Celebrate Mardi Gras!

Dear Friend of Annunciation Parish & School,

Our annual Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Celebration is Tuesday, February 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. in church with Shrove Tuesday Evening Prayer and the Burning of Palm. It is from the burning of the blessed palm which we received last year on Palm Sunday that we get the ashes which are blessed and distributed on Ash Wednesday.

Evening Prayer is followed by our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Celebration in our cafeteria and gym. Join us for all you can eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce, beverages, and Mardi Gras desserts. This family-friendly celebration also includes crafts such as making Mardi Gras crowns.

Admission for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Celebration is $5.00 per person. There is no charge for children 2 and under, and there is a $15.00 per family maximum. All are welcome! You can pay at the door. Learn more about Carnival, Shrove Tuesday, and Mardi Gras, here.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres
Director of Faith Formation

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 1st is Ash Wednesday. Mass with the distribution of Ashes will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Annunciation school students and faculty will participate in our 8:15 a.m. Mass. Lent is a penitential season in our Church, and ashes have long been associated with doing penance. On Ash Wednesday the ashes from last year’s palm branches are blessed and placed on our forehead in the sign of a cross. These ashes, a sacramental, are a visible sign for us to turn away from sin and follow Christ.

Special points of interest:
- Since the Rex Parade in 1872, the colors for Mardi Gras celebrations are green (faith), purple (justice), and gold (power).
- Sunday, March 12, is Annunciation’s 3rd Annual CRS Rice Bowl “Taste and See” event
- Follow us on Facebook to get all our latest news and see all our latest photos!
CRS Rice Bowl 2017

Our parish-wide and school-wide Annunciation Outreach Project for the Season of Lent will once again be our participation in CRS Rice Bowl.

“More than 40 years ago, Catholics in the United States wanted to respond to famine in Africa. Could people who were hungry and starving be helped through Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving? The answer was yes — and the help came in the form of a small cardboard box, marking the beginning of ‘Operation Rice Bowl’ 41 years ago in parishes in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Today, CRS Rice Bowl is a tradition for millions of Catholics in the U.S., who employ the Lenten pillars of praying, fasting and almsgiving to change the lives of others while enriching their own. CRS Rice Bowl is available in paper, web and through a mobile app in both English and Spanish. In 1976, Operation Rice Bowl was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a national program. In 1977, they voted to make Operation Rice Bowl the official program of Catholic Relief Services.” (From CRS Rice Bowl)

This year, CRS Rice Bowl will be using collected funds to support projects in the following areas: India, Zambia, El Salvador, Mexico, Ethiopia, and locally (see an example of CRS at work in the USA in Honolulu).

CRS Rice Bowl is a very interactive process, linking home, parish, and school in reaching out to those in our world living in poverty and hunger. Annunciation parishioners will receive their Rice Bowls and Lenten Calendar Guides inserted in our Parish Bulletin on Sunday, February 26th. Annunciation school students will receive their Rice Bowls and Lenten Calendar Guides on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. Rice Bowl donations from school students will be blessed at Mass on April 12th. Rice Bowl donations from parishioners will be Blessed at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on April 13th.

Make the most of all the wonderful interactive CRS Rice Bowl resources, including video and background information on the featured countries, recipes from each country, world poverty information, and much more! And join us in our Annunciation cafeteria after our 11:00 a.m. Mass Sunday, March 12th for our 3rd annual CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Luncheon.

Upcoming Events

♦ Monday, February 27, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: School Faculty Faith Formation In-Service
♦ Monday, February 27, 1:00 p.m.: Help decorate for Mardi Gras
♦ Tuesday, February 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Annunciation Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Celebration
♦ Wednesday, March 1: Ash Wednesday
♦ Thursday, March 2, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Stations of the Cross
♦ Thursday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.: Baptism Preparation
♦ Tuesday, March 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m.: Christian Formation Commission Meeting
♦ Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.: Holy Hour
♦ Thursday, March 9, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Stations of the Cross
♦ Thursday, March 9, 7:00-8:00 p.m.: First Communion Preparation

Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Day

What is Shrove Tuesday? Why eat pancakes on this day? The word “shrove” comes from a word that means “to have your sins forgiven.” In older times, people would celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday), and also ask forgiveness from one another. For their penance, they would keep the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In these times, fasting laws were much stricter than they are now. No oil, fat, meat, dairy products, etc., were eaten at all during Lent. To use up these supplies you had at home, you made pancakes to eat before Lent began.

Through the centuries, Christians all around the globe have celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday as Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day! This day is also called Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, because it is the last chance to eat all the forbidden foods of Lent! Even the ingredients in pancakes have a spiritual significance: eggs symbolize creation; flour is the staff of life; salt represents wholesomeness; and, milk symbolizes purity.