

At Saint Brigid Catholic School, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service, and education.

From the Principal's Desk

Yesterday marked the beginning of Lent. In Hebrew this word means turn and go in a different direction. In Greek, to change one's mindset. Neither is easy to do.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the three pillars of Lent. If I think about them in terms of the above definitions, they take on a real significance.

My prayer life consists of prayers before meals, a decade of the rosary on the drive in to work, prayers during the school day and bedtime prayers. These were a change from last year when I realized that my prayer life was lacking. I said I didn't have time for more prayer. But by simply turning off the radio on the drive in to work, I had freed up 10 minutes which is more than long enough for a decade of the rosary. I said I didn't have time at work, but we meet when we are already here to pray in the morning, and we make it a part of every meeting which I was already attending. It is a change in direction and a change in my mindset.

Fasting. This is a tough one for me. I often don't feel well when I fast so I had all but given up fasting. I just can't do it, I thought. Fasting doesn't have to mean going without all food. I skip breakfast and eat a small lunch and a small dinner. This I can do. A change in direction and a change in mindset. I usually give up sweets as well. This involves a change in direction (usually in the grocery store) and the more important change in mindset. If I really change my mindset, I won't need to follow the abstaining of sweets with a binging of sweets.

Finally almsgiving. That usually is least painful for people as it doesn't cause the stomach to growl or us to stop what we are doing. But if you are doing it right, it *should* involve a change in direction and mindset. *Everything we have, all of it, is gift to us to share. Are we sharing all of what we have?*



Important Dates

- 2/16: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
Lenten Fish Fry-4:30pm-7:00pm
- 2/20: 5th-8th Grade Retreat-8:00am
- 2/21: 2nd Grade Mass-8:00am
- 2/22: Student Council Meeting-3:00pm
- 2/23: Lenten Fish Fry-4:30-7:00pm
- 2/24: Emerald Evening Gala-5:00pm
- 2/28: 1st Grade Mass-8:00am
- 3/1: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
Lenten Fish Fry-4:30pm-7:00pm

Imagine that your child has 3 friends over. You bring out a plate of four cookies but your child takes one cookie, divides it and gives those pieces to his/her friends. Would you be satisfied with this gesture? You would not. Likewise, we should give generously of our time, our talents and our treasures.

This year as you write your Lenten plans, consider whether you are changing direction and changing your mindset. Lent is designed to help us to make a change that is designed to last for more than the 40 days of Lent. What changes do I really need to make?

Laura E. Wilkowski

Re-enrollment for Next Year

Re-enrollment for current students is currently taking place. We have transitioned all our enrollment forms to Digital Academy. When you log into your Digital Academy account you will see a yellow box in the right hand corner alerting you that enrollment forms are ready. Once you open the forms, you will be prompted to verify all existing information and provide some updated information. When you have completed all pages, you will submit electronically and receive an email receipt showing your paperwork was completed. The Parent-Parish Contact form will still need to be completed on paper since it has to be signed by your Parish priest before turning into the office. If you are a member of St. Brigid Parish, Fr. Andy will need to sign your contract in person before your registration is fully complete. We ask that you complete your forms as soon as possible.

If you know that your student will not be returning next year for any reason, please notify Mrs. Mitus.

Emerald Evening Updates

Dinner Tickets: There are still some dinner tickets available for the event on Saturday, February 24th. This year's event, "Where the Wild Things Are, is guaranteed to be a glamorous event. Tickets are \$125 and can be purchased online at charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2024 or at the School Office. The night will consist of dinner, silent auction, live auction, special events, and dancing to music from Sound Productions.

"Where the Wild Things Are" was inspired by the childhood book we all know and love. We are expanding the theme to include jungle and tropical decor, dress and accessories. All cocktail/formal attire is welcome. If you would like to dress for the theme, here are some ideas: black, neutrals (cream, brown, tan), animal print, jewel tones (magenta, orange, sapphire, emerald). Please feel free to incorporate animal print and jungle themes into your wardrobe and accessories!

Online Auction: The online auction is open to anyone and everyone, whether you are attending the event or not! The auction begins on Monday, February 19th at 8:00am and closes on Saturday, February 24th at 9:00pm. To register and view the over 70 glorious items, including the classroom projects that your student helped create, go to <https://charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2024> and click "register". If you already created an Auctria account in the past, you can log in with your information. All online items can be found under the "Auction" link on the website. Make sure you start bidding early and bid often! You can also share the link to the auction with friends and family so they can support Saint Brigid School as well.

Cash Raffle: WE HAVE SOLD OUT!!!! Thank you SO much to everyone who helped us reach this goal! Your efforts raised \$100,000 for our school! **We invite all students & parents to join us for donuts & coffee to celebrate this amazing accomplishment on Friday, February 23 at 7:55am in the gym.** At this time, we will hold the drawing for the VR headset and \$250 tuition credit!

