



# SCS FAMILY NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2024

Hello, St. Casimir Families!

Wow, where has the time gone? February is almost in the rearview mirror, and we are approaching the month of March and the season of Easter. We are right in the middle of the Lenten Season, and we continue to Pray, Fast, and Give. Please be mindful of the sacrifices that Jesus has made so we can become closer to Him.

Thank you all for participating in the Catholic United Financial Raffle Ticket Fundraiser. Through your generosity we raised \$6,110 and passed our goal of \$5,000!! The drawing for prizes will be on Thursday, March 7th at 11:00 a.m. If time permits in your schedule, you can watch the drawing at the website [www.catholicunitedfinancial.org](http://www.catholicunitedfinancial.org). Thanks for all your hard work and donations!

As you are aware, we are in the process of finding a preschool and elementary teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Please visit with people and post on social media to spread the word of this great opportunity. I know some of you have done that already, so thank you! We have been advertising in multiple newspapers and colleges and will continue to work hard during this active search. We have a lot of exciting things happening at our school now and in the future.

Thanks again for all you do for St. Casimir's School! We are blessed to have such caring, generous, and supportive parents and community members.

God bless,

John Hengel



## It's CARNIVAL Time!

The time is drawing ever closer for our third annual SCS Carnival!!! As mentioned before, our school parents will NOT be working the event in order to provide the opportunity for you to visit with families from our communities during this March 7<sup>th</sup> event. However, we do hope you will say "yes" to helping out in the following manner:

- **Set Up Committee:** Mark Schmitz has graciously agreed to serve as the chairperson of this committee and has requested the help of a few adults to help with the construction of the booths. This committee will be gathering at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, when the kids have a two hour late start to set up the booths. Typically, the booths are completed by noon. If you are able to help, please contact the office.
- **Decorating Committee:** If you are able to assist the Hospitality Committee with decorating the gym, we would love to have your help. The gym is available for decorating March 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM-7:00 PM and March 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. If you are able to help, please contact the school office ASAP.
- **Take Down Committee:** The recruitment for this committee is more in the style of "All hands on deck!" Immediately following the carnival closing at 7:30 PM, we begin tearing down the booths and decorations. Last year the entire gym was cleaned up by 9:00 PM, and it was great! If you are able to stick around to help with take down, it would be much appreciated!





## Teacher Talk



**Kindergarten-Grade 2:** Hello from the kindergarten-second grade classroom! Have you ever asked a small child what their favorite part of the school day is? Much to the chagrin of the teacher, the most popular responses are lunch, recess and P.E. class. But when I think about my favorite part of our school day, it is pretty much the same response as the children—well, aside from that P.E. class!

While I enjoy teaching the core subjects, my favorite parts of the day are when we spend time together as a group. It's where the learning and growing in God's grace and love shine through. So, my favorite time of the day would have to be our Morning Circle time. After breakfast we gather on the rug and update our class calendar, discuss upcoming feast days, and begin our class prayer service. The school has supplied us with a book that includes a full year of daily prayer services where the children learn psalms, hear a reading from the Bible, are given reflection questions and, most importantly, learn to pray. The prayers and intentions that the children say are beautiful reflections of what they are learning in their homes and at school. We pray for their families, for those that are sick and hospitalized and for people who don't have anyone to pray for them. And now they kids have learned how to pray for the souls of the departed.

Once we have finished our prayers, we spend time practicing the virtue of respect. We take turns listening to the joys the children are experiencing in their lives. We also show empathy and support to one another as children occasionally have bad days too. The questions flow easily between real life stories and some fairly deep theological questions. It always amazes me to hear what they are thinking. We end our Morning Circle time with a song. Some days it's an educational song that will teach them skills necessary for learning our lessons. Other days we are learning beautiful hymns that support our Catholic teachings. Finally, there are the silly songs that just make us all begin the day with an extra skip in our step and a good belly laugh.

While lunch, recess and gym time might be at the top of the favorite class list for the children, I have a feeling that Morning Circle time might be just as special for all of us.

Submitted by Ms. Jinger Woodring, Classroom Teacher



**Grades 3-5:** Our young scholars are becoming text detectives! This month, we're focusing on understanding and identifying text features in various publications. Text features such as headings, subheadings, captions, glossaries, and many more are crucial for navigating and comprehending informational texts. Each student selected a magazine and embarked on a scavenger hunt to identify and list different text features. They then created their own text features booklet. This booklet included examples of each feature, including descriptions and purposes. The booklet provided a hands-on project that reinforced their understanding and encouraged them to utilize these features in their writing.

February is Black History Month, and our class is honoring this month with a unique learning experience. I have introduced a daily scavenger hunt that encourages students to discover and learn about influential Black individuals who have shaped our history and culture. Each day, students choose one person to learn about from an online calendar. To deepen their understanding of this person, they complete an activity related to their chosen figure.

