

St. Francis School Newsletter

March 10, 2005

Virtue of the month: SACRIFICE

School phone numbers:
503-625-0497
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School Address:
410 NE Oregon St.
Sherwood, OR 97140

Upcoming Events

- ◆ March 11, Standardized Testing Grades 3-7
- ◆ March 14-16, Parish Mission, 7:00PM
- ◆ March 16th, School Mass, 8:30AM
- ◆ March 18th, Free Dress Day Grades K-5
- ◆ March 21-25, Spring Break
- ◆ April 1st, Start of magazine sale
- ◆ April 5th, Canned Food Day
- ◆ April 8th, Mother/Son Bowling, 7:00-9:00PM

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Families,

There was a time in America not that long ago that seventy-five percent of Catholics regularly attended Sunday Mass. A recent study put out by the University of Notre Dame has found that this has dropped to twenty-five percent.

Our Catholic population has increased by approximately twenty million since 1965 and yet we have failed to come anywhere close to the earlier expansion of Catholic Schools. Our Catholic population is much more affluent than in earlier decades. Andrew Greeley addressed this in a 1997 lecture he gave at the Catholic University of America in this way, "The reason that there has been a three decade moratorium on Catholic school construction is that Catholic contributions (in terms of proportion of income and hence free of inflation) has fallen to half of what they were three decades ago". He went on to also note, that the danger is that with this reduced income, Catholic schools are in danger of pricing themselves out of the market.

If we set the money issue aside, and concentrate on the spiritual side of the equation, I believe we see a greater impact. For you see, there is nothing we can do as a school, that can substitute when a Catholic child in a Catholic school does not go to Mass with their family on Sunday. Our school is rare; we are in fact only one of a handful of Catholic schools to open in recent times. If we can buck this trend and show our fellow Catholics that they can do it; we can also buck the statistical analysis of Mass attendance!

Sincerely,

Michael Cantu,
Principal

FREE DRESS.....FREE DRESS.....FREE DRESS.....FREE DRESS.....FREE DRESS

THERE IS A FREE DRESS DAY FRIDAY, March 18TH FOR GRADES K-5TH. THEY DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF BRINGING IN CANNED FOODS.

FYI - The Dennis Uniform retail store will be closed March 9th-March 12th.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FACTS Tuition Assistance:

Applications are available in the school office or online at www.factstuitionaid.com. Application deadline is March 15, 2005.

Parish Subsidy:

If you need a form contact the school office.

Registration Fee:

Remember that your registration fee must be paid in full by March 20th.

Fundraising Update:

SCRIP

The last scrip order date for March will be March 28th.

And don't forget to keep bringing in the Box Tops for Education and Campbell's labels, including Pepperidge Farm products - Goldfish and their cookies.

Magazine Sales start April 1st.

Our school yearbook is being prepared for publication. The cost is \$15.00. Checks should be made payable to St. Francis School. Order forms are available in the office.

St. Francis School
Science Fair

The 5th, 6th, and 7th graders will be presenting a science fair on March 31st in the Parish Hall. Come see their models and experiments from 7:00-7:45PM.

AUCTION NEWS

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual St. Francis School Auction – October 22, 2005

This year's theme is Mardi Gras and the planning is already in motion. If you are interested in volunteering and earning some share hours, contact Patricia Lyons at trishfx@comcast.net or just come to our next meeting...Many hands make light work! Meeting dates to the end of this school year: Feb. 21st, April 18, May 16th, June 6th and June 20th. All meetings are at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall.

Some calendar dates for the 2005-2006 School Year

Sept. 6th - First Day of School
 Sept. 16th - Inservice, No School
 Oct. 14th - Inservice, No School
 Nov. 10th - Faith Formation Inservice, No School
 Nov. 11th - Veteran's Day, No School
 Nov. 24th-25th - Thanksgiving, No School
 Dec. 22nd-Jan. 2nd - Christmas Vacation
 Jan. 3rd - School Resumes
 Jan. 16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
 Jan. 27th - Faith Formation Inservice, No School
 Jan. 29-Feb. 4th - Catholic Schools Week
 Feb. 20th - President's Day, No School
 March 27-31 - Spring Vacation
 April 14th - Good Friday, No School
 May 29th - Memorial Day, No School
 June 15th - Last Day of School

Thank you to Mrs. Hatfield, all her volunteers and the students in the jump rope club. We were treated to a wonderful assembly!

Just a reminder - to facilitate picking up children in the afternoon please display your family name sign in your windshield.

If you and your children are staying after school to play, please make sure they are watching out for cars in the parking lot.

PARISH NEWS

Soup Suppers and Stations of the Cross

Lenten Soup Suppers are Fridays during lent in the Parish Hall at 6:00PM followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00.

Wearing of the Green

March 12th, 6:30PM, Parish Hall

Come enjoy Ruben Sandwiches, Potato Salad, Chips, Hot Dogs and Dessert.
\$7.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for Children

Wine, Beer and Soda provided by the Knights - Free-Will Offering

\$1.00 Raffle Game, Irish Sing-a-Long, Movie for children during the raffle.

Proceeds to benefit the Iraq War Memorial

Camp Tilikum

St. Francis goes to Camp Tilikum August 15th-19th. This is for children entering the 1st - 6th grade next fall. Students age 16 and older can be counselors during this week. The cost is \$123 per student. Please contact Lisa McGuigan in the Parish Office at 503-625-6188 for more information regarding this spectacular summer day camp. Calls right away; there are only 12 spots left.

Transportation is not provided.

