

# PSR Newsletter

## Annunciation Catholic Church



### Preparing for Easter

Easter is the most important Feast Day of the whole liturgical year. We spend 40 days preparing for it during Lent. The Triduum refers to the liturgical season that follows Lent but is before Easter. This period begins on Holy Thursday, and at that Mass we commemorate the Last Supper. We then fast during Good Friday because it is the most solemn day of the year, as it is the day Jesus died for us. On Holy Saturday, we meditate on Jesus's death with the expectation of his Resurrection. This full season prepares us for the beautiful celebration of Easter Sunday. Our students have begun preparation for this holy time by participating in Lenten Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, service to the poor, and learning about the Shroud of Turin, the burial cloth which shows Jesus's imprinted image from the Resurrection. The parish is hosting a speaker for this April 3, so we encourage you to attend!



### A Transformative Lent

Lent is a time to focus on our relationship with God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter. It lasts for 40 days in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Lent is a time to go deeper in prayer and service to our Lord with the hope of transformation and renewal at Easter.

Ann Kelly, CRE, shares what she will do this Lent. She picked a virtue where she believes she can grow. The virtues are: Faith, Hope, Charity, Fortitude, Justice, Temperance, and Prudence. For example, choose Fortitude and ask God in prayer how to grow in patience and pray for these opportunities every day. Take time each night to thank God and ask for help to grow in this virtue through His grace.

We can't do it ourselves, we do it through His grace. Ann enjoys going to Mass more this season, especially daily Mass. Bread from heaven offers the grace we need for our days, and will help us grow closer to God.

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#### SERVICE EVENT!

April 10  
3rd-8th grade  
Service Event  
Feed the Hungry  
Please wear your PSR shirts!

2

#### REMINDER

No PSR Classes  
March 20  
Happy Spring Break!

3

#### SAVE THE DATE

April 17  
Stations of the Cross  
All grades  
Please wear your PSR Shirts!

## Importance of Prayer

The Mission Jesus gave Baptized Catholics and the Church is to learn to “Announce” our Catholic faith (evangelize by living the JOY of the Gospel with our lives, sharing the good news with others). This is the heart of PSR, beginning with the importance of prayer. Recently, our third grade class discussed how Jesus learned to pray from Mother Mary and Joseph. When third graders were asked WHO taught them how to pray, the students said, “Mom, Dad and PSR.”

When asked by the disciples about how to pray, Jesus taught them the Lord’s Prayer. It is the greatest example of prayer the Church has, and we pray it at every Mass. Jesus also gave his mother to us and therefore we ask our Spiritual Mother Mary to help us and to pray for us through the “Hail Mary.” Our goal in PSR is to help parents teach all of our students how to pray, as this is our communication with God and our protection in this life. Especially during this Lenten season, it is important to remember that God listens to us and knows what we need, but He still wants to hear from us to have a relationship with us. There is nothing we can say or do that changes how much he loves us and he is always waiting to hear whatever is on our hearts and minds. Go to him in Adoration, Scriptures, the Rosary, Prayer Journaling, Lectio Divina, or just quietly in your heart tell him every day how much you love him.



*Left: Father Mike celebrates Reconciliation with our second graders, who will celebrate their First Communion at Annunciation on Saturday, May 4.*

## PSR Field Trip

On Sunday, February 24, PSR students and families joined Mrs. Kelly (CRE) at a community Open House at the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Families were led through the grounds and facilities by our visiting Annunciation Seminarian Jeff Schulte. The tour included the beautiful Chapel of St. Joseph, a replica of the Shroud of Turin, and their reliquary, which is their collection of relics. Most importantly, we learned about the life of a seminarian.



According to Seminarian Jeff Schulte, “A major part of the seminary is forming a community of adult men, and so by inviting people to the seminary we showed them all the dimensions of seminary formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation.” Visitors left with a new appreciation of all it takes to support their journey to the priesthood.

### Did You Know??

#### There are five types of prayer:

You can share how we practice these at PSR, or post these on your refrigerator!

- 1) **Praise:** “You are wonderful God. You gave me life!”
- 2) **Thanksgiving:** “Thank you God for my family.”
- 3) **Petition:** “Please forgive me God, I am sorry I yelled at my mom.”
- 4) **Blessing:** “Bless us O Lord and these thy gifts” (Look up the prayer about the souls of the faithful departed; you can add on to the meal prayer, saying it as a family, helping souls on their way to Heaven).
- 5) **Intercession:** “Dear Lord, we pray you will be with our family member who is in the hospital.”

### OUR PARISH MISSION

Our Mission, as the prayerful community of Annunciation, is to **announce** the good news of Jesus Christ by living and sharing our Catholic faith.