

A Message from Heidi.....

There are few among us who don't enjoy hearing a good story. It is through beautiful and simple stories that Jesus taught his followers, and it is through those same stories that we can all become master catechists to our children. We don't have to be great theologians or experts in religious studies, just loving parents and grandparents who want to pass on our faith. All we have to do is tell the stories, and our children will understand and remember them always.

The time of Easter is upon us. This is the time in our Church year when we hear the amazing story of our salvation. As parents, we may not always be able to recall all of the exact details of the Passion of Christ, but that doesn't mean we can't share the wonderful story of God's love for us and our salvation in ways that will be special and easily understood by our children. Take a look at just two of the little stories shared below. At first glance, they don't seem to really be Bible stories, but both are great ways to teach a very important lesson about our beautiful faith.



Did you ever notice how a daffodil seems to be, like a robin, another harbinger of spring? They are with us during much of Lent and often decorate our churches at Easter with their beautiful vibrant yellow color.

The yellow, reflecting the spring sunshine, the beautiful trumpet shaped center reaching heavenward and the glorious star shaped petals that remind us of the Star of Bethlehem come to save us by His death and resurrection, are all worthy of our notice.

And then there is the Legend of the Dogwood that has been passed from generation to generation. It is said that the dogwood was once a large and sturdy tree, so strong that it was the timber from a dogwood that was used for the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Knowing the

distress of the tree being used for such a purpose, it is told that Jesus took pity and said the beautiful tree should never again endure such suffering and indignity. From that time forward, the dogwood has never grown large enough to be used as a cross of crucifixion. Its trunk is twisted and thin. The blossoms form the shape of a cross and the ends of the petals are stained a rusty color to remind us of the blood of Christ. And so we will never forget, in the center of each delicate flower, we see a miniature crown of thorns.



I encourage you to take a walk with the family this spring and look around for the wonderful reminders of love that God has so generously sprinkled throughout his creation. From the most delicate of flowers to the crosses that adorn the tops of pine trees, wherever we look, there are stories just waiting to be discovered and shared to remind us all of our faith.



How Have You Been Called to Serve?

Formation For Ministry is now recruiting candidates for the 2011 - 2013 formation classes. If you feel compelled to serve more deeply in your parish's ministries, take a few minutes to speak with your pastor about the possibility of entering the Formation For Ministry program.

The two year adult formation process offers participants a wonderful opportunity to grow in knowledge, faith and spirituality through weekly classes, annual retreats and ministry workshops. Our Commissioned Lay Ministers will tell you how rewarding the experience is and what a difference it has made in their lives.

Talk to someone who has experienced Formation For Ministry, or call us at 315-393-2920 and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have and send you an application.