



Faith in Action

Saint Martha Parish
Plainville, Massachusetts

Faith Formation Newsletter
November 2016



Grade 1



First grade is such a wonderful grade when just about everything is new! Children are practicing how to bless themselves and learning to pray the *Hail Mary* and *Our Father*. In the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies children are able to relate the

Gospels to their own lives as they learn about Jesus, friendships, and all that is around them.

Grade 2

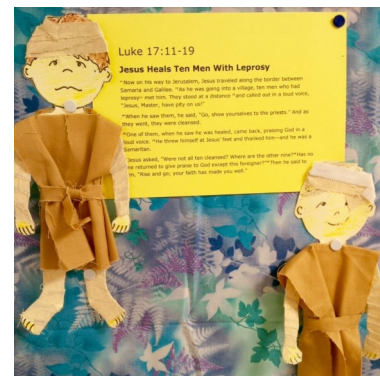
This is such a special year for our second graders as they prepare for two sacraments.... First Reconciliation and First Eucharist!

Students are currently focusing on First Reconciliation. They have been introduced to the Ten Commandments and will continue to discuss the difference between right and wrong and the power of forgiveness. Drawing from the Bible, they'll hear and even act out the story of the Prodigal Son as well as the story of Jesus giving the Holy Spirit to His people. Children at this grade level should also be working on mastering the Our Father and Hail Mary. Additional prayers include the Glory Be and Act of Contrition. It's very helpful and meaningful to children when parents pray with them at home as well.



Grade 3

With our new program, Grade 3 has been enjoying lots of hands-on activities. In addition to these lessons, some of the third graders have recently engaged in an Act of Mercy by making cards for the Veterans at the Plainville Senior Center.



Children are able to better understand the Gospels when they not only read them as scripts, but extend the lesson with an activity! Early this year, we saw Zacchaeus in

Grade 4 and 5



Students did a wonderful job hosting the first Class-sponsored Mass of the season!! The excitement was contagious!

Many of the classes in both grades discussed patron saints on All Saints Day and students learned that we are ALL called to be saints!



(Above) A student is locating passages from the Bible, a skill which will last a lifetime!!



Special thanks to students and families for contributing items to the Haiti Fund. Donations will be sent along to Haiti now.

Grade 6

(Below) A sixth grader, representing her table team, is delivering a sermon based on the approaching Sunday's Gospel.



We get lots done when we have our small teams!!



A total enriching experience having Deacon Joe join us during class to walk us through the Mass!! He also explained the use of various sacred items. (One of the advantages of meeting at St. Martha Church!)

Family Page



Having trouble getting your kids to go to Church?



Some Helpful Advice ...If you are having difficulty convincing your children that Mass is important, here are some thoughts or suggestions you can share with them.

*God asks us to give the first and best to Him. This includes giving the first hour of our week to Him through participation in the Sunday Mass. Is that too much to give to God who has given us everything?

*We don't necessarily go to Mass for our own personal enjoyment. We go to praise God and thank Him for all the good things He has given to us.

*The simple act of taking off your watch and leaving it on the dresser before going to Mass can be a symbolic gesture that the time in Mass is a gift of time that you are giving back to God.

*The Eucharist is a banquet to which Jesus personally invites us. It was Christ's last gift to us before He died. How often should we refuse His invitation?

- from the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Pope Francis on Mass: *The most important celebration for a family is Sunday Mass, which brings people "the grace of Jesus Christ, his presence, his love, his sacrifice, his making us a community, his being with us."*



Have fun while preparing for Christmas!

Advent is rich with sacred symbols. The Scriptures are filled with images of light and darkness, waiting and fulfillment. The color of the season is deep purple, reflecting the penitential and reflective nature of the season. Both the circular shape and the evergreen of the Advent wreath suggest eternal and everlasting life. Arrive a bit early at Mass each Sunday and look around your parish for the signs and symbols of the season. What do your kids notice? What do you notice?



Family Advent Activity



The Ringing of the Bells – Place a bell (or a cluster of sleigh bells) in a prominent place in your home. Draw names after Sunday Mass each week and pledge to do something nice for the family member whose name you choose. Each time you do something nice for that person ring the bells. Listen to the sound of kindness filling your house!

(from "Our Sunday Visitor")