

Our Lenten Journey Has Begun!

Occasionally, Lent begins on Valentine's Day, as it did this year. So, this Ash Wednesday, we skipped the exchange of chocolates and focused on the message of Love. What better way to begin the Lenten journey of preparing our hearts for Jesus! Contemplating the three pillars of Lent, the R.E. students made resolutions to pray, make sacrifices, and do "40 days of Kindness". Second Graders learned to pray for others using the seven words that St. Elizabeth of the Trinity often used. Whenever Elizabeth was asked for prayers, she would petition Christ using the words that Martha and Mary, the beloved sisters of Lazarus, used when they sought help: "*Lord, the one you love is sick...*". The students wrote their prayers in the same manner and put them at the foot of the Cross. RCIC students took home Lenten Resolution Trackers and magnets to prominently post their trackers on the refrigerator as a daily reminder. Go to the R.E. webpage to get printable copies if you would like to use the tracker in your home.

Our parish community joined in prayer and fellowship for the Ashes & Pizza event. We were pleased to welcome over 150 guests! (Next year, we will order more pizzas!!) A special thank you to our RE families, including the students preparing to receive Confirmation and their parents, who volunteered to help with this event. We could not have done it without you!

Speaking of prayers, our Confirmation students attended the 9:00 a.m. Mass last Sunday and received a special blessing. As Fr. McCarthy proclaimed: "These students are the future of the Church." Thank you to the parents, godparents, sponsors, catechists, our clergy, and Deacon Matthew for being strong witnesses to our youth during their sacramental preparation. Throughout this Lenten season, let us continue to keep the newly confirmed students in our prayers.

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