



Religious Education 2010-2011

March 2, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Not being a skier or skater, I'm glad to see that March has begun and winter is slowly losing its grip on the immediate future.

In doing some checking, I see that the National Weather Service records indicate that the high temperature in Dubuque on March First averages 37 degrees and the high on the last day of March averages 51 degrees. Not so bad...

Would you please take a minute to review the following items specific to the Resurrection Religious Education program?

Class schedule at a glance: *The program calendar is also posted on the parish website.*

- March 9: No classes: Ash Wednesday. Families attend Mass.
Mass Schedule: 7 AM, 8:45 AM, 5:30 PM and 7 PM.
- March 16: No classes.
- March 23: Classes as usual.
- March 30: Classes as usual.

Special dates for second grade parents:

- March 19: First Eucharist retreat for second grade students and parents.
- March 23: Quilt squares due.
- April 14: Eucharist interviews in the school gym.
- May 1 and May 7: First Eucharist dates

Rice Bowl opportunity during Lent:

Catechists will distribute Rice Bowls to our students on March 2. (The last class session before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9).

We use the Rice Bowl initiative as an opportunity to teach about almsgiving and our call to take care of each other.

As parents, you might consider spending a few minutes to ask your child about the Rice Bowl and what almsgiving means.

If nothing else, please take a minute to read the prayer and the descriptive text on the actual Rice Bowl box. Inside each Rice Bowl there is a little 2011 Lenten calendar as well.

While this is indeed a fund raising event for those in need, it is a great teaching opportunity, and an opportunity for our students to practice almsgiving. We will ask the students to return their Rice Bowls on the class night of April 13. (The last class night before Holy Week).

Over, please-→

How to find time in your day for Lent: from Loyola Press website

The fast pace of your life may seem to leave little time and energy for the traditional Lenten practices. But you can weave moments of spiritual awareness and service into even the busiest of schedules. The trick is to see Lenten practice as part of, rather than in addition to, each activity of your ordinary hectic day. The three foundational practices of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Here's how to think about them in a new way:

Praying Daily

If you make a habit of saying a little prayer whenever someone irritates you, cuts you off in traffic, or makes life difficult; when someone does you a favor, you experience great and friendly service, or when something joyful happens to you—you will soon find yourself praying your way through the day. Try this simple practice and you will be observing the Catholic Church's call for greater prayer during the Lenten season. You will also find that this habit makes your life flow smoother, your self more centered, and your Spirit more aware of God's presence.

A Different Type of Fasting

There are many ways to fast. Why not fast from criticism, gossip, judging others, or passing on rumors? Why not abstain from unwarranted fear and anxiety? You can also tell that inner voice inside your head that criticizes you to abstain from eroding your ability to be the confident, blessed person God calls you to be. These are beautiful ways to observe the Lenten call to fasting and abstinence.

Give of Yourself

Daily life also offers countless opportunities to give of yourself to others (alms), and most don't involve dipping into your wallet. Give encouragement to the doubting, give a word of praise to the insecure, show kindness to someone who could use a friend, and offer a word of thanks to those whose service of others often goes unappreciated. Give the gift of your attention to someone who simply wants to be noticed. Tell your children stories about people whose values you admire when you gather at mealtime. Don't be stingy with your smiles—give them freely to everyone you meet. And most important, give your love to those close to you. Hug them, hold them, and tell them what they mean to you. In this way you open your heart to God and others.

So no matter how busy you are in life, with some greater awareness and new perspectives you can consciously pray, fast, and give of yourself this Lent—and you will be ready to celebrate when a joyful dawn breaks upon you Easter morning.

If you have questions or comments about the Religious Education program, please feel free to contact me at 556-7511 or dbq058re@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us . Likewise, please feel free to stop at the parish office during the week to see me.

Thanks for your continued cooperation and interest.

Joe Hancock

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