

April 2009.

What a month of beautiful things to come.

First, Holy Week concluding with Easter. The resurrection of Jesus Christ—one of the most fundamental dogmas of the Catholic Church and all of Christianity for that matter, is coming soon. Get excited people!!

Let's start with Holy Thursday. This commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus spent with his Apostles. Many very powerful acts are performed on this day including the washing of the feet. What's the big deal? In Jesus' time, the dirtiest, most foul, rugged parts of the human body were the feet. People walked everywhere, and only if they were wealthy, did they have sandals. It's incredibly humbling to have your feet washed. Have you ever had this ritual performed on you? It's difficult to be on the receiving end. The lesson in it? It's twofold. One, it is a reminder that the master is called to serve. But it is MORE HUMBLING to BE SERVED by others, than to be in service. Remember that next time you are serving another. Protect their dignity, put yourself in their shoes.

Which leads me to Good Friday—the Passion of Christ. The most devastating example of what pride and a lack of faith resulted in, was what Jesus endured on His road to Calvary. But how rich a lesson He taught us through his obedience and faith. Our loads are light, and our crosses small in comparison, but we don't always want to carry them. Venerate the crosses in your life today—pray for them and lift them up to God in a special way today, through your prayer and FASTING. See how Jesus will work miracles in your life through your obedience and faith.

Following that, of course is Holy Saturday—No Mass is held on this day in reflection of the time that Jesus laid dead in the tomb. The church remains stripped of everything today, in preparation for the celebration that is to come on Easter. This is a day of mourning and reflection while Jesus was laying in the tomb. Liturgically, Holy Saturday lasts until dusk and then the Easter Vigil begins. And then...

Easter! Jesus not only rose from the dead and fulfilled every promise and prophecy of old, but stayed with us on this earth, for 40 days. Imagine what work He did in that time. And then shortly after his Ascension, He sent the Holy Spirit down onto the church at Pentecost. How glorious. Let us thank HIM this season. Thank Him for the ultimate sacrifice of His body and His blood. Thank Him for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that will ignite a passion and faith inside of you in the years to come.

How appropriate that a few weeks after that, our teens are going to receive full initiation into this church through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Pray hard.

Peace of Christ and the Joy of this blessed season,



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The official Youth Ministry Newsletter

St. Norbert
Catholic Church

April 2009

Volume 1 Issue 2

some things to make you go hmmm...

In the spirit of Lent and of our final preparation for the Confirmation ceremony, it's important to really dig deep, and reflect on our lives. Every sin is a distortion or misuse of what was originally given to us as a gift by the Father.

Today, ask Jesus to help you get in touch with what you feel is your greatest sin. Then Ask Jesus to reveal to you the gift that lies beneath the sin. Ask Jesus to redeem this part of you, restoring what you feel is your sin, to the gift that it was originally intended to be.

The Misuse of Gifts:

The Sin of:	May be an abuse of the gift of:
Pride	Leadership (e.g. Peter)
Covetousness	Having deep desires (e.g. the good thief who wanted Heaven)
Lust	Intimacy (e.g. Mary Magdalene)
Anger	Zeal to change what needs to be changed (e.g. Paul)
Gluttony	Communion; Hunger and thirst for life within
Envy	Seeing gifts and growth in another; affirming others
Sloth	Integrity (e.g. Parable of the two sons in Matthew 21:28-32)
Fear	Sensitivity; awareness of what needs to be done (e.g. woman with the hemorrhage)
Stubbornness	Perseverance (e.g. Man who keeps knocking in Luke 11:5-9)
Guilt	Sensitive conscience; loving much because you've been forgiven much; deep relationship with Jesus as a loved sinner (e.g. woman at the feet of Jesus in Luke 7:36-50)

Prayer Intention for This Month:

For those who are suffering from spiritual poverty; may God bless them and reveal Himself to them each and every day until they are in a clear enough place to acknowledge His presence in their lives.



