



Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Expanding Minds • Growing Faith • Inspiring Service

Calendar Links



[CLICK HERE for the 2020-21 school calendar.](#)



[CLICK HERE for the LUNCH CALENDAR](#)



March 17 Green
Tops/Uniform Bottoms
March 18 Conferences
March 19 No School



Weekly Bulletin

March 11, 2021

Update on Lease Agreement with St. Ann from Mrs. Kirk

At the request of Archbishop Schnurr, Father Gardner, Father Jacquemin, Father McCarthy, Mr. Desmier, and I will be meeting with representatives from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on March 18 to discuss solutions for the future of Our Lady of Grace. This request is in response to St. Ann's non-renewal of the school's lease for the 2022-2023 school year. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all our efforts as we work together to resolve this in the best possible way for all parties involved.



Students can come dressed in their green tops with uniform bottoms to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, March 17.



Parent-teacher conferences will be held on the evening of March 18 from 3:30-8:00. The sign up will be open in Option C from March 4-March 15.

After March 15, you will need to contact your child's teacher to sign up for a conference.



EdChoice Scholarship- (This message is for families who currently have the EdChoice Scholarship.)

EdChoice Scholarship applications were sent out recently via the email we have on file through Option C.

Instructions on renewing your scholarship were also sent with the application. After reading these instructions carefully, please email questions and/or paperwork to edchoice@olgcs.org.

Thank you to families who have already turned in your applications. This will enable us to efficiently submit all information to ODE.

Religious Education

I Want to be Healed...

The Gospel for the OLGCS Mass next Tuesday is the famous one where Jesus heals the crippled man at the Pool of Bethesda. That Gospel has always stayed with me. I have often thought – what about those that weren't healed that day who were still crippled, in pain, and left behind at the Pool? After Jesus leaves the Temple area, who is going to tell the others who need healing to rise, take up their mat and walk? Who will help those people to the pool when the water is stirred? Who gets to go, who gets left behind? Does being *left behind* mean that Jesus does not love us? Was that healing just for the one paralytic and no others? Did the others lying by the pool do something wrong? Does it mean we are not as worthy as others? Is it simply a case of "too bad" for everyone else? Is this the left out feeling that we all fear? It is like some cosmic game of musical chairs, the one where we are shut out. Or perhaps like when we were kids and we weren't chosen to play on a team until the very end? It feels awful when that happens, doesn't it? Is that what this is? It could seem that way - but I don't think so.

It is important to remember this – healing in the Gospels is not just about getting up and walking. Jesus' command to be healed has everything to do with forgiveness of sins. Oh, the audacity of Jesus to be doing such a thing - on the Sabbath no less! In the prevailing view of the Jewish leaders - only God could forgive sins. And this Jesus - no matter what he did, could not be God, right? And when Jesus "healed" it was generally among and around all the most unlikely candidates, wasn't it? I believe this was also a challenge to the people of his time, and it remains one for our world today. In the Gospel, Jesus was there to heal – Jesus was there to forgive sins - and Jesus is *still here* to heal and *still here* to forgive sins today. This Lenten Gospel tells us that this paralytic is paralyzed with sin, not just with crippled legs. This call to take up the mat and walk is some foreshadowing of taking up the cross, isn't it? The waters are baptism are a baptism into Christ's death that will bring us new life. If we accept Jesus' invitation and Jesus' healing, must we also accept what that brings with it? Is this trading one type of suffering – stuck on the mat - for another, the cross? Jesus seems to know that the man had been ill and sitting by the pool for 38 years - a long, long time. The man says that he has no one to take him to the pool when "the waters are stirred up," an image symbolizing life and the power of the Holy Spirit in the "stirred up" waters of the pool.



The ruins of the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem today

This Gospel moment reminds us that *we need God and we need one another*. We are not made by God to be self-sufficient and alone. God constantly seeks us out, persistently comes forth, and waits for each of us to respond. And that is the point when we can respond, or we can choose not to. We need to be put in the waters that are stirred up and we need life alive with the Spirit to heal us. We need to die to our sins and find new life in that water. We need to be in it and not just watching it from the comfort of our mat, but going in and getting immersed - not just observing. The real moment of this Gospel for me is when Jesus says to this man, "Do you want to be well?" I don't know about you, but I can think of so many times in my life, when I said that I wanted to be well, but wasn't really willing to be well at all! And Jesus is still asking me – asking all of us – that question: "Do you want to be well?" Until we can answer the question, honestly, I guess we are stuck on the mat.

