



NEWSLETTER

St. Joseph Religious Education

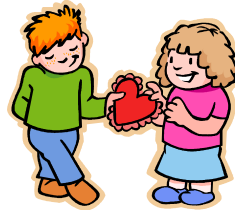
January 2010

Keep the Love Lesson Going

Dear Parents,

Spending a week in Florida the week before Christmas for a Conference, we were determined to keep the rest of our Christmas celebrating more simple this year. We would keep the focus on others and how we can show them love. We would buy fewer gifts for each other and give more to those in need. We would bake only a few favorite things and bring them to family and friends. We wouldn't run out on Christmas Eve to buy the last minute things we just had to put under the tree. How did we do? Well, let's just say the Marcottes still need a little work. But that's okay, because on the heels of Christ-

mas, here comes Valentine's Day—a day for love and gift giving, again. I have to admit that helping my five-year old spell out all of his classmates names on those dinky store bought valentines has never brought to mind the meaning of Christmas. But the close proximity of Christmas and Valentine's Day can actually serve as a way to continue an active focus on the theme of love and charity without all the frenzied commercialism of Christmas. If we did it right and our focus at Christmas was others and how we can show love, then Valentine's day can be a way to share our faith with our children, again. So go



ahead and buy those little boxes of Valentines and help your children prepare them for friends. As you do, talk about love and what it means and how we express it no matter what the season is. Let them tell you about each friend and classmate, good or bad. Then make the task a teachable moment about how Jesus loves everyone and how we should strive to do the same.

God's Blessings to you all,

Mrs. Marcotte

Eucharist: Beyond First Communion

On Saturday, February 6th the Catechists from St. Joseph Religious Education will be attending a Winter Institute at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Kankakee. Fr. Tony Taschetta, Pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst, will be

on hand to help our Catechists learn to teach Eucharist beyond First Communion. Although First Communion is important because it is "the first" time we receive Christ in the body and blood it is not merely

something to get. It is the first of a lifetime of coming to the Eucharistic table with God's family for your child; and it is vital to foster that lifelong relationship. The Catechists are looking forward to learning new techniques from

**NO
RE
CLASS
NEXT
WED.
JANUARY
20TH**

January Class Schedule

January 6	RE Class
January 13	RE Class
January 20	NO RE
January 27	Re Class

**First
Communion
Parent
Meeting**

**Tuesday
January 19
7:00 p.m.
In the
Parish Hall**



Continued from front side...

Fr. Tony with his years experience and wisdom that they can pass on to your children. Eucharist is our food for the journey—food that strengthens and sustains us. It is our privilege to help your children realize that no matter how often we come to the table with a hungry heart, God will always feed us.

As parents, you too are called to foster your child's relationship with Christ in the Eucharist. You wouldn't give your child a rich feast once a year on his birthday and then fail to feed him for the rest of the year. To live and thrive, we need regular nourishment throughout our lives. The same is true for our spiritual lives. You can ensure that your spirit and your child's spirit receives the nourishment it needs and deserves by worshiping together each week. Eucharist is the heart of our lives as Catholics. Recently a non-Catholic college student went to Mass with his Catholic friend and had many questions; finally commenting "If I believed what you Catholics believed about Eucharist, you couldn't keep me away." Is that how you feel how about Jesus' gift to us?

Please take a few minutes to pray about your child's spiritual nourishment and recommit yourself to the promises you made to that child at their baptism. As you grow and lead your child closer to Jesus, cut out the prayer below and keep it near your family dinner table. Take turns reading it before dinner whenever your family is all gathered. To further enhance the celebration, take the opportunity to light a candle, read a scripture passage, sing a song from Mass or add prayers of petition or thanksgiving.

TAKE AND EAT

Prayer at Our Family Table

Jesus our Brother, we thank you for your table of the Last Supper where you shared a holy meal with your friends.

Because you are always with us, our family table is holy, too, and so are we.

Thank you for giving us your life, your many gifts, and the food we are going to share.

Help us to grow closer to each other, closer to you, and more caring of the people who need us.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
10:00 -5:00 P.M.
PARISH HALL**

**CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010
DURING 11:00 A.M. MASS**



2009 Confirmation Retreat