

Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2012
Volume 6, Issue 17

St. Charles Borromeo Religious Formation Family Newsletter

Contact Information

Information regarding Religious Formation can be found on the parish website at www.stcharlesomaha.org

Religious Formation Office:
402-916-9750
rf@scbccomaha.org

- Amanda Hoeke, Director
Ext. 250
ahoeke@scbccomaha.org
- Shelly Stonacek, Assistant
Ext. 351
sstonacek@scbccomaha.org
- Kelly Dineen, Confirmation Coordinator
Ext. 206
kdineen@scbccomaha.org

Upcoming Dates:

Feb. 7 & 8	Class
Feb. 14 & 15	Class
Feb. 21 & 22	Mandatory Ash Wednesday Mass (see newsletter)
Feb. 28 & 29	Class



Our Mission Statement

To be Christ for one another living the command of Jesus: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how we all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34b, 35 (New American Bible)

Ash Wednesday Mass

In place of holding regular class on Tuesday, February 21 and Wednesday, February 22, we ask that your family attend one of the Masses for Ash Wednesday on February 22. Mass times at St. Charles Borromeo are 7:00 a.m., noon, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Attendance is mandatory and there will be a sign-in sheet located in the Narthex.

Also, if you or a member of your family could help with a ministry (EMHC, Alter Server, Usher, Greeter, etc.) during one of the Masses, please stop by the RF table during class to sign up or send the RF office an email.

If you have any questions, please let us know. Thanks.



Reconciliation Assignment

This week, 2nd grade and above were given a Reconciliation assignment to be completed by April 8th. We are asking that you, as parents/guardians, make sure that your child participates in the Sacrament of Reconciliation sometime between February 1st and Easter.

Please see the last sheet in this newsletter for another copy of this assignment.



SCBCC Fish Fry - Service Opportunity

The St. Charles Borromeo Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Frys are fast approaching. The dates are February 24, March 2, March 16, and March 30. The Knights of Columbus are in need of volunteers to help out with bussing tables. If you are in the 1st or 2nd year Confirmation Prep Program, this would be a great opportunity for service. To sign up to volunteer with the Fish Frys, go to this link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4AA4A62E5-fish>

If you have any questions, please direct them to Chris Vos at cvos68@gmail.com.

Website and Service Reminder

Please Note: The first 2 service reflections were due on December 14th! If your child has not turned in his/her reflection forms, please get those to Kelly as soon as possible!

The Confirmation Prep website (<http://scbconfirmationprep.weebly.com/>) is a great resource to stay up-to-date on your child's religious formation. It includes information about what they are learning in their RF classes, helpful resources, and announcements and reminders. It also includes a page for upcoming service opportunities including: SVdP canned food collections, parish Fish Frys, and the parish celebration of marriage.

We encourage you to check this site for more details and to keep up-to-date on upcoming opportunities! If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Dineen at kdineen@scbccomaha.org.

2nd Year Confirmation Retreat Reminder: THIS SATURDAY!

Reminder: 2nd Year Confirmation Prep will have their retreat this Saturday, February 4th. The retreat will take place at St. Charles Borromeo, from 9am – 4:45pm. All parents, families, and sponsors are invited to attend the 5pm Mass together with the candidates immediately following the retreat. Please pray for these candidates as they make their retreat this weekend!

Other important upcoming dates:

Wednesday, February 29th – Saint projects (papers and banners) due (2nd Year only)

Sunday, March 18th – Parish Commitment ceremony (2nd Year only)

Wednesday, March 21st – final 2 service reflections due (1st and 2nd Year Confirmation Prep)

Saturday, April 28th – Confirmation Interviews (2nd Year only)

Wednesday, May 2nd – Night of Reflection (6:30-8:30pm, 2nd Year only)

Saturday, May 5th – Confirmation Rehearsal, 11am (2nd Year only)

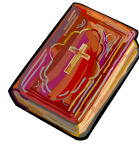
Wednesday, May 9th – Confirmation, 7pm with Archbishop Lucas

Our Sunday Visitor

(Keep up to date on what your child is learning in class each week.)

Check out the website listed below to find out more information on what your child is learning in Religious Formation classes. **This week, grades 3rd – 6th are working on Chapter 14. The 1st graders are doing Chapter 15.** Once you are in the website, simply click on the “Call to Faith K-8” box and then select “Parent” under the Parish Section. You will then go to “Home Lessons” to view the lesson objectives for your child's grade. If you have a child preparing for 1st Reconciliation/1st Communion, click on the box marked, “Sacrament Preparation”. Please note: This website is for 1st – 6th grade only.

