

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple."

St. Ann Family,

November 10, 2017

In this week's All-School Mass Gospel reading we heard Jesus laying out some of the challenges of being his disciple. If loving others and acting through the Beatitudes help us see how to live and the potential benefits, this week's Wednesday Gospel helps us see the challenges and truly spartan mindset that we'll need to be a true follower. Renouncing belongings, leaving behind the comforts of family and home, and essentially turning away from our Earthly status and lifestyle is easier said than done. We each have our own cross to bear as Christ's followers but we know that the reward is great.

This week our Kindergarten class (with some assistance from 8th grade buddies) led our All School Mass. We were all very pleased, but not at all surprised, to hear the beautiful reading and presentation that our Kindergarten students were able to accomplish. It takes a lot of courage as a Kindergarten student to get up in front of the entire school community to read. What a unique "public speaking" and leadership role our All-School Mass affords St. Ann students of all ages.

During the last couple weeks our 8th grade class has been working to develop a St. Ann graduate statement. This graduate statement will be a brief description of the qualities and characteristics that the St. Ann school and parish community are working to instill in every student. These qualities and attributes will be a concise description of the kind of people we expect to walk out the door upon 8th grade graduation and the kind of people the world can expect to receive from our community. This statement covers several areas for growth including faith formation, virtue, personal esteem and confidence, academic commitment, and community/social engagement. We hope that this graduate statement can offer a brief illustration of the kind of people our staff and students are striving to become and a goal that students from Kindergarten through 8th grade can inch closer to with each day of class, homework, service, friendship, competition, challenge, and success at St. Ann. Look out for this graduate statement to be published soon.

Our second quarter virtue of focus is Gratitude. With the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons occurring during the second quarter, a disposition of thankfulness toward God and toward one another is quite appropriate. Expressing 'Thanks' to one another is a very healthy way of achieving a community in which we're looking for the good rather than expecting or investigating the bad. Constantly seeking to fix problems and improve ourselves and our world is very worthwhile. At the same time, reflecting and examining the good things in our lives and in each other can make us approach situations with more understanding, more perspective, and more wisdom.

Thank you to those parents and Confirmandi who attended Thursday's informational meeting about Confirmation. If you missed the meeting, look out for some follow up info coming soon including a preparation timeline, schedule for meetings, service experience requirements, and forms to be filled in over the next several months.

November 14th is picture retake day. If your student missed their photo opportunity back in September or perhaps the resulting photograph was not satisfying, this Tuesday is your student's opportunity to accomplish a picture retake. Students are, once again, permitted to dress down in their picture day outfit but only, of course if they are participating in a picture retake.

The St. Ann Talent Show is scheduled for Saturday, November 18th. It's just two weeks away! Practices will be held every Wednesday after school until 5pm. We're also bringing back a chili cook-off competition in conjunction with the Talent Show. We're calling all student, parent, teacher, and parishioner chefs to submit an entry! Dust off that old cookbook, jump on Pinterest, or utilize that old family recipe passed on for generations. Bring in a 5-meat chili, a vegan chili, the spiciest chili in the world. Whip up some Coney dogs, a Chili 5 way, Chili Mac, whatever you like! There will be prizes and we'll have the book fair open before the show and during intermission. Look out for an informational flyer in your Friday envelope!

Please return your Economic Deprivation Survey as soon as you can. If you need a new one, contact the school office at (314) 381-0113. It's a very brief and simple form. The more responses we receive, the more money our school can be allotted for next year. We need them all submitted before Thanksgiving!

On Thursday, November 16th, our Marketing Committee is hosting the New Family Wine and Cheese Social from 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Center. This event is designed to welcome new families to the St. Ann school and parish community. This year, that is an especially large group so we're expecting a really nice gathering. Invites are going out to all of our Kindergarten and 1st grade families, and any family who was new to St. Ann at the start of this year or last year. We will have wine, soda, cheese, fruit, and other snacks as well as attendance prizes and raffles including some ticket packages to the dinner dance and auction and trivia night! Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect. We wouldn't want to run out of cheese!

Wednesday, November 22nd, is Family Day, a St. Ann tradition held each year on the day before Thanksgiving. It's a noon dismissal day that includes an all-school Mass and activities for family members to enjoy with their students. We invite parents, grandparents, siblings, and all family members to join us for a special morning of gratitude and love. Family Day is likely our most well attended school event of the year! Last year's Family Day festivities included information about our school's adoption of Virtue Based Restorative Discipline. This year we will continue to learn about VBRD and focus on the home-to-school connection that can make this relationship based, restorative approach to problem solving a comprehensive experience for our students, staff, and families.

It's hard to believe but we're midway through November and the Advent season is not far off at all. We have two upcoming acts of community engagement and service that the school/parish aim to complete soon. The first is an act of service for the St. Vincent Home for Children, our neighbors to the northeast. This organization has been operating for as long as St. Ann and has been in the community, serving children facing significant life challenges through love, security, and therapeutic supports that enable them to improve their lives, their families, and our community. This year we aim to collect and contribute the monetary resources necessary to provide Christmas trees and decorations for every dormitory and living space occupied by the children during the Advent and Christmas season. St. Vincent Home for Children has found a generous donor who is willing to match our contribution to help make this idea work. Our goal as a school/parish community is \$1000. We'll be hosting a representative from St. Vincent soon so that our students and staff can learn more about the children they are helping and the important work St. Vincent Home does. There will be more information to follow regarding how to contribute and when the collection will occur.

The second act of service for our school and parish community during the Advent season is our annual 'Filled With Love' food bags collection and delivery to the Caritas/Ladies of Charity Food Pantry. Every family in the school will receive one brown paper grocery bag. Families are invited to fill their bag with a variety of needed items to be contributed to the Caritas food pantry. The collection will begin soon and the delivery day is scheduled for Thursday, December 7th. The traditional delivery includes a long human chain of students, staff, parents, and parishioners who form a line between the doors of our school and the delivery door at Caritas across the parking lot. It's a wonderful visual of teamwork and unity for our school & parish, but even greater, it's a great act of service that connects us to our surrounding neighborhood in a special way. Look out for your family's food bag and instructions soon.

We'll have an extra All-School Mass on Friday, December 8th, in celebration of The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary. This Mass will happen at 8:20AM rather than the normal 8:00AM and will be led by our Kindergarten students.

•If you still need to complete a Protecting God's Children Workshop, more sessions are available around town. The schedule can be found through this link:
http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=14498&theme=0

FAITH Alive in the Home Program

St. Ann Parish and School and Holy Trinity School are working to develop a pilot program to support parents of young children to grow in their awesome role as first teachers of the faith. At this time, this pilot home visitor program (similar in structure to the PAT program, but focused on faith) is ready to begin inviting families to participate. We are starting with parents of two year olds for the pilot, which will begin in late January or early February and run through May, 2018. Sr. Maureen Martin, Program Coordinator, is also looking for parents, grandparents or educators who may want information on serving as home facilitators (or visitors).

For more about this exciting faith-filled program, or to register your family be a part of the pilot, please contact Sr. Maureen at St. Ann: 314-450-4873 or email stannfaith@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

November 13th-School Board @6:30

November 14th-Picture Retake Day

November 16th-Wine and Cheese Social (new families)

November 18th-Talent Show

November 22nd-Family Day

November 23rd-Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL

November 24th-NO SCHOOL

December 1st-NOON DISMISSAL-Faculty Meeting

December 3rd-First Sunday of Advent

December 7th-Filled With Love Bags Delivery

December 8th-Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Blessings,

Jacob Reft

Scroll Down for the Close Up Photo Guessing Game

Where does this image appear?