Day of Volunteers: Thank you to the many people who have volunteered to help the night of the event! We are still in need of **2-3 more volunteers** to help in the ballroom from 6:30-8pm and at least **3** clean up/check out volunteers from 9-11:30. If you would like to help with this or know of anyone interested please reach out to Heather Syrylo at h.syrylo@gmail.com.

Bake Sale Donations Needed

During the Lenten fish fries, the school is in charge of the bake sale offered to all dinner attendees. If you would like to help by donating baked goods for the sale, we would greatly appreciate it. Treats should be individually packaged and nut-free. They can be dropped off at the school any Friday of a fish fry before 4:00pm. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

FACTS and Athletics

Thanks to a parent suggestion at the last PTO meeting, beginning next academic year, we will be offering an athletic entrance pass for St. Brigid sporting events which will be billed through your FACTS account. Hopefully this will save you trips to the ATM machine right before a game to get cash!

We will have a 2024-2025 athletic pass good for all athletics for a family of four as part of the online silent auction for Emerald Evening!

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

It's hard to believe but the end of the third marking period is just around the corner- March 15th. That means that we will hold parent/teacher conferences just before spring break. We have a half day of school on March 21st so we will have conferences between 12:15-8:00 PM on Thursday and Friday morning from 8AM-Noon. As always, if you will need a longer than usual conference, please reach out early to the classroom teacher to make arrangements for another time.

School Reconciliation

On Thursday, March 14th we will hold reconciliation at 1:30pm for grades 3-8 and families. We do ask that family members let students go through first to allow them to get back and prepare for dismissal.

Station of the Cross

On March 18th, all students will participate in the Stations of the Cross at the church at 1:30 pm put on by our middle school students. Parents may attend this special event.

Sick Policy

As we get back into the middle of sick season, we'd like to remind everyone that our policy is that students should be at school only if they are **24 hours fever free and vomit free**. If in doubt about the level of sickness a child is feeling, err on the side of caution and keep them home for a day. **In addition, if a student is not in school they may not come to after school activities.**

Girls on the Run

We are looking to create a Saint Brigid Girls on the Run team again this year. Their 10-week spring season will begin the week of March 18 and conclude with our GOTR 5K at the Greater Midland Dow RunWalk on Saturday, June 1. Practices will be held twice a week and days/times will be determined by the coaches.

If we have enough interest, we would love to have a 3rd-5th grade team and a 6th-8th grade team. If your student (girls only) would be interested in participating, please add your child's name to the google sheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iVzgQ1lkL0sQVvk0TGBNF5-jibSTpZSQfLCwVJAggkpc/edit?usp=sharing>

If you would be interested in coaching, please reach out to Mrs. Mitus.

Lenten Fish Fries & FACTS charges

Our first fish fry is tomorrow! Those who are interested in volunteering should contact Corie VanSumeren at 989-835-9481, ext. 64.

This year for the first time ever, for school families only, we are permitting families to sign in at the fish fry and have their meals charged to their FACTS account. Families may purchase an adult Frequent Fryer Card (4 meals for the price of 3- \$48), a child card (4 meals for the price of 3- \$27) or purchase per meal \$16 for adult and \$9 for child. This will save time, save you from a stop at the ATM machine, or save you from writing a check. We are delighted to offer this convenience to our families!

Our Cod is an Awesome Cod!



Saint Brigid
Catholic School

A community fully alive in Christ

FISH FRY

130 W Larkin Street, Downtown Midland

4 Fridays During Lent

4:30 to 7:00 p.m. February 16, 23, March 1, 8



Menu

Fried Cod & Walleye, Shrimp, Grilled Cheese, Mac-n-Cheese, Baked Potato, French Fries, Dinner Roll

Salad Bar

Tossed, Pasta, & Potato Salads, Lemonade, & Water

Pricing

Adult Meal: \$16

Child Meal: \$9

Children under 5 eat FREE.

Bake Sale & Beer & Wine Available!

Take-Out

Please Call Ahead

989-835-9481 ext. 64

4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Pick up inside the hall off Larkin Street

Pricing

All Walleye Box: \$16

Fish/Seafood Meal: \$13

Grilled Cheese Meal: \$5

Proceeds benefit Saint Brigid Catholic School.

Tips from the Reading Specialist

For recommended student literature, check out [ICLE's Book Selection Guide](#).

Oral and Written Language (shown in parallel form)

Oral language sets the stage for literacy learning.

Learning to **talk**

Infants

Toddlers

Preschoolers

SOUNDS

WORDS

SENTENCES

Learning to

Preschoolers

Kinders

Early Graders

read and write