

VOLUME 16
ISSUE 6
February 2024

Claver's Chronicle

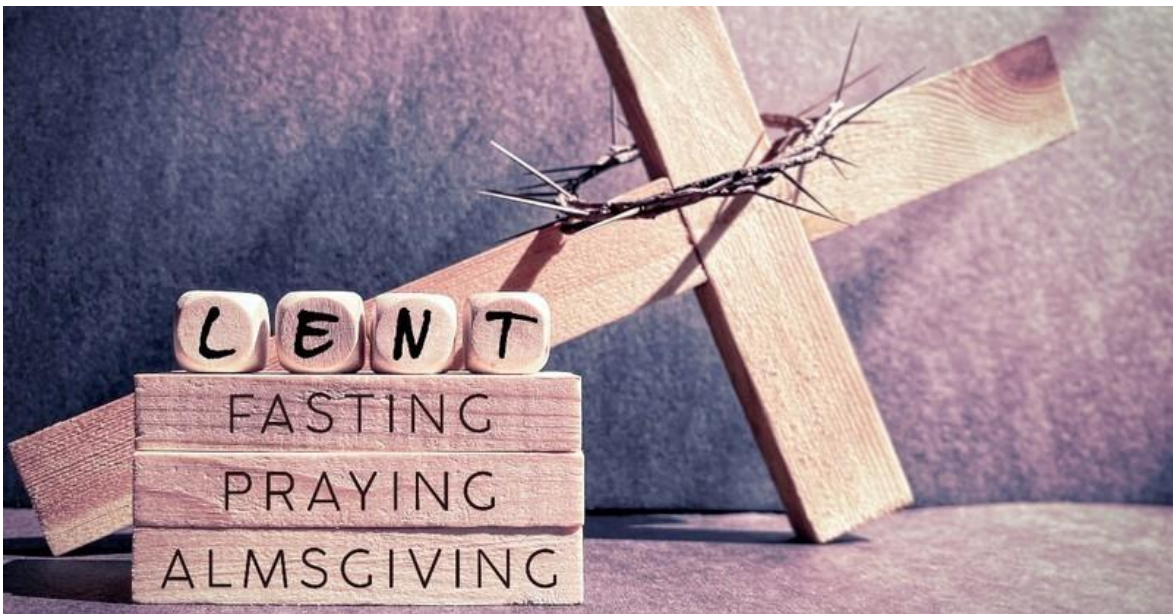
St. Peter Claver
PRESCHOOL &
KINDERGARTEN

February Already!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Open House last month. We had a great response and are already welcoming some new families for next year! February continues to keep us busy as we prepare for the new school year. Thank you to everyone who has chosen to stay. We are so excited to have you return. To those of you moving on, we wish you all the best and thank you for your support of our school.

Even though February is a shorter month, it is full of wonderful activities for you and your children.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th and is a period of time in the Church used for self-reflection and preparation for the resurrection of our Lord! We will have a prayer service on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 9am. All school children will be receiving ashes in the Church following a short prayer service. All parents are welcome too! Additionally, all students not in attendance that



day are invited to join us at the Church for this special service.

Please make sure to mark on your calendars that there will be no school on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Valentine's Day is Wednesday, February 14th. Please check with your teacher for any information they provide.

On Wednesday, February 21st we will host an inhouse field trip to the dentist. We will have a dental hygienist from Smiles West come to teach your children how to take care of their teeth. Children who do not normally attend school on Wednesdays may attend accompanied by their parent or guardian.

February Fun - Groundhog Day

Did you know that February 2 is Groundhog Day? Wikipedia says "Groundhog Day is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks; but if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, Spring will arrive early." This happens every year at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Hence, the little guy's name - Punxsutawney Phil.

Volunteer Hours

Remember! Everyone is obligated to do 20 Service Hours. At this point you should have completed 12 hours. The good news is there are about 4 more months left and more opportunities. Keep in mind, too, that service to our parish also counts!

Bingo Night



Every Thursday evening. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Paul Hopkins at (805) 390-7781 for Bingo.

Virtus & Fingerprinting

If you have any questions regarding Virtus training or fingerprinting, please call Kyle (805) 526-0680 or email her at: safeguard@saintpeterclaver.org

Inhouse Dental Field Trip

We will have a dental hygienist visit from Smiles West on Wednesday, February 21st at 9:30 am. Children who do not normally attend on Wednesdays are invited with their accompanying parent or guardian.