<http://www.osvcurriculum.com/home/index.html>



“A TEACHING MOMENT”

Why Do Catholics Practice the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

A Protestant Christian wanted to know why Catholics confess sins to a priest rather than straight to God.

The person quoted 1 Tm 2:5 from the Bible to explain that Christ is the one true mediator between God and man. This person, therefore felt that the Church did not have the authority to require Reconciliation of sins to a mediator (a priest). Here is our response to this question.

Reconciliation to a priest requires humility, trust in God and the Church, and contrition of heart. Reconciliation of sins to a priest gives us the assurance that our sins are forgiven, even though we may not be perfectly penitent. Those who are outside the Church by birth and circumstance can still be saved and forgiven of sins, seeking forgiveness from God as best they know how. A Catholic who will not consent to a Sacramental Reconciliation, is the person that the Church grieves for the most. This person has all the instruments of salvation laid out at their feet, but will not lay their pride down at the foot of the Cross to pick them up.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation often seems like a frightening, humiliating act for those who have neglected the Sacrament for many years. However, you will probably find that the priest is compassionate, gentle and welcoming. He realizes that your presence there is an act of God’s grace. No priest will condemn a penitent person and over time, the Sacrament of Reconciliation becomes less frightening; but it always requires a measure of humility and resolve. Yet, nothing in the world can compare to the joy of the soul after a good Reconciliation. The veil of sin falls away and the light of grace fills the soul. In the end, nothing in the world is as precious as the forgiveness of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As parents/guardians, we want nothing but the best for our children. We are the most important influence on their spiritual development. The values and attitudes learned at home are the foundation of their Christian growth. As forgiveness is a great sign of love, parents/guardians should show it in word and deed, by making sure that their children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Regular reception of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation sets a powerful example. Children are more likely to follow when parents show the way. **Reconciliation is: 1) a Celebration – a joyful encounter with God and His loving mercy; 2) a Liberation from the isolating effects of sin and guilt; 3) Renewal of the grace of Baptism; and 4) the Conversion of heart and mind toward a better, more Christian way of life!**

So, prepare for Reconciliation carefully and help your children to do the same. An Examination of Conscience is always a good way to start. If you don’t have this information handy, just go to the internet as information is always just a “click” away.

Celebrate the wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation often, as a means to spiritual growth!

January 31, 2012

R.E. Religious Formation Homework

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you today to explain a Religious Formation homework assignment for all Religious Formation children who are in the 2nd grade Religious Formation class or above. It is a parish expectation that all children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation twice a year, at the very least. This usually means once during the Advent season and once during the Lenten season.

At the time of your child's Baptism, you as parents made a commitment to bring your child up in the practice of the faith. As we have said before, you, the parent are your child's first and most important teacher. The Religious Formation department is here to assist you in forming your child in the Catholic faith.

This year the Religious Formation department provided the opportunity for your child to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Religious Formation class in the season of Advent. Since we have limited time with your child during Religious Formation classes each year we would like to ask that you as parents provide the second opportunity for your child to receive this Sacrament.

We are asking that you take your child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Lenten season. We know Lent does not begin until February 22, 2012, however, if you take your child prior to Lent beginning we will count it as well. Once your child has completed the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please return the bottom portion of this letter to the RF office to be logged as assignment completed.

At St. Charles Borromeo we have a few different options for this Sacrament. If the below times do not work for your family feel free to look into other parishes to receive the Sacrament.

- Our Parish Penance Service is scheduled for Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 pm.
- Reconciliation is also available every Saturday from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm. During the Lenten season (February 22 – April 7) Saturday Reconciliation times will be 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm.
- On Holy Thursday (April 5) and Good Friday (April 6) Reconciliation will be at 11:00 am.
- Another option is to call the parish office at 402-916-9730 and set up an appointment directly with Father Hunke.

Below is the card that needs to be completed and returned to the Religious Formation Office by April 8th, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact me at ahoeke@scbcomaha.org or 402-916-9750.

Thanks,
Amanda Hoeke

CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME

CHILD'S RF CLASS DAY AND TIME

CHILD'S GRADE LEVEL

PARISH ATTENDED FOR THE SACRAMENT

DATE ATTENDED THE SACRAMENT

PARENT SIGNATURE
