new and exciting way! Watch the bulletin and the parish website for more information!



FEBRUARY 12, 2012 IS WORLD MARRIAGE DAY!

Here are some suggestions from the Marriage and Family Life Office of the Diocese of Columbus!

How to Pray for Your Marriage

Studies bear out this fact: couples that pray together, stay together. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Pray with your spouse every day at the same time.

Limit interruptions. Let your kids know the two of you will be praying, and you expect them to give you a few minutes of peace.

Take a couple moments to talk to each other about what you will pray for. If you feel awkward praying, it's OK! Just do it...even if it's only for 30 seconds...it's a start!

Here are some ideas for more specific prayers:

Pray for one-another: When we pray for our spouse as a primary focus, then we are more willing to be a part of the answer to that prayer.

Pray for this day: Today is the most important moment in a marriage. When we ask God specifically to be a part of our day, we are more likely to keep God in each moment.

Pray to be the presence of Christ in your marriage: God uses us to be the presence of Christ. Be Christ to your spouse. Be Christ for your children. Be Christ in the home.

Pray for your partner's dreams: This is helpful because it requires us to listen and to value our partner's dreams.

Pray for your children: Then let them know you pray for them every day. When kids know their parents are actually praying for them, and that they can count on those prayers every day, that knowledge is powerful.

Pray that you will be a better spouse: Ask God to help you to be a better husband or wife, and do it while in prayer with your spouse. Humility and love go hand in hand.

Pray for wisdom: Parenting is tough enough. Pray for wisdom. Then believe God honors your prayers.

Pray for a family vision: It's easy to "mark time", both as a marriage and as a family. Pray for a guiding, overarching family vision.

Pray for protection: Families are vulnerable in our culture. Relationships are vulnerable to many pressures. Our commitments to faithfulness, family values and faith are all under constant assault. We can't fight this alone. We simply must pray together.

Pray for peace: The song puts it this way, "Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me." Let peace begin in your home. "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace..." Amen!



Provided by The Marriage and Family Life Office, Diocese of Columbus.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 4

Our students will be wishing the students at St. Brigid of Kildare Elementary School a Happy Catholic Schools Week!

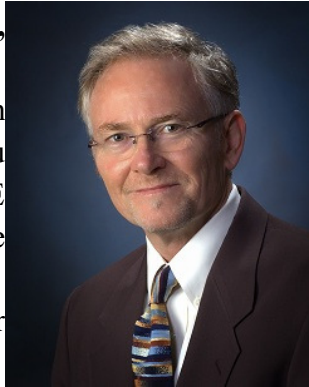
SYMPOSIUM III: February 28, 2012,

Faith and Service with Ken Doran, 7:00 p.m. in Hendricks Hall.

Help spread the word-and feel free to spread the flyers, too!

After speaking with Ken on the phone, I can tell you personally that you will LOVE this session! You will be informed and empowered!

Tell your friends! Tell your neighbors! Plan to be here!



Planning ahead, **Symposium IV** at 7 p.m. on **March 27, 2012**, will bring **Sr. Matthias (Maddie) Sterner, O.P.** to St. Brigid to speak on *Assessing Religious Knowledge, Brining Faith to Life and Life to Faith.*

SAINTS OF FEBRUARY

February 1, as mentioned above is the feast of **St. Brigid of Kildare, our Patroness!** St. Brigid is also called *Mary of the Gael* and with St. Patrick, is one of Ireland's Patron Saints! She is often pictured with her reed cross, which she wove out of the reeds of Ireland to teach the adults and children about the love of Jesus. She is also pictured with the fire as the lamp of learning and with a crozier as she was the Abbess of the monastery of Kildare. (see the icon on p. 1). **St. Brigid of Kildare, pray for us!**

February 2012

February 2 is the feast of the **Presentation of Jesus in the Temple** also called *Candlemas Day*, the day forty days after Christmas when, according to tradition, Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the Temple. This is the day on which the candles to be used throughout the coming Church year are blessed, reminding everyone that Jesus is the Light of the World!

