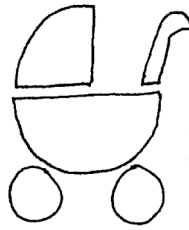


Clement Moms Newsletter



A community group of
Saint Clement Church

March/April 2011
Vol. 14 No. 2

Clement Moms Portal Update



See what's new at www.clementgroups.com! This secure website, also called a web portal, is available only to registered Saint Clement parishioners. Parish groups like Clement Moms and Clement Dads use it for the online activities calendar and message boards that are completely nonpublic (unlike Facebook and Google products).

There are a few new and improved items on the green menu bar at the top. You can find out what is going on and sign up for events by clicking the **CALENDAR** tab. (This used to be two different buttons called Events and Volunteer.) Don't be shy about signing up for volunteer opportunities! You can always change your response later. Many opportunities are family-friendly and a good chance to meet other moms or even introduce your child to the concept of service and helping others.

The **MEDIA** tab features photo albums of past events as well as video clips. The

benefit here is that all photos of your family stay strictly private; they are only viewable by other members of your group. So, only Clement Moms can see Clement Moms' photos; other groups cannot see them.

Filling out your **profile** is a wonderful way to participate in the parish community without even leaving your house. In the far upper right corner there are links to Profile and Settings. Click Profile to share a few details about yourself, just as you might when introducing yourself to another parishioner on the plaza after Mass.

We are always interested in your feedback, especially what is NOT working well... often they can make a change or move a button which ends up helping everyone. If you have any technical difficulties or need some tips on how to use the site, either post a message on the portal or send an email to joan.jablonski@gmail.com. (Joan Jablonski) ☞

Clement Moms Committee News

Clement Dads

Mark your calendars for Saturday morning indoor fun at the Saint Clement School gym, courtesy of the Clement Dads. Open gyms are slated for March 5 and 12. Watch the portal for more details.

Social Committee

The Children's Easter Party will be on Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at Centennial Hall. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance! Watch the portal for more details!

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee invites all moms to a Spring brunch on Saturday, April 2 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Check the portal for location details in the coming weeks, and we hope you can join us!

(Compiled by Megan Riley) ☞

Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love. God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer.



Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Taken from www.catholic.org/prayers ☞

Saint Clement Parish Events

March

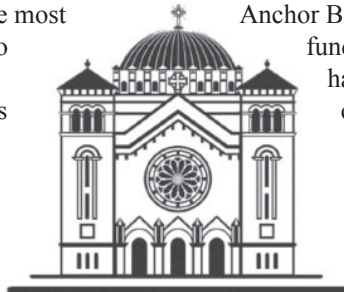
Tue, Mar 1: Liturgical Ministers Appreciation Dinner
 Fri, Mar 4 - Sun, Mar 6: Young Adult Retreat (*see below for more information*)
 Wed, Mar 9: Ash Wednesday; Soup & Rice Supper in Fireside after 5:30 Ashes Service
 Fri, Mar 11: 8th Grade Confirmation
 Tue, Mar 15: "Living Faith" presentation (Adult Formation)
 Wed, Mar 16: "Drawing Closer to Christ this Lent" Small Group Reflection Series
 Sat, Mar 19: Anchor Ball (*see below for more information*)
 Wed, Mar 23: "Drawing Closer to Christ this Lent" Small Group Reflection Series
 Fri, Mar 25 - Mon, Apr 4: Saint Clement School Spring Break
 Wed, Mar 30: "Drawing Closer to Christ this Lent" Small Group Reflection Series

April

Wed, Apr 6: "Drawing Closer to Christ this Lent" Small Group Reflection Series
 Tue, Apr 12: "Living Faith" Presentation (Adult Formation)
 Wed, Apr 13: "Drawing Closer to Christ this Lent" Small Group Reflection Series
 Sun, Apr 17: Palm Sunday (Beginning of Holy Week)
 Sun, Apr 24: Easter
 Sat, Apr 30: Parish Service Day (*see below for more information*)

Young Adult Retreat, St. Benedict's Abbey Retreat Center, March 4-6

"Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself." (Matthew 6:34)
 Our lives as young adults can be wrought with anxiety; uncertainties about careers, relationships, self-worth, and overall direction can affect even the most secure minds. It is natural to worry and to be distressed when life does not unfold as smoothly as we had hoped that it would. But in the words above, taken from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus extends an invitation to worry no more. He asks us to replace our anxiety with trust in God, for God will provide all that we need.



