



St. Francis of Assisi Church
8000 El Dorado Parkway
Frisco, TX 75034

Telephone: (972) 712-2645
Fax: (972) 712-1087

Web Page:
www.stfoafrisco.org

**Children's Ministry
Faith Formation Staff:**

Diana Elwell,
Director of Children's Ministry
E-mail at:
delwell@stfoafrisco.org
Ext. 229

Jeannette Manning,
Children's Ministry Administrator
E-mail at:
jmanning@stfoafrisco.org
Ext. 234



Eternally We Build:
God's Home, God's Family...

Children's Ministry Faith Formation

Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade

May 2008

We are coming to the end of another successful Faith Formation year. Our Children's Ministry has grown along with the rest of our parish. As we draw to a close this year, we are blessed to have 1,291 children in the K-5 Children's Ministry program. In addition, there are 387 children who will be receiving First Communion this month. St. Francis of Assisi parish could not have a vibrant and growing Faith Formation program without the support and dedication of the many volunteers who give their time and talent to serve our children as catechists, team leaders, nursery helpers, substitute catechists and many other areas.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have responded to their baptismal call by serving the children of our parish. We appreciate your service as you do God's work, teaching the Catholic faith to the youngest members of our parish.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3



Visit the Children's Ministry page on our parish web site to play our new Gospel Champions video game. The Gospel Champions video game reinforces Gospel readings by recreating the same Gospel stories that children hear in Mass into fun action/adventure video games. Each month there is a new Gospel story game that sequences with the Lectionary. As children play the games on their home PCs, they learn by seeing and hearing the story; and then by doing activities related to the story.

Customs and Traditions

Holy Water



Holy water is one of the most popular and instructive sacramentals in the Catholic church. Teach your children to use holy water as often as possible. Using holy water while making the Sign of the Cross is a sign of one's baptism into the passion and death of Jesus. It is used when entering church to remind one that he or she is entering a sacred place. It can also be used at home in your daily prayers. Small holy water fonts can be placed near bedroom doors so that children can bless themselves as they leave in the morning to start their day.

Children love sacramentals and willingly bless themselves with holy water when taught to do so. It is important, however, to explain to the children *why* we bless ourselves with holy water. Use the sacramentals to teach children their faith.

St. Teresa of Avila said, regarding the use of holy water:
"From nothing do evil spirits flee more precipitately, never to return, than from holy water."

Imagine the comfort a child who is afraid of the dark receives from being blessed by his or her parent with holy water when getting tucked into bed at night.

Important Upcoming Dates:

5/1: Faith Formation registration for 2008-2009 school year begins

5/3, 5/14, 5/10 and 5/11: First Communion Masses

5/4-5/8: Last week of Faith Formation classes

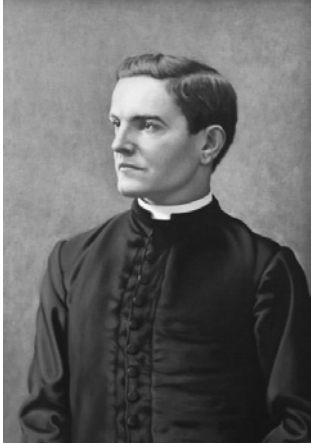
6/23-6/27: Vacation Bible School

6/21, 7/26, 8/23: Family Summer Cinema. Look for more details in bulletin

9/14: First day of classes for 2008-2009 Faith Formation session

Saint of the Month: Venerable Father Michael McGivney

***There will be many Saints depicted in our new church, through various works of art. This portion of the monthly Faith Formation newsletter will begin to introduce your family to those saints.*



The Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney was born on August 12, 1852, in Waterbury Connecticut. The son of Irish immigrants, Father McGivney entered the St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore Maryland in 1873. Seeing the devastation and suffering wrought upon immigrant families when fathers, the primary breadwinners, died, Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1881. This Fraternal benefit society offered low-cost life insurance to these immigrant families facing destitution. Through the Knights of Columbus, Father McGivney also gave Catholic laymen a new opportunity – the chance to grow in holiness while contributing to their parishes, communities and security of their families.

In 1997, Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin of Hartford, Conn., opened Father McGivney's cause for canonization. Pope Benedict XVI Saturday approved a decree recognizing the heroic virtue of Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. The pope's declaration significantly advances the priest's process toward sainthood and gives the parish priest the distinction of "Venerable Servant of God." If canonized, Father McGivney would be the first American born priest to be so honored.

Today the Knights of Columbus has over 1.7 million member families and thirteen thousand councils. During the 2004-2005 fraternal year, \$134 million and 68 million man-hours were donated to charity by these men who are answering Father McGivney's call that each Knight's heart and mind be directed to greater love of God and Christ, both within the Church and within their families.



Vacationing with Faith:

As you plan your summer vacations, don't forget about your faith life! When you go away on, it doesn't mean that your faith should wait at home for your return. Incorporating your Catholic faith into your vacation plans can be easy and rewarding, as well as a wonderful teaching opportunity that God is part of everything we do. Here are a few ideas for vacationing with faith:

- Check out times and places for Mass at www.masstimes.org . Just enter the city or zip code and all the churches in that area will appear. You can even get a map and driving directions.
- Begin each day with prayer. Before you head out to the amusement park or the beach, gather your family together and ask for God's blessing and protection on the day. Then, at night, when you tuck your children into bed, thank Him for the time you have shared together.
- Play the "Church game." Every time you see a church, say a short prayer for the people who attend that parish.
- Visit a historical religious site in the area you are visiting. Visit www.catholicshrines.net for a list of most of the major shrines throughout the country.