



SAINT PAUL ^{THE} APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL  LOS ANGELES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The season of Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. Lent is often described as a time for increased piety, extra prayer and liturgical services, and plenty of self-sacrifice. Historically, Christians were required to abstain from certain practices, habits or activities, and most often were instructed to fast or abstain from eating certain foods. From the time we were children, especially if we attended Catholic school, our first question about Lent was often, “What am I going to give up for Lent?” Giving up something that you really enjoyed for these 40 days was a custom that, when we were younger, helped us enter into the season with a sense of purpose and a greater awareness of the meaning of “self-sacrifice.”

But as we grew older, hopefully we learned that Lent isn’t simply about us “giving up” something. As adults, we might want to consider viewing Lent in a deeper way. We are probably much more settled into our behaviors and patterns of life, and sometimes merely giving up something is where we begin—and end—our Lenten reflections. It can be tempting to say, “I am giving up chocolate,” or cookies or even all sweets. But without more prayerful reflection, it can simply become a way we show God how strong we are. It becomes more about our will power than any heartfelt conversation with God.

Lent is a time for us to realign ourselves with our faith, and most importantly, with the example Jesus means for us to live. During the holy season of Lent, God offers us a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with Him and with one another. In the “busyness” of our everyday lives, these 40 days give us a chance to pray more deeply, experience atonement for the good we have failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. There is no amount of candy, soda, fast foods, TV, or internet fasting that will ever prove our holiness. Much of who we are is determined by how we see things and what we do. Lent is an opportunity to see all of life more clearly through the lens of our faith, and to become spiritually renewed through the message of being more soulful, compassionate,

and loving towards ourselves and others. The real grace is when we recognize that Lent is a season in which God wants to *give us something*. God wants to help us transform our lives and make us more liberated as people—and not just more enlightened with God, but in the way we live our lives and love our families.

Easter Sunday will soon mark the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our invitation to share in the mystery of God’s life and love. This season of Lent—no matter what you decide to give up or take on—don’t forget about Easter. The end certainly gives a more beautiful meaning to the journey.

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal

6	MAR 2019, WED	● 8:15 – 9:15am	Ash Wednesday School Mass--3rd Grade St. Paul the Apostle Church
8	MAR 2019, FRI	● All day	Trimester 2 ends
10	MAR 2019, SUN	● 9:30 – 10:30am	4th Grade Family Mass St. Paul the Apostle Church
11	MAR 2019, MON	● 8 – 9:30am	PWC Board Meeting--JACC
12	MAR 2019, TUE	● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Kindergarten Prayer Service and Dinner St. Paul the Apostle Church
13	MAR 2019, WED	● 6:30 – 8:30pm	1st Grade Prayer Service and dinner St. Paul the Apostle Church
15	MAR 2019, FRI	● 7 – 8pm	Sandwich Builders--JCPC JCPC
18	MAR 2019, MON	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	2nd Grade Sacrament meeting JCPC JCPC
19	MAR 2019, TUE	● 6 – 10pm	Basketball Sports Banquet - JCPC JCPC
20	MAR 2019, WED	● 6 – 10pm	Basketball Sports Banquet - JCPC JCPC
21	MAR 2019, THU	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	1st Grade Sacrament Preparation meeting parents and students JCPC JCPC
22	MAR 2019, FRI	● All day	No School--Religious Education Congress
24	MAR 2019, SUN	● 4 – 9pm	Men's Basketball Tournament--Gym Gym
28	MAR 2019, THU	● 7 – 8:30pm	Jr. High Night - SSM Media Center
29	MAR 2019, FRI	● 7:30 – 9:30pm	Junior High Spring Dance--JCPC JCPC
1	APR 2019, MON	● 8 – 9:30am	PWC Board meeting--JACC JACC



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Parents are most welcome to join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. Please note that due to all of the scheduled liturgies and prayer services throughout the day, we are expecting some traffic congestion as well as crowded parking. Please bring your patience and offer up any frustration you might feel as part of your “Lenten sacrifice.”



