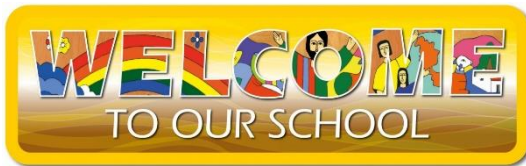


ST. MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER for February 24, 2020



This past week I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Intermountain Principal's Consortium with about 45 principals from the Boise, Reno, and Salt Lake City Diocese. We get together about once every two years to share about our schools and best practices, learn from one another, tackle common challenges, support one another, and work together to further the mission of Catholic education. The theme this year was about *faith leadership*, with our workshop leader Dr. Ron Fussell who directs the Creighton University Catholic Leadership program. One of my biggest take away was that there are a significant number of very highly talented and committed principals and leaders in our three Dioceses who truly believe in Catholic education and want the best for our young people and their families. The second biggest take away was that "*word of mouth*" is the central best practice that impacts recruitment and retention to Catholic schools. It didn't matter which school, whether urban or rural, word of mouth and one-one-one interactions are what brings people into their respective school. **Each one of you** are the very best recruiters and ambassadors for St. Mary's School. We now have 28 new students this year which is due in large part to all your work – that is amazing!! As we move towards our **Open House on March 12th**, please continue your wonderful sharing about our school with your friends, fellow parishioners, and community members. Please invite them to our Open House and share with us their names and phone numbers so we too can reach out to them. Many, many blessings to each of you. Have a wonderful week.



Welcome to our newest student, *Addie*, who joins our Preschool class. Her parents are *Matthew and Rebekah Becker*. We are happy to welcome and have your family with us at St. Mary's School community. Blessings!

- **Monday, February 24** there will be the burning of palms at 1:00 at the school...all are welcome for this ritual.



NOTE:
Please come
to this event.

Tuesday, February 25 there will be a *special meeting for ALL parents to come and learn about the school finances, and budget/tuition for 2020-2021 school year*. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the school and will last about an hour. Childcare will be provided. Please come if you can. We will meet upstairs in the Specialty Room (room off the gym) and childcare will be in the gym under the direction of Lora Johnson.

- **Wednesday, February 26** is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. If you can't make Mass at 9 ashes and Holy Communion will be given at 12:10 and there is another Mass with ashes at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. St. Augustine has Masses at 7:15 a.m. and 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.
- This coming weekend (Feb. 29th) upper graders will be competing in the **57th annual Boise HALLISSEY Basketball Tournament**. We wish them the very best and safe travels too.

- **Also, on February 29: Boy Scout Troop 326** will be having their annual “Gourmet” Spaghetti Dinner Feb. 29th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the St. Mary’s Catholic Center. All You Can Eat spaghetti with choices of a white shrimp sauce and a red meat sauce, salad, bread, & drinks. Cub Scouts from Pack 326 will be auctioning homemade cakes throughout dinner. Tickets are adults – \$10.00, children 5-12 – \$8.00, children 4 and under are free. Also, on the same date the Scouts will be feeding the early morning crowd from 7:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m. at an All You Can Eat Homemade Pancake, Sausage, Eggs, Juice, Milk & Coffee Breakfast for \$8.00 for ages 5 and up, and children 4 and under are free.
- **March 2nd**. All students’ eyes will be checked by Julia Polito from Alpine Vision.
- Please save this date: **Friday, March 6--** the families of the school, RE and parish youth programs are responsible for **bringing soup and bread before the Stations of the Cross at 5:30 p.m.** We are also responsible for being the leaders of prayer for the Stations **at 6:15 p.m.** Thank you for putting this date on your calendars. Look for the sign-ups in your email this week.
- **March 9: Author’s Celebration with PreK** from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- **March 11:** Class pictures and all new students will have their individual pictures taken.
- **March 12:** Open House from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.---*please invite families and friends to this event.*
- **April 2** at 7:00 is the Lenten Reconciliation Service at St. Mary’s
- **April 3** at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s will be the Seder Meal.