Sneak Peek:

The Confirmation 2
Retreat Theme is
"Pieces of Me"

A Simple Lesson on Prudence:

"Be quick to hear, but deliberate in answering. If you know what to say, answer your neighbor, but if not, put your hand over your mouth." Sirach 5:11-12

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Approx. April Office Hours

(refer to calendar for days that the
office is closed):

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

What's to Come next
Month (May):

Summer Planning!!

Vacation Bible School
Leadership Team
(Open to all YM)

Pre-Registration for
Confirmation and
Vision Leadership
Team!

Confirmation 1 Events

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Confirmation Class at Church

4:00—5:15 p.m.

All C1 teens will meet in the gym for class on this day.

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

4:00—8:00 p.m.

Confirmation Ceremony Prep Night!! (Optional, but the more the merrier!!)

Join us as we put the final preparations on the Confirmation Ceremony!!

What a great way to support those who are about to be confirmed! Stop by any time between four and eight in the YM Room to help!

Confirmation 2 Ceremony Information

DRESS CODE FOR THE CEREMONY

(Will be strictly enforced!!)

Gentlemen:

Formal Slacks or suit, collared shirt and Tie, dress shoes and socks, hair well manicured (Coat optional).

Ladies:

Dresses or long skirts (BELOW the knee), modest tops (no cleavage or bra straps showing). "Leggins" under dresses are appropriate. Dress shoes or heels. **NO FLIP FLOPS! SHOULDERS MUST BE COVERED. NO SPAGHETTI STRAPS!!** If you have spaghetti straps on a dress, you must wear a cardigan or sweater over the dress for the entire ceremony.

If anyone shows up in clothes or shoes that violate this policy, they will be asked to go home immediately and change into something appropriate. Parents—do a spot check!!

"Come Holy Spirit, Come."

April Confirmation 2 Events

**For Retreat Info, See Reminder Page in this Newsletter*

Sunday, April 19th

4:00—5:15 p.m., in the Church Sanctuary

Confirmation Ceremony Rehearsal

YOUR SPONSOR MUST ATTEND

THIS EVENT WITH YOU!!!

Monday, April 20th

7:00—9:00 p.m.

Reconciliation Service and Service Project

MANDATORY for all C2 Teens who are getting Confirmed the following Saturday!

MEET IN THE MINISTRY CENTER HALL

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Confirmation Ceremony

Church will open at 9:15 a.m. for seating.

VISION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sharpie These Dates on Your Calendar!

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

7:00—8:30 p.m. in the YM Room

Retreat Reunion Leadership Meeting!

We are going to gather and gab about the Confirmation 2 Retreat. Help us decide what worked? What didn't? What can be refined? Success Stories?

Personal growth? Join us and share in the discussion!

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Confirmation Ceremony Prep Night! 4:00—8:00 p.m.

Stop by and help us prepare! (see flyer insert for more information)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Vision Team Summer Planning Meeting—7:00—8:30 p.m.

All recently Confirmed and returning Vision Team Leaders are invited to attend—let's dream up all our plans for the summer!

The Vision Leadership Team is made up of Juniors and Seniors in High School who are interested in serving in a leadership capacity within the Youth Ministry and Confirmation Program at St. Norbert. If you are a Junior or Senior in high school and are interested in being a part of this developing ministry, please contact Kirsten King to get more information on how you (or your teen) can get involved! We will be doing leadership development over the summer and the Vision Team will have the opportunity to co-teach



Confirmation Teachers, Young Adults and Volunteers

Catechists Development and Reflection

Dinner Meeting

"God does not call the equipped, He equips the called."

Sunday, May 10th, 2009

After the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Youth Ministry Room!

Attention all Catechists from the 2008—2009 Year!

Please join us for a dinner meeting focused around the development and re-vamping of the Confirmation program!

I really want to know...

What works? What doesn't work? What are the teens' needs and desires for this program that have been expressed to you? How are you wanting to be involved? What does next year look like for you? How are you being fed or not fed, through this program? And many more... It's crucial for me to get your feedback so I can best serve this beautiful Parish community in the coming years! Thank you in advance for making this a priority!

