



St. Joseph's Messenger

A BULLETIN FOR INSPIRING SCHOOL FAMILIES

"GROUNDED IN THE TRADITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO FORMING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND SERVICE TO OTHERS."

FATHER BLAKE'S FILES

April is an exciting month for many reasons. We enter the Easter season, celebrating new and everlasting life in our Lord Jesus. The 6th grade students get to participate in the annual Long Lake trip. We will come together as a school and parish community for Spring Thaw. This event should make for a fun evening. Lastly, but not least, we prepare for and will celebrate First Communion at the end of the month. I desire to reflect upon First Communion a bit.

Did you know that our hearts are made for God? We are hardwired for God. When we live in Communion with God, we can rejoice and find peace because we are fulfilled. We are then living as we are called to live. Life is not necessarily easy, but amid the difficulty, we recognize God's grace and presence. One of my neighbors from my childhood gave me a gift at my ordination that read something along the lines of, "There is a hole in every human heart that only God can fill." That hole is filled when we live in Communion with Christ and His Church.

God has given us Commandments, and He teaches us through the Church that Jesus instituted. The Holy Spirit safeguards the Truth. When we are obedient to the Truth, we choose to live in Communion with God. When we are not obedient to the Truth- when we sin, we choose

to not be in Communion with God. When our young people come to receive Communion for the first time, they make a statement, as we all do when we approach the Most Holy Sacrament. It is a two-fold statement. We express that we believe that the Eucharist is truly Jesus – body, blood, soul, and divinity. Not just a symbol or sign. Secondly, we make a statement that we are in Communion with God. That we strive to follow God's commands and all the teachings of His Church. And that we have been doing so. When we say *Amen* to the Eucharist, all of this is caught up in this faith-filled response to *the Body of Christ*. If we cannot say *Amen* in good conscience, this is where Reconciliation comes in (which I presented to the kids in the fall).

When the First Communion students reverently approach the Eucharist at the end of April and we witness their authentic joy, it should inspire all of us to strive for deeper Communion with our loving and amazing God. We pray that the Lord may help all of us, as individuals and families, to live in Communion with Jesus.



May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

-Fr. Blake

April Feast Days and Special Days

March 31 - April 7 - Easter Octave
 7 - Divine Mercy Sunday
 8 - Solemnity of the Annunciation

11 - St. Stanislaw
 25 - Feast of St. Mark
 29 - Catherine of Siena

Upcoming Parish/School Events

<p>Bible Story Time</p> <p>Join us for songs, children's Bible Story, and a fun craft!</p> <p>Saturdays: April 13th & May 11th</p> <p>9am-10am St. Joseph's School Library Park & enter at school entrance</p> <p>Parent/child activity focus on ages 0-5 but all ages are welcome!</p> 	<p>March 30th Easter Vigil 8:30 pm at St. Joseph's Church</p> <p>March 31th Easter Sunday Mass times: 8:30 am at St. Joseph's & St. Augustine's 10:30am at St. Joseph's Church</p> <p>April 10-12th 6th Grade Long Lake trip</p> <p>April 18th Spring Thaw!</p> <p>April 24th Mrs. Watland's Day! Admin Assistant Day</p> <p>April 26th School Science Fair</p> <p>April 28th First Holy Communion</p> <p>Wednesday Evenings Family Faith Formation through May 1st</p>
<p>ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL</p> <p><i>Memma Meet Up</i></p> <p>April 29th @7pm TBD location</p> <p>Motherhood needs a community. Join us for food, conversation, and fellowship with other moms!</p>	

Save the Dates!

May 3rd -Deacon Ordination @ Cathedral in Duluth

May 17th & 18th - National Eucharistic Revival kickoff

May 6-10th -Teacher Appreciation Week

May 20th & 21st - National Eucharistic Revival travels through Grand Rapids

May 9-10th -6th Grade Trip to Cathedral



Please follow St. Joseph's Church events by signing up for Flocknote. www.itascacatholic.org

April Virtue is Obedience

April Saints

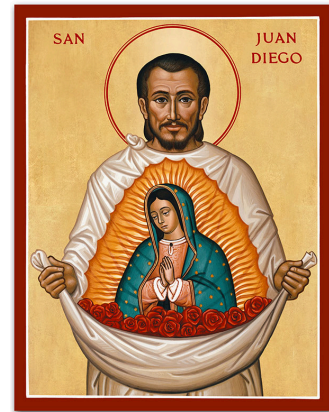


PreK-2 Grade will study: OUR LADY (Time of Jesus, Israel)

Even as a little girl, the Blessed Virgin Mary prayed a lot and loved God. She knew that when she obeyed her parents this was pleasing to God. When God sent His angel to ask Mary to be the Mother of Jesus, her heart was open to say "yes". During her whole life, Mary always wanted to do what God wanted. Even when Jesus suffered on the cross, Mary said "yes" to God's will. Now she is the Queen of Heaven and Mother of all of us! **She has many feast days**

Grades 3-5 will study: SAINT JUAN DIEGO (1474-1548, Mexico)

One morning when he was walking 15 miles to daily Mass, as was his custom, he passed by Tepeyac hill where he saw the Virgin Mary. She said she wished to have a Church built on that site. Obediently, Juan Diego went to the bishop as she had asked, and made the request for a Church to be built there. The Bishop was a little skeptical, and asked for proof that it was the Virgin Mary. When Juan Diego was returning the Lady told him to climb the hill. There, in the middle of winter and in the frozen soil, Juan Diego saw beautiful red roses, which he plucked and took to the bishop as his sign. These roses did not grow naturally in Mexico, but were common in the bishop's home town in Spain. Juan Diego wrapped these roses in his peasant style tilma and took them to the bishop as proof that it was Mary who was asking for this church. When he released the tilma, the beautiful flowers fell to the ground, and on Juan Diego's tilma was a beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image remains in a shrine in Mexico City today. Through his extraordinary obedience, thousands and eventually millions, converted to Christianity. **His feast day is December 9.**



Grade 6 will study: SAINT FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

(1850, Italy-1917, Illinois) She was refused entrance into a religious order at age 18 because of her poor health, Maria Francesca instead taught for 6 years at a girls' orphanage and did so well that when it closed, the local bishop asked her to found a religious community, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to serve the poor in school and hospitals. The new Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini worked with zeal and determination, still intent on establishing her sisters in China. However, when she met with Pope Leo XIII, he told her "Not to the East, but to the West", and sent Mother Cabrini and her sisters to

New York City to work with the many Italian Immigrants who were suffering the effects of being poor strangers in a strange land. **Her feast day is November 13.**

Celebrate the Resurrection!

- Write a list of ten things that you are thankful for. Read the list every evening and thank God for all of the good things that He has given you.
- Spend time in prayer with your family. Pray a Rosary together or pray for friends and family.
- Read the different Gospel stories of the Resurrection of Jesus. Compare the different stories. What is your favorite part of the story? What is one thing that you learned?
 - Matthew 28
 - Mark 16
 - Luke 24
 - John 20-21
- Attend Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday mass as a family
- If you can, attend the Easter Vigil Mass. Pray for those who are becoming new members of the Church family that night.

6th Grade Living Stations

In March, St. Joseph's 6th Grade class participated in the Living Stations of the Cross. Thank you to the 6th grade class and Mrs. Lagergren!

