

February 17, 2010



ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

FIAT PARENT NEWS

The Season of Lent

Dear Parents,

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17th this year) and continues until sundown on Holy Thursday (April 1st this year). We say that Lent lasts for 40 days. But if you pick up your calendar and count the days from February 17th to April 1st, you come up with 44! Why the discrepancy? Because the 40 days are counted beginning the first Sunday of Lent (February 21st this year). The four days from Ash Wednesday to the first Sunday of Lent are like a time of preparation for the 40 days of Lent.

The word Lent means springtime. It comes from an Old English word for spring, *lengten*. It almost sounds like the word lengthen. This is the time of year when our daylight hours are lengthening day by day.

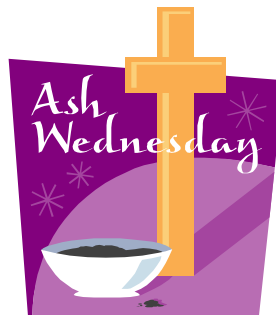
Lent is all about baptism. It is a time of immediate preparation for Easter baptism for RCIA Elect around the world. It is a time for all the baptized to prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. Through the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving we are all preparing to celebrate the Paschal Triduum.



Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres
Director of Faith Formation

Ash Wednesday



This Wednesday, February 17th, is Ash Wednesday. Mass with the distribution of Ashes will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Annunciation school students and faculty will participate in our 8:00 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.

FIAT: Faith In Action Today

**Annunciation Parish & School
Religious Education/Faith Formation News**

**Dr. Sandra Chakeres
Director of Faith Formation**

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Special points of interest:

- Visit our Annunciation Parish web site, www.annunciationbvmparish.org, to view over 300 photos from our February 7th Centennial Jubilee Celebration!
- Liturgical catechesis on Thursday mornings during Lent will focus on the traditional Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Join us Thursdays from 9:30-10:15 a.m. for Morning Prayer and Liturgical Catechesis.

**Icon at top left of page: Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation), 16th Century, Russian Heritage, Location: Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Used with permission of St. Isaac of Syria Skete (Orthodox Byzantine Icons, Inc.); 25266 Pilgrims Way, Boscobel, WI 53805 www.skete.com

Operation Rice Bowl

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

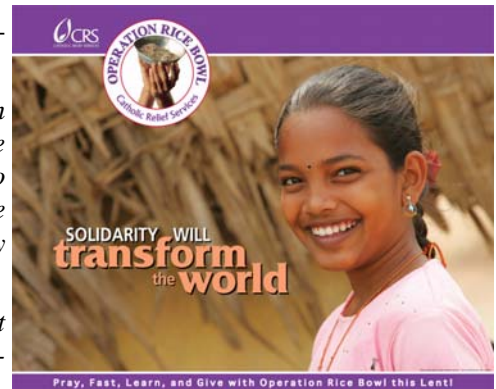
“Operation Rice Bowl, the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, began in 1975 in the Diocese of Allentown, PA as a response to the drought in the African Sahel. For 35 years, Operation Rice Bowl has called participants to pray with their families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty around the world, and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

Operation Rice Bowl offers Catholics in the United States a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. We believe that through solidarity the world can be transformed.

Over the past 35 years, \$191 million has been collected through Operation Rice Bowl to support CRS’ development projects that improve people’s ability to access food in communities around the world and in the United States. Each Lent, nearly 14,000 faith communities across the United States participate in Operation Rice Bowl as a way to foster solidarity with the poor around the world.” (From Operation Rice Bowl)

This year, Operation Rice Bowl will be using collected funds to support projects in the following areas: Lesotho, Bolivia, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Ethiopia and the Archdiocese of Portland in the United States.

Operation 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 received their Rice Bowls and Home Calendar Guides inserted in our Parish Bulletin this past Sunday, February 14th. Annunciation school students will receive their Rice Bowls and Home Calendar Guides at Morning Prayer this Thursday, February 18th. Rice Bowl donations for both parish and school will be collected on Holy Thursday, April 1st. Visit our Annunciation Parish web site, www.annunciationbvmparish.org, for more information!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Wednesday, February 17th, 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.: Ash Wednesday Mass & Distribution of Ashes
- ◆ Thursday, February 18th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Liturgical Catechesis
- ◆ Thursday, February 18th, 7:00 p.m.: First Communion Preparation
- ◆ Tuesday, February 23rd, 2:45-4:00 p.m.: School Faculty Faith Formation Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, February 25th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Liturgical Catechesis
- ◆ Thursday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m.: RCIA Gathering for anyone interested in becoming Catholic
- ◆ Sunday, February 28th, 10:10-10:50 a.m.: Sunday Sowers
- ◆ Tuesday, March 2nd, 7:00 p.m.: Christian Formation Commission Meeting

***It's Happening at
Annunciation!***

Jubilee Art

Annunciation received wonderful works of art as gifts for our 100th Jubilee Celebration. At liturgical catechesis last Thursday, Father Grogan helped our school students enter into the story of each work of art. Did you know that our school students themselves, under the direction of art teacher Kathy Chabot, created numerous icons as gifts for our Centennial Jubilee? Thank you, Jubilee artists!