ATTENTION FUTURE CATECHISTS!!

As a part of the revamping of the Curriculum, we are looking for enthusiastic, faithful young adults and adults to teach Confirmation in the upcoming year (09-10).

If this is something you are interested in doing, or know someone who may be called to this type of Ministry, please contact Kirsten at 714-637-4360 x 210 or at kdking@stnorbertchurch.org

This summer we will begin our meetings as we prepare ourselves spiritually and as a community to shepherd the sheep (the youth)! Pray about it!

We need about 25 Confirmation Teachers to support the program next year!

Wish List for the YM Room:

If you are interested in donating any of the following things to enhance the Youth Ministry Room and Program, we would really appreciate it!!!

USED COUCHES or LOVE SEATS

it's time to make this amazing room teen friendly!!!

Retreat Scholarships for Confirmation teens — \$100 — \$175

A Receiver with a Radio and CD Player that we can hook up to the TV!

Packs of Large Poster Board

Empty Picture Frames (8 x 10)

Large Photo Albums

Plastic TUBS for Storage of Supplies!

Tempera Paint Bottles in a Variety of Colors

Foam Paint Brushes

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

Flats of Bottled Water

Tea Lights and Clicker Lighters

Colored Paper (8 1/2 x 11 or 11 x 17)

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!

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

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Cosmic Bowling Night!

Put on your white clothes, and join us for two hours of bowling
at Concourse Bowling Alley, under the black lights!



When: Friday, May 1, 2009

Time: Meeting at YM at 9:00 p.m. for check in and a timely departure!

We'll get there early, check in, get our shoes and bowl from 10 p.m.—Midnight!

COST: \$12—includes shoes and 2 hours of unlimited bowling (with 6 teens per lane)

You will need to bring the following:

Permission Slip signed by your parents included in this newsletter

\$12 for your wristband to bowl!

Parent DRIVERS! (Parents, do not just drop your teens off at YM!!)

ALL YOUTH MINISTRY TEENS ARE INVITED!

**Parent drivers, we will ask you to pick up your carpool at Midnight at the Bowling Alley
and bring them back to St. Norbert. Thank you for your support!!**

****If you can, please RSVP with your permission slip and payment before the date, so we know how many lanes to reserve. Although this is not necessary, it will help us out big time!**



Rosary Making Night For the Troops!

Thursday, April 16th, 2009

In the Youth Ministry Room

6:30 — 8:30 p.m.

The rules are very specific about what can be sent to our Troops in battle. Two spiritual items that are approved and allowed to be sent to them are knotted string rosaries and adjustable one decade rosary bracelets.

We want to teach you how to make the rosaries and rosary bracelets, which we will be sending overseas to the troops!

Please join us...

it's so much fun and for a great cause!

And what a beautiful way to evangelize and to pray for their safety and faith!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Confirmation 2 Retreat Reminders

Please Don't Forget...

- To put your sleeping bag and pillow in a trash bag with your name clearly marked on it in multiple places.
- To bring a sack dinner and water with you (THAT IS MEATLESS - it's Friday, and it's Lent!!)
- To show up to the St. Norbert parking lot by 3:30 p.m. **SHARP** so we can have a timely departure.
- **Parents:** To take your teen's cell phone from them for the weekend. And to make sure that they do not have their iPod on them as well.
- To put any medication that is necessary in a Ziploc bag (in original bottles), with your name clearly marked on the bag.
- To be praying for the Holy Spirit to work in each of these teens lives, through this retreat weekend.
- To leave everything that can be a distraction at home.

Retreat Eve Drop-Off

For some of you, it may be more convenient to drop your stuff off the day before the retreat.

As an option, you have to choice to drop your stuff in the gym on Thursday, April 2 between 3–5 p.m.



Parents...

Keep an eye out in the mail during the week before the retreat for an insight into the retreat weekend.

I encourage you to use some of our suggestions to engage in conversation and activities about the weekend with your teen upon their return.