



**St. Francis of Assisi Church**

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**Children 's Ministry**

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

# Children's Ministry Faith Formation

## Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade

**March 2008**

It is time to start making those summer plans! The Pines Catholic Camp is having an open house on Sunday, April 20, 2008. Families can tour the campsite, meet members of the summer staff and enjoy lunch in the Dining Hall. For more information on The Pines and their weekly programs of faith, fun and friendship, pick up a brochure in the reception area of the Education Wing, in the information cart in the Narthex, or visit them on-line at [www.ThePines.org](http://www.ThePines.org).

For summertime fun closer to home, this summer's VBS program, "Cool Kingdom Party: Mary Leads Me Closter to Jesus" will open registration in April. Registration forms will be coming home through Faith Formation classes and will be available in the information cart in the Narthex. This year's VBS program offers kids a whole fun filled week of learning about how MARY LEADS ME CLOSER TO JESUS and the importance of making JESUS KING OF OUR LIVES -- through sound Catholic teachings, great music, fun games, creative crafts & delicious snacks!

If you would like to volunteer your time and talent to helping bring this wonderful program to life, please attend the VBS planning meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 26 or e-mail Patti Mitcham at [pmitcham@hotmail.com](mailto:pmitcham@hotmail.com)

*Please walk your children into the building for their Faith Formation classes. Taking a few extra minutes to park the car and walk them in ensures that they arrive safely at their classroom.*



### Customs and Traditions

**St. Joseph's Day - March 15**

St. Joseph was the spouse and protector of Mary, the foster father of Jesus and guardian of the Holy Family. Traditionally his feast day is March 19, but is celebrated on March 15 this year due to Holy Week. As the patron saint of fathers, his feast day is one in which fathers are specially honored in many countries. In Italy the traditional food for the day is a fried doughnut called a zeppole. Honor your father on the Feast of St. Joseph and treat him to homemade zeppoles!



- 1 lb ricotta cheese
  - 2 tsps vanilla
  - 2 cups flour
  - Vegetable oil for frying
  - 2 eggs
  - 7 tsps sugar
  - 2 tsps baking powder
  - Dash of salt
  - Confectionary Sugar for dusting
- Combine dry ingredients in large bowl. Mix wet ingredients and stir into dry just until mixed. In a large pot or deep fryer, heat vegetable oil to 340 degrees. By tablespoonfuls, drop dough into oil. Fry for 4-5 minutes until golden brown. Drain on paper towel then sprinkle confectionary sugar. Serve to Dad warm!

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

**2/8-3/21:** Children's Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent

**3/9:** Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn clocks forward one hour

**3/16:** Palm Sunday

**3/16-3/27:** Spring Break - No Classes

**3/20-22:** Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)

**3/23:** Easter Sunday

**3/26:** VBS Planning Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

## **Saint of the Month: John Paul II**

*\*\*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 those saints.*



While not a saint, the cause for Beatification and Canonization has been opened for Pope John Paul II, when Pope Benedict XVI put the beatification cause on a fast track, waiving a rule requiring a five-year wait after death before the start of the process.

Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born on May 18, 1920 in the small Polish town of Wadowice. By the time he was 21 years old, Both of his parents and both of his siblings had died. During World War II he entered the seminary in Krakow, Poland and worked in a factory at the same time. Karol was ordained in 1946, then went to Rome to study for three years. After returning to Poland he rose through the ranks in the Church hierarchy, from vicar of a rural parish to archbishop of Krakow and then cardinal. The Cardinals elected him Pope at the Conclave of 16 October 1978, and he took the name of John Paul II. On 22 October, the Lord's Day, he solemnly inaugurated his Petrine ministry as the 263rd successor to the Apostle. His pontificate, one of the longest in the history of the Church, lasted nearly 27 years.

John Paul II was often called a pope-pilgrim. He made 104 foreign trips to 129 countries. The masses he celebrated were attended by millions of faithful all over the world. Despite his high office, he remained a genuine, straightforward and cheerful man with an extraordinary sense of humor. John Paul II was a great man of great symbols. One of the most enduring symbols was his meeting with Mehmet Ali Agca, the man who shot him six times two years earlier, in a prison in Rome. At this meeting, the Pope forgave his would be assassin and provided the world with an enduring and powerful lesson in forgiveness and reconciliation.

After a long illness, Pope John Paul II died in the Vatican on April 2, 2005. Over two billion people watched the funeral on television and 4.5 million people came to Rome. The faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square chanted, "Sano subito!" ( " Saint now! " )

## **Triduum**

Easter Triduum refers to the three holy days leading up to Easter Sunday. Holy Thursday is the day we commemorate the Last Supper. Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, our priests will wash the feet of members of our parish at the Holy Thursday Mass. Good Friday is a solemn day, when we reflect on how Jesus suffered and died on the cross this day. On Good Friday we have Veneration of the Cross, where we honor the cross by kissing it, or genuflecting or bowing deeply before it. Holy Saturday is the day of waiting. Jesus has been entombed and we get ready for the joy of Jesus' new life on Easter Sunday. A tradition that has come to us from Poland, the homeland of our beloved Pope John Paul II, is the blessing of Easter baskets. On Saturday morning parishioners are invited to bring baskets filled with butter, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc., that they will be eating at Easter dinner, and have them blessed by our priest.

***The Sacred Triduum is the most important spiritual time of the year. During the three days of the Sacred Triduum, April 5, 6 and 7, please remember to observe Grand Silence while in the church building. During Grand Silence noises, telephone use, and conversations are prohibited.***