

# Religious Education Newsletter

Queen of Apostles Community

March 8, 2016

## What is happening in March!

- Seder Meal
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Easter Egg Hunt
- CRS Rice Bowl

## Preparing for New Life

It is almost spring! This is the time of year when we get those first few days of warmth to let us know that soon we will be walking among leafy trees, green grass, and flowers. It is also the time of year that I realize that I didn't get all my indoor projects finished that I wanted to do in the winter months. I usually have a few days of fretting before I am able to focus on what this season is really about. This season of Lent is here for us to take the time needed to organize and prepare ourselves for the new life of Easter. Sometimes, that might mean cleaning out that closet, but really it is about letting go of the things that no longer serve you, that hold you back from accepting the gift of new life in Christ.

As parents and caretakers of children it is so very important that we take the time to do this. Our lives focus around helping and caring for others. By caring for ourselves and taking the time in prayer to fully prepare for Easter we not only are able to fully celebrate the gifts that the Easter season has to offer, but we are modeling our faith to our children. We are teaching them

the sacredness of this time, and the importance of actively working on our faith journeys. You are the first teachers of faith in your children's life.

In twenty years, when they are receiving ashes at the beginning of Lent and trying to decide how they will move through this liturgical season, they will remember you. They will remember how you took time to further yourself on in your faith journey each year. They will know that Lent is a special time and that we are blessed to have this time of preparation.

May in these final weeks of Lent you have the time and the focus to do all the spring cleaning of our hearts and minds to fully prepare us for the powerful transformation of Easter.

Peace, Maggie

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

## Spaghetti Dinner!

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be here on March 12th. Dinner reservations begin at 5 p.m. For those of you who haven't been it is a fun time! The teens decorate Si-lounge so that it looks like a lovely bistro. The lights are low, candles are lit, live

piano music and good friends make the evening lovely. You get lots of food for a great price, and best of all you are helping a great cause. This is the main fundraiser of the teens. It sends a group of teens every year to Nazareth Farm and Marianist LIFE Week. This is a

great way to support the youth and have a great evening out. There is always a ton of wonderful items in the silent auction to bid on. So come prepared to do a bit of shopping for birthdays, mother's day, father's day, or Easter which is right around the corner.

Sign up for reservations email Jack Simpson or Maggie Atkinson [Maggie@planetatkinson.com](mailto:Maggie@planetatkinson.com) to get the time you would like!



## In this issue:

Seder Meal	1
Spaghetti Dinner	11
CRS Rice Bowl	2
Annunciation	2
Upcoming Activities	3



QAC Religious Education

Find us on Facebook! Look for Queen of Apostles Community. Or follow us on Twitter or Instagram @ QACYouth

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### Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

Each year we participate in the CRS Rice Bowl as part of our Lenten fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Your children will receive their box this Sunday. Here is more information on this wonderful project.

40 years ago, Catholics in the United States wanted to respond to famine in Africa. Could we feed the hungry through Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving? The answer was yes—and it came in the form of a small cardboard box.

40 years later, CRS Rice Bowl is *your* way to help our brothers and sisters in need each Lent.

CRS Rice Bowl is [Catholic Relief Services](#)' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, we hear stories from our brothers and sisters in need worldwide, and devote our Lenten prayers, fasting and gifts to change the lives of the poor.

Learn more about [Lent and CRS Rice Bowl](#).



**Religion is not taught it is communicated. Religion is instilled more deeply in the spirits and hearts of the students through the atmosphere that permeates the school rather than through teaching.**

~ Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Marianist Founder

## Feast of the Annunciation

On March 25th, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. This is the day that the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and greeted her "Hail Mary, full of Grace. The Lord is with you!" Frightened and unsure this young girl said YES. She said YES to all that might be possible in her life. She said YES to incredible hardships, and unspeakable joys. She said "let it be done unto me".



This gives us the wonderful opportunity to think about the way we "say

YES" to God in our own lives. How many times a day do we choose an easy path, instead of the more difficult path that leads

us to growth and hope? It is hard to imagine in this day and age what it was like for Mary to say YES, but it is so important to do so. I often look at the group of teens at QAC and see so many amazing, strong, faith filled qualities in them. The idea, that Mary was their age and had the trust, love, and openness to give her life to God is awe inspiring. It gives us the strength to trust, love, and be open to the path that we are to follow. If we can only hear the call.

Sometimes our world is so loud, so constant in our ears and eyes that we cannot hear that beautiful guiding voice of the Holy Spirit. So in this month of Lent, as we are ever approaching Easter, let us not forget to take the time to listen to the voice of God in our lives and do not be afraid to say... "let it be done unto me"

<http://www.wf-f.org/Annunciation.html>

May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

**You are invited to the QAC Youth Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction**

**When:** March 12th —Reservations begin at 5p.m.

**Where:** In the ever elegant Bistro 'd Si-lounge

**How:** Sign up to reserve a table after Mass or email Maggie Atkinson at Maggie@planetatkinson.com

**Who:** Everyone! Family, friends, anyone who enjoys spaghetti!

**Why:** This dinner and silent auction will send our youth to service retreats, and leadership retreats. It allows them to work hard to further their spiritual, personal, and leadership growth within our community and our world. This is a fun night with good food, friends, and wonderful opportunities to buy gifts and services from our Silent Auction.

**Please Come and Help Us Make This the Best Year Ever!!**

**Sky Zone!!**

**Middle School and High School time to play!**

**Saturday March 19th from 4-6 p.m. at the Centerville location**

**RSVP to Maggie or Amie and don't forget to fill out permission slips!**

976 Senate Drive  
Washington Twp, OH 45459

**Seder Meal  
for all children 5th-8th grade  
Sunday March 20th 9 a.m.  
In the Junior High Room**

These students will have a special experience this day. Please arrive early, as door will be closed at 9 am to allow enough time for them to have a full Seder. Please RSVP to Amie at class this Sunday.



**Queen of Apostles Easter Egg Hunt**  
Come and join us for a morning of family fun!  
**Saturday March 26, 2016 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Pancake brunch with the Easter Bunny  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Games for all ages  
Scavenger Egg Hunt