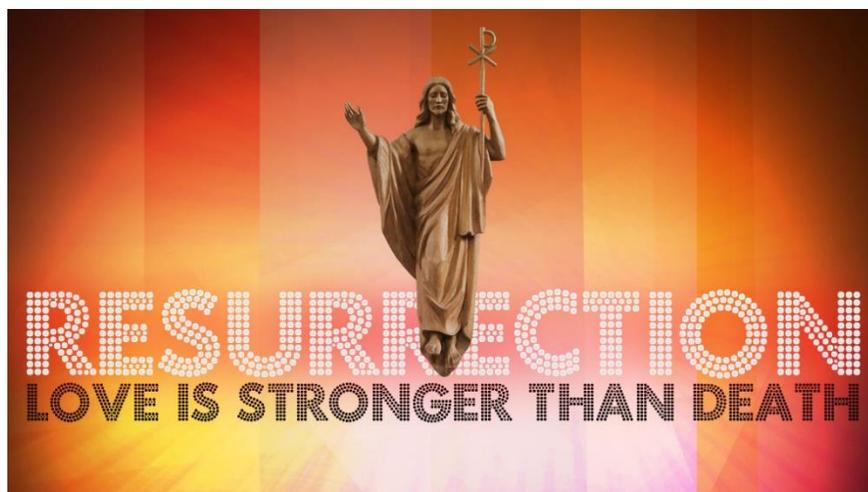


26

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
St. Mary's Parish School
Week of April 5, 2021



On behalf of Father Joe, our pastor, and our whole staff, we wish each of our families a most blessed Easter.... remembering Easter is not just for a day, but for our whole lives. It is a privilege for us to work with you, our families, in the education of your children. Thank you for sharing your precious gift. Do know, you are kept in our prayers daily. At the end of this Newsletter is an article about the meaning of Resurrection in each life.

Many blessings.....*Sister Margaret, osu*

Hot Lunch + information for the date/day



Monday, April 5 **NO school**---Happy Easter!

Tuesday, April 6 **Sloppy Joes over buns + Cole Slaw + pineapple + dessert**

Wednesday, April 7 **Fish Sticks with tater tots + veggie tray + applesauce + dessert**
Last day to sign for childcare for Friday, April 9th. We need 9 to hold childcare. To date, we have only 3 signed for childcare.

Thursday, April 8 **Hot dogs + chips + veggie tray + mandarin oranges + dessert**

Friday, April 9 **No school**---parent teacher conferences---please note that progress reports will also be sent via email from **Beehively**. Be on the lookout for these. They will go out on Monday, April 12. IF you don't receive yours, please contact Debbie Johnson at the school office: 208-882-2121.

Gr. 8 has pre-registration at MHS on Friday.

Other Dates to note:

- Sunday, April 11 Last Parent Session for First Communion
- Monday, April 12 Third Quarter Progress reports will be sent to each parent via email...it will be coming from **Beehively**. You will get one even though you receive a copy when you had a conference with your child's teacher on Friday, the 9th.
- Friday, April 16 Will be **picture day** for each class and for the whole school. All students should be dressed in their school uniform.

This is ***the LAST DAY*** for all family donations to the school *online Auction*. All auction items need to be photographed to go live. **PLEASE NOTE: We are not able to receive any items after April 16th**. If your family item has not been given on/by April 16th, your account will be charged accordingly.

If you need to coordinate a drop off time for larger items, please contact Natalie Johnson 208-816-3356.

Thank you so very much for your generous support in this year of adapting to doing our Auction in a creative and "fun" way. Remember:

- ❖ there is NO limit to the number who can "attend" the auction this year
- ❖ there is NO costly dinner
- ❖ there ARE wonderful donations to bid on (as always) and **BEST OF ALL**
- ❖ we are NOT LIMITED to just the people in the Palouse. We able to have persons from across the USA to attend as well as from around the world!!!

Please invite your family members, alums, friends, co-workers to attend the **ONLINE AUCTION** on **Saturday, May 8th**. More details soon!

If your family has been using the **Lenten Rice Bowls** during Lent. Please give them to your child's teacher or to the office or at Mass at church. All donations will be given to Catholic Relief Services.



On Holy Saturday, April 3, we welcomed into the Catholic Church both at St. Mary's and St. Augustine's new members through the sacraments of baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Special blessings and welcome to Krista Shisler, parent of Ike (Grade 1) and Kari Clark, aunt to Mrs. Taylor Bieker, teacher.