Please join us for our annual Young Adult Retreat – **Be Not Afraid: Live in Today and Trust in Tomorrow**. Share your story and embrace your uncertainty with a weekend of prayer, reflection, friendship, and fun. See www.stclementchurch.org for more information and to register.

Anchor Ball 2011, March 19 20th Anniversary Celebration: Have a Ball & Help Saint Clement!

This year we're moving the party to the 5-star Ritz-Carlton Chicago, one of

the finest hotels in America. There will be great food and music, wonderful experiences to be auctioned off, and the kind of joyful, warm celebration the Saint Clement community is known for. The festivities start at 6:00 pm.

In addition to being a terrific party, Anchor Ball is the most important fundraiser Saint Clement has. Our parish has a lot to celebrate, and, as always, a lot of important work to do. Anchor Ball is a great way to do both. Be part of it this year! To volunteer, donate, sponsor, or attend the 20th Anniversary Anchor Ball, please go to www.stclementchurch.org/events/anchor_ball.php or www.events.org/anchorball.

6th Annual Parish Service Day, April 30

Mark your calendars for April 30 because you won't want to miss the 6th Annual Saint Clement Service Day! It's the one day a year that we come together as a community of stewards to bring the Gospel of service to individuals, organizations, and institutions throughout the Chicagoland area. Planning for this parishwide event begins soon, and we welcome new members for the Service Day Planning Committee.

Celebrating Milestones

Welcome to the World

November 5, 2010
Rafael Navarro Mendiola
 Mark and Larissa Mendiola

January 18
Caroline Augusta Recker
 Welcome to the world!!
 Natalie and Christopher Recker

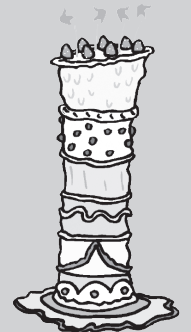


Happy Birthday

March 1
Hendley Tracy
 Happy 4th Birthday Hendley Tracy!!
 With much love,
 Carrie, Brian and little brothers
 Tucker and Grady

March 13
Jake Hamming
 Happy 3rd Birthday Jake!
 Love, Mommy, Daddy and Baby Josh
 Hamming

April 18
Jackson Benedict
 Happy 2nd birthday to our son Jackson!
 Love, Mom and Dad
 (Tara Zmyslo and Andy Benedict)



April 24
Dylan Greco
 Happy 5th birthday Dylan!
 We're so proud of you!
 Love, Mom and Dad
 (Kirsten and Jim Greco)

(Compiled by Megan Riley) 🍌

Help is needed in the areas of: marketing and publicity; team captain recruiting; children's service activities, liturgy and reflection; administration and site coordination; and refreshments. Please contact us at serviceday@stclementchurch.org or (773) 281-0371 to volunteer or with questions.

(Compiled by Mary Cele Doyle) 🍌

Winter and Spring Family Fun Ideas Around Chicago

An Overnight Family Program at The Field Museum: Dozin' with the Dinos

Sue the T. Rex is having a sleepover! Join The Field Museum for a night of family workshops, tours and performances. Explore ancient Egypt by flashlight, prowl an African savannah with man-eating lions and take a stroll through the Royal Palace in Bamum, Africa. Then spread your sleeping bag amidst some of our most popular exhibitions. March 4 and 11; and June 10. 5:45 pm - 9:00 am. Prices range from \$51 to \$87. www.fieldmuseum.org

Free Family Fun Ideas

Adler Planetarium

www.adlerplanetarium.org

Free days: March 1-3, 8, 9, 15, and 16

Borders Story Hours

www.borders.com, Chicago on North Ave Wednesdays at 10:30 am: check the website for the story hours near you.

Bubbles Academy at Whole Foods Lincoln Park

wholefoodsmarket.com/storesbeta/lincolnpark, 1550 N. Kingsbury Street Come out to Whole Foods Lincoln Park and enjoy a free show every Wednesday and Thursday morning at 10:00 am. The creative teachers from nearby Bubbles Academy will be on stage, entertaining kids in a half hour of exciting songs and stories. This event is a favorite for lots of moms and kids and always draws a crowd. Kids can dance and sing along with their favorite songs, and then shop at this enormous Whole Foods to help mom pick out some great snacks to take home.

Chicago Children's Museum

www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org, (312) 527-1000, Navy Pier (700 E. Grand Avenue) Enjoy free admission every Thursday from 5:00 - 8:00 pm for KRAFT Free Family Night.

