

St. Mary Visitation School 2019 Family Lent Overview

Theme: *Follow the Cross to Jesus*

As Catholics, we dedicate ourselves in Lent to deeper prayer, sincere fasting, and selfless almsgiving.

March 5th, Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday



Dress Down Day! Wear your green, purple and gold clothes and beads to celebrate the day!

Big & Little Buddy Lenten Activity Our big & little buddies will work together, making a Lenten locker sign based on our theme, as a reminder to follow Jesus each day of Lent through their Lenten promises.

Principal for the Day! The Henry family is the auction winner for the “principal” today, and will be hosting an all-school ice cream social to celebrate Mardi Gras in a special way. *Thank you, Henry family!*

† March 6th, 8:00AM, Ash Wednesday All-School Liturgy

- Families are invited to join us for this sacred liturgy in church.
- Students will sit in the front section of the church so parents and parishioners joining us for mass have plenty of room.



† March 6th – April 17th, CRS Operation Rice Bowl 2019

This year we are offering a new opportunity for families to do their tithing in this Lenten season through the donation of their loose change to CRS Operation Rice Bowl. A pop-up collection bowl and information about this collection will be sent home to families on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. Families can also visit www.crsricebowl.org for more information on this wonderful Lenten tradition. Special lessons from CRS will be taught by the teachers during Lent, educating our students on how this collection supports the Catholic Social Justice Teachings in countries throughout the world.

Wednesday, March 6th, Rice Bowls come home with youngest/only child of families.

Wednesday, April 17th, Rice Bowls returned to homeroom teacher.

† March 8th – March 29th, Collection for House of Peace

Once again this Lent, families will be asked to help the clients of Milwaukee’s House of Peace by filling a special brown bag with personal hygiene products for them. The *Works of Mercy* and the *Catholic Social Teachings* call us to care for those most in need, and these bags meet those needs on numerous levels. For more information on this agency’s mission, check out www.houseofpeace.org.



Friday, March 8th, Hygiene Bags come home with youngest/only child of each family.

→ On the outside of the bags is a checklist of what families can donate.

Friday, March 29th – Hygiene Bags returned to school

† March 8th, Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Grades first through eighth will walk the labyrinth prayer in the school gym on Friday, March 8th, from 9:00AM until 2:15PM. Walking a prayer labyrinth involves three stages: purgation (releasing of bad thoughts, concerns, worries, etc.), illumination (receiving guidance, direction, & inspiration from Christ,), and union (returning to Christ in holiness). *We hope parents and parishioners will also come to walk the Labyrinth with us.*

† Reconciliation Service for Second through Eighth Grade Students



We celebrate this sacrament during the Lenten season to heal, reconcile, and live in a right relationship with God and with others. Students will receive the sacrament in church on a date to be announced in early Lent.

† April 18th, Holy Thursday, 9:45AM, Grade 8 Living Stations of the Cross



To bring the school community into the sacred Holy Triduum in a unique and sincere way, grade eight students bring Jesus’ passion alive in this solemn prayer service. *Please join us for this annual tradition.*



St. Mary Visitation Catholic Parish School

2019 Family Lent Overview (continued)

Theme: Follow the Cross to Jesus



† Family & Student Lenten Resources

This year we are sending home resources for families with students in grades K5 – 5 to use at home, while also having our Jr. High students use a special Lenten Scripture Journal in Theology class time.

† Classroom Lenten Posters

Each homeroom class will have a special poster with the school's Lenten theme - *Follow the Cross to Jesus* - and logo displayed upon it. Students and teachers will sign the poster to remind them to live out this theme through each day of Lent. Our Lenten Posters will then be used each Wednesday morning of Lent as a special reminder for students to enter the school in silent union with Jesus.

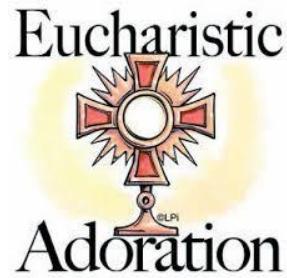
† Silent Entry Wednesdays

Students will enter the school silently while reflective music plays in the hallways, reflecting how they are to do small acts of kindness to “piece” together their faith in Jesus, especially during this Lenten season.



† Weekly Wednesday Classroom Prayer Services

Every Wednesday morning starting March 13th, (not on Ash Wednesday due to morning liturgy), each homeroom will do a Lenten prayer service at 7:45am in their classroom. At the end of these prayer services, students will reflect on how they are following Jesus this Lent.



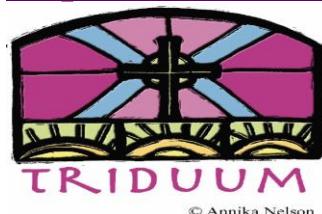
† Personal Lenten Adoration

Once again, this year all students will spend time praying in the Adoration Chapel to help them build a stronger prayer life with Jesus. This silent, holy prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament will be done at various times throughout this Lenten season.

† Grades 6-8 Wednesday Retreat Time

In each Wednesday's theology class time, students will reflect on their three Lenten promises on their Giving Chart in a retreat time in the church and Adoration Chapel. The three Lenten promises they will focus on are: 1) giving up something for Jesus; 2) spending more time in personal prayer; 3) serving others in a new and special way.

† April 18th - 21st, Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter



Triduum Prayer: Lord Jesus, your resurrection is a gift of salvation and hope. You overcame death and darkness with light and life so we might all live full lives here on Earth and rejoice with you some day in heaven. Amen

Lent: deeper prayer, sincere fasting, and selfless almsgiving.

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.