### Parent News March

RE Grades PK-6th Grade



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Three to six year old children

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Stay up to date!

# Level One

Ages three years to six years old.



During Lent, we turn our attention to this beautiful image Jesus gives us of who he is...**The Good Shepherd** (from the Gospel of John). We discover that he knows his sheep and calls them by name. His sheep hear his voice and follow him. They have a special relationship.

As four year olds, we discover that the shepherd loves his sheep so much that **he goes to search for a lost one until he has found it**! And when he finds it, he puts it on his shoulders and returns home and calls for a great celebration!

As five and six year olds, we look at the **Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd** which connects scripture and liturgy. We come to know clearly that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls his sheep (us!) to be with him at a particular time and place – the church. And here, he give all of himself to the sheep in the holy bread and wine.

How blessed we are to have a Good Shepherd who lays down his life for us so we have life to the fullest!



"I Know my sheep and my sheep know me...

John 10:11-16

# Level Two

1st - 3rd Grade

### The Mystery of Life & Death

We are exploring the Paschal Mystery – that Jesus has died and has risen. How can we help children to explore the reality of death in a concrete, essential way? What tools did Jesus give us to help us understand death? He surely would have wanted to help his friends prepare for his own death and he understood that we would also want to understand death as well. Jesus uses a parable – the Mystery of Life and Death – to help us understand the Paschal Mystery.

We use wheat seeds that we plant – three weeks, two weeks, one week – before we look at this parable. We read from scripture and then we see in a concrete way how the seed (over the stages of the three containers of plants) slowly gives its life to bear so much fruit. From one seed comes so many in the full ear of grain. This inspires great wonder and awe.

We think about this with Jesus' own life, death, and resurrection. In this way, we can concretely think about this mystery and also prepare ourselves for the great Christian celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears **much fruit.** John 12:24

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# Level Three

4th-6th Grade



#### The Last Supper Celebration

We have long celebrated this moment of Jesus giving all of himself in the Bread and the Wine. In Level One, we began to ponder this. In Level Three, we now look at John's Gospel where Jesus also washed the feet of his disciples. He told his disciples on this night that he has given them an example to follow. We think about this new action of Jesus that night and what does this mean? How is this related to his commandment to love God and neighbor? What are we called to do?

And we once again ponder Jesus giving himself also in the Bread and Wine. He says, "Do this in memory of me." We have looked at Moses (for a 10 week Bible study) and now expand our pondering about the Passover and Jesus' action on that night. We think about how these words and action of Jesus have come to us today and how what we do at Mass isn't a reenactment of that night – but it is participating in that same event at every celebration of the Mass.

# News & Updates!

### News & Updates - March

#### Sacramental Prep!

For those preparing for 1st Eucharist and confession: -March 7, 14, April 4, & 11

Practice for 1st Communion: April 18 @6pm

Sacramental Retreat: April 20, 9a-4:30p

1st Eucharist: April 21 @ 10:30a \*Children should arrive @ 10a and go to Fr. Jacob's Library (church basement)

#### Happy Baptism!

John Paul Stapleton – March 1 Rocco Patsy – March 12 George Johnson – March 17 Joseph Pobocik – March 25

#### Children's Stations of the Cross

Join us March 15 at 7pm for Children's Stations of the Cross in the church. This is a family friendly version of the devotion. We hope you can join us!



### Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
l Saturday, 5pm Mass	l 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	l 12pm Liturgy Followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet,	l 9am-10am confession	l 8:30am Mass 10:30am Mass
Sunday,	8pm-12pm	Stations of the	2pm Blessing of	
8:30am Mass 10:30am Mass 6:00pm Mass	Adoration in the Activity Center	Cross, & confession	the Food 8:45pm Easter Vigil Mass	*no 6pm Mass



### **Dressing for 1st Communion**

- Dress for Retreat Day Casual Day!
- Dress for 1st Eucharist Sunday dress is appropriate. White should be worn as this is a sacramental color. The children will be wearing the crosses they embroidered on their retreat on the day of their 1st Eucharist.

For Girls – A white dress should be worn.
No gloves should be worn and veil is optional.

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 For Boys – A white shirt should be worn. A tie and dress pants should also be worn but they do not need to be white.



## Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

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