

Did you know that...

... the annual Easter Egg Hunt will start in the cafeteria at 11:15 AM for K to 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Parents can join us for a little activity or meet us at 11:45 when we will walk over to the courtyard beside the Church where the Easter Eggs are being scattered about by the Easter Bunny and the Men's Club, who are the sponsors!

...over 45 people are participating in one of our 3 separate weekly sessions of the Bible Timeline series and enjoying it!!!- "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible" and that you are welcome to sit in with us this Sunday at 10:45 AM in the gym?

... March 11<sup>th</sup> is Parents Night Out/Kids Night In? Are your children signed up yet?

... <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/031316-fifth-sunday-lent.cfm> - offers the **Sunday Mass readings – please share with your children!!!!!!**

... your kids can do random acts of mercy any time; and would like to be encouraged by your example – so share some experiences with them?

...Catholic Underground was a big hit; and that you really have to go check this out!

...<http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>

...Sr Danielle will be speaking at 7:30 PM on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Come and be inspired by her great reflections!

...Fr Daniel Gatti from the Jesuits will lead an afternoon retreat on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist on Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> starting with 12:30 Mass

...March 20<sup>th</sup> is hospitality Sunday for parents, students and teacher of Confirmation class

...March 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM is the annual Good Friday Stations of the Cross. Join us as we walk through the neighborhood: children and adults should join in!!!!

...of course you knew about all these things!!

# Discipleship

Dear Parents:

Attachment comes from selfish love; it stands in the way of every good and holy desire and perpetrates every sort of evil. Since we never know how much time we have on earth, throw off all selfish love and sensual attachment. Think not of untying but rather of cutting. Take up in one hand a knife that has two edges, hatred and love – love for virtue and hatred and contempt for vice and for the world and for your sensuality. This is how you will prove you are a courageous person, not lukewarm or indifferent. Respond, respond to God, who is calling you with good holy inspirations. *Written in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by St. Catherine of Siena who was a Dominican sister, Stigmatist and papal counselor.*

Last Fall I introduced the concept of the Year of Mercy convoked by Pope Francis. He called for this special moment of grace because he believes that we, the Church and society need to be more open to mercy and that we need to share this aspect of faith with others.

<https://youtu.be/ZcXX9A2W3jQ>

Two 3 minute videos on the Jubilee Year of Mercy

<https://youtu.be/IYv4BUwytA0>

In order to bring to your child more of an awareness of the importance of the daily practice of mercy we will give each child a wrist band this Sunday that will say on it “Random Acts of Mercy” – in other words this will serve as a reminder that they should be merciful towards others at various times of the day, week and month and throughout this special Jubilee Year.

Above is a list of the traditional Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Obviously some are more accessible than others for your children. Try and encourage what seems reasonable. They don’t have to do all of them. We are just trying to raise the consciousness in our Parish family in this area of faith development!

- **Lenten Adult Bible study will begin in February** (this will be done in a combination video and discussion format). You will learn within a few weeks the main story of salvation history from Adam and Eve through to Christ, the 14 Narrative books of the Bible, 68 key events, and the key events in world history that coincide with Bible history. Check the bulletin or send me an email [amacdonnell@arcol.org](mailto:amacdonnell@arcol.org) if you want to know more.
- <http://ascensionpress.com/t/category/study-programs/catholic-bible-study/adult-bible-study/unlocking-the-mystery> . Check out this two minute promo video for this Lent’s special family formation sessions: Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible!
- <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/> Sign up and reserve a short message each day to motivate you for Lent

Please consider joining us during one of the following times:

Option 1: Tuesdays, starting February 16th at 10:45 AM in the Church Conference Room

Option 2: Sundays, starting February 21st at 10:45 AM in the school cafeteria

Option 3: Wednesday, starting February 17<sup>th</sup> in the evening at 7:30 PM in the Old Convent – Men only

Option 4: If you would like to do this course on your own or with a group of friends in your home on another day contact Tony ([amacdonnell@arcol.org](mailto:amacdonnell@arcol.org))

God bless,

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## *Areas of Interest and Upcoming Events*

- Here is a good Lenten reflection link from a friend of mine who is a seminarian in the Archdiocese of New York: Eric Wandrey: <http://godlights.me/2016/02/04/an-idea-for-lent-more-leisure/>

Video about Lent in two minutes <http://bustedhalo.com/video/ash-wednesday-in-two-minutes>

<http://godlights.me/2016/01/13/david-bowie-shakespeare-death-and-hope/>.

