

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINÉ

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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BAPTISM: OUR B-DAY INTO ETERNAL LIFE!

Happy Easter! HE IS RISEN!!! Now is a time for great celebration! Every year, we celebrate our birthday. It's a date we'll never forget and we anticipate it (usually) with excitement! This time of Easter rejoice reminds us of another day that we should be celebrating: our Baptism day! How many of us know and party of that date? Its often forgotten and yet, for us Christians, it is the day when we were changed forever! Its where we experienced an outpouring of the hOly Spirit through the waters of Baptism, where Jesus welcomed us into His life and into His Church. Its such an amazing day and definitely one to commemorate, party on, remember! If you don't know your own or your children's baptism dates, find out! **This year in your family, celebrate one another's baptisms! Do something special and give real significance to your birthday into eternal life!**

LEVEL ONE, TWO, & THREE

This month, we will celebrate Easter in a very special way together by celebrating the Liturgy of Light together! This Easter Season offers us the opportunity to celebrate the greatest Good News of all: HE IS RISEN! This is the foundation of our faith! The Resurrection of Jesus is a great mystery and to understand this, we need an intense moment of celebration, in which everyone (children, catechists, & aides) enters into together. The children are experts at rejoicing and they respond to this celebration with joy and thanksgiving. Just as the Church enters into Easter with the Liturgy of the Light at the Easter Vigil, so do we in the atrium. These are the moments of celebration:

- 1) We gather outside the atrium door & focus on the Paschal Candle-proclaiming the feast, tracing the candle symbols, lighting the candle and reading the Gospel account (Mark 16:1-8a)
- 2) We process with the Paschal Candle into the dark atrium. A catechist (or guest singer) will sing three verses of the *Exultet* (the triumphant Easter proclamation hymn of Christ's Resurrection and an invitation to heaven and earth of join with the Church in her rejoicing).
- 3) We sing "Alleluia" (finally after six long weeks!) and read Isaiah 60:20
- 4) The risen Christ doesn't keep His light all for Himself but He shares that light with us! Each child is called up to receive a candle that has been lit from the Paschal Candle. We sing songs and then each child brings up their candle and places it around the Paschal Candle. We see the beautiful individual lights clustered together and we see this beautiful image of the Christian community-a community of light!)
- 5) We end with a closing prayer & a song.



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NEWS & EVENTS

- **FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE:** Thursday, May 4th in the church from 5:30-6:30 pm. One parent should attend with your 2nd grader.
- **2ND GRADE SACRAMENTAL RETREAT will be May 6th from 9am-4:30 pm for both parents and children.** This is a mandatory retreat for parents and the 2nd grade students preparing for their sacraments. Children should enter school by the South Entrance (by Mary's Room). Parents will meet in Fr. Jacob's Library (church basement). First Reconciliation will be a part of the day. If you have questions concerning the retreat day, please contact Miss Turchi at 659-8556/hturchi@stobertschool.com.
- **First Communion Mass will be May 7th at 2 pm.** We ask that all the children arrive by 1:30 pm in Angel Hall.
- **MAY CROWNING:** All sessions will meet on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:45 pm for our closing liturgy and May Crowning Mass. We ask that children arrive by 6:30 pm and that they bring a flower with them to present to Mary, Queen of Heaven.
- **MAY CROWNING RECEPTION:** After Mass on May 10th, we will celebrate the awesome year that we have had! Please join us as we celebrate over cookies, fruit, and juice! We are asking families with children in grade K, 2, 4, & 6 to donate a plate or package of cookies for the reception. Please drop off your treats in the Activity Center before Mass.
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION FOR 2017-18 HAS BEGUN!!!** Get your registration in as soon as possible! Registration in a room will close once it has 14 children in it, so if you need a specific day for class, please get your form in as soon as possible! Forms have been given out at class and you can also register online at <http://www.stobertparish.org/faith-education/religious-education-registration/>. Contact jhahn@stobertschoolcom or 659-8556 with any registration questions you may have.
- **SPREAD THE WORD! ANYONE WITH A THREE OR FOUR YEAR OLD SHOULD ENROLL THEIR CHILD IN CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD!** There is no charge for your 3 or 4 year old. Please use the regular Religious Ed form to register.
- **Vacation Bible School - Passport to Peru will be June 26-30, 2017, 9:30-12:15 pm.** Registration forms will be sent home with your children. The form can also be accessed at vbspro.events/p/stobertb.
- **JOIN THE FUN! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR VBS:** We very much need volunteers for this incredibly fun week! If any parents, high school students, college students, or 7th & 8th graders (*this is a service & faith credit*) who are interested in helping, please contact Hannah at 659-8556/hturchi@stobertschool.com. Our first VBS Meeting will be April 18 at 6:30 pm in Mary's Room. We want to make this an unforgettably wonderful week for our children and we cannot do it without your help!
- **2017/2018 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 WITH OPENING MASS AT 6:45 PM IN THE CHURCH.**