

# The Immaculate Connection

## March 2019 Faith Formation Newsletter

### Upcoming Important Dates:

**Weds. March 6: Ash Wednesday.** Lent begins. Masses are at noon and 6:30pm

**Fridays during Lent:** Stations of the Cross at 7pm. Soup supper at 6pm

**March 10:** 4/5th grade students are asked to attend 11:00am Mass

**March 16:** Confirmation Retreat at St. Raphael's Parish. See back

**March 17:** 6/7th grade students are asked to attend 8:30am Mass

**March 25:** Confirmation forms due

**\*Confirmation date has been set: Weds, May 15 at 7:00 pm At Immaculate Conception.**

**First Reconciliation and First Communion Retreat: April 28th**

### Grade 4/5 News

Each month, different classes have been selected to "Sponsor" a Mass. Grade 4/5 students have been asked to sponsor the March 10th Mass. On Sunday, March 10, Grade 4/5 students and their families are asked to attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

### Grade 6/7 News

Grade 6/7 students have been asked to sponsor the 8:30am Mass on March 17th Mass. On Sunday, March 17, Grade 6/7 students and their families are asked to attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

### Students needed to carry candles during Stations of the Cross

I am excited to share that Fr. Jim has invited children in grades 2-10 to participate in Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Traditionally in the past, the task of carrying the candles to each of the Stations is a task only altar servers have done. But Fr. Jim asked me to invite all families to participate. Please consider taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity for your child so they can more fully understand the beauty and richness of our Catholic Faith as we meditate on the way that Jesus suffered and died for us. I hope that by actively participating in this special Catholic tradition of prayer, that their experience of Lent (and yours) will be enriched. If your child can attend any of the Fridays during Lent, please sign up on the bulletin board. (Counts for volunteer hours)

### Confirmation Volunteer Opportunities

**April 14:** Confirmation students have the opportunity to help organize an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth in our Parish. We are in need of extra hands to make PB&J sandwiches, prepare and assist with crafts and to run the prize table when kids come to turn in their eggs for prizes. Contact Laurie Muth in the office. The time commitment is from 11-3pm on Sunday April 14.

April 3 & 10 (practice) and April 12: The youth group needs more



"bodies" for Shadow Stations. Shadow stations is Friday, April 12 at 7pm. Practices are the 2 previous Wednesdays from 6:30-9pm. Contact Karen Kummer at [icimpactyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:icimpactyouthgroup@gmail.com)

### Follow the Footsteps of Jesus Egg Hunt

#### Children's Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

April 14th, noon

Children look for eggs while following the footsteps of Jesus



## Sacramental News

### First Holy Communion:

First Holy Communion will be May 5th during the 11am Mass.

First Communicants will attend a retreat on **Sunday, April 28th 9:45-2:30pm**. The retreat begins with class for students at 9:45 where they will continue their instruction. The retreat continues as kids and families attend 11am Mass together. The students will take part in the liturgy. Following Mass, families are invited to the hall to share a meal together. We invite parents, siblings, grandparent, godparents, etc. to share in the meal as faith is something which begins and is shared in **families!** Following lunch, we ask that at least one parent (or other adult) stay with the child for the duration of the retreat. There will be activities that you will do together with your child and some that are separate for our own spiritual enrichment. The day will conclude at approximately 2:30pm.

### First Reconciliation:

First Reconciliation will happen at the conclusion of the retreat on April 28th.

First Reconciliation students will attend a retreat on **Sunday, April 28th 9:45-2:30pm**. The retreat begins with class for students at 9:45 where they will continue their instruction. The retreat continues as 2nd and 3rd grade students and families attend 11am Mass together. The students will take an active part in the liturgy. Following Mass, families are invited to the hall to share a meal together. We invite parents, siblings, grandparent, godparents, etc. to share in the meal as faith is something which begins and is shared in **families!** Following lunch, we ask that at least one parent (or other adult) stay with the child for the duration of the retreat. There will be activities that you will do together with your child and some that are separate for our own spiritual enrichment. Fr. Jim will begin hearing their confessions at approximately 2:15pm. Parents and family members are invited to return at 2:15pm to sit with their child in the church proper as their child prepares to make their First Reconciliation. We encourage parents to bring a small gift to celebrate God's mercy bestowed on us through this most beautiful Sacrament. Once they have made their first confession, you may take your child home and their religious instruction is done for the year.

### Confirmation:

**Confirmation Forms including Saint and sponsors due March 25. You can download and print them from our website if you misplaced yours.**

**Confirmation retreat:** Note date change: Confirmation retreat will be held on Saturday, **March 16th from 9:30-5:00** at St. Raphael Parish at 3840 Macklem Avenue in Niagara Falls. The keynote speaker will be Carrie Ford and the theme will be the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation parents are welcome to attend Mass with their child at 4pm and may take their child home following Mass. Otherwise, pick up is at 5pm.

**Interview:** Fr. Jim would like to take an opportunity to meet with each candidate, answer any questions they might have and simply talk to them about their faith and their faith journey. Fr. Jim will be hosting interviews, **April 27** from 2-3:15 and then after Mass from 5:15-6:30. Please call or email Laurie with your time preference and we will do our best to accommodate your schedule. Interviews usually last 15-20 minutes.

**Confirmation:** The date of Confirmation is Weds. May 15<sup>th</sup>. Students and their sponsors are asked to arrive at the church at 6:15pm. Confirmandi will wear robes provided by the church, however, we ask that our young adults dress appropriately for the occasion. Please dress modestly with no bare shoulders, skirts or dresses to the knees etc. There will be refreshments following the Celebration and an opportunity to take family pictures and pictures with Bishop Malone.

**Confirmation rehearsal: TBD**