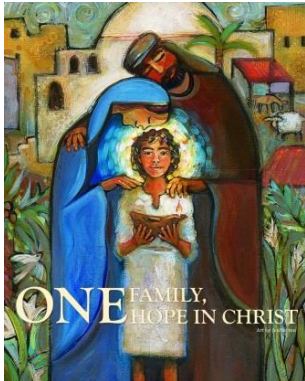


March, 2022
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March Newsletter



One Family in Service

"As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross." (Matthew 27:32)



Dear Parents,

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Welcome to March!
We embark upon this month with Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Once again, it is time for us to engage in the practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we walk with Jesus. There are many ways that we can make sacrifices and do penance to prepare our hearts for Easter, and

we may think of our own individual ways to mark the days of Lent. For some people, fasting from a favourite food might be the greatest penance; for another, it may be getting up early to spend time in prayer before work or school; for yet another, it may be foregoing the purchase of something new in order to make an extra donation to

charity. Lent is a personal journey, and each one of us is able to choose the manner in which we will walk it. Whatever we decide to do, let us make these forty days that we spend with Jesus in the desert a meaningful opportunity for spiritual growth as we become ever closer to Jesus.

May God bless us on our Lenten journeys.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for your generosity to our impromptu Mardi Gras fundraiser for Ukraine. Together, we raised **\$1325** which will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross. Our federal government will match donations made to the Red Cross, and so our funds will do twice the good! We are so grateful for your support and are amazed by your kindness.

A Prayer for Ukraine

*God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.*

Student Led Conferences

Please be reminded that we will have our *Student-led Conferences on Thursday, March 3* and that there will be **NO CLASSES** for students on that day. You and your child will come to school only at your appointment time. The students *need to come in full uniform* for their conferences. We are looking forward to a great celebration of the students' accomplishments!

St. Joseph Retreat & Spring Break

On Friday, March 11, we will celebrate the patron of our school, St. Joseph, with a retreat. The students will spend that morning learning about and honouring our saint. The students will be dismissed for spring break early on that day (students in the A-M group will be dismissed at 1200pm. There will be no afterschool club. The students will return to classes with our regular schedule on Monday, March 28. Enjoy your break!

Basketball News

Our students from grades four through seven have finished their basketball season. Although we decided not to participate in the CISVA league this year, the students had a great time at the practices, developing their skills through drills and scrimmages. Special thanks to our wonderful coaches, Mr. Dalessandro, Ms. Dobrei and Mr. Evans, for the time and energy that they devoted to our students throughout the season. Terrific work, everyone!

Thank you

Thank you to those of you who supported our recent fundraising efforts. On Red Day, we raised \$322.50 for Holy childhood Association. On our Pyjama and Treat Day, we raised \$610 for the CISVAAA. We are so grateful for your amazing generosity!

Green Day for St. Patrick!

On Thursday, March 10, we will have Green Day to celebrate St. Patrick's Day early. On that day, the students may wear green clothing (including St. Patrick's Day garments) instead of their uniforms. There will be no charge for this day, as we are just celebrating St. Patrick!

Feast of St. Joseph March 19

Even though we will be on spring break at that time, please remember to celebrate the feast of our patron, Saint Joseph. It's a Solemnity!

Important Dates:

March 10th – Green Day

March 11th – St. Joseph Retreat & spring Break.

Dismissal at 12pm.

March 14th-27th – Spring Break

March 19th – St. Joseph Feast Day



Confirmation Meeting

We have not yet been given a date on which our grade seven students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. However, the students are fully engaged in their preparations and we need to hold an information meeting for parents and students. We will hold the meeting on Thursday, March 10 at 6:00pm. More information will follow soon.

Catholic Educators' Conference

Before the Family Day weekend, our staff attended the annual Catholic Educators' Conference. The first day was spent on educational topics, to strengthen our classroom practices. On the second day, we spent time learning more about the topic of Truth and Reconciliation. Thank you to Father Martin for ending our day on Friday with Mass. It was wonderful to be able to step back over these two days to reflect upon our vocation as a community of Catholic educators.

Archbishop Carney Speech Arts Festival

After much deliberation among the principals, we have decided that we will not hold the Archbishop Carney Speech Arts Festival once again this year. We will hold our own St. Joseph's Festival, however, and we are grateful to be able to celebrate the spoken word as a school community. We are looking forward to returning to our usual festival next year. Thank you for your understanding.

Raffle

We are in the process of organizing the raffle tickets to be sent home to families. Please look for them in your children's backpack on Friday, March 4th.

A Lenten Prayer

A Lenten Prayer: [Invite Us Deeper](#)
Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people,
your Lent.

May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom,
generosity, and encounter.

Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.

- Author Unknown