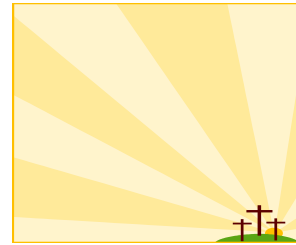


St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Lenten Reflection 2005



Dear Parents and St. Charles Community,

As we begin our Lenten journey together as a family of faith, we wish to share with you what we will be reflecting upon in Children's Liturgy of the Word. In the Lenten readings, we will listen to scripture stories about faith and choices, blindness and seeing, mountains and transfiguration, thirst and refreshing water, light and darkness, death and new life.

As we journey together, we will explore themes of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We will reflect upon the many forms of prayer—common prayer in families and at mass as community, private prayer by oneself and prayer spoken in hugs, smiles, helping hands, laughter and compassion, support and encouragement. We will reflect upon the importance of the care of the body. We will see how, even in small ways, choosing less can remind us of those who need more—how nourishment sustains the health of our world. In giving alms, we will recognize our many riches and how through pennies and creative acts we can make those who live far away from us, with us, near us, richer rather than poorer—alms of money, doing dishes, cleaning rooms, caring for sisters/brothers, patience, listening, compassion, humor and joy.

As a sign of our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the children will be invited to bring food each Sunday for the St. Charles food pantry. As the children come forward for blessing and dismissal, they will place their offerings in food baskets located on the altar. Each child who asked received a rice bowl for offerings which will be used to feed children and families around the world.

As a special part of the 9am and 11am Palm Sunday liturgies, the children will be invited to join with the celebrant in the procession of palms.

Taste and see how good the Lord is!

God's bread comes down from heaven and gives life to the world!

--Germaine, Laura, Madelyn and Sally
(9am & 11am Liturgy of the Word Leaders)

Lenten Prayer

Dear God,

In the midst of jobs, busyness, sickness, pain and play,
We come to Lent with ashes and dirt
Seeking to be washed clean.
Kneeling before us You gently wash our feet once again,
Readying us for the journey,
With its promise of refreshment, nourishment and transfiguration.
With those preparing to join our parish community, we share Your stories of faith and hope.
Together we thirst for the life-giving water of your Word.



Give us hope and patience

As we struggle to keep the light of listening and learning, caring, respect, dignity, forgiveness and reconciliation shining
Amid shadows of desire to make the winning point, separation, reticence, ambition, anger and judgment.

Give us this day Your daily bread.

Make us Your bread broken and shared in family and community

For the life of each other and the world.

Fed with your grace,

Energized by your love,

We find strength and courage to change and to grow,

And feed others with Your unconditional love.

May Your Eucharist enable us to see and be your reconciling presence in our world. Amen.