

St. Cletus Faith Formation Newsletter



Friday, March 17, 2023

Dear Parents,

In Sunday's Gospel, from John we hear the story of Jesus healing the blind man.

Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins.

As we continue our journey through Lent, where are we in our relationship to Christ. Are we ready to follow Him as a Disciple?

To hear a reflection of this week's Gospel, click on the link. [Gospel Reflection](#)

First Communion Retreat

A reminder, our First Communion Retreat is scheduled for is scheduled tomorrow, March 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

We will gather in Morrissey Hall at 9:00 a.m. We will welcome Father Ron Kalas who will speak to us on the Eucharist.

Calendar

Just a reminder, Faith Formation Classes are in session this week, March 19 & 20. This is our last class before Easter.

We will be on break until April 15. Our next class meeting will be on Sunday, April 16.

Volunteer Opportunity

The St. Cletus Holy Name Society will be hosting the *Walter Klimcke Pan Cake Breakfast* on Sunday, April 2nd, Palm Sunday). They are in need of 8, 7, & 6 graders to volunteer to assist at the breakfast.

Students will assist with serving food, carrying and refilling needed items, and handling general cleanup. Student service hours will be credited for time worked. Seventh & Sixth graders may use the volunteer time toward Confirmation.

If you are able to help, please complete the permission form included with the newsletter. The form asks you to indicate the shift you can work. Please bring the form with you to class or drop off at the Parish Office.

St. Cletus Food Pantry: BIG NEWS!

Beginning in April, we will be expanding our food pantry distribution hours. Our new hours will be 4:00-8:00pm. Therefore, **we will need more volunteers! We are adding a new volunteer session every Thursday from 3:15-5:15pm.**

This is perfect for students right after school, but we definitely need adults during this shift, as well! Middle school aged students and older can come without a parent. This will double our Thursday night volunteer opportunities we hope you can join us.

Sign up is now available, at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094cacac2ea2fc1-stcletus#/>

Take Part in Our Parish Wide Survey

There is still time for you to participate in the Parish Survey. **Let your voice be heard!**

All family members are asked to complete the survey. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes, so please participate.

We are especially interested in having our young people – eighth graders and up, participating in the survey, so please participate.

Your opinions will be invaluable to Father Elmer and our various ministries as we plan for the future. Click on the link to access the survey.

You will have until March 31 to participate in the survey. Please take some time to participate.

[Take Survey](#)

For Our Kids!

Sunday Readings and Resources especially for our children and families.

A fun Catholic reflection for kids based on the readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent.

Click on the link to hear the Bible story of: [The Man Born Blind](#).

Fun Activities for Children

[Kid's Corner - Gospel Activity](#)

[Gospel Coloring Page](#)

[Gospel Cross Word Puzzle](#)

You Tube Video – Learn about St. Joseph, the earth father of Jesus. His feast day is March 19th, which this year, because of Lent is being held on March 20.

[The Story of St. Joseph](#)

Last week we mentioned the Lenten custom of participating in the Way of the Cross. There is another custom we follow on the Friday's during Lent. The custom of abstaining from meat.

Why Do Catholics fast from meat?

This ancient tradition stems, ultimately, from love.

Friday is to Sunday what Lent is to Easter.

The Church has always celebrated each and every Sunday as a mini-Easter. In harmony with that, Fridays are meant to be days of penance as a reminder of the Passion which Jesus suffered for us on Good Friday.

The first and most important practice for Friday penance is that of abstaining from meat. While this is no longer obligatory outside of Lent, the U.S. bishops have nonetheless strongly recommended it, and stated that another act of piety or penance should be done in its place if we are unable to do the meat fast.

From the first century, the day of the crucifixion has been traditionally observed as a day of abstaining from flesh meat...to honor Christ who sacrificed his flesh on a Friday.

Furthermore, when the no-meat tradition first began, it appears that meat was special, a real treat, even celebratory—the Scriptures speak of “slaughtering the fattened calf” for a feast or celebration. Giving up meat was an important reminder that Christ suffered His Passion and death for us on a Friday. It was a way of loving and thanking Him, with this small gift of abstaining from something special.

Today, of course, meat isn't a rare commodity. It is easy to get, in many forms, and is sometimes even passed up for something more fancy, such as a fish delicacy.

This does not, however, mean that abstaining from meat on Fridays is pointless or not as helpful in our spiritual lives. The spirit of abstinence, the reason for a sacrifice on that day, remains just as important.

Most people still love meat, and the time and effort it takes to give up easy access to a quick meal (and the intention it takes to select a meatless one) is one more reason why it's a solid sacrifice. (Taken from ***Get Fed Bite-Sized Faith***).

Have A Great Week!

God Bless,

Lawrence Manetti
Director of Faith Formation

Hector Obregon-Luna
Associate Director of Faith Formation