

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 11, 2025, NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk



Our 10 Year Vision is bearing a lot of wonderful things. Below you will see a photo of the people that just completed the most recent Alpha. This past Tuesday our Alpha Team began a new initiative – Alpha for Parents after drop-off. The testimonies of people who have attended Alpha reinforce how the Lord Jesus is working in people's lives.

This coming week begins the most important week in human history: Holy Week. I want to encourage everyone to invest time to attend the Holy Week services beginning with Holy Thursday at 7pm (the Mass of the Lord's Supper); Good Friday (11am Stations of the Cross followed by a simple lunch in the Parish Centre and then 3pm the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion) and then the Easter Vigil on Saturday at 9pm.

At this Mass the blessing of the Lord will be seen in 22 adults being baptized into the Catholic Church – many of whom are parents in our School! Two Saturdays after Easter I will baptize 22 of their children! We are blessed – and I'm convinced the Lord is only getting started with Corpus Christi!

Think of becoming a part of Alpha in the Fall!

Last Sunday our Evangelization of Parents Committee started a new initiative, to reach out to the parents of our School. Each Grade will be invited to attend Mass and the After Mass Social in the Parish Centre. Last Sunday the Grade 1 class and their families were invited. It was a great turnout – the Parish Centre was packed, and people seems to be enjoying themselves. A thank you to the EPC for this initiative. We need to reach out and people need connection. We are desirous to show through our 10 Year Vision the core value of Evangelical Hospitality. I look forward to the next class to be present. And in the meantime, Grade 1 families should always know they are a part of this parish family!

Remember the Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday: We celebrate the greatest of all victories – Jesus Christ, risen from the dead! He has rescued us from our enemy and for friendship with God!

Alpha Group



Until the next time – from the Pastor's Desk

Fr. Hamilton

Grade 1 Parents at our After Mass Socials



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

BASKETBALL SEASON REFLECTIONS

Grade 5 Boys

The Grade 5 Boys Basketball Team was a fantastic group to work with this year. They showed great enthusiasm and pride in representing our school on the court. Throughout the season, they played three friendly games, displaying sportsmanship and teamwork every step of the way. The team is excited for next year when the competition becomes even more challenging, and they can't wait to build on this year's experience. It's been a pleasure watching them grow and develop both as athletes and as a team!

Ms. Groarke and Ms. A. O'Sullivan



Grade 5 Girls

The Grade 5 girls Basketball Team brought the heat this season. From clutch plays to fierce defense, they played with heart, hustle, and unity every game. Ms. Groarke and Mrs. Mathias are so proud of their growth, grit, and unforgettable moments on the court!



Grade 6 Girls

The Grade 6 Girls Basketball Team had an amazing season! They demonstrated remarkable commitment, determination, and motivation, further developing their skills and working hard together as a team. The girls finished first in our zone, and 4th in the CISVA finals. We are so proud of you for being so successful this season!

Ms. Rossi and Ms. Plachta



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Grade 6 Boys

The Grade 6 Boys had a triumphant season this year under the guidance of Mr. Erceg. Throughout the season, they developed not only their athletic skills and physical ability, but more importantly, their sportsmanship and team camaraderie grew with every game.

The boys approached each practice with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, and this dedication was evident in their gameplay. They consistently played as a united team and achieved incredible success. Their integrity and teamwork never wavered, no matter the challenge. They should be extremely proud of making it to the Richmond Oval and representing their school with excellence.

Their growth and accomplishments throughout the season serve as a powerful reminder of how God is working in each one of us!



Grade 7 Boys

The grade 7 Boys had a great season this year and were coached by Mr. Planta and Mrs. Kerrigan. The boys were a strong team that took their skills to the next level of play. Their hard work in practice was evident during games as they worked together as a team to come 2nd in our zone and made it to the Quarter Finals at the Richmond Oval. The boys unfortunately didn't advance to the Semis but played hard until the very end of that game. The boys cheered each other on, used difficult skills and plays, and played their hardest in every game and tournament they had. We are very proud of the grade 7 boys, and we hope that they continue to play throughout their high school years!



Grade 7 Girls

The grade 7 Girls played a great season this year and were coached by Mr. Planta! The girls worked together as a team, learned new skills and plays, and always encouraged each other during games and practices. The girls placed 2nd in our zone and won the St Joseph the Worker and St. Andrews Tourneys. In the Quarter Finals, the girls faced the #1 seed and eventual champions, St Jude's. The grade 7 girls played their best game of the season and battled to the very end, but fell short. The team should feel very



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

accomplished and proud for being great leaders on and off the court with sportsmanship towards their opponents and their teammates. We are very proud of the grade 7 girls, and we hope that they continue to play throughout their high school years.

CONGRATULATIONS – Congratulations to Mrs. Lam and her husband for welcoming their daughter Elizabeth Lam on March 21. We are so very happy for you. God Bless you and your family.

LENTEN BOXES – Please return your Lenten boxes

SPRING PICNIC DONATION FORM - Spring Picnic Donation Form attached.

CC PARISH SUMMER CAMP 2025

Please see attached Registration Form.



UNIFORM REMINDERS

Parents, please label all uniform items (shirts, pants, kilts, shorts, etc.) with a permanent black marker. If your child's name has faded, please re-write the name.

Please check uniform labels (your child may be wearing someone's golf shirt, sweater, shirt, pants, kilt, gym shirt, or gym shorts) If you notice another student's name, please return the item to your child's classroom teacher.

Please ensure that uniforms are neat in appearance, you may need to hem pants or kilts and patch any tears in clothing items. Thank you.

