

# 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Newsletter

## January 2018

### What we have been up to!

After discussing Advent and the birth of Jesus, we jumped into the visit from the wise men (Gaspar, Balthazar, and Melchior). We discussed the significance of the gifts and their great worth in biblical times. A huge THANKS to Don and Cookie Dobrino for their donation to our classroom: a set of actual gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the children to see, touch, and smell.

In the new year, we moved to Jesus' teachings to the 12 apostles, the gift of the Holy Spirit to assist the apostles in remembering all they had learned, and the apostles going out into the world to spread the Good News. We talked about how this relates to the Four Marks of the Church: one, holy, Catholic, and APOSTOLIC. The children are doing their best to remember the names of all the apostles (Peter the Rock, Doubting Thomas, John the Beloved, etc.) and the kind of lives they lived, which at times was very hard.

We have discussed the beginning of the church and its hierarchy from Pope Francis to Father Mike and Deacon Denny. The children found it interesting that Cardinals in the church wear red, just like the bird. (Actually, the color of their garment signifies the blood of Christ and that being closest to the Pope, they are willing to shed their own blood for the Church.)

### Coming Up!

Lent and Easter are fast approaching. The children will share what they want to give up for the season of Lent OR what they will be doing extra outside of their normal everyday routine.

### Parents!

We encourage Mass attendance and with Lent approaching this is a great time to continue the growth of your family's faith!