

March 2009.

Lent is about actively changing something about your life. Could this mean giving? Yes. Could this mean giving something up? Yes of course. Consider this analogy.

We as Catholic Christians, are like cars. You are a car, and once a week you go to the gas station to fill up. You fill your tank which lasts you about a week. Compare the gas station to going to Mass once a week. For a while, you can run fine with that type of service. But eventually, you will fall apart if you do not perform maintenance on your car. What is Catholic maintenance?

Drive—Be actionable this Lent. Get involved in service work. Volunteer with the Christian Service Ministry here at St. Norbert, every Saturday (call Mary Ann Wilson). Or do something else with the Catholic Worker. Or volunteer some time here at YM to get the retreat stuff done! Give up your time to serve others, in the name of Jesus Christ!

Oil Change — Really evaluate where it is you need work. What's wearing down your engine?

Replace Air Filter— What is your moral compass? What do you filter decisions and perspectives through? Evaluate if maybe you need to work on your patience, love, relationships. Are you causing your own clogs in your air filter by the decisions that you make? CHANGE IT!

Brakes— Pray Harder and More Often. The closer relationship you have with Jesus, the more the Holy Spirit can work in you, and develop your conscience. This will help you put that brakes on things that you know are wrong or tempting.

Give yourself some maintenance—see how God can work miracles in your life!

Peace of Christ,



Youth Ministry Office
300 E. Taft Ave
Orange, CA 92865



The official Youth Ministry Newsletter

St. Norbert
Catholic Church

March 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

A little bit about me...

I wouldn't normally do this, but I thought since I am new to this Parish community, I should introduce myself and share a little about myself with you! I was born and raised in Anaheim Hills for my entire life. In fact, my father still lives in the house we were raised in. I went to Villa Park High School. You may ask why I transferred there instead of sticking to schools in Anaheim Hills... well it was because my mom was a Spanish teacher there at the time, and I wanted to go through the ups and downs of high school with her close by! I got very involved in the YM program at San Antonio after my Confirmation II Retreat, and shortly thereafter began working for Pam Hurwitz as her assistant Youth Minister. That forged an incredible spiritual journey that would lead me to places all around the world and places within my heart that I couldn't have ever imagined.

After I graduated from high school, I decided to remain committed to Youth Ministry at San Antonio and thus, decided to complete my lower division classes (and my AA) at Fullerton College. I did that in two years, and transferred to UCLA where I completed my Bachelor's degree in Psychology. College was one of the best experiences of my life because it allowed me to put my faith into action in a very liberal environment. And while this was challenging, I had a huge foundation and welcomed any opportunity to witness our beautiful faith. That is one reason why I know that creating a strong foundation in the faith during those impressionable years of high school really influences all our life choices. I had many people holding me accountable and loving me through all of the difficulties in life.

After I graduated from UCLA, I returned back home and got back involved in the Youth Ministry program at San Antonio, but also started the first Young Adult Ministry at the Parish. I've been running that ministry part time for over four years. We were very involved in international missionary work and service work within the Diocese. Since completing my Master's of Social Work last May, I've been praying for God's direction in my vocation and career. I have always felt a strong calling to ministry—God has been refining me through many experiences over the years and I feel that I have a unique belief in the youth of the world. When the opportunity for St. Norbert opened up, it was an answer to my prayers! Again, I am so honored to be here and look forward to working with each of you and getting to know each of you!

I hope you will stop by my office often and help me get to know you!

Last November, I got married to a wonderful Catholic man whom I hope all of you will welcome into this Parish community in the same way that you have, me! His name is Zach and he is the biggest blessing in my life! He will be a great role model for the young men in the program and is a wise soul! He loves to surf, has a knack for music, is a filmmaker and has a huge heart!

My Ministry Approach

I believe in and will do everything in my power to implement a relational ministry. What does that necessarily entail? I desire to empower youth to believe in themselves, capitalizing on what they are capable of, and to allow the struggles of adolescence to be opportunities for personal growth and spiritual development. I believe that teenagers are capable of changing the world if they are demonstrated acceptance, love, support and accountability – that which I was demonstrated through a very challenging time in my adolescent life. I believe wholeheartedly that youth have the potential to be incredibly capable, insightful and creative if their individuality and uniqueness is cherished. There is a special quality about teens that makes them impressionable and inspirational. And they're going to keep me young and technologically educated for years to come!

