



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 4 & 5 No School



Weekly Bulletin

March 3, 2021

Faculty and Staff Vaccination Days

Reminder: Our Lady of Grace will be closed tomorrow and Friday.

Re-enrollment for the 2021-2022 School Year We have started new student assessments for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have not re-enrolled your child for next year, there is still time. Please go into Option C and get re-registered. If you have questions, please call the school office at 931-3070.



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

A Personal Lenten Reflection

Lent is indeed a time for reflection - and for some reason, I've been reflecting on my Mother who died in 2009. Yes, I know that was quite a while ago - but it seems like only yesterday. You know, something happens to you when your last parent passes away. You feel alone, which is funny because, in my case, I'm married with a couple of children - but still, that doesn't change the emptiness you feel now that your last parent has left you. A friend of mine who lost her mom was telling me that once when she was traveling, she instinctively picked out a postcard to mail her mother. When she got to the cash register, she realized with a shock, *Oh, my goodness, wait a minute, my mother's not here anymore.* She told me that it hit her then that - for the first time in her life - she felt like an orphan. I can identify, at least about the postcard part. Even now, every so often, I find myself thinking: *"I should call Mom and tell her about..."* And then, with a start, I am reminded that she's not with us. It's just an odd feeling - a different feeling. And I have learned over time to tell Mom about what's happening with me and her grown up grandkids when in prayer. And I've learned this truth over time, as well - that we are *never* orphans - for I am heartened by the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "Can I ever forget you, my people? No! For I have carved you in the palm of my hand. I will never forget you. I will *not* leave you orphans..."

And I've been reflecting on the Lenten story of Jesus and His journey to the Cross - and it reminded me of how Mom spent the two and a half rough last years of her own life's journey battling *Alzheimer's*. She lived in a small room at St. Margaret Hall Nursing Home. On some days we saw glimpses of the "Mom we knew." You could see the light in her eyes and for a moment or two you almost thought you could get back everything that was lost. But then, most of the time, her eyes were dull and she slept during our visits and only rarely spoke - and then - not often with recognition or joy or a sense of memories of the past. It was hard to see the heartache my daughter experienced when the Grandma she was so close to could no longer remember who she was. These are swords that pierce your heart. These were times when we knew Mom was in pain and you felt helpless to do anything for the person who did so much for you all her life. I couldn't help but think it was like what Jesus' family must have felt as they watched our Savior die on the cross.



My Mom with my daughter

But God was kind to Mom at the end - and to us. The Grandkids were able to say goodbye one last time the day before she passed. My brothers and I were able to be with her in her last moments, holding her hand and soothing her with words of love. And after so many restless months, Mom died peacefully and calmly - and it was a blessing. And I'll never forget how, on the day she died, every worker in that nursing home formed a line and walked into her room and said "Goodbye, Mrs. Anna - we'll miss you." I often think about those last years when Mom didn't really understand where she was and what was going on with her treatment and care, and she would often say *"when am I going home?"* So we chose "Going Home" as the theme of her funeral Mass. As everyone sang *Amazing Grace* at the start of Mass I thought of the line in that hymn "Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." And they sang the beautiful African American spiritual "Goin' Home" which brought us all to tears - Mom would've liked that. Mom lived a graced life - and now is, I believe, finally home. After communion, the musicians sang a beautiful song of farewell for Mom from the Broadway musical "Wicked" - I love the words:

*"It well may be that we will never meet again in this lifetime / So let me say before we part so much of me
Is made of what I learned from you / And you'll be with me - like a handprint on my heart.
Who can say if I've been changed for the better? I do believe I have been changed for the better.
Because I knew you - Because I knew you - I have been changed for good..."*

Lent is indeed a time for reflection. And it's the perfect season to remember those times that were special to us. It was helpful to remember that Mom's memory will always be "a handprint on my heart." Let us continue to be grateful for those we have and those we've lost. During Lent may we come to realize that the pain we experience here on earth gives us a share in the sufferings and cross of Christ - who is always with us and promises a time when we will all will be *goin' home* to be with Him. 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



CanesAndCommunity.com

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Northwest School Busing Families

There will be NO BUSING on March 11 for families who live in the NWLSD. If you have questions, please call the NWLSD transportation department at 513-825-4600. Thank you

