



"Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them... when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret... when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting"

March 2, 2017

Dear St. Ann Family,

This week's Gospel message describes what we should be doing during Lent, but also explains how we should be doing it. Our prayer, fasting, and good deeds should be done for the glory of God and our fellow man, not the glory of ourselves. Some degree of privacy, humility, and perspective should accompany our Lenten practices.

Yesterday the St. Ann school and parish community came together to start Lent with a beautiful Ash Wednesday liturgy. We have entered the season of Lent, a time of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. As stated in last week's newsletter, the USCCB urges us to give up, take up, and raise up during Lent. Our 3rd grade class led the All School Mass and did a great job. Fr. Nick referred to Lent as the "Pray-Offs", the important and challenging home stretch before the celebration of Easter. He talked about the importance of hard work in striving for greatness of any kind and he described Lent as a time to better ourselves and the world through fasting, prayer, and helping others.

The 8th grade class and parents thank everybody who came to see the 8th grade play "The Wonderful Oz". It was a success and a lot of fun. Thank you for supporting the 8th grade class!!! It was a packed house all three nights and the 8th graders, with the assistance of our little munchkins, worked so hard to make it a magical evening for everyone in attendance. Additional thanks go to the director, Kathleen Carter, and the sound/lighting technician, Kevin Kirchgessner.

Tomorrow (March 3rd) there is NO SCHOOL. The teachers will be engaging in professional development tomorrow, along with the other Federation schools, at St. Norbert.

Tomorrow evening is the first Fish Fry of Lent! Doors open at 5PM. The Lenten Fish Fry is a big St. Ann tradition with lots of great food and the warm family atmosphere that St. Ann is so

well known for. Don't miss the science fair displays in the assembly room. Students, teachers, and parents have been working very hard to put together their science presentations.

Many parish and school families are also planning another evening of culinary and social fun with the SAPO Progressive Dinner on Saturday night. While the sign up for this event is closed, we thank those hosts and participants who are willing to dedicate their homes to help build community at St. Ann and raise money for our school!

Special congratulations go to our 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Denise Brickler, who recently accepted the Principal position at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Wentzville! Mrs. Brickler has been with St. Ann for the past 6 years and we are sad to lose her as our 5th grade teacher. At the same time, we know she will do a great job at St. Patrick and they are blessed to have her. Her energy and dedication to our school will be missed.

Next Monday we will welcome back Mrs. Thompson after her surgery and recovery. We are grateful for the substitute work that Ms. Willems, and Mr. Morice have done for us over the past 6 weeks. We're also excited to have Mrs. Thompson back in the classroom working with our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

The CureSearch fundraiser was a big success. The school more than doubled its initial goal of \$500 by raising more than \$1075! This money will be donated to researchers working to cure cancer. Thank you so much for your outstanding generosity. Cancer has afflicted many members of the St. Ann family and it's great to see this strong response from our students and families. As promised, upon reaching the goal, four courageous St. Ann students volunteered to have their heads shaved bald in a show of support and solidarity with those battling cancer. All students are allowed to enjoy a DRESS DOWN DAY next Monday in recognition of the school's generosity.

Fine Arts Night is not far off and students and staff have been working hard to put together musical and visual pieces of art to display and present on April 4th. Mark your calendars for an evening of artistic expression featuring your students!



Reminders:

- Monthly calendars and the weekly school newsletter are available on the school website www.sacs-stl.org. Please notify the office if you would like to receive a paper copy through the weekly Friday Envelope.
- The Protecting God's Children Workshop schedule can be found through this link.
http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=14498&theme=0

Upcoming Dates For Your Calendar:

March 3-Teacher Professional Development NO SCHOOL

March 4-Progressive Dinner 6 pm

March 10th-Peaceful Shirt/Jeans day
-End of 3rd Quarter

March 17th-NO SCHOOL

April 4th-Fine Arts Night

Blessings,
Jacob Reft