St. Anne Religious Ed Newsletter

Dear Parents, 2/24/2016

I had a dream last night that I went back in time and inhabited my own 4th grade body. Weird, right? I was at my grade school and my one burning thought was… Why did I never talk to Kim Bell?

Kim Bell was my grade school love, who I spent waaay too much time thinking about and drooling over, but was far too shy to actually say anything to. But in my dream, I pulled her aside after school and proved to her that I was me from the future, and asked her why she never gave me the time of day.

Unfortunately, I woke up before I got an answer. But as soon as I woke up, I began thinking about all the things in my younger years that I regret doing – or not doing. So many hours wasted on video games. Sitting in the kids’ room watching TV at family gatherings instead of listening to the stories my now deceased relatives told. Fighting with my little brother when we could have been exploring or learning or imagining. Why didn’t I read more? Why didn’t I exercise more? Why didn’t I practice my faith better? And yes, why didn’t I ever ask out Kim Bell? How many other things would I change if I could?

So many things I would do differently... And I realized that many of those same things, I could still change about myself now, today. I still waste time on video games and TV and the Internet, and I often care more about things than people, and I don’t exercise, don’t read, don’t use my imagination…

What are the things you regret doing or not doing when you were young? Or even as an adult? How could you be living a fuller life right now? And if the “you” from 10 years in the future inhabited your body today, what would they do differently? Why not make those changes part of your Lenten promise?

**Penance Service – March 2nd @ Lena**

Last semester’s Penance Service was long… Like, absurdly long. Well, we’ve learned a bit since then and we’re ready for you this time! Here’s how this is going to work:

* This semester we have FIVE priests to give Penance, so it should take much less time.
* Deacon Peter will expose the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration at the beginning of the evening
* **Silent prayer** will be encouraged throughout while you are not receiving the Sacrament of Penance.
* **Parents** are encouraged to please receive Penance to show your children how important it is.
* Grades K-2 do not need to be present, but may come if they desire a blessing or time with Jesus.
* Grades 3-6 and Parents will be present at **6pm**.
* Grades 7-11 and Parents will be present at **7pm**.
* Families with children in both groups ***may choose to attend either session***.
* Rather than everyone lining up, you will **stay in your pew** until you are ready to receive Penance.
* **Attendance** **will be taken**, and every Student is expected to be present.

**Special RE Nights**

Please be aware of two special RE nights coming up:

* **ACRE Testing Night: March 9** (5th, 8th, 11th grade)
* **Safe Environment Night: April 6** (all Students)

Per diocesan mandate, both of these nights are mandatory attendance for the grades mentioned.

If you do not want your child to attend the Safe Environment night, you must ask for an Opt Out form. Materials will then be sent home so you can review Safe Environment information with your children.

Upcoming Events

MAR 2 Lenten Penance Service & Adoration – L@6pm

MAR 9 ACRE Testing (5th, 8th, 11th grade)

MAR 23 Stations of the Cross – C@6pm

MAR 30 Easter Mass – L@6pm

Thank you,

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