Update about lice: A huge thank you to Beth Papineau who came and checked the heads at the school. None of those checked had any little critters on their heads. A few things she shared about lice are the following: lice look like dandruff, but the difference is you can easily flick dandruff off; lice you can’t, they stick to the hair and need to be picked off. Usually you can find lice around the ears, and base of the neck. Girls with very long hair can be susceptible to getting lice. It’s good to have the hair done in ponytails, braids or buns. Such styles make it had for lice to be present. Good shampoo to use as a deterrent is Tea Tree Oil Shampoo. Conditioner is a very good deterrent too. Nits, unlike dandruff, sticks to the hair shaft and is pearly gray. They can only be removed by picking them off. This is probably more than you ever wanted to know. However, it’s good to know what to look for and be aware of things that might assist in keeping lice away! We are grateful to Beth Papineau for her service and information!

Nikki Crathorne has given us some great information about a way to assist the School Choir in raising funds to their Disney World Trip in June....

If you enjoy good food, the **Garlic Garden Bistro Restaurant at 630 N. Almon St. #120 in Moscow (208-596-4659)** is giving 10% of every order (carry-out or dine in) from **now through June 6th**. There is no limit how many times you participate. The only thing you must do for us to earn 10% donation is to mention St. Mary’s School choir fundraiser when you call/dine-in.

Just to let you know, all the students in the school made Valentines. These were given to places who usually don’t receive messages/cards. They were delivered to shut ins, and folks with disabilities. Message given at each site was one of real appreciation and joy for being remembered by the students! Thank you to Mr. Brad Herrenbruck for making the delivery to the places for the students.



February 24	Taquitos + black beans + rice
February 25	Muffin Tin Cheeseburgers + chips
February 26 (Ash Wednesday)	Fish sticks + tater tots
February 27	Breakfast Casserole Muffins
February 28	Tuna and/or egg salad and/or Mac 'n Cheese

(NOTE: during Lent, Fridays will be meatless meals)

As always—there is a choice of two fruits and choice of salads and fresh veggies daily



This week to:

Mrs. Taylor Bieker (Upper Grades)	Feb.25
Mrs. Jennica Olsen (First Grade)	Feb. 26

NOTE: from University of Idaho and Jazz in the Schools: jazzinfo@uidaho.edu

As part of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival Jazz in the Schools program, we want every student (to have the opportunity to see world-class musicians. **The attached voucher** provides free entry for a student and 50% off the [ticket](#) for an accompanying adult(s). The concert schedule is as follows:

Friday Feb. 28th 7:30 PM concert featuring Vertical Voices, Pat Shook, Amy Shook and the University of Idaho Jazz Band and Choir

Saturday Feb. 29th 7:30 PM concert featuring Joshua Redman and the Lionel Hampton Big Band feat. Jason Marsalis.

Thanks again, and we hope to see you and your students!



Finding God in Ash Wednesday *So, Lent begins.*

The black ash is wet and cold. A practiced thumb stamps us with two intersecting lines of burnt palms from last year. Those gathered at Mass walk back up the aisle to their places as we await the dismissal. Looking around, I see so many faces: young, old, teens, mothers, fathers, and single people. Some faces I recognize from Sunday Mass; some faces I don't recognize. We join in singing the recessional hymn as Father progresses slowly toward the doors of the church.

Then we go out into the morning air to start our day, marked with the sign of Christ. School and work will begin now that this liturgy is over, and the black marks on our foreheads will be a cause for discussion, for double takes, and for witness.

Every year in the middle of a week in late winter we go to Church and have the ashes smudged upon our clean foreheads. Every year the churches are filled to overflowing with the regulars and the not-so-regulars. Why do we still undergo this ritual of ashes that is centuries old, as old as the prophets who pleaded with God's people to turn back from sin and toward God? We go because we need to go, because at least once a year we need to be reminded that our deepest hunger is the hunger for God.

Lent is a gift that the Church in her wisdom celebrates every year. It is a gift of time, a gift of contemplation, and a gift of quiet so that we may listen to the Word, who whispers to us to come back to the God who created us. It encourages us to turn away from the noise and over-indulged appetites so that we may understand the hunger that can be filled—with the grace of God—only by prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor.

So, we go to our parish churches once a year to have crosses signed upon our faces. It is in this same manner that, when the Gospel is proclaimed, we take our right thumbs, trace three crosses, and pray: may the

word of God be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart. The prayer of the whole Church, the Body of Christ, is that each year the sign of the cross penetrates a little deeper and moves us toward fuller conversion toward the light of Christ.

Julianne B. McCullagh is Director of Family Life Ministry at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Lewisville, Texas. She writes the weekly column The Family Life Corner.

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