



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

September 2008

Welcome to our new families and welcome back to our returning families. We hope that you and your children will enjoy this fun and faith-filled year in our program. As parents, you are your children's primary educators in the faith. Children's Ministry and its catechists are here to assist you in that role. Pope John Paul II referred to the family as "the domestic church." Children's Ministry looks forward to working together with you to hand on the teachings of Christ to the children within your domestic church.

This year our parish will focus on the Ecclesiology, (the Church as Community). This focus will be reflected in the curriculum, especially for our children in grades three through five.

As part of our curriculum on the Church as Community, we are hoping that all of our families will attend Cultural Days on October 11 at St. Francis. This new event in our parish will celebrate the diversity of culture and unity of faith within the Catholic Church. Look for more information on this exciting event that will offer something for all ages. Parents **must** accompany their children to this event. Child care is not provided.

Valuable information can be found in the weekly St. Francis bulletin and the monthly Faith Formation newsletters for information and upcoming events. Also, please be sure to read over any information that your children bring home from class. At Parent Orientation you received a Parent Handbook and the Faith Formation calendar for the 2008-2009 school year. Please be sure to read these over carefully. These are also available on our parish website. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Children's Ministry Office.

Customs and Traditions

Feast of the Holy Cross

The cross is the most important and recognizable symbol of Christianity. While young children are not ready to fully understand the Crucifixion, they are well aware of the symbol itself. September 14 is the Feast of the Holy Cross. On this day, display a cross where your children can easily see it. Talk about how often we make the Sign of the Cross. Make the Sign of the Cross with them and review what the words mean.



To further remind your children of the importance of the cross for each one of them, make a cross with their hands. Trace each child's hands on a piece of construction paper and have them cut the hands out. Have the children print their names on their hands. Glue the hands to a larger piece of paper in the form of a cross, symbolizing that Christ came to earth to help us live good lives because He loves us so much.

Important Upcoming Dates:

9/14: Classes begin this week.

9/17: Second Grade catechist meeting for Reconciliation preparation.

9/21: Catechetical Sunday

9/28: Sacrament Preparation meetings this week for parents of second grade students.

10/4: 10:00 a.m. - Blessing of the Animals in courtyard
7:00 p.m. - Sacrament of Confirmation

10/5-10/9: No class this week. Please attend Cultural Day on October 11 in lieu of class.

10/11: Parish Cultural Day

Saint of the Month: Blessed Frederick Ozanam

***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.*



A bunch of radical university students started the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This society provides direct aid to anyone suffering or in need.

In 1833, Frederick Ozanam was challenged to practice the Christian principles he espoused when a fellow student said "Let us be frank, Mr. Ozanam; let us also be very particular. What do you do besides talk to prove the faith you claim is in you?"

The twenty year old student, Frederick Ozanam, and some other like-minded students formed the Conference of Charity, holding their first meeting in May of 1833. They started with only seven members, but the movement grew to more than a hundred a year later. Ozanam urged the large group to divide into smaller local units in order to serve the poor more effectively. By 1835, the society had its own official rule and a new name: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Born in 1813, Frederick served the poor of Paris well and drawing others into serving the poor of the world. Throughout his life Ozanam's goal was to "become better - to do a little good." Today more than a million members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in over 130 countries continue to follow his example.

Beatified in 1997, Frederick Ozanam was convinced of the inestimable worth of each human being. . Through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, his work continues to the present day. His feast day is celebrated on September 7.

Children Needed for Cultural Day Rosary

One element of the Cultural Day celebration on October 11 will be an Outdoor Rosary, led by children, which celebrates the cultural diversity of our Catholic faith. Children's Ministry is looking for children who would like to participate by leading a portion of the Hail Mary in one of the following languages:

German, Spanish, French, Italian, Filipino, Hindi, Irish, Cheyenne Indian, Indonesian and Russian.

Prayer cards of the Hail Mary prayer in the various languages will be provided. If your child would like to participate, please contact the Children's Ministry office.