Questions



Do you have questions about our school? Office procedures?

Making payments and navigating Smart Care? Upcoming events? How you can volunteer?

On February 6th & 7th You can “Ask Ms. Rawd.” From 8:10 to 8:40 am you can come to the office.



Please come and join Mrs. Meyer in the staff room to discuss Principal matters or just stop by for a cup of coffee! from 10:15 to 11:00 am on February 7th & 15th.

Food Fundraiser!



Join us for a Fin-Tastic Fundraiser on Tuesday, February 13th 11 am-

8:00 pm! Enjoy Fin-tastic food & help raise money for our school. Please don't forget to bring the flyer and 20% Net Sales will benefit our school!

Happy Birthday!!

Mrs. Clare Feb 5th



Early Dismissal

Please remember, there is an early 12:30 pm Kindergarten dismissal this month on February 2nd. Followed by a 1:00 pm staff meeting.

No School

There will be no school in observance of Presidents' Day Monday February 19th.



Mother-Daughter Event



Did you ever wonder, Why Ashes?



Did you ever wonder why do we do this? Here are a few things to know from catholic online: “Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies ashes to a person’s forehead, he speaks the words: ‘Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’ Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, ‘Repent and believe in the Gospel.’ Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from palm branches taken from the previous year’s Palm Sunday Mass.”

Dates to Remember

2/2	12:30 pm KG dismissal, 1:00 pm Staff meeting.	2/7	100 th Days of school.
2/2	Groundhog’s Day.	2/13	Food Fundraiser.
2/3	Mother-Daughter Tea Party.	2/15	Coffee with the principal 10:15–11:00 am.
2/5	Happy Birthday! Ms. Clare.	2/19	No school - Presidents’ Day.
2/5 & 6	Ask Ms. Rawd 8:10 am to 8:40 am.	2/21	Inhouse Dental Field Trip.
2/7	Coffee with the principal 10:15–11:00 am.		

Who was St. Valentine?

The following is taken from catholicicing.com

“What is the Real Story of St. Valentine’s Day?

There may have been 2 or 3 saints with the name Valentine in the 3rd century, and the stories have become somewhat entangled over the years. That’s why it’s so hard to pin down St. Valentine’s story. Some historians claim they could have been the same person. Here’s what we know about his legend:

* Feast day February 14

- * Bishop of Terini, Italy
- * 3rd century Roman martyr
- * Imprisoned for secretly marrying soldiers that wanted to be wed at a time that soldiers were not allowed to have wives
- * Signed a letter to the jailer’s daughter “from your Valentine”
- * Healed his jailer’s daughter of blindness
- * Patron saint of couples, love, and bee keepers
- * Symbols: heart, birds, roses