Chicago History Museum

www.chicagohistory.org, (312) 642-4600, Clark Street at North Avenue The Chicago History Museum has plenty of fun for kids of all ages. The exhibit "Sensing Chicago" lets kids try out

Chicago-style fun like riding a high-wheel bicycle down a wood-paved street; hearing the Great Chicago Fire; catching a fly ball at Comiskey Park; discovering history through their noses with a Smell Map; being a Chicago-style hot dog; and creating an oversized postcard to post on the gallery wall or email to a friend. There are also interactive gallery stations that let kids construct bridges, play with a hands-on model of the John Hancock building, investigate native plants and more. Admission is free on Mondays.

Children's Storytime at Open Books Store

www.open-books.org, (312) 475-1355 x100, 213 W. Institute Place The storytime is led by talented volunteers and takes place at 11:00 am every Wednesday and Saturday morning.

The Field Museum

www.fieldmuseum.org, (312) 922-9410; Free Days: March 14 and April 11

Ice Skating at McCormick Tribune Ice Rink (through March 13)

www.millenniumpark.org, (312) 742-1168, Michigan Ave between Randolph/Monroe

Lincoln Park Zoo

www.lpzoo.org, (312) 742-2000, 2200 N. Cannon Drive

Museum of Contemporary Art

www.mcachicago.org, (312) 280-2660, 220 E. Chicago Avenue The MCA documents contemporary visual culture through painting, sculpture, photography, video and film, and performance. Every second Saturday the MCA invites families with kids ages 12 and under to enjoy Free Family Days from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Kids will learn about the art of our time through hands-on art activities, scavenger hunts, Look 'n' Learn stations, and more. Also, on Tuesdays general admission is free and hours are extended until 8:00 pm.

Old Town Aquarium and Wells Street

www.oldtownaquarium.com, (312) 642-8763, 1538 North Wells Street



Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

www.naturemuseum.org, (773) 755-5100, 2430 N. Cannon Drive The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum has free admission on Thursdays, with a donation suggested.

Story Time at Farm-in-the-Zoo

www.lpzoo.org, (312) 742-2000, Lincoln Park Zoo, 2200 N. Cannon Drive Every Monday at 9:15 am and 10:00 am, the Professor illuminates minds with his wild stories. The thirty-minute story sessions are targeted to kids ages 6 and under, using engaging techniques to teach about the alphabet, numbers, colors and animals. And on Wednesdays, enjoy original music from Mr. Singer and the Sharp Cookies.

Nine Indoor Play Places in Chicago:

1. Family Grounds Café: www.familygroundscfe.com, 3652 N. Lincoln Ave.
2. Bubbles Academy: www.bubblesacademy.com, 1504 N. Fremont St.
3. Fantasy Kingdom: www.fantasykingdom.org, 1422 N. Kingsbury St.
4. Hobbitland: www.hobbitland.com, 1504 N. Western Ave.
5. Jump Ahead Academy: www.jumpaheadacademy.com, 2260 N. Clark St. at Belden Avenue
6. Kid City: www.kidcitychicago.com, 1837 W. Grand Ave.
7. My Corner Playroom: www.mycornerplayroom.com, 2121 N. Clybourn Ave.
8. Pump It Up: www.pumpitupparty.com
9. Gymboree: www.gymboreeclasses.com

(Compiled by Kristen Hadden) 🍌

Lent

Lent is the season that prepares us to celebrate Easter. The main reason Lent is important is that Easter is more important. On Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose passage beyond death into life offers redemption to believers. The resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The mystery of Christ's rising from the dead is so deep that the Church invites us to six weeks of preparation before we fully celebrate it. We call that period of time Lent.

For the faithful, Lent is a time of penitential practices and spiritual discipline. During this time we acknowledge our sins and seek God's help to overcome them. Traditionally, we engage in acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Together these actions show our dependence on God, our renunciation of the fascinations of this world, and our desire to better the lives of others.



For the elect, those preparing for baptism, Lent is a time of intense spiritual preparation. They will celebrate baptism at Easter because in this sacrament they enter the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. They die to their former way of life and open their hearts fully to discipleship in Jesus. For the elect, this is a season of purification and enlightenment.

The prayers of this season help scrutinize and purify the elect's intentions, removing whatever might block their commitment, and strengthening their resolve. They will become fully illumined with the light of Christ when they celebrate initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. *(Paul Turner)*

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