In a special addition to our February curriculum, we also explored the many ways love is celebrated across different cultures. This project introduced students to an interactive resource, "Love Around the World". This engaging online platform showed students different traditions, festivals, and day-to-day practices to celebrate Valentine's Day. Students gathered as many interesting facts as they could and got to share their most fascinating finds.

As we move into the season of Lent this month, may all of us seek a deeper understanding of the heart of God.



Submitted by Ms. Ethel Aranda, Classroom Teacher



## March Need to Know



The following listing provides background into on all of the events and activities currently planned for our students during the upcoming month, including:

- **Student Intent to Return:** If you have not yet returned this form for your family, please do so ASAP as the due date is March 1<sup>st</sup>. As you can imagine, this form provides valuable information for the coming year in determining the class instructional arrangements. A second form has been attached to this newsletter for your use if needed. Thank you!
- **H & S Gertens Plant Fundraiser:** This Home and School Association all school fundraiser is still going strong and will run until 10:00 PM on March 28<sup>th</sup> with the orders being ready for pick up on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Questions? Please contact Danielle Elg at [danielle.twedten@hotmail.com](mailto:danielle.twedten@hotmail.com). To check out this opportunity:
  1. Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)
  2. Enter the Store ID code (**St. Casimir's School: 337**) provided into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'.
- **Lent Prayer Service:** As a means of bringing this season of sacrifice and prayer to life for our students, Mr. Hengel and the teachers have been taking turns hosting a short prayer service the first day of each week of Lent beginning at 8:30 AM in the office hallway. For March, the services will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The March 4<sup>th</sup> prayer service will also honor the Feast Day of St. Casimir. 
- **Dr. Seuss Breakfast:** In honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss, Barb Feist has volunteered to treat our students to a green eggs and ham breakfast on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Seuss' actual birthday was March 2<sup>nd</sup> which is a Saturday this year. Ms. Feist has offered this treat in the past, and the kids loved it! 
- **Two Hour Late Start:** Please remember there is a two hour late start scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> when classes will begin at 10:25 AM. For families who have contracted Kid Zone services, it will run from 7:00-10:15 AM.
- **Stations of the Cross:** We have been blessed once again with the gifts of former SCS teacher, Lea Nowak, who has been helping our children better understand one of the most highly-revered traditions of the Catholic Church--the Stations of the Cross. Ms. Nowak visited with the two classrooms, K-2 and 3-5, separately so that the event could be tailored to their learning levels. The children participated in the Stations on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and will pray the Stations on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. If you see Ms. Nowak, please make sure to pass on your gratitude for her willingness to continue to share the Catholic faith with our students. 
- **Second Sunday Social/Daylight Saving Time Begins:** This parish community event will be hosted by our Home and School Association on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, following the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass. Come join us, but please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on that Saturday as daylight savings time kicks in early Sunday morning. 
- **Fish and Bingo:** This Home and School fundraiser is quickly approaching on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions on your role in this event, please refer to the parent letter that was sent home by the H & S Council members. As a reminder, the events begin at 5:00 PM and runs until 8:00 PM. 
- **End of Third Quarter:** March 27<sup>th</sup> marks the end of the third quarter, and report cards will be sent home with your eldest SCS student on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Seder Meal:** Ms. Nowak will be visiting with our students for a final time during Lent on March 27<sup>th</sup> to demonstrate a traditional Seder meal as the church founders would have experienced it. This event is for learning purposes only and will not replace the students' breakfast or lunch that day. 

**NO SCHOOL:** Classes will not be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Sacred Triduum and Holy Monday. For more details on the Triduum, which is the most sacred season of the Catholic year, please read through the attached info sheets. May you and your family have a very blessed Sacred Triduum!





# Everything You Need to Know about the Sacred Triduum

By Gretchen Filz

Holy Week is the most solemn and glorious week in Christianity, the pinnacle of the liturgical year. It's more sacred than Christmas! This is because Holy Week commemorates the final week of Our Lord's life, the very purpose for which Christmas happened. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (when Jesus made his final entrance into Jerusalem) and culminates with [Easter](#) Sunday. As Holy Week progresses to its final days the solemnity heightens.

## THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*, also known as the *Sacred Triduum*, or *Paschal Triduum*. The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* ("three") + *dies* ("day"). Basically, the Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins. *"Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery"* (USCCB).

It is known as the "Paschal Mystery" because it is the ultimate fulfillment of the ancient Jewish Passover (or Pasch), which itself was a recollection of how God brought the Jews out of their slavery in Egypt. The spotless lamb was slaughtered at the Passover meal and consumed—that same night the destroying angel "passed over" the homes marked with the blood of the Passover Lamb, and those covered by the Blood were saved. This was the Old Testament prefigurement of Jesus' work at the Last Supper—where he inserted himself as the Paschal Lamb—and Calvary, where the sacrifice was offered to save us from our slavery to sin. With the Holy Eucharist, we consume the victim that died for our sins.



The Paschal Mystery is, therefore, God's plan of redemption for the fallen human race through the passion, death, and resurrection of the God-man Jesus Christ. It is one marvelous event stretched out over three days.