40 Simple Lenten Activities for kids

Taken from callherhappy.com

1. **Make a prayer chain:** List 40 intentions or people on 40 slips of paper. Link them together into a chain. Rip off one each morning in Lent and pray for that need.
2. **Bury the Hallelujah:** Explain why we don't proclaim hallelujah during Lent. To symbolize, write out hallelujah on paper and bury it in the yard or put it away in a box.
3. **Temptation cookies:** While baking cookies, tell your children about the temptation of Jesus in the desert. When the cookies are done, leave them on the table, but they cannot eat them until the next day. Talk about how tempting this might be and what we can do to resist temptation.
4. **Memorize a prayer:** The act of contrition would be a good one for Lent, or pick any prayer with which you are unfamiliar.
5. **Color Easter eggs:** While you do, talk about why they are part of Easter. (They represent new life, representing Christ's resurrection from the dead).
6. **Watch an Easter related movie or show.** Vegetails or Storykeepers are just a couple of the many series that have Easter specials.
7. **Read Easter books:** Some favorites include The Crippled Lamb, The Story of Easter and The Legend of the Three Trees.
8. **Children's stations of the cross:** visit one, read one or color one.
9. **Pick a service activity:** It can be something small like paying for the person behind you in line, or do something bigger like visiting a nursing home to chat with residents. Talk about the Corporal Works of Mercy today.
10. **Make pretzels:** They symbolize arms crossed in prayer.
11. **Study the Saints of the day:** The dates of Lent are always changing so pick a day to do this and learn about a saint that day. Read his or her biography and maybe find a craft or a prayer to go along with your study.
12. **Make a tomb scene:** Like the one found here: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/8162843044733826/?z=1>
13. **Browse a Catholic book store.** Wander around and look for Easter and Lent related items. Maybe even treat your children to a small item.
14. **Visit a cemetery:** Find a family member in a cemetery and explain how Jesus died so this person could go to heaven.
15. **Go to church:** Not during Mass or adoration, just to explore the building.
16. **Adoration:** You might not be able to stay long, but try for 10 minutes or so. Before going, prep your child on what adoration is, how we behave and what is expected. Sit in silence for just a little while or help your child pray. Ask him what he thought of the experience after you leave.
17. **A daily Mass:** You might not be able to get the brood out of the house each day to do this, but pick one day to get up early and attend Mass on a weekday. Maybe even have a special breakfast at home afterwards.
18. **Rosary:** Catholics always pray the Sorrowful Mysteries during Lent. It may be hard to get wiggly kids to sit for this, but just practice. Maybe even find a guide for your child to follow along with. If you're feeling really ambitious, consider making your own Rosary while you pray it.
19. **Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Do this in the same way you did the Rosary. Use a guide if it helps. Or, listen to one using an app for your phone.
20. **Take Stock of Sacrifices:** Write a journal or talk about how your sacrifice is going this Lent. What can you do better? What are you doing well?
21. **Light a Candle at Church:** Let your child choose a special person to light a candle for.
22. **Dress in Purple:** Explain how purple is a color of mourning but also a color of royalty - Jesus the King.

23. **Write a Note to a Clergy Member:** Whether it be local or farther away, have your kids choose a person to write a letter to. Maybe your kid wants to write a thank you letter. It could even be a letter asking questions about our faith. You might get a great response!
24. **Get a Fast-Food Fish Sandwich:** This is the one time of year that advertisers take Catholics into account. I like to support that idea by feasting on some fatty goodness.
25. **Learn an Easter Song:** I like Christ the Lord is Risen Today, but I know there is also a Veggie Tales song you could use too.
26. **Make Hot Cross Buns:** They symbolize Christ's suffering on the cross.
27. **Plant something:** Plant flowers, a plant or Easter grass, take care of it and watch it grow. Talk about new life and rising from the grave.
28. **Make an Easter Basket for a Neighbor:** Fill it with your favorite treats and surprise your neighbor with your gift. Don't forget to add a prayer card!
29. **Make a Crown of Thorns:** I love the idea of taking out a thorn for each good deed your child does. <http://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-makean-easy-and-cheap-crown-of-thorns-for-lent/>
30. **Explain the Easter Bunny:** I also love these Scriptures that show what a "real Easter bunny" is. Act it out with a stuffed animal.
31. **Easter Coloring Pages:** Spend a day relaxing and coloring some cute pages.
32. **Read the Story of the Last Supper:** Either read it straight from Scripture or find a kid's version. Either way, prepare a nice meal for dinner, and read and discuss the story while you eat.
33. **Plan and Cook a Meatless Meal Together:** Obviously, save this one for a Friday. Go simple like mac n' cheese or try something more complicated that looks good to them. Explain why we abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent.
34. **Almsgiving Activity:** Create an almsgiving box and choose a charity to donate to. Save all of your change this season by putting it in your family's box. <http://www.loyolapress.com/almsgiving-box-activity-center.htm>
35. **Petting Zoo:** Visit a petting zoo, but make sure they have lambs or sheep. Talk about why we call Jesus the Sacrificial Lamb.
36. **Fill a Bag to Donate:** Declutter your house and make a donation to Goodwill. Toys, clothes, books, housewares, etc. are all fair game. This is part of almsgiving too.
37. **Make Resurrection Cookies:** Make sure you read the story along with it. <http://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-make-easterstory-cookies-with-a-printable-recipe/>
38. **Pick a Nice Outfit for Easter Mass:** Shop the closet or the store and talk about dressing our best for Jesus and the celebration of Easter.
39. **Go on a Garden Walk:** Explain the story of the Garden of Gethsemane while you meander.
40. **Attend a Passion Play:** Most churches have them. Look around at your local parishes. If you're more adventurous, try out for a part.



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