

Religious Education Schedule

March/April 2011

- SUN. AM:** MARCH 27TH
GR. 1-4 APRIL 3RD & 10TH – LAST CLASS
10:05-10:55AM @ ST. V
- MON. PM:** MARCH 28TH
GR. 1-4 APRIL 4TH & 11TH – LAST CLASS
4:10-5:00PM @ STM
- GR. 5 & 6:** WED., MARCH 30TH
WED., APRIL 6TH & 13TH – LAST CLASS
4:10-5:00PM @ ST. V.
- GR. 7 & 8:** WED., MARCH 30TH
WED., APRIL 6TH & 13TH – LAST CLASS
7:00-8:00PM @ ST. V.
- CONF. I:** APRIL 3RD & 10TH
7:00 – 8:15PM @ ST. V.
GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 22ND
STATIONS IN THE STREET @ 12NOON - STM
- CONF. II:** APRIL 3RD & 10TH
7:00 – 8:15PM @ ST. V.
GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 22ND
STATIONS IN THE STREET @ 12NOON - STM

NEW ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

There will be a training session, for new altar servers with Fr. Taillon, on Sunday, April 3rd at 12Noon - St. Veronica for anyone in grades 4 to 10. Also, those already trained may come for a refresher class. Call the Parish Office, if interested.

FOOD COLLECTION

Next weekend is our monthly Food Collection. Items needed for the upcoming school vacation are: juice boxes, cans of juice, cereal, cookies, crackers, hot chocolate, jelly and packages of cheese slices, coffee, pasta, pasta sauce, spaghetti, baked beans, soups, canned fruit, canned meats/tuna fish, personal hygiene products and gift certificates. Please deposit items in the bins located at the Church entrances.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW YOUNG MISSIONARIES - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ORPHANAGE - INFORMATION NIGHT

On Sunday, April 3rd - 5:30PM at St. Thomas More Parish Hall, there will be a meeting for those who are interested in going on our DR Mission Orphanage trip- November 19th-25th. The trip is for junior or senior year high school students or students in our Confirmation II program. Please bring a parent with you.

EASTER SUNDAY TULIP SALE

FOR OUR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION

After all the Masses on Easter Sunday, April 24th and following the Easter Vigil – potted tulips will be available for sale. Proceeds will go to our Dominican Republic Orphanage Trip in the fall. More information to come.



FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

Federal & State Income Tax returns will once again be prepared free of charge at the Neighborhood Guild on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00AM-1:00PM – first come first serve (no appointments taken). Please bring last year's return and this year's supporting documents.

MOTHER OF HOPE DAY CAMP

Looking for a great, safe place to send your children to camp this summer? The Mother of Hope Day Camp, located on beautiful Echo Lake in Chepachet, RI, is a Catholic Charity Fund agency sponsored by the Diocese of Providence. Discounts are available for multiple children in the family. Please call 568-3580 for a brochure or for more information.

THE JOURNEY OF ST. PAUL

Immaculate Conception is sponsoring a theatrical presentation, "The Journey of St. Paul - from the darkness of sin to the light of life" on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00PM in the Church. For tickets - \$5.00/per person – for more info., call the Immaculate Conception Rectory at 596-2130. All are invited.

From the Blog of Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York . . . compelling thoughts.

It was only the third time it had happened to me in my nearly 35 happy years as a priest, all three times over the last nine-and-a-half years. Other priests tell me it has happened to them a lot more. Three is enough. Each time has left me so shaken I was near nausea.

It happened last Friday . . .

I had just arrived at the Denver airport, there to speak at their popular annual "living Our Catholic Faith" conference. As I was awaiting with the others for the electronic train to take me to the terminal, a man, maybe in his mid-40's, waiting as well, came closer to me.

"Are you a Catholic priest?" he kindly asked. "Sure am. Nice to meet you," says I as I offered my hand. He ignored it. "I was raised a Catholic," he replied, almost always a hint of a cut to come, but I was not prepared for the razor sharpness of the stiletto, as he went on, "and now, as a father of two boys, I can't look at you or any other priest without thinking of a sexual abuser."

What to respond? Yell at him? Cuss him out? Apologize? Deck him? Express understanding? I must admit all such reactions came to mind as I staggered with shame and anger from the damage of the wound he had inflicted with those stinging words. Well," I recovered enough to remark, "I'm sure sorry you feel that way. But, let me ask you, do you automatically presume a sexual abuser when you see a Rabbi or Protestant minister?" "Not at all," he came back through gritted teeth as we both boarded the train. "How about when you see a coach, or a boy scout leader, or a foster parent, or a counselor or a physician?" I continued.

"Of course not!" he came back. "What's all that got to do with it?"

"A lot," I stayed with him, "because each of those professions have as high a percentage of sexual abuse, if not even higher, than that of priests."

"Well, that may be," he retorted. "But the Church is the only group that knew it was going on, did nothing about it, and kept transferring the perverts around." "You obviously never heard the stats on public school teachers," I observed. "In my hometown of New York city alone, experts say the rate of sexual abuse among school teachers is ten times higher than that of priests, and these abusers just get transferred around."

To that he said nothing, so I went in for a further charge. "Pardon me for being so blunt, but when you look at yourself in the mirror do you see a sexual abuser?" Now he was taken aback as I had been two minutes before. "What the hell are you talking about?" "Sadly," I answered, "studies tell us that most children sexually abused are victims of their own fathers or other family members." Enough of the debate, I concluded. I tried to calm him down. "So, let me tell you what: when I look at you, I won't see a sexual abuser, and I would appreciate the same consideration from you." The train had arrived at baggage-claim, and we both exited together. "Well then, why do we only hear this garbage about you priests," he inquired, as he got more pensive.

"We priests wonder the same thing. For one, we priests deserve more intense scrutiny, because people trust us more as we dare claim to represent God, so when one of us does it – even if only a tiny minority of us ever have – it is more disgusting."

"Two, I'm afraid there are many out there who have no love for the Church, and are itching to ruin us. This is the issue they love to scourge us with. And three, I hate to say it," as I wrapped up, "there is a lot of money to be made in suing the Catholic Church, while it's hardly worth suing any of the other groups." We both had our luggage and headed for the door. He then put his hand out. We shook.

"Thanks. Glad I met you". He halted a minute. "You know, I think of the great priests I knew when I was a kid. And now, because I work in IT at Regis University, I know some devoted Jesuits. Shouldn't judge all you guys because of the horrible sins of a few." "Thanks!" I smiled.

I guess things were patched-up, because as he walked away, he added, "At least I owe you a joke: What happens when you can't pay your exorcist?" "Got me", I answered. "You get re-possessed!" We both laughed and separated. Notwithstanding the happy ending, I was still trembling as I had to confront again the horror this whole mess has been to victims and their families, our Catholic people like the man I had just met . . . and to us priests.

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