***Here is a breakdown of each of the three days that make up the Sacred Triduum:***

## HOLY THURSDAY

The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as *The Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This is where the Church re-lives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified.



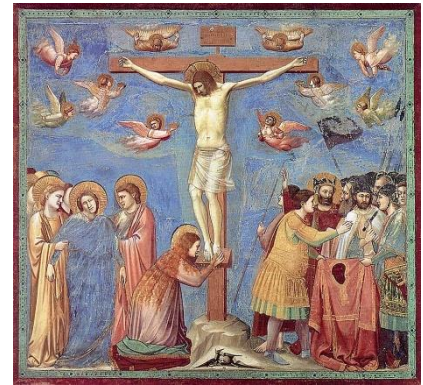
After the homily there is an optional "washing of the feet" ceremony, where the priest washes the feet of others to signify his role as servant—just as Jesus did with his disciples. Extra hosts are consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday when no Mass will be celebrated. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," a place where the consecrated Host is kept, away from the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated.

Many parishes will create space for people to stay and pray with the reposed Eucharist at this altar of repose late into the night, remembering Jesus' request in the Garden of Gethsemane for someone to "watch and pray" with Him.

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

Good Friday is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. This is the day of the crucifixion, the day Jesus died for the sins of the world.

The parish altar looks very different on Good Friday: it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle at the main altar of the church; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the tabernacle is blown out, and the tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is quite dramatic, reminding us that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer.



The ceremony on Good Friday is not a Mass—it is a communion service using the consecrated hosts from Holy Thursday. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered. These Good Friday services often take place at 3 p.m., the hour that Jesus breathed his last on the cross. Often the priest will begin the service by prostrating himself in front of the altar. Veneration of the Cross usually takes place at this service, in which the priest and the faithful kneel before a cross and kiss it.

## **HOLY SATURDAY**

On this day Christ is in the tomb.

There is no daytime Mass on Holy Saturday. It is still a day of fasting and sorrow before the Easter Vigil begins that evening. We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. The faithful often continue their Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday.



In the Apostles Creed we pray "He descended into hell" (translated *hades*, that is, the temporary abode of the dead—not the eternal lake of fire) which describes what Jesus did in the time between his burial and Resurrection. Jesus descended to the realm of the dead on Holy Saturday to save the righteous souls—the Old Testament patriarchs, for example—who died before his crucifixion.

The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) calls Jesus' descent into the realm of the dead "the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission," during which he "opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him." Before Holy Saturday, there were **no** souls enjoying the beatific vision of God in heaven!

Christ's work on Holy Saturday is also known as the "Harrowing of Hell."

### EASTER VIGIL / EASTER SUNDAY

A vigil Mass is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday, or before dawn on Easter Sunday, in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. This is called the Easter Vigil: the most glorious, beautiful, and dramatic liturgy for the Church. The vigil is divided into four parts and can last up to three hours: 1) the Service of Light, 2) the Liturgy of the Word, 3) the Liturgy of Baptism, and 4) the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

This is also the Mass in which many RCIA catechumens are brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.



### CELEBRATING EASTER FULLY

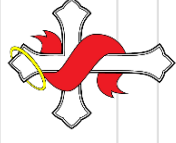
Easter Sunday is what we've all been waiting for! The forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent was in preparation for this day, when our hearts and souls can drink in deeply the culmination of the Paschal mystery: the Resurrection.

*"Therefore, Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts', the 'Solemnity of solemnities', just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments'. St. Athanasius calls Easter 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week 'the Great Week'. The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him."*




—The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1168 and 1169

# 2024

# March



# St. Casimir's School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
	Lenten Prayer Service, 8:30 AM			Stations of the Cross, 9:00 AM Gr. 3-5, 9:15 AM, K-2	Student Intent to Return Form Due; March Program Payments Withdrawn	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Feast Day of St. Casimir; Lenten Prayer Service, 8:30 AM; Dr. Seuss Breakfast	Carnival Booth Set Up, 8:00-Noon; Two Hour Late Start, Classes begin at 10:25 AM	Carnival Decorating	Stations of the Cross 9:00-9:50 AM; SCS Carnival, 6:00-7:30 PM 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Savings Time Begins--"Spring Ahead" One Hour; Second Sunday Social	Lenten Prayer Service, 8:30 AM			Stations of the Cross, 9:00-9:50 AM		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Happy St. Patrick's Day! 	Lenten Prayer Service, 8:30 AM	First Day of Spring! 		Stations of the Cross, 9:00-9:50 AM	H & S Fish & Bingo, 5:00-8:00 PM, SCC Hall	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Lenten Prayer Service, 8:30 AM		End of Third Quarter; Seder Meal, 9:00-9:40 AM Gr. 3-5 10:00-10:30 AM, K-2	Holy Thursday; NO SCHOOL-- Easter Break; End of Gertens Plant Fundraiser	Good Friday; NO SCHOOL-- Easter Break	Holy Saturday 