

RELIGIOUS ED MEMO

March 8

Next week we will have our Family Mission Night. Parents and siblings of our Religious Ed disciples are invited to attend this night to make 235 lunches for the Siena Francis House, make and bring home a prayer aide for your family, and taste several dishes from the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl calendar.

Please go to Sign Up Genius <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090945ada62ba57-family> to help us bring the items we need to make our 235 lunches! If you attend our Family Mission Night, we welcome families to donate items this week.

First Communicants will bring home their banner packet this week. Please check your child's bag for this envelope.

8th Grade Confirmation Candidates will be bringing home an important packet of information this week. Items include Confirmation seating assignments, interview sign-ups, and other things to do before Confirmation. Please look for it in your teen's binder.

Fr. Vincent Sunguti will be visiting all classes this week.

5th grade will be working on a Stations of the Cross art project.

Please return your EPS baby bottles if you have not done so yet. If you choose not to donate, please bring back the empty bottle.

Experience Lent at SMM!

March 26th and *27th

7:00 - 8:30PM IN THE CHURCH

St. Margaret Mary is excited to welcome for a two-night Parish Lenten Mission, internationally known and extremely gifted...

Vallimar Jansen

Her ability to combine story-telling, music, scripture and prayer all into one will inspire parishioners of all age demographics.

Blessed with an extraordinary voice, Vallimar Jansen is a highly regarded singer, cantor and recording artist. She is a college professor, a leader of worship & prayer, and a workshop presenter at conferences across the country.



**There will be refreshments following the Mission each night in the Suneg Center. Come meet Vallimar and browse her selection of CDs available for purchase.*

During Lent

3 Action Steps for Parents

If you want to improve your spiritual life [this] Lent, the best place to start is right where you are by Tom McGrath

1. Let go of a bad habit.

What would you list as your worst habit as a parent? Nagging? Inattention? Interrupting? Lack of time? Pick one habit and try, a day at a time, to let go of it. Jesus came to free the prisoners. If you feel like a prisoner to a bad-parenting habit, take advantage of Lent to loosen its grip on your life.

2. Strengthen a good habit.

Take a minute to write down three parenting skills that you're really good at: coaching, keeping a sense of humor, staying calm when everyone else is flying off the handle, taking care of the daily details, seeing the big picture. Pick one and think of how you can put this strength to good use on a daily basis. When the flu hits your household, you know how illness can be passed from person to person. But healthy living is contagious too. Exercising your strengths can benefit those you live with.

3. Ask God to lead you.

Every morning, first thing, ask God to help you be a better mom or dad. You have a mission from God to be the kind of parent your child needs. Sometimes when I'm worried about a difficult situation in my family, I think ahead to that situation and picture God already there. With the thought that God is present there, my attitude changes. My fear diminishes; my love grows. I no longer see it as a "godforsaken situation."

Think of an ocean liner traveling the seas. A small change in its course will, over time, greatly change the destination. Lent is an opportunity to have small changes in your daily life make a big difference in your family over the long run. Practice Lent, right where you are. It's where God is waiting for you.

from [*Raising Faith-Filled Kids: Ordinary Opportunities to Nurture Spirituality at Home*](#) by Tom McGrath

