

Lenten Events at St. John Vianney

~Caley Rappa

Lent is not just a time of waiting and fasting, it's also a time to be thankful and give back. By giving back, we show we appreciate what Jesus did for us. At St. John Vianney, we have many Lenten events that take place such as the Fish Fry Weekly Dinner, service projects, and fun activities.

During Lent, the most famous event at St. John Vianney is the Fish Fry. Every Friday, a team of volunteers including students, gather to put on a great feast. Held in the Community Center, the Fish Fry is always packed with people coming to eat the delicious food and to socialize with other parishioners and friends.

Thanks to Mr. Iwuc who does everything and to Mrs. Foster who makes sure her student volunteers are in check, the Fish Fry is a success every Friday night. So, if you don't know what to do on a Friday night during Lent, head on over to the St. John Vianney Fish Fry—we'd love to see more new faces.

The St. John Vianney Student Council sponsors two Lenten service projects for class participation. The first is "Share Shoes", a sneaker drive. We are collecting new, youth-size sneakers for our Sister Diocese in the Dominican Republic. We are also participating in the "Long Sleeve Shirt Drive" sponsored by the *Florida Catholic*. Students are asked to bring in cotton shirts for the Migrant Farmworker Ministry.

In addition to the school projects, each classroom participates by giving back and learning about their faith. Mrs. Philpot's second grade class participates in an exciting activity. She separates the students into groups and sends them on a quest around the school. Each teacher in the school receives a question about Holy Week; the students go from class to class answering the questions. At the end, each student has obtained more information and fun prizes for knowing so much about his/her faith. I can remember when I did it six years ago and how much fun I had.

Another class with a unique project is Mrs. Riney's fourth grade class who made a raindrop box for their drive "Every Little Drop Helps." During the weeks of Lent, they are putting in as many pennies, dimes, and nickels as they can until April 7th.

During Lent we continue to support St. Vincent de Paul by filling their food pantry. We do this every month and are greatly appreciated for our kindness.

All in all, St. John Vianney gives students many ways to reflect on this important time in our faith and provides ways to help others. Lent at St. John Vianney is a great experience.