I look forward to learning what each of you will bring to this ministry. Here's to new beginnings! Cheers!

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March Office Hours:

Mon— 9 a.m.— 5 p.m.
Tues— 12 p.m.— 5 p.m.
Wed— 12 p.m.— 6 p.m.
Thurs— 12 p.m.— 3 p.m.
Fri— 9 a.m.— 12 p.m.

CONFIRMATION 2
Upcoming Dates to Have
Marked on Your
Calendars:

April 3 – 5: C2 Retreat!
April 19—Rehearsal with
Sponsors
April 20—Reconciliation
April 25—Confirmation
Ceremony

Confirmation 1 Events

Sunday, March 8th, 2009

Confirmation Class at Church

4:00—5:15 p.m.

All C1 teens will meet in the gym for class today, where you will have a guest speaker!

Sunday, March 22nd, 2009

Confirmation Class at Church

4:00—5:15 p.m.

***Meet in the Gym for Opening Prayer**

We encourage you to go to Mass after each of these classes, at 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation 2 Events

To Do if you are a C2 Teen:

- Check with your sponsor on his/her availability for interview times.
- Sign up for an Interview with a priest at either the 3/8 class or the 3/22 class.
- Get all your retreat paperwork and money turned in by 3/6
- Get all of your Confirmation Certificates and paperwork turned in by 3/13
- Check the website for any forms you may be missing to help complete the process
- Get excited about the upcoming retreat and pray, pray, pray for a graceful, Holy Spirit – filled weekend!!!!

Retreat Info and Reminders:

Retreat Eve Drop Off!!

Thursday, April 2, 2009

4:00—6:00 p.m.

Come by and drop off your stuff, if that's convenient! We'll be loading the Youth Room with suitcases and sleeping bags if this will help you get to the buses in a timelier fashion!

Don't forget to come on Friday with a sack dinner!

PAPERWORK DUE DATE:
FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

"Come Holy Spirit, Come."

March Confirmation Classes

Sunday, March 8th—

MEET IN THE MINISTRY CENTER

AT 4:00 SHARP!!

We are having a community building night to prepare ourselves for the upcoming retreat. It is absolutely crucial that you are there!

(Saint Reports and Bishop Letters are due at this class)

Sunday, March 22nd— 4—5:15 p.m.

Meet in the Gym as usual!

**First Friday
Adoration**

First Friday Adoration is something to take part in! Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament brings about miracles! I encourage each one of you (parents, teens and volunteers) to spend some time with Jesus in the chapel on Friday, March 6th. In the United States, we take advantage of the fact that we have the Sacraments readily available to us at any time. Did you know there are people in other countries who only get to attend Mass less than once a year and who have potentially never had the opportunity to attend Adoration? I met a mother of four children in Honduras who walked for four hours in the rain with her small children because she knew she was going to have the opportunity to spend time praying in the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist. Would you do that? Be honest. We are busy people. We can drive here, not get wet, bring all our children at no inconvenience, and we still don't always do it, when given the opportunity. If you need help understanding this more, come on by, and we'll chat! But please, take some time on this day and adore a God who loves each of us so plentifully! God wants each of us there!

Meet, Greet & Eat!!

... and more

Meet ...

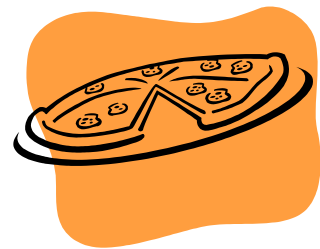
the new Youth Minister, other teens in the program, young

Greet ...

People in this Youth Ministry community that you may already know, and maybe haven't seen in a while!

Eat ...

Dinner! We'll be providing dinner, drinks and dessert!