The Holy Doors associated with the Jubilee Year of Mercy officially opened in our Archdiocese on Sunday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at St Patrick's Cathedral and at Old St. Patrick's Cathedral in Lower East Manhattan.

<http://archny.org/mercy>

<https://youtu.be/ZcXX9A2W3jQ>

Two 3 minute videos on the Jubilee Year of Mercy

<https://youtu.be/IYv4BUwytA0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtBsl3j0YRQ>

David Steindl-Rast: Want to be happy? Be grateful

Published on Nov 27, 2013

The one thing all humans have in common is that each of us wants to be happy, says Brother David Steindl-Rast, a monk and interfaith scholar. And happiness, he suggests, is born from gratitude.

An inspiring lesson in slowing down, looking where you're going, and above all, being grateful.

Catholic Underground in Manhattan, <http://catholicunderground.net/> (First Saturday of month)

Children's Choir sign up - please reach out to me if you have any questions ([amacdonnell@arcol.org](mailto:amacdonnell@arcol.org)) meets at 8:50 am in the choir loft.

Pflaum Publishing is the main program our teachers use for your child's Sunday lesson.

The two exceptions are the classes on the Sacraments: First Communion and Confirmation.

All parents, no matter the grade will find that the link below is a complimentary resource for

the work we do with all of the parish children.

[http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new\\_page/parent\\_guide.php](http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new_page/parent_guide.php)

[http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new\\_page/index.php](http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new_page/index.php)

This part of the Pflaum website also gives you access to more resources to reinforce the weekly lessons done by the Catechist.

<https://youtu.be/ZcXX9A2W3jQ>

Two 3 minute videos on the Jubilee Year of Mercy

<https://youtu.be/IYv4BUwytA0>

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2015/11/05/kids-technology-addiction/>

Short Article: My kid, the Ipad Junkie

<http://whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com/>

All of Pope Francis' US talks are found on this website with YouTube channel links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jx447QYpwF8>

(4 minute video about how to be aware of the reality that God is acting in your life... so that you can hear his voice)

Fr. Albert Haase's short video link will give you some insight about how we can become aware of God's presence in our daily life.

<http://www.aleteia.org/en/religion/article/afraid-to-celebrate-halloween-dont-worry-its-very-christian-5862367938215936>

Short article on some Christian links with Halloween

<http://www.aleteia.org/en/religion/video/video-jesuit-priest-talks-about-real-life-exorcism-5832751722790912>

A Jesuit priest reflects (3minutes & 45 seconds) on the actual person possessed in the movie the Exorcist

### **Reminder about a basic "God Plan" for the New Year:**

So what's your plan for the New Year? It's that time of year when we make new diet plans, exercise plans, spring vacation plans and maybe a new house budget. How about a God plan? I know you are intentional about all of the areas above, otherwise nothing new would ever happen in your family. I would like to invite you to consider putting some New Year's energy into a God plan. God waits patiently for us to take steps towards Him in response to the many graces he presents to us in our daily lives. Grace is all around us; assuring us that one of the characteristics of God is his omnipresence(He is everywhere). In other words we are never not in the presence of God. The challenge to each of us is to recognize these ongoing daily encounters and their meaning for our lives and families!

Here are a few simple steps I personally use each day. They may help you and your children become

more aware of God's presence in your daily life:

1. Morning: when you get up encourage yourself and your children to say hello to God and to be grateful for something or someone! Encourage yourself and children to say something complimentary to others before they go to school – build up a habit of thinking positively of others!
2. Gospel for the day: Usccb.org it takes a minute to read the daily Gospel. Here's an online link. <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/011716.cfm>
3. At night thank God again for your day, food, good results at work, a moment of fellowship etc. Review your various encounters with others and any insights you had

during the day. Take a look at the next day's Gospel passage (will just take a minute). This could be done on your own and/or with your children.

4. Next day – Repeat.
5. Bonus points: consider reading a Catholic book (a little at a time) or joining or beginning a discussion group focused on some aspect of the faith or spirituality. I am happy to offer suggestions for resources. I am just an email away: [amacdonnell@arcol.org](mailto:amacdonnell@arcol.org)

The fruit of regular daily reflection is: “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness” **Galatians 5:22**

[https://twitter.com/Pontifex?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/Pontifex?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Follow Pope Francis on twitter!**

FOLLOWERS 7.69M