

SCHOOL NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The school has some First Communion dresses for sale. If you would like to see them, please stop by the office.

Please continue to save and send in your Thriftway receipts. The school receives points that allow us to purchase items that help the school in so many ways.

Words of advice from Saint Therese start your day with these simple yet powerful prayers:

Forgive me, Lord.

Guide me Lord.

Protect me Lord.

Bless me, Lord.

Thank you, Lord.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN OSAGE COUNTY

The OC-ADCAT will host meetings for youth ages 8-15 and their caregivers including childcare for younger children, food, games, and prizes. They will meet every Monday in March and April, 5:30 -8pm at their offices in the Barefoot Event Center. There is no cost for participants. Register at 573-619-0894.

LENTEN OBSERVANCE

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and ends with the Mass on Holy Thursday, April 14. The Catholic Church calls all Catholics to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving and prayer. To foster a greater spirit of penance, reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, which guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, the Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship. **Abstinence:** All who have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. **Fasting:** Everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges. These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest. Other recommended forms of fasting, as regards alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, Internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged. **Almsgiving:** The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity, and an expression of Lenten conversion. Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church: through regular stewardship to their parish, support of charities, and their generous response to the diocesan Catholic Stewardship Appeal. **Prayer:** To deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged to participate in the sacramental life of the Church during Lent by attending daily Mass and frequenting the sacrament of Reconciliation.

ST. GEORGE SPRING FLING

The St. George Spring Fling will be held in person on April 23 with Mass at 4:30pm, doors open at the activity center at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm, and drawings begin at 8pm. Your donation of \$100 gets you dinner for two catered by Annie's Station and a chance to win cash prizes including a grand prize of \$10,000. Tickets are available at the parish office, through kid mail at school, the Scrip table, and from any parish council member.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Parishioners in our diocese are encouraged to apply for \$1,000 college scholarships from the William H. (Bill) Simon Scholarship and John L. Warack Scholarship funds. Deadline for applying is March 31, 2022. For more information and to apply, visit diojeffcity.org/college-scholarships.

ST. GEORGE EASTER CHOIR

Choir practices for the Easter Mass celebrations will be on Wednesdays, March 16th, 23rd, and April 6th at 7pm in the church. Those in 3rd grade or older are welcome to participate in choir and to prepare for the music liturgies for Easter. It is not necessary to be able to read music to participate in choir. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Radmacher.

ST. JOHN THERISTUS

John's father, Arconte di Cursano, a Byzantine farmer near Botterio Signore was killed in a Saracen raid on the coasts of Calabria. His Calabrian mother captured Saracens and brought to Palermo, where she gave birth. He grew up in the Christian faith in a Muslim environment. At the age of 14, he was encouraged by his mother to flee to his native country. He crossed the Strait of Messina in a boat without oars or sail, and reached Monasterace. The inhabitants, seeing him dressed as a Moor, took him to the Bishop, who interrogated him. The boy answered that he was seeking baptism, but the bishop subjected him to harsh trials before giving him his name. Once he grew up, he felt more and more attracted to the life of the monks who lived in the caves around Stylus, fascinated by the example of two Basilian ascetics, Ambrose and Nicholas. After much insistence, despite his young age, he was admitted into the community. He distinguished himself by virtue, so much so that he was later elected abbot. He found in Cursano a treasure that belonged to his family, and following the rule of Saint Basil he distributed it to the poor. Once in June, at harvest time, he went to visit at Monasterace a knight who had provided food for the monastery. He took with him a flask of wine and some bread. When he arrived at two fields, called Marone and Maturavolo, he offered the farmers the bread and wine. A furious storm rose up, risking destruction of the harvest, but through John's prayer the storm held off until the wheat be harvested and gathered in sheaves. Thus he helped to miraculously harvest a large crop ahead of destructive weather, saving the locals from starvation. This and other episodes testifying to the help given to the farmers, earned him the nickname of *Theristis*, that is "reaper". The owner of the fields, struck by the incident, donated them to the monastery.