



Religious Education

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Our Lady of the Pines

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Dear Parents,

During February, children's Valentines often include their teachers who devote so much time and energy to them. Since Religious Education is such an important part of our families' lives, I want to recognize those volunteer catechists who are also so devoted to the children.

We have the beautiful example of high school youth who give freely of their time to be an example of faith in action. Many of the adults who

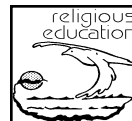
volunteer to instruct and share their faith journey have been involved for many years and are devoted Catholic workers.

The dedication that all of these volunteers continue to show inspires and often amazes me, as well as the children they see. Please take a moment this month, if you don't every day, to thank these wonderful people for helping you guide your children's faith formation.

This program runs because of all of these catechists, and they do a

remarkable job of bearing the responsibility. I deeply appreciate each one!

If you've ever thought of volunteering as a Catechist or assistant, please let me know. I can always use substitutes, and often need new teachers in the fall. Please pray about offering your time & talent in this way, and contact me.



*Eileen Lindner,
Coordinator of
RE for Children*

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Class sessions this month:

Wednesday 4:15—5:30

- February 3
- February 10
- February 24

Sunday 9:15—10:30

- February 7
- February 21
- February 28

**NO CLASS ON
February 14 or
February 17**

We love our Catechists!

On Sundays we are blessed to have: Stephen Sautel teaching preschool; George Linehan & Julie McCabe teaching kindergarten; Arleen Long in 1st grade; Paula Rauchfuss teaching grade 2; Robert Stanzler, in 3rd grade; Martha Golden teaching grade 4; Patrick Linehan teaching 5th grade; Kathryn Farris leading grade 6; and Brad Becker in grade 7. Office support & other assistance on Sunday comes from Rachel Wandrey, Bryan Linehan, and Brendan Linehan.

On Wednesdays we are thankful to have: Judy Rehm teaching preschool; Joan Grawe teaching kindergarten; Mary Ann Gavin in 1st grade; Stephanie Gillen teaching grade 2; Janie Lambert with 3rd grade; Shannon Craig & Maureen Lopp teaching grade 4; Jean Holden teaching 5th grade; Terese Ramsey teaching grade 6; and Dan Garrett in 7th grade. Assistance on Wednesday is from Cameron Carlton & Alexa Rehm.



Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which this year falls on **FEBRUARY 17**. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting for all between the ages of 18 and 59. Fasting requires eating only 1 meal. There are only 2 days of fasting in Lent: Ash Wednesday & Good Friday. During Lent, people between the ages of 14 and 65 abstain from meat on Fridays.

Lent is a time set apart to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter and to reflect on the beautiful sacrifice of our Lord for us.



Ashes will be distributed during 8:30 a.m. Mass and 7:00 p.m. Mass. Since there are no CRE classes that day, be sure to attend either Mass.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are a devotional prayer in which we meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus. Both Our Lady of the Pines and St. Elizabeth offer weekly **Stations of the Cross** during Lent. St. Elizabeth has scheduled Stations of the Cross & fellowship time after Masses on each Sunday. Our Lady of the Pines has Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:00 p.m. , followed by Adoration.

Stations will also be presented on February 21 during Sunday's class, for grades 3-7; and on February 24 during Wednesday's CRE class for grades 3-7. These reflections will be led by Fr. Mickey and are specifically for children & families. Parents and siblings are encouraged to join us in the Church.

Attending and participating in the Stations of the Cross can truly bring families together in prayer and community. Please consider adding the Stations to your busy schedules for these 6 short weeks of Lent.

In sacrificing our time for Jesus, we show Him and ourselves where our hearts are focused. Often during this time of preparation, people choose to give something up—often sweets or chocolate. Another idea for children may be to add something they don't usually do, such as hug a brother or sister everyday, or thank parents for everything they do, and help with dinner together.



Children's Liturgy



Thank you to the wonderfully enthusiastic children who served at the January Children's Liturgy.

Lectors were Mia Gabriele, Kira Farris, and Julia Gabriele.

Gift bearers were Sammy Jacobs, Christopher Long, Emily Holden, Annie Sautel, Sierra Fortin, Jimmy Moran & Daniel Rauchfuss.

The excited ushers were Jimmy Moran, Clancy Meade, Hattie Dahlin, Owen Holden,

Aidan Meade, Jackson Holden, and Brody Meade.

The child singers sounded great throughout the church! They were Rebecca Michalczyk, Sammy Jacobs, Cameron Clarke, Jordan Duran, Callie Grawe, Sydney Fortin, Rebecca Gardner, Sierra Fortin and David Gardner.

The next Children's Liturgy is February 21 at the 11:00 Mass. Please sign up for the ministry you enjoy.

Thank you for participating in this monthly opportunity. The children love being involved in Mass. This example of participation in the liturgical ministries is wonderful for both them and our parish community.

If your family is interested in involvement on a more regular basis, we do need more altar servers to assist at Mass. Please contact Tim Zvada for details and requirements.