

**Religious Ed. Office**  
Mon. – Fri. 10:00am – 4:00pm  
Phone: 717-235-2156, Option # 1  
reled@sjbnf.org  
Sr. Jane Keller SSJ,

# Religious Education March 2025



The Lenten season begins on Wednesday, March 5th with the distribution of Ashes reminding us of our need to repent and believe in the Gospel. During the next few weeks of Lent, your child along with our parish family, those in our OCIC and OCIA who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation into full communion, along with the entire Church throughout the world will be entering into a more intentional and spiritual journey in preparation for the great Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving may our faith grow stronger by increasing our love for God and others, stretching our hearts to be more charitable, and making our celebration of Easter more meaningful.

In addition to receiving a personal Lenten reflection aid, each student will be asked to accept a "Lenten Sacrifice Box" to be used on a weekly basis. The children should bring their sacrifice offerings to class each week. Please help your child to be creative as to how they will meaningfully translate their sacrifices into monetary offerings. These offerings will be used to assist our Parish Outreach Programs. By participating, the children assist as good stewards of God's gifts, and blessings. They join with our entire Parish Community in furthering the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me."  
(Mt 25:40)*



## Religious Education Registration For the 2025-2026 School Year

Registration Forms will be electronically mailed to all registered families in early March. It is our hope that all forms will be returned by June 1st. Forms will also be available on St. John's Web Site. If you do not receive a form or have difficulty with the web site, please call the Rel. Ed. Office at 717- 235-2156, Option # 1. **Catechist Teams are also needed per grade level.** If you can assist or if you know someone who loves their Faith and would like to assist as a Catechist, Aide, Teen Assistant etc. please take the time to personally invite them to serve with us in passing on the Faith to our Youth. Lots of Volunteers are needed to assist with the ministry of Religious Ed here at St. John's.

## Spring Fundraiser to benefit St. John's

Thank you for supporting St. John's by participating in our **On-Line Parish Auction** beginning on Wed. March 26th and continuing until Wednesday, April 2nd. Religious Ed will be preparing a **"Gardening Basket"** in support of this event. Please assist us in preparing this basket. Gardening items as well as donations for purchasing items and gift cards are being accepted until Thursday March 13th.

## Free Pasta Dinner for Feast of St. Joseph

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will be hosting a meatless Free Pasta Dinner with salad and dessert on Saturday, March 15th at 6:30pm in the Fr. Capitani Social Hall. For reservations please call, Text or email Deb Cousin at 717-676-0148, [deb.cousin@verizon.net](mailto:deb.cousin@verizon.net)

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Adult Formation

St. John's is offering a series of Level I Information and Training sessions this spring and summer, for interested Parents, and Adults, who wish to assist with Good Shepherd classes and/or wish to attend as Parents desiring to strengthen their "Domestic Church". Classes will begin meeting on Sat. May 10th. If interested, please call the Rel. Ed Office at 717-235-2156 Option # 1. We're pleased to be able to offer this Faith Formation Catechesis to all our 3 Year Olds through Grade 2 here at St. John's Religious Ed (and through Gr. 6 within our school).

## Eat-In and Take-out Lenten Dinners

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting Lenten Dinners on March 28th and April 11th from 4pm-7pm at the Capitani Social Hall. Menu: Service is Dine-In or Take-Out.

## Sacrament Prep Retreat Days

Grade 1 Retreat Day - Sat. Mar. 29th 9:30am-12:00  
For Students only  
Grade 2 Retreat Day - Sat. April 12th 8:30am – 2:00  
For Students only

## Sacrament Celebration Dates

Confirmation	Sun. March 2nd – 2:00pm
First Reconciliation	Sat. March 8th 10:00am
OCIA/OCIC	Easter Vigil Sat. April 19th
First Communion	Sat. April 26th 11:00am

## Lenten Services

- **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed Every Friday evening during Lent—at 7:00pm
- **Lenten Penance Services- for students** Wed. and Thurs. April 2-3
- **Parish Lenten Penance Service** Tues April 15 Parish Lenten Penance Service 7:00pm

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 2nd – 2:00pm Confirmation  
Mar. 5th – Ash Wednesday - Lent begins  
Mar. 7th – Stations of the Cross (all Fridays during Lent)  
Mar. 15th – (Free) Pasta Dinner for Feast of St. Joseph  
Call Deb C. @ 717-676-0148 to reserve  
Mar. 17th- St. Patrick's Day -Patron of our Diocese  
Mar. 19th – Feast of St. Joseph  
Mar. 28th and April 11th – Lenten Dinners  
Mar. 29th – Grade 1 Retreat Day 9:30-12:00  
Mar. 30th – Grade 2 Family Prayer #5, 12:15 MC  
April 13th – Palm Sunday – HOLY WEEK  
April 17-18-19 Sacred Triduum– Easter Vigil  
April 20th – Easter Sunday

**Lenten Blessings!**