STUMBLING TOWARDS HOLINESS

Each year during Lent, St. Paul the Apostle Church coordinates several small group gatherings that assist participants in reflecting on their faith. Many of us feel a bit adrift given the revelations that have recently rocked, and will continue to rock, the Church for some time to come. At times we can feel as lost and wandering as the Israelites did when they journeyed for 40 years in the Sinai desert before reaching the Promised Land. It seemed appropriate this year for our small groups to join the Israelites in their wandering, so this year's small groups will meet around the Lenten Sunday readings from the Hebrew Scriptures – the first reading from each Sunday. If you would like to participate in one of the many small groups that are forming, send an email to SPASmallgroups2019@gmail.com or stop by the Parish Office. All are welcome to join us!



NO SCHOOL!

This is just a reminder that school will **not** be in session on Friday, March 22, as all of the faculty will be attending the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim. Classes will resume Monday morning with our prayer assembly.



IMPORTANT PARENT NOTICE!

It has come to our attention through LAUSD that a local business in Venice has been selling vape devices, pods and other paraphernalia to their students, even though they are underage. The commercial business is located on the Venice Boardwalk near the end of Market Street. Apparently, the business will sell to students that are paying cash, often increasing the prices because it is a cash purchase and they know the buyer is underage. Please use this information to talk with your children about their social activities, making the right choices, and the dangers of using these devices.



AUTHOR VISIT TO SPA!

Newbery Honor Award winning author and illustrator, Eugene Yelchin, will be doing an author talk at St. Paul's on Thursday, March 7, for grades 3 - 6. He has an exciting new middle-grade novel, *Spy Runner*, in which a boy stumbles upon a secret that jeopardizes American national security. This historical look at Russian-American relations is timely, with dark, grainy, layered photographs that add to the sense of time and place, perfect for this enthralling mystery.

Several of his books will be available for purchase and autographing, and order forms will be distributed to the students. If you would like to make a purchase, please return the order form with payment (checks made out to Children's Book World) to your child's teacher as soon as possible.



P.E. CLASSES ON THE MORMON FIELD

As we move towards the season of spring and sunnier days, the P.E. teachers would like to have some of their classes take place on the grassy areas of the Mormon field beginning March 1st. Because students will be leaving the SPA campus with their P.E. teachers, a signed permission slip from parents will be required. We ask that you read, sign and return the form to your child's homeroom teacher once you receive it. Unfortunately, students who do not have a signed permission slip on file will not be allowed to leave campus and participate in the class activities.

PWC NEWS CORNER!



PWC COMMUNITY COFFEE

Please mark your calendar for next month's coffee where we will have an informal book club about **Fr. Greg Boyle's "Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship."** Fr. Boyle founded Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention program in the world. The Amazon description regarding his book says, "In a moving example of unconditional love in difficult times, Gregory Boyle, the Jesuit priest and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tattoos on the Heart*, shares what working with gang members in Los Angeles has taught him about faith, compassion, and the enduring power of kinship." The 224-page book is available at the library, as well as in many formats for about \$11. At our gathering, you can also be reunited with long lost lunch boxes, water bottles and more...lost and found items will be on display that morning. So get reading and please make plans to join us!



SPA SCHOOL WEBSITE NEWS!

After months and months of endless meetings, planning, hard work and dedication, we are pleased to announce that our new St. Paul the Apostle School website is now available to everyone! Please visit <https://school.sp-apostle.org> and browse around the site noting all that St. Paul's has to offer, who we are as a Catholic school community, and what we have to offer our families. We have added quite a bit of pertinent information regarding our enrollment process, our faith community, the academic programs, and the numerous extracurricular activities. Keep an eye on our Calendar of Events and the most important news on the front page of the website. You can also access our social media pages at the bottom of the site whenever you like! If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the school website please don't hesitate to email Daniel Chung at dchung@sp-apostle.org. Thanks, and enjoy!



SPA'S SOCIAL MEDIA



Please join St. Paul's this year as we ramp up our social media game on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube! We will be posting regular updates along with the parish to share the news about everything that's happening around campus and in the community. Check it out and share your "likes" to show your support! You can subscribe below by clicking on the links!

[**Facebook**](#)

[**Instagram**](#)

[**YouTube**](#)