But that man so long ago made a choice – *he listened*. Jesus said: "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." At that moment that he gets up, and he goes. *But what about the people left at the pool that weren't healed that day?* Then it hits me – in this story that took place all those years ago, *Jesus is speaking to all of us*. We are all the man on the mat, we are all at various times, left behind. As hard as it is to fathom, we are all sitting on those mats for long periods of time in our lives, and we frequently return to them. Then Jesus, who invites us to get up and walk, repeatedly visits us. Now there is a big risk in having this conversation with Jesus, there is a big risk in getting up. But there is also a great reward. I'm not at all sure why there are so many mats still left at the side of the pool, but I would like to think that the people who saw Jesus' kindness began to help others at the pool that day. And I am pretty sure that in our time we are all called to go forth as Jesus did – not only to ask if people want to be well, but to help them to do so. Of course, if we are going to help others get off of their mats, we have to be willing to vacate our own. And that is not so easy, is it? Let us journey through Lent as people who have left their mats behind! *Blessings, Mark Friedman, CRE*

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER AT RAISING CANE'S

Mention the fundraiser in Drive Thru and Cane's will donate 15% of sales to:

Our Lady of Grace School

DATE & TIME:

Tuesday, March 16th
4PM-10PM



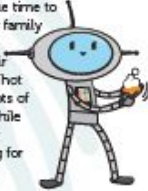



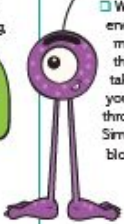

LOCATION:

Raising Cane's
9869 Colerain Avenue



Family Engagement Challenge March Parenting Tips



| Week of March 1 | Week of March 8 | Week of March 15 | Week of March 22 | Week of March 29 |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p> Strength of the Week: Mindfulness I am present and fully engaged in the moment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blowing bubbles can be a fun way to discover mindful breathing. Show your child(ren) how to breathe in through their nose and try to fill up their chest and belly. Then, slowly breathe out through their mouths, releasing the air to fill the bubble. What kind of breaths make the biggest bubble? Be safe and don't share wands! The next time you are feeling a strong emotion, it's okay to acknowledge it by bringing it into focus. Assign it a color and remember what you assigned. Notice what happens to the emotion when you make it clear in your thoughts. You Got this! Take a mindful sensory walk to wind down. A mindful Sensory walk means to walk and notice the sensations in your body, feet, ankles, legs, thighs, and heartbeat. | <p> Strength of the Week: Zest I approach daily life with energy and excitement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't let bad news or other distractions keep you from having fun with your child(ren)! "Zestfully me is what my child(ren) will see!" You're not fully clean unless you're... you may have heard the jingle. With everything in the news lately take the time to be sure your family is zestfully washing their hands using hot water, and lots of soap suds while singing your favorite song for 20 seconds. Want a boost of zest? Plan an afternoon outside, go on a family walk or fly a kite or ride your bike. Sounds exhilarating!  | <p> Strength of the Week: Teamwork I like being part of a team and doing my share.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jigsaw puzzles can be inexpensive and can foster teamwork among your family or friends especially when you are bored and can't leave the house. "Find all of the edges! I've got a corner!" "Anyone else have the other side of this..." Try thinking of your family as a team. What name would you give your team? You all have different strengths and when one is struggling, the others need to put on their team cap that says, "We Got This!" Even interacting with just one other person can be teamwork. Teamwork skills include listening, compassion, and kindness. When you see these skills being used by your child(ren), strength spot them with positive praise!  | <p> Strength of the Week: Mindfulness I am present and fully engaged in the moment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breathe in through your nose for the count of 4, hold it, then breathe out through your mouth for a count of 7. Now think about your week. What challenges did you face and what success can you name? Now smile, and tell yourself, "I've got this!" Create a mindful family challenge and invite other family members outside of your home to join in. Set an intention to do the S.T.O.P. exercise every day, or plan a moment each day to do nothing but breathe. When you feel over-energized, take a few mindful moments throughout the day: take a breath in through your nose and exhale through your mouth. Simply, smell the flower, blow out the candle!  | <p> Strength of the Week: Perspective I can see other people's point of view and offer good advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having empathy is the ability to notice what other people are feeling. It is important to developing the strength of perspective. Read the book or watch a YouTube reading of <i>Stand in my Shoes</i> by Bob Somson together as a family. Discuss what it means to 'stand in my shoes' and to be able to understand other people's perspectives. The world is made up of every color of the rainbow. Get some paper, crayons, colored pencils, or markers and make your own rainbows. Take this opportunity to discuss how diversity makes the world more interesting, the community stronger and our culture richer. Have you ever thought about a bug's life? Think about the conveniences you have as a human. You may be able to reach the door handle, turn off the light switch, or turn on the water faucet to wash your hands before getting a snack out of the fridge. Now imagine you're the size of an ant! What would be different? What difficulties would you encounter? How will you keep yourself from being stepped on?! |