

Good Shepherd Gazette



St. Anthony/All Saints
1530 11th St. SE
Canton, OH 44707

(330) 452-9539
amvga@stanthonyecanton.org

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Fr. Tom Kraszewski, Pastor
Anne Marie Vega, DRE
Sr. Karen Lindenberg, Hispanic Minister

From the DRE...

Welcome back to another year of faith formation. It promises to be a busy and grace-filled year as we have over 40 children preparing for First Communion and over 30 young people preparing for Confirmation, as well as 4 young people involved in the RCIA (RCIC) process. We have various classes meeting on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday—just over 150 children in all.

This year our parish theme is “Ignite the World with Mercy.” We will be focusing throughout the year on acts of mercy using the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Each month we will feature one or more of these invitations to reflect upon God’s mercy towards us and consider how we can be instruments of that mercy in the world.



We hear in Scripture,

“But you are ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises’ of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were ‘no people’ but now you are God’s people. You ‘had not received mercy’ but now you have received mercy” (1Peter 2:9-10).

By virtue of our Baptism we are an “anointed people.” We have received the Light of Christ and are called to take that light into the world—spreading joy, hope, love, and mercy to others.

As parents you have been entrusted with your child’s “light.” Consider how you can nurture that light each day and ignite the faith of your family to grow and reflect God’s marvelous love as you live out your vocations in the world.

Upcoming Events

10-30 Bake Sale
11:30am—Children’s
Mass

11-1 All Saints’ Day



ALL SAINTS’ DAY

11-2 All Souls’ Day
6:30pm—Memorial
Service

11-10 Sacramental Prep.
6:00-8:00pm

11-12 Style Show

11-13 Confirmation Prep.
@Walsh University
4pm-9pm

Mass Works in the Atrium

One of the primary objectives of all catechesis is to help children connect more fully to Liturgy and the celebration of Mass. Liturgy is literally “the work of the people.” We have many works in the atrium environments that orient the children to the prayers and gestures of the Mass. This section of the newsletter will highlight one of those works in the atrium and encourage connections you can make in the home.

The Altar



One of the first presentations given to the children in the atrium is the altar work. This work consists of a model *altar table*, *sacristy cabinet*, *tabernacle*, and *ambo*. The children are introduced to the names of all the sacred vessels used at Mass: *chalice*, *paten*, *candles*, *crucifix*, *altar cloth*, *purificator*, *corporal*, *lavabo dish*, *cruets*, *Roman Missal*, *snuffer*, *ciborium*, *Lectionary*, and *sanctuary candle*. These are introduced over several presentations and the children then have the opportunity to set the altar over and over. It is not meant to “play” Mass, but rather to help the children develop vocabulary associated with the Eucharistic celebration. During the initial presentation the catechist invites the children to consider how we use tables in our homes. It is then announced that at this table we have a very special meal—a meal to

which Jesus invites us. As the candles are lit the announcement is made, “Christ has died, Christ is risen.” Each Mass we celebrate and relive the Paschal Mystery—Christ has died, Christ is risen.” Later works in the atrium return to these names as the children delve deeper into the mysteries of the Mass.

As parents you can help your children continue to make these words a part of their working vocabulary by pointing them out when you are at Mass as a family. Sit up front so that your children can see the sacred vessels being used.

Prayer in the Atrium

Prayer is one way that we, as a people, respond to God in our lives. Prayer takes on many forms and is both personal and communal. It involves both listening and speaking. It is a basic human need and something that requires life-long formation. In the atrium, we help the child to enter into a life of prayer and develop a posture of prayer that meets their developmental needs. This section of the newsletter will feature one way we incorporate prayer into the atrium with suggestions to extend that into the home.

Communal Prayer

In the Intermediate (Level III) atrium, serving grades 4-6, the primary mode of prayer is communal prayer. This is a prayer service that is planned and lead by the children themselves. Two to three children are asked to plan the prayer together. There is a basic structure of elements including an opening antiphon, a Psalm, a Scripture Reading, The Our Father, Petitions, etc. The children are able to choose which elements they want in the prayer and the order of the worship experience. They select Scripture readings and choose classmates to read and lead different aspects. Incorporating traditional prayer of the church or music is also an option. Having child-lead prayer reinforces that the atrium is their environment and a place where adults and children listen together to the Word of God. Why not have your family do the same in the home—plan a small prayer service for special occasions.

