



Partners in Faith & Action

September 2016



Welcome to all new and returning families to NDV. This flier is sent monthly as a means of furthering the faith development of members of our Notre Dame des Victoires community.

On July 26th we celebrated the Feasts of Saints Anne and Joachim, the parents of Mary the mother of Jesus. We have no historical information about their names or their lives. Stories about them come from legend, tradition, and the apocryphal Gospel of James. We honor them because they were the parents of Mary who brought her up and taught her. Their teaching led her to respond to God's request with faith, "Let it be one to me as you will." It is their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her Son was crucified and still believe. Such parents can be examples and models for all parents. (adapted from *Salt & Light Media*)

The family is where children receive their education in faith. Children learn by example and turn to their parents for answers to their questions about faith. The teachers and staff at NDV are your partners in that we provide information about the Scriptures, Sacraments, Church History, and teachings about Morality and Social Justice in religion classes. We also provide several types of religious experiences, including Morning Prayer, Prayer Services, Masses, Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, etc. Our liturgical experiences are a supplement to your children's liturgical experiences with you in your parish.

We would like this publication to provide information to help you understand our liturgical experiences at NDV, the Marist and CSJ charisms, and to invite you to share our Sunday Class and Family Masses at Notre Dame des Victoires Church. It will contain information activities regarding Feast Days, saints, prayers, the sacraments, etc.



SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Please join, as a family, with the NDV faith community in one or more of our 8:45 a.m. weekday School or 9:00 a.m. Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

Sept. 9th --The Student Council will lead the school in a Mass commemorating the Feast of the Birth of Mary at 8:45 a.m. at NDV Church

Sept. 11th -- Family Mass, 9:00 a.m. Sunday, followed by a reception in the Church Hall provided by the seventh grade parents.

Sept. 18th -- 8th grade students will be readers, gift bearers, and provide a reception after the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.



FEASTS OF THE NATIVITY AND MOST HOLY NAME OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 (nine months earlier).

A special feast for the Marists is the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary on September 12th. It was first celebrated in Spain in 1513 and in 1671 was extended to all of Spain and the Kingdom of Naples. In 1683, John Sobieski, the King of Poland, brought an army to the outskirts of Vienna to stop the advance of Muslim armies loyal to Mohammed IV in Constantinople. After Sobieski entrusted himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he and his soldiers thoroughly defeated the Muslims. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church on November 25, 1683.

Mary always points us to God, reminding us of God's infinite goodness. She helps us to open our

hearts to God's ways, wherever those may lead us. Honored under the title "Queen of Peace," Mary encourages us to cooperate with Jesus in building a peace based on justice, a peace that respects the fundamental human rights (including religious rights) of all peoples. (americancatholic.org)



FAMILIES GROWING IN FAITH

Families Growing in Faith is an exciting opportunity to share and grow in our faith as families and an NDV community. One Friday a month we gather in the Church Hall to share a light supper at 6:00 p.m. and then participate in a program to learn more about the liturgy, the sacraments, and our faith. Childcare is provided.

All are welcome to attend. Parents of the students in the second grade who are preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time and seventh and eighth grade students preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and their parents are expected to attend. This program will make the sacraments more meaningful and help our families grow in their faith.

The first program is Friday, September 25th in the Church Hall. Only the 2nd, 7th and 8th grade parents will attend this first session. Supper is at 6:00 p.m. and the presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

OUR MARIST AND CSJ CHARISMS

Our Mission Statement states in part – "... We embrace the values of the Marists and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange...."

The Marist charism in our school is very present in Fr. Rene, Fr. Siffert, Fr. Phil, and the retired Marists who live next door. All Marists are engaged in the "work of Mary" as understood by their founder Jean-Claude Colin (1790-1875). "In everything they do – and ... in the unassuming attitude they present – they reflect "the face of Mary" – to live, to pray, and to serve the Church in the world."

The focus of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange this year is Charism, the individual spiritual gift given by God and meant to be shared by all.



INTERESTING WEBSITES

The following websites provide information on prayers, saints,

sacraments, etc. They also have activities for adults and children.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-Catholic-faith.htm>. has information about our Catholic faith, the liturgical year, prayer, the sacraments, scripture and tradition, and a section on Family which offers ways to "integrate God into daily family life."

<http://www.sadlier.com/religion/family-center> provides prayers, activities, e-books in English and Spanish to support families on their spiritual journey. Sadlier is the publisher of our religion books.

<http://www.jclubcatholic.org> is "A Catholic Place for Kids." It has a Saint-A-Day (all of the saints for the month), Joke of the Day, prayer, stories, activities, printables, media (prayers) and games.

If you find yourself in need of a respite during an especially busy day, try a Three Minute Retreat on <http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>.



MOTHER TERESA

Mother Teresa will be canonized by Pope Francis on September 4th. Find out more about her life at: info.americancatholic.org/mother-teresa goo.gl/2WGiD7

Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa cared for the poor. She helped people who had no one to care for them. She fed hungry people. She gave shelter to homeless people. She listened to people who had no one to talk to. She took care of sick people. And she asked people to forgive others who hurt them.

You can also care for people who need help. The hearts below tell something you can do to care for others. Read the words in each heart. Then, make a plan to do the action in the heart. Color the heart when you have finished.