When: Sunday, March 22, 2009

Time: After the 5:30 p.m. Mass

(6:30 ish if you're going to Mass earlier)... ending around 8 p.m.

Where: In the Youth Ministry Room

Who: All Confirmation Candidates, Young Adult Volunteers, Confirmation Teachers, and Vision Team Members are welcome!

Why:

Why Not?!?! Is the better question. Everyone needs to eat, and I'd sure love to meet and greet each one of you! There is so much to know about each of you and I would love to begin to develop those relationships!

Please join us for dinner, community building, some ice breakers! We're going to talk about summer plans, goals for Confirmation next year, and have some fun getting to know each other!

VISION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sharpie These Dates on Your Calendar!

Sunday, March 8—3:30—5:30 p.m.

If you are a small group leader on the C2 Retreat, you need to be at the Community Building Night for Confirmation 2. Show up at 3:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center so I can debrief you on what your responsibilities will be.

Wednesday, March 11—7:00—8:30 p.m.

Vision Leadership Meeting—JUNIORS AND SENIORS ONLY!!!

We will practice skits, work on testimonies, iron out the Holy Spirit Crew Responsibilities and get updates on the Retreat weekend.

Saturday, March 14—10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

RETREAT PREP DAY!! LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU!!

Stop by for an hour or stay the whole time! We can use all the help we can get. We will be painting posters, making bolognas, making all the props for the skits, working on the *secret* boxes, group questions, etc. THIS IS THE BIG DAY!!

Wednesday, March 25—7:00—8:30 p.m.

FINAL MANDATORY RETREAT MEETING—YM ROOM!!!

All small group leaders and members of the Holy Spirit Crew MUST attend!



Confirmation Teachers, Young Adults and Volunteers

Going on the Confirmation 2 Retreat?

Please turn in your paperwork to help the office with organization and planning!

The retreat fee for teachers is \$75

The retreat fee for young adult & adult volunteers is \$125.

Registration Packets are available in the YM office!!

There is a MANDATORY MEETING for anyone on leadership (that is anyone not in C2) going on the retreat on:

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

At 7:00 p.m.

In the Youth Ministry Room!

Wish List for the YM Room:

If you are interested in donating any of the following things, we would really appreciate it!!!

USED COUCHES for the YM Room— *it's time to make this amazing room teen friendly!!!*

Packs of Large Poster Board

Tempera Paint Bottles in a variety of colors

(Michaels sells big ones)

F\for poster painting, retreat prep, etc.

Foam Paint Brushes

Snacks that are not perishable, or that can keep in the fridge

Flats of Bottled Water

Tea Lights and Clicker Lights

Colored Paper

(8 1/2" x 11" and 11" by 17" for the newsletter!)

2-Liter Sodas

Paper Goods: Cups, Plates, Plastic Utensils, Napkins

Old DVD's (PG-13 rated at the highest)

Any Framed Catholic Art for the walls!

MARCH 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 C1 Class 4-5:15 p.m. In the Gym C1 Class Community Building in the Ministry Center	2	3	4 11 Vision Leadership Training Meeting JUNIORS & SENIORS ONLY!! 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. YM Room	5 12	6 St. Norbert First Friday Adoration Spend some time with Jesus! *Retreat Paperwork due	7 14 Leadership Retreat Prep Day! YM Room 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
15 Interviews with a Priest begins — C2 Candidates only (through April 2nd)	16 	17 17 Happy St. Patrick's Days!	18 18 	19 19 	20 20 *C2 Paperwork For the Files Due	21 21
22 C1 & C11 Classes 4—5:15 p.m. (Gym) Meet & Greet Pizza Night! 6:30—8:30 pm In the YM Room!	23	24	25 25 ALL LEADERSHIP RETREAT MEET- ING Vision, Adults & Teachers 7 p.m. -YM Room	26 26	27 27	28 28
29	30 Final Retreat Prep Days!	31 Final Retreat Prep Days!	April 1. Final Retreat Prep Days!	2 Retreat EVE drop off! 4:00—6:00 p.m. in the Youth Center!	3 Confirmation II Retreat!!!!	4