DURING LENT

"Give alms ... pray to your Father ... fast, [but] do not look gloomy" ~

Matthew 6:2-16

Why Do We Pray?

As Catholics, we believe that personal prayer is not complete unless our prayers are joined with the community of faith who is the living Body of Christ. The Sunday liturgy is the greatest form of prayer because



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

together we receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist — the very real presence of the Risen Christ. Attending weekly (or daily) Mass is an essential part of a healthy prayer life.

Deepening Prayer

Throughout the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer life. For some of us, this means beginning a habit of daily prayer, setting aside time each day to share our hopes, joys, fears and frustrations with God. Praying first thing in the morning, while the house is still quiet, or talking to God while on your commute to work are simple ways to integrate prayer into everyday life. Praying the Rosary, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or attending a daylong silent retreat may bring you to new places in your relationship with God.

Why Do We Fast?

Lent has traditionally been the season where we give something up, often sweets or a favorite food, in order to focus on the sacrifice Christ made on the cross. But fasting is much more than a means of developing self-control. Fasting is spiritual and physical purification; the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. Fasting and abstinence help us to participate more fully in the cross of Christ.

Fresh Ways to Fast

- In the Western world, fasting from food is a reminder of our abundance and a way to walk in solidarity with people around the world who struggle with daily hunger and starvation. Pause to remember families that face hunger as you fast.
- Limiting social-media exposure or fasting from the 24-hour news networks are ways to quiet our minds and open our hearts to transformation.
- We might also strive to fast from anger, road rage, workaholism, judgment or jealousy.

Lent is a time to fast from those things or habits that may have become a roadblock to our relationship with Christ.

Church Guidelines for Fasting and Abstinence

The law of abstinence obliges those 14 years of age and older not to eat meat on Fridays throughout the season of Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday. The law of fast obliges all those from ages 18 through 59 to refrain from eating between meals and to limit their eating to one full meal and two lighter meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Why Do We Give Alms?

Charitable giving is a very ancient practice; almsgiving was normative long before the time of Jesus. The Lenten call to almsgiving means making the needs of other people our own. One of the central lessons of the cross is compassion; the heavy burdens we carry help us to appreciate the suffering in others. Sharing our material goods is often just the beginning of real Christian giving. We are also called to share our time tending to people in need.

Outside-the-Box Ideas for Giving

- Volunteer at a neonatal center, giving premature babies a human touch
- Tutor a child or mentor a college graduate
- Increase your donation to your local parish

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter; it is a necessary prelude. The sacrificial practices of Lent prepare and purify us in body, mind and spirit for the passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

LENT

The Season of Lent: When Catholics Repent

The season of Lent is one of the most significant events of the year for the Catholic Church. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days (excluding Sundays), ending on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday.

A Word About Lent

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English meaning, "spring." Like so many other holidays, Lent is a season-based holiday that, over the centuries, has become almost synonymous with spring. In other languages, the holiday is referred to as "Quadragesima," a term that means "the 40 days."

A Season That's 40 Days Long

The season of Lent lasts for forty days because this is the biblical number of days necessary for preparation. For instance, Moses stayed on Mt. Sinai for forty days and Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, praying and fasting.

For Catholics, Lent is a period of ongoing prayer, fasting and abstinence. It's about commemorating Jesus Christ's death for our sins and His ultimate resurrection for our salvation. Traditionally, Lent has been a period in which Catholics "give up" something they enjoy. Surrendering a particular pleasure (such as a favorite food or drink or going to the movies) is done in the name of repentance. It also serves as a means of imposing a discipline on our wills—to prove (to ourselves) that we are not slaves to pleasure. It's important to note that this Lenten denial of pleasure is not an end in itself, but rather a *means* to an end.

Fasting is Voluntary

Fasting and abstinence during the season of Lent is done on a strictly voluntary basis. The fasting is not strict by any means. According to a definition as specified by the Catholic Church, Lenten fasting allows the faster to consume one complete meal and up to two snacks a day, as long as those two snacks do NOT add up to one meal.

It is important to note that fasting is NOT allowed to take place on Sundays because Sunday is the day Christ rose from the dead. It is therefore inappropriate to fast or atone for our sins on such a glorious day. In the Christian faith, Sundays—even Sundays during the season of Lent—are cause for celebration.

What Lent Means Today

Today, Lent has evolved from its strict time of penance into a statement of solidarity for those about to be baptized. Those already baptized can use the Lenten period to reaffirm their baptismal promises as well. The point on all counts is to affirm—or reaffirm—one's connection and commitment to Jesus Christ. Accordingly, during Lent, believers must bring their questions, their sinfulness, their hunger and their thirst—through the Lenten sacrifice—to attest to their need to grow spiritually and their longing for God.

As stated earlier, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. On Ash Wednesday (the Day of Ashes) the foreheads of Christians are marked with ash in the sign of the cross to symbolize their devotion to God. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are the burned remains of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Other significant days that occur during the season of Lent are:

- **Palm Sunday** occurs on the Sunday before Easter and marks the beginning of Holy Week. April 13
- **Holy Thursday** (Maundy Thursday) is the day of the Last Supper (or the First Mass). In addition, this meal was a celebration of Passover. April 17
- **Good Friday** occurs the Friday before Easter and commemorates Christ's crucifixion. April 18
- **Holy Saturday** is the day Christ was laid in the tomb. It is the last day of Lent, the day before Easter. April 19

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

- **Easter Sunday** marks the day of Christ's Resurrection and is the first day after Lent. April 20
- **Easter Monday – School Closed – April 21**