

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR IMPORTANT MASS TIME CHANGES AT ADA!
THEY BEGIN NEXT WEEK! LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Serving the Poor: A Basic Ministry of the Church

It is September, and that means not only that autumn is coming, but that it's also our turn, here at Our Lady of Lourdes, to chip in and help out with our local Ada Food Pantry! Our parish works with other local churches such that we are counted upon each year in September and in March to provide volunteers to staff the food pantry when it is open twice a week throughout the month (Tuesdays 4-6 pm, and Saturdays 10-12 am). This is an important social justice outreach, and since I take social justice issues seriously as a pastor, I have already personally helped out several times at our Food Pantry over the past year. It is a great ministry – there truly are a good number of folks in our community who come seeking food and assistance – but I have noticed that our parish commitment hours are staffed by the same relatively few (very generous) persons each week. Part of the Gospel of Jesus is to love our neighbor and serve the poor. It is a call that is directed to each of us. And I personally know how important it is; I grew up in a poor household in rural New York State with my father on a meagre disability income, and so my family benefited from food given out by our local government surplus food program. Food help does make a difference to struggling families. So, please offer a couple of hours this month and sign up to assist in this important social justice corporal work of mercy to benefit our local poor!

DON'T FORGET: The RCIA: Let's Invite Folks to Come!

In a few weeks, our Hardin County parishes will once again offer the "RCIA" program. "RCIA" stands for "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults." It is a process for non-Catholics who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith to do so in a friendly, prayerful, environment. The "RCIA" seeks to invite inquirers into a deeper relationship with Jesus as disciples in the context of the community of believers that goes back to the Apostles, known as the Catholic Church. The RCIA incorporates several important elements of being disciples: coming to know Jesus more personally through prayer and the sacraments, learning more about His teachings on God and a life of virtue and holiness, and learning how to give worship to God in the Holy Mass. The RCIA strives to meet people "where they are", and we recognize that different inquirers come with different faith backgrounds and life experiences. Logistically, the RCIA will meet at each parish on Sunday evenings beginning in September and will continue until Easter. Typically, at the Easter Vigil Mass, an inquirer then receives Baptism (if not already baptized in another Christian community), Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. But a longer process of discernment and preparation can be arranged if needed. Again, the RCIA strives to help people enter the flock of the Catholic Church in a way that best suits their needs, as they come closer to the Good Shepherd.

I am making our parish aware of the RCIA because we need your help with an important task: please encourage those you know who have expressed curiosity about the Catholic faith to take part in the RCIA. Let them know that it is a wonderful opportunity to come, to learn, to ask questions, to pray, and to meet others who are undergoing a similar journey of faith. If they wish to talk to me or to our parish RCIA directors privately ahead of time regarding any questions or concerns, they are welcome to do so. But as parishes called to evangelize and to spread the faith here in Hardin County, we are counting on all parishioners to encourage someone you know who is seeking a deeper faith experience with Jesus, to check out the RCIA. For more information or questions, any person is welcome to contact me or our RCIA directors (Desiree Tosatto at Ada, and Stacey Stacklin at Kenton) by calling the respective parish office. Thanks for your support of the New Evangelization!

THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by “Jackie”, the Pastor’s Cat



Hi boys and girls! My name is “Jackie”, and as you know, I am Father Ferguson’s cat! Oooh! Oooh! I am really excited! This week is the County Fair! That’s right! I love going to fairs. I sometimes sit for hours watching the Ferris wheel (we cats love watching things go around in circles); I love to walk by the chicken pens to taunt and scare them (don’t tell Father; I know that’s not nice!) and I love to indulge in the great food: things like deep-fried tuna and sugar-coated mouse ears! Yum! I hear they even have a cat show. I would enter it, but as the most famous cat in Hardin County, I might have an unfair advantage. I want to give the other cats a chance! There’s even a place where our Catholic churches will tell folks how wonderful our parishes are! What do you like most about the County Fair? It’s a great chance to hang out with your family and friends and favorite cats and to take joy in all the blessings God has granted to our local community. Have fun at the Fair! Have a “purr”-fect week!

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

PSR PARENTS AND TEACHERS:

- ❖ Pick up your PSR packet from the counter in the kitchen! The packet includes a letter from Fr. Ferguson and the message about the Mass time changes, a PSR calendar and PSR notes, and a PSR Registration form.
- ❖ **Classes begin Sunday, September 15**
- ❖ Classes are 9:45 am until 10:45 am. Children and teachers in attendance for the new 8:30 Mass will be dismissed from Mass to go to class. Those not in attendance for that early Mass need to have children here by 9:35 or 9:40 so classes can begin promptly at 9:45.
- ❖ Grades are divided as follows: Kindergarten and Grade 1 students; Grade 2 (First Reconciliation and First Communion) students; Grades 3 and 4 students; Grades 5 & 6 students; Grade 7 (Confirmation preparation) students. *These grades all meet in the classrooms upstairs above the parish hall.* Grades 8-12 students are combined and gather in the parish hall.
- ❖ Registration forms may be returned in the basket on the table in the vestibule, by mail to the parish office at 222 E. Highland Ave, or in the offertory collection. **WE MUST HAVE CURRENT REGISTRATION FORMS FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, NEW OR RETURNING!**
- ❖ We are continuing with our current practice of having the last Sunday of each month (and a few extra Sundays around Christmas and Easter) “off” and encourage you to enjoy these Sundays as “Family Sundays”
- ❖ Our catechists are all volunteers and we very much appreciate their dedication to helping you, the parents, in the religious education of your children. It is of eternal consequence! Thank you to Shelleigh Alexander and Rachel Klear, leaders of OLLY – Our Lady of Lourdes Youth, Grades 8-12; to Adam and Kristen Ferguson who prepare our Seventh Graders for Confirmation; Mike Milks of Grades 5 & 6, Deb Driscoll Grades 3 & 4, Cara Tobe and Felicite Yuhasz with Kindergarten and First Grade, and to Bob Yuhasz who prepares our Second Graders for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.
- ❖ And thank you to Fr. Ferguson for your guidance and for your care of our precious children and young people!
- ❖ Pray for Us!
- ❖ We do not charge any fees for PSR; we have taken on that responsibility as a parish: Remember the PSR in your quarterly Parish Religious Education Fund (PREF) envelopes!