



**St. Francis of Assisi Church**  
 8000 El Dorado Parkway  
 Frisco, TX 75034

**Telephone:** ( 972 ) 712-2645  
**Fax:** (972) 712-1087

**Web Page:**  
[www.stfoafrisco.org](http://www.stfoafrisco.org)

**Children 's Ministry  
 Faith Formation Staff:**

Diana Elwell  
 Children 's Ministry Director  
 E-mail at:  
[delwell@stfoafrisco.org](mailto:delwell@stfoafrisco.org)  
 Ext. 229

Jeannette Manning  
 Children 's Ministry Administrator  
 E-mail at:  
[jmanning@stfoafrisco.org](mailto:jmanning@stfoafrisco.org)  
 Ext. 234



Eternally We Build:  
 God's Home, God's Family...

# Children's Ministry Faith Formation

## Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade

**February 2009**

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 25. On that day, we begin a season of performing special acts of charity (almsgiving); of being more conscientious about prayer; and fasting. Almsgiving, fasting and prayer are the three pillars of Lent. During Lent our relationship with Jesus grows stronger as we prepare to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection of the Lord. Gather your family together for a few minutes on the eve of Ash Wednesday to determine one way in which you, as a family, will pray, one way in which you will fast, and one way in which you will give alms throughout Lent.

A way to teach your children about the three pillars of Lent is to participate in Operation Rice Bowl. Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. For 34 years, Operation Rice Bowl has called participants to **pray** with their families and faith communities, **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger, learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas and **give** sacrificial contributions to those in need.

Rice Bowls will be distributed the week of February 15. For 2009, the featured countries in Operation Rice Bowl are Egypt, the Philippines, Tanzania, Honduras and Ghana. In addition to providing aide to these five countries, twenty-five percent of your contributions to Operation Rice Bowl remain in our diocese to fund local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

Each week during Lent, stories, photos and recipes from the featured counties will be sent home so that your families can learn about the joys and challenges in the lives of our brothers and sisters overseas. Share the resources that are sent home, collect alms in the Rice Bowls and include the people from these countries in your family prayers to provide an enriching Lenten experience for your entire family.



Blessing on you and your family this Lent.

### Customs and Traditions

#### Candlemas Day



On February 2 we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is also known as Candlemas Day. It is a traditional day to bless the candles we use in church. Families also bring candles to Mass that day to be blessed and used in their homes. These blessed candles are used in our homes as quiet lights of prayer. In the midst of storms, illness and special needs Catholics traditionally light blessed candles to symbolize their prayer for God's care.

Celebrate this day by bringing a sturdy 3" candle to Mass the morning of February 2 to have it blessed. Use this candle throughout the year as a "family victory candle." Every time a family member experiences a victory, light this candle for the evening meal. Light your family candle in celebration when someone gets a good grade on a difficult test, makes the basketball team, gets a promotion, recovers from an illness and so on.

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

- 1/25-1/29:** Second grade parent meetings for 1st Communion
- 1/25:** Begin Operation Rice Bowl
- 2/22-2/26:** No class
- 2/25:** Ash Wednesday
- 2/27:** Start of Friday Night Lenten Events - Meager Meal, Stations of the Cross and Children's Stations of the Cross

## Saint of the Month: Father Augustus Tolton

*\*\*There will be many Saints depicted in our new church, through various works of art. This portion of the monthly Faith Formation newsletter will begin to introduce your family to some of those saints, as well as other saints and important Catholics.*



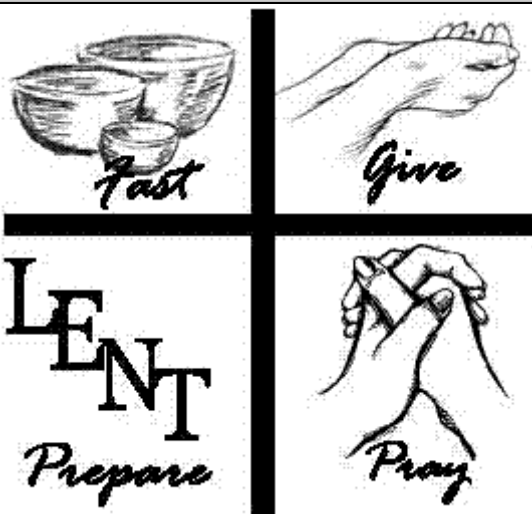
Born into slavery in 1854, Augustus Tolton, would soon know some form of freedom in the U.S. outside of Missouri. In the arms of his mother Martha, Tolton crossed the Mississippi River into Western Illinois. Martha and her three children settled in the quiet town of Quincy. In the face of financial and societal obstacles, Tolton boldly declared his desire to become a Catholic priest. But like Mary and Joseph in search of lodging, no U.S. seminary welcomed him. Because of the racism he faced in the U.S., Tolton was forced to leave the country to pursue the priesthood.

In 1880, Tolton entered the College of Sacred Propaganda in Rome. Six years later, Tolton realized his dream when he was ordained on April 24, 1886. Tolton and other church officials were certain that he would soon be deployed as a missionary, possibly to Africa, or might serve out his ordained life within the Vatican. But God had other plans for him.

Church hierarchy saw in Tolton, the opportunity to press the U.S. on the issue of race. Only months after his first Mass in Rome at the tomb of St. Peter, Tolton was homeward bound. Back in Illinois, he spent three short years in Quincy. Stories of his preaching skills quickly spread throughout the town, attracting Catholics of all races to hear him proclaim the Gospel.

Tolton heeded the call of Chicago's first archbishop, Patrick Feehan, and made Chicago his home in 1890. He became the shepherd of a growing congregation in the basement of Old St. Mary's Church. The congregation was transformed by Tolton into St. Monica Parish (now St. Elizabeth Parish), the Mother Church of Black Catholics in Chicago. Under his leadership and the financial assistance of St. Katherine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Tolton established the first Black Catholic school in the Chicago Archdiocese.

February is Black History Month. In honor of Father Tolton's courage and determination, say a prayer that young people of all races are able to respond to the vocations that God is calling them to.



*"May Lent be for every Christian a renewed experience of God's love given to us in Christ, a love that each day we, in turn, must 're-give' to our neighbor, especially to the one who suffers most and is in need. Only in this way will we be able to participate fully in the joy of Easter."*

Pope Benedict XVI