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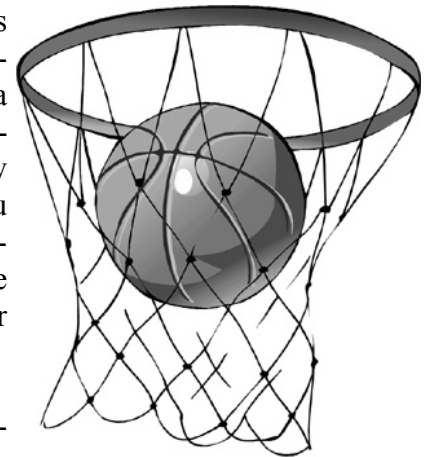


Children's Ministry Faith Formation

Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade

March 2010

Have you noticed all the sports on television this time of year? With the NCAA basketball tournaments dominating the airwaves in march, this is a good time to talk to your kids about good sportsmanship. Here are some starter questions: How do you feel when you win a game? How do you feel when you lose? How do you treat your opponent after a game, win or lose? Sometimes people pray before a game. Should they pray to win? Or pray to have a good game?



Sports are another gift from God. But how we approach the games and our attitude when we participate is an important part of learning from sports, getting better at what we are doing, and maturing in our daily lives. For more tips on fostering good sportsmanship in your children, visit the website www.kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/sportsmanship.html.

Important Upcoming Dates:

3/5, 12, 19, 26: Children's Stations of the Cross

3/14-4/8: No class Spring and Easter breaks

3/28: Palm Sunday

4/1-3: Triduum

4/1: VBS registration opens:

4/4: Easter Sunday

4/17: 1st Communion Workshop

5/3: 2010-2011 Faith Formation early registration opens



Easter Egg Hunt

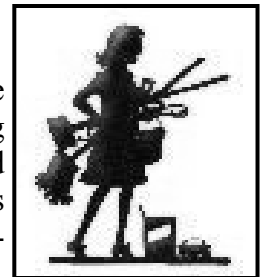
Easter Egg Hunt

Join the Easter Bunny in the circle drive for the Annual St. Francis Easter Egg Hunt, organized by the Ladies Auxiliary. Hunting begins at 3:00 p.m. and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Customs and Traditions

Mothering Sunday - March 14

The fourth Sunday in Lent Laetare Sunday, is also called Mothering Sunday. In the 16th century boys and girls who lived away from home as servants were allowed return to worship in the church of their baptism, or their "mother" church. They then visited their mothers, bringing them flowers, special *simnel cakes* and cleaning their mothers' homes for them.



Today, in many countries, Mothering Sunday is a popular day to celebrate all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Mother Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, and we give thanks for our own mothers. Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special for thanksgiving. It is also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, Refreshment Sunday or Laetare Sunday. The Latin name of Laetare, means rejoice.

Celebrate Mothering Sunday this day and clean the house for Mom!

Saint of the Month: St. Toribio Alfonso de Mogrovejo

***In this Year of the Priest, this portion of the monthly Faith Formation newsletter will introduce your family to priests who have been canonized.*



Born into a noble family in Majorca, Spain in 1538, Toribio had, from childhood, a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. He prayed her Office and the Rosary every day and fasted on Saturdays in her honor. He had a natural inclination for academics, and studied law, later become a lawyer and then a professor of law.

In recognition of his virtue and learning, King Philip II named him chief judge of the Supreme Court of Granada. He carried out this office in an exceptional way for five years. In 1580 when the Episcopal See of Lima, Peru, became vacant, the King selected him to fill this position. Toribio protested he was not worthy of the honor and used his knowledge of Church law to contest the appointment. He was overruled, consented, and was ordained priest and consecrated Bishop in order to fulfill his new obligations. He arrived in Lima, Peru to assume his office in 1581 at age 43.

Toribio soon demonstrated a deep zeal to reform the archdiocese and a determination to do all in his power to aid the poor and defend the rights of the Indians who were then suffering severely under Spanish occupation. He built roads, schools, churches, hospitals, and the first seminary in the New World, which was founded in Lima in 1591. He also baptized and confirmed nearly one half million people, among them St. Rose of Lima, St. Francis Solano, St. Martin de Porres, and Blessed Masias.

St. Toribio was canonized in 1726 and his feast day is the 23rd of March.

Triduum

Triduum refers to the three holy days leading up to Easter Sunday. If you want to encapsulate the lessons of Jesus' life, they are contained in these three days. Even the youngest child can learn powerful lessons from the rituals surrounding these holy days: washing feet on Holy Thursday, stripping the altar bare after Holy Thursday liturgy, the reading of the Passion and veneration of the Cross on Good Friday, a candle lit in the midst of a darkened church, blessing the oils and pouring living water on new member of our community of faith during Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. It may be too much to expect a young child to attend all three days, but choose one or more of these services to attend. And do not forget to include your own family rituals during Lent and Easter. They help give our children a sense of belonging and a sense of the sacred.



For summertime fun close to home, this summer's VBS program, "Baobab Blast: God's Great Get-Together" will open registration on April 1. Registration forms will be available on-line and in the information cart in the Narthex beginning on April 1. This year's VBS program, held June 21-25, offers kids a fun filled week learning about their faith through story, song, prayer and activities.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talent to help bring this wonderful program to life, please e-mail Jennifer Eckert at scott92jen94@tx.rr.com.