



## Lent Reflections & Sacrifice

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to embark on the season of Lent next week, I would like to share with you the following quote from St. Ignatius of Loyola on the Spiritual life:

*“Let each one remember that he will make progress in all spiritual things only insofar as he rids himself of self-love, self-will, and self-interest.”*

That was back in 1548, and it still rings true today. More so does Ash Wednesday begin the new year to people of faith over January 1st, as we are invited to look within ourselves and root out the habits, attitudes, and behaviors that keep us from connecting with God and preclude us from becoming our true selves that He intends us to be. To encourage this self reflection, I am passing out special Lent calendars to our students for them to examine anything they should give up for Lent or add to their life for Lent to improve their character and develop their faith. Talk with your students about these things, so they do not disrupt family life, and I would encourage you to give up or add something, too, that you go through a similar journey together over the next 40 days. Ash Wednesday is next week on **Feb 14th**; There will be a special service in the **Sanctuary at 6:00PM** that Sonrise will sing at.

Good Luck!

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## Pancakes for Puerto Rico

Next **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**, is Fat Tuesday, and the Youth Ministry is hosting our next Pancake Feed fundraiser for M&M from

5:00-7:00PM in the FLC. All students and sponsors going on the trip to Puerto Rico need to sign up to help at either shift from **4:15-6:15PM** or **6:00-8:00PM**. You can do that directly through this portal: <http://signup.com/go/fkkJKJm>. We are also



### Volunteering:

#### Fish Fry

Details to the back.---->

#### Spring Afterglows

We are in the process of plotting out the host homes of all of our Sr. High Afterglows for the next 4 months. We are looking for a Sr. High family that can provide a place where we can come & hang out after Solid Ground on the third Sunday: **Feb 18, Mar 18, April 22** from **6:00-7:30**. Could this be you?

#### Special Thanks:

Thanks be to all of you who helped serve in the Sunshine Cafe in January! We earned \$100 for our efforts for M&M, plus \$380 for the T-Rex coin jar battle. **We will probably do it again in April.** Thanks you also **Bob Batt, Stacey Hawk, Linda Crawford, Alicia Juarez, & Nancy Wilson** for helping us serve the Ronald McDonald House last month.

looking for any adults who may be free to help us make pancakes ahead of the rush that afternoon from 2:00-5:00PM. Whether you are serving or not, please support our event. **The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for kids.** This includes unlimited pancakes, assorted toppings, and entertainment. Bacon will also be available for an additional \$1.00 per slice. (M&M bound students please also know that you need to bring \$10.00 a piece to front the cost of the pancake supplies, if you have not done so already.)

## Fish Fry /Hang Times

On top of Fat Tuesday Pancakes bringing in some money to our trip coffers, so will the Fish Fry. For the past several years, St. John's has hosted a special Fish Fry on Friday nights during Lent, and it has become a very



large and successful event that brings in a lot of new families through the doors of our church. The Puerto Rico Trip will be earning the money from the table tip jars, in exchange for some additional volunteer help to run the event(s). We are looking for 5-8 students and adults to serve on each shift 4:00-5:30 and 5:30-7:00 on the nights of Feb 23 & March 16. Please mark your calendars now; a [signup.com](#) link will be coming out soon. We will probably be helping to clear tables and pour drinks, but more importantly we will be supporting a larger ministry of the church, representing the youth of our church, and making some money for the trip all at the same time. Plus, each volunteer gets a free dinner (\$12.00 worth). Then we will have a Hang Time up in the youth area afterwards from 7:00-9:30PM to play games, watch movies, and hang out after the dinner is done.

## Camp details and packing

Camping season is upon us! Don't miss the deadlines and know what to pack: You will need: your General Annual Notarize Release, plus cash for dinner on the way down & lunch on the way back, plus your personal stuff: **sleeping bag, pillow, shower shoes, towel, toiletries, underwear, cold weather clothes, coat, gloves, hat.** We depart from the small West



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## Upcoming:

### CCYM Camp

Sr. High, we are going to camp this weekend **Feb 9-11**. Show up ready to go at 3:30PM in the small parking lot..

### ROC Camp

The Mid High ROC camp is coming up on **March 2-4th**. Lives are changed at camp through the dynamic worship, games, small groups, and deep spiritual focus. Registration forms are available at church or on the church website. Scholarships are available. **the Deadline is Wednesday Feb 14th.**

### Easter Vigil

The night before Easter, **March 31st**, we have a special over night contemplative prayer experience for our ministry tied in with an nocturnal egg hunt. **9:00PM-7:00AM**. Ask for more details—God does amazing things this night.

Parking lot at 3:30 for both camps; all checks payable to St. John's.