

# St. Joseph Parish – Galloway

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Hello Religious Ed Families!

February 7, 2024

It has been brought to my attention by a catechist or two that cell phones have become an issue once again. In years past when this has happened, we have put baskets in each room and asked the students to put their phones in the basket during class and at the end of class they can have them back. It is easier if they do not bring them at all. An hour and a half without the phone should not be a problem and makes teaching a whole lot easier when attention is given to what needs attention at the moment. I have put baskets in each room once again and if that is not enough to help the situation, I will ask for the phones at the beginning of class and return them at the end. If calls need to be made at the end of class and a student does not have a cell phone with them, the parish still has a land line that is able to be used by anyone who asks. Thanks for your help in this matter!

Lent is just around the corner! Easter is very early this year, March 31<sup>st</sup>, so that means Lent begins February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate Mass at 7 pm. Please join your children.

Some reminders of our Lenten Regulations: The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Lenten regulations are as follows: 1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday. 2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, until they celebrate their 59<sup>th</sup> birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Mite boxes have been handed out to students tonight. Rice Bowls, one per family, are attached to this letter. A refresher on how these are used: The mite boxes are to be used by each student. The rice bowl is for the family. A good way to use them is if someone gives up candy or soda (or insert any other thing that would be a good sacrifice for 40 days) for Lent, each day they could put the amount they would have spent on that treat into the box. Or as a family they can put money in weekly as a reminder of the people that are living less fortunate lives. These donations are then sent in after Easter. The mite box donations go to the Missionary Childhood Association which helps finance about 3,000 projects per year worldwide. The rice bowl donations help Catholic Relief Services which as part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, they work with local, national and international Catholic institutions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

We will be holding our Lenten Series each week after Sunday morning Mass in the dining/social hall beginning on February 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be a chance to encounter Jesus as we study Jesus and the Eucharist. Catholics from all over the country will be participating in this series as it is part of the Eucharistic Revival that is underway. This is open to everyone, all ages, no matter what level of faith we are at. Make this the best Lent ever for you!

The Soup Cookoff is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a crockpot of your favorite soup or bring your appetite to try all the tasty creations! It starts at 4:30 pm and ends at 6 pm! \$5 gets you all the soup you can eat. Or if soup isn't your forte, bring your best dessert. New this year is a dessert cookoff as well. Winners will be awarded prizes, and we will have a 50/50 raffle and basket raffle too – anyone wishing to donate a basket, please call/text Donna at 715-570-0076 to donate. Fun for everyone! Mark your calendars!

February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Lenten Mission. It will be held at St. Ladislaus this year. *What is the Catholic Church's Mission?* -The Catholic Church's primary mission is to spread the Kingdom of God. *What is the Parish's Mission?* -It is a special pastoral effort aimed at preaching to and instructing parishioners during a particular season in the Church's life. Each night will be from 6:30-7:30 pm with Rev. Samuel Martin telling us more about the Eucharist. Again, this is being held at St. Ladislaus in Bevent both nights and Fr. Gus is asking all of us to attend these 2 nights. Refreshments will be served each night. Fr. Gus looks forward to seeing each and every one of us as this mission enriches our hearts.

Mark your calendars for March 19<sup>th</sup> – the Feast Day of St. Joseph. We will be having Mass at 5 pm with refreshments and a catered meal to follow. Very Rev. Derek Sakowski will preside over Mass and talk to us about the Church initiative by the Diocese. Make plans to attend this special celebration honoring our parish patron saint, St. Joseph.

Please note the important dates at the bottom of this letter. We will be saying a Divine Mercy Chaplet next week at 7:20 pm and note the dates we will be saying the Stations of the Cross starting at 7:10 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in these prayers.

Mary Uttecht

715-454-7060 (home), 715-573-0430 (cell), Facebook (messenger) or email me at [stjoseph4faith@gmail.com](mailto:stjoseph4faith@gmail.com)

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

February 7 **Class** – Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:20 pm  
February 14 **Class** – Ash Wednesday, Mass 7 pm  
*February 17 – PCCW Soup and Dessert Cookoff, 4:30-6 pm*  
February 21 **Class** – Stations of the Cross at 7:10 pm  
*February 26-27, 2 Parishes/2 days Renewal/Mission at St. Ladislaus, Bevent*  
February 28 **Class** – Confession for CCD students  
March 6 **Class** – Stations of the Cross at 7:10 pm  
March 13 **Class**  
*Tues, Mar 19 – St. Joseph Feast Day – 5 pm Mass with fellowship to follow*  
March 20 **Class** – Stations of the Cross at 7:10 pm  
*March 27 NO CLASS, Holy Week – CCD Student Confessions 8:30-9:30 am*  
*March 28 – Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, 5 pm (Adoration 6-8:30pm)*  
*March 29 – Good Friday Services 2 pm*  
*March 31 – Easter Sunday Mass 8:30 am*  
April 3 **Class** – Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:20 pm  
April 10 **Class**  
April 17 **Class** – Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:20 pm  
April 24 **Class**  
*Wed, May 1 – First Communion Rehearsal 6:00 pm*  
*Sun, May 5 – First Communion Mass 8:30 am*  
*Sun, May 12 – May Crowning Mass 8:30 am*