February 3 is the feast of **St. Blaisé**, bishop and martyr, whose prayers saved a child from choking to death. Traditionally the Church blesses the throats of those gathered for Mass on the Feast of St. Blaise. The priest prays, "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop and martyr, may the Lord protect you from every illness of the throat and from every other evil." Amen!

February 6 is the feast of **St. Paul Miki**, the son of a military leader in Japan He was educated by the Jesuits and joined that order in 1580. He was known for his eloquent preaching and was crucified along with twenty-five other believers during the persecution of Christians by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, under orders of the emperor of Japan. He was canonized in 1862.

February 9 is the feast of **St. Apollonia**, who was martyred in 249 for not renouncing her faith. She is the patron saint of dentists.

February 10 is the feast of **St. Scholastica**, the sister of **St. Benedict**. According to tradition, she and her brother met only briefly once a year to share their reflections and prayers. On one occasion, Scholastica begged Benedict to stay longer, but he refused. Scholastica prayed and suddenly such a storm arose that neither Benedict nor his companions could leave, so they spent the night sharing prayer and reflections. Scholastica died three days later and her brother had a vision of her soul ascending into heaven. (It is a legend, to be sure, but knowing the love of brothers and sisters as I do, I tend to believe it!)

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February 14, of course, is well known to all as the feast of **St. Valentine**, an early martyr of the Church. He was a priest in Rome who was sent to prison during a severe persecution of the Church in Rome. As he missed his congregation and wanted to stay in touch with them, he sent letters to them, who looked forward to receiving something from "*Our Valentine!*" Thus the tradition of sending *Valentines* to those we love on his feast day! (even before Hallmark!)

February 21 is **Mardi Gras**, or "fat Tuesday", the day before Ash Wednesday, the day to "eat rich food" in preparation for the Lenten fast! (If you come to the Education Committee Meeting, expect to be served refreshments!)

February 22 is **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of **Lent!** Masses at St. Brigid are at **6:30 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.** Remember, **children may be dismissed from school for a religious observance without penalty**, that is, they must be able to make up any test or assignment missed due to that absence of time. (Of course, the 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Masses do not interfere with school times.)

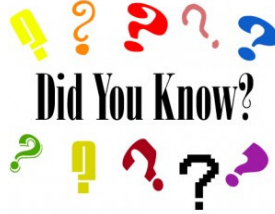
February 23 is the feast of **St. Polycarp** who actually was a disciple of **St. John the Evangelist!** Imagine, listening to Jesus' best friend tell the stories of their time together! Polycarp was a bishop in the early church during the persecution of Christians. He had a dream that his pillow was on fire and told his friends that he was sure this meant he would be burned alive. He was right. He has been honored as a martyr on February 23 since 156!

February 28 is the feast of **St. Hilary** who was **Pope** from 461-468 and known as the guardian of Christian Unity. He was present at the Council of Ephesus and succeeded Pope Leo the Great as Pope.

Hopefully this month will be the time when you will be able to sign up on line to have this newsletter sent directly to your home. Stay tuned!

February 2012

You can join the Education Committee! We hope to have representatives from a wide variety of parish committees as well as active parents! Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 21 at 7 p.m. in Room B of Hendricks Hall! All are welcome!



SOME REMINDERS OF LENT

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. (That is, no meat and no eating between meals.)

Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. (no meat)
Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter, but Lent is considered 40 days long. Sundays are not counted as days of Lent because Sunday commemorates the resurrection of Jesus.

From The Marriage and Family Life Office, Diocese of Columbus.

A Parent's Lenten Prayer

Let my presence to my children be my **prayer**.
When I reach to pick up laundry, errant toys, dirty dishes, or scattered CDs,
may I lift them up as **prayer** to you.
Let me **fast** from critical words, sniping words,
Pain-inflicting words.
Let me forgo small-heartedness and feast on generosity.
Let me **fast** from junk food of my distractions and taste the plain sweetness of the present moment.
Let me **give** of my abundance by offering time, attention, interest, and what wisdom I possess.
May I **give** freely of myself, to put away the newspaper, put down the phone, look eye-to-eye and listen heart-to-heart.
I ask this because **all things** are possible in You,
Almighty God!

By Tom McGrath. Reprinted with permission from "At Home With Our Faith," March 1999.