Reflection on the Easter experience in our livesfrom an article by Mark Clarke entitled:

Easter as a Transformative Process Week

Easter offers us a sacred choice. . . .It beckons us to partake in our emotional vulnerability of being afraid and anxious. We often sing alleluia without fully grasping the implication. We talk about transformation as if it's a candy bar we can eat and enjoy. Easter, however, reminds us that transformation is a *journey* that begins with choosing to leave the comfort of our everyday experience. It is a profound *journey of love*.

The pandemic has become a remembrance of the truth that transformation and the resurrection are sacred passages. For the first time in decades, society has experienced a catastrophic event that brought the world to its knees. The pandemic caused lockdowns, struggles over mask-wearing, loss of loved ones, and many other painful actualities.

Each day transformed our lives by distancing us from loved ones, ordering shelter in place, having virtual conversations with healthcare providers, visiting with friends, and working offsite. Yes, we became stripped of our usual patterns and behavior. These changes created emotional turmoil, unhappiness, and yearning for our previous lives. The personal adaptations in our lives during the pandemic have taught us the importance of connection and love. When those bonds go missing, it produces a void of meaning.

The resurrection stories remind us that Jesus's death left his followers stripped of familiar norms and filled with crushing grief. They were in shock as the loss of their dear friend consumed every waking moment. Individually and collectively, they sought to find meaning and connection. The void of emptiness and terror frightened them and, at times, paralyzed them. Each day they had to deal with the inner panic to leave the upper room's comfort and begin reentering society.

Each of Jesus's followers struggled with coming to grips with a new reality and experienced a depth of suffering unique to himself or herself. Thomas doubted the resurrection until he felt Jesus's side. The Emmaus journey was a narrative about two individuals who wrestled with understanding Jesus's message, which slowly became apparent when he rose from the dead. Peter, tired and weary from fishing all night with no luck, was exasperated with Jesus's statement about casting his nets on the other side. Yet, when Peter stopped resisting and cast his nets on the other side, he experienced the risen Christ. Mary Magdalene and Mary, James and Salome's mother, went to the tomb and found it empty. They were perplexed about experiencing an empty tomb until the angel proclaimed that Jesus had risen. Before they heard Jesus had risen, the void was so formidable they could not feel the connection. When they did, the flames of relationship and love reignited within them.

If we reflect on and pray about these passages, we recognize *they are our story*. We deny, doubt, hold on to worn-out patterns, and seek ways to avoid the transformative process. The transforming of old habits that no longer serve us allows us to become renewed. All resurrection paths welcome the bonds of connection and love initially in the darkness of detachment, leading to the light of rebirth.

The resurrection stories remind us that our personal transformation occurs when we, like Jesus, enter into the tomb of our soul, examine it, and embrace the mystery of new life. The soul is the doorway to our resurrection. In that space, we grapple with aspects of ourselves that we need to adapt, alter, or release. It is usually in this precarious darkness that resurrection gradually unfolds.

The story of Easter is our story. It is an invitation to remove the shackles that bind us and become liberated from our fears. This path frees us to embrace our resurrection in surprising and mysterious ways. We then experience the rich meaning of the resurrection as blessed agape.

Re-registration for the 2021-2022 School Year is Now Open

What is key to note are the following items:

- Families already at St. Mary's are required to yearly re-register their child(ren). Also, needed for re-registration is current immunization information. (PS, PK, K and Gr. 7 have *additional requirements*.)
- Families who are presently at St. Mary's and have a child for another grade need to submit a new "registration" form for the child(ren) (Please call the school office to request this form). **NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A CHILD READY FOR PS OR PK OR K**, it is important that you register him/her ASAP---these grades are filling-up fast and you, as families already in school, have the FIRST choice of having your child(ren) enrolled. Do not wait to register your child for these grades. Remember for PS and PK in order to be admitted the child is required to be fully immunized (required under our childcare licensing by the City of Moscow) there are **no** exceptions to this requirement. And each student must be fully potty-trained.
- Financial Agreement Form for 2021-2022 School Year is also attached. Most, if not all of our families, should be receiving monthly financial assistance for each of their children from the recent bill passed by Congress, which should assist every family with the 3% increase set by our School Board for 2021-2022 school year.

(NEW THIS YEAR) If a family needs scholarship assistance for 2021-2022 school year, they will need to contact Kathy Burton (or Rasheen Acree) *directly* by calling the school's Business Office (208-882-2121) to receive *The Financial Assistance Application Form*. This form, with all information required, **must be received on/by April 15, 2021** to be considered for a scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year. Once the application is completed with all information required, the Business Office Managers will set-up a confidential meeting with you. **Please note: any forms coming in after the April 15, 2021 deadline may not be considered for the 2021-2022 school year.**