

# St. Patrick School

## Shamrock Newsletter



Issue 12

November 20, 2009

### Principal's Notes

It is an incredible sight each year to watch our students take canned goods up to the altar during Mass the week before Thanksgiving. I am impressed with how much food is collected during this one Mass. It is amazing what a small group of individuals can do when they work together.

Thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for the excellent job they did in leading the Communion Service this week.

Thank you to Deacon Don for leading our Communion Services the past two weeks while Fr. Larry was away on vacation.

I want to remind everyone that the "Books of Remembrance" that students made to remember those loved ones who have died are on display outside the entrance to the office. They are located on the Father Flohe Foundation countertop. Feel free to stop in at any time to look through them. You can come in when scrip is being sold and make a purchase and then stop by and look through the books.

I would like to thank all the parents who volunteer to collect the gate money and sell concessions at our home sporting events. I also would like to thank everyone who helps with the clean-up after home games. These efforts on behalf of the sports programs are important to the success of our teams. With girls' and boys' basketball starting soon, athletic association members will be asking parents to sign-up to help collect gate and sell concessions. Please be accommodating and help fill up the calendar. Remember that many hands make for light work.

I also want to thank the parents and students for keeping the gym clean during home games. There isn't nearly as much refuse under the bleachers on the home side as there was last year at this time. It makes clean up for those volunteering a lot easier.

### "Why Is There a Crucifix in Our Math Classroom?"

This year's senior class was posed this question for a Math Reflection Paper. Here are their answers:

- It is there as a silent reminder of God's love for us.
- It is there so we can learn about math and religion at the same time.
- It reminds us of the priests and nuns who started Catholic schools.
- It is there because God gave us an intellect, which separates us from the rest of creation.
- If Jesus died for us then we can do our statistics every night.
- It is there to inspire us to encourage weaker students to have more confidence and courage.
- Math is always the same, likewise God's love.
- Every single detailed aspect of math was created by Him.
- The math problems we face are nothing compared to what Jesus went through on the cross.
- It reminds us to be compassionate to others – like helping them with their math homework.
- The crucifix motivates us to not only get our work done, but to do it well.
- It shows others that God is there watching over them, ensuring a good, healthy learning environment.
- God is always right by our side through all the challenges we face.
- The crucifix is the perfect mascot for mathematics.
- Math is full of mysteries, just like how we have broken phases of Jesus' life into mysteries.
- It teaches us to trust in the math procedures, just like we have to trust in God's plan.
- It is something to turn to for help when doing a difficult problem or test.
- It gives me the courage and strength to not give up, even when that's all I want to do.
- It teaches the values of everyday life and how to act and love others around us.
- The pain my head will go through is not nearly as bad as the pain Jesus went through.

## The Gift of Giving

- Toys for Tots collects new, unwrapped toys for children in the Ionia County area. You can drop off toys in the box in the hallway of the school between November 1 and December 17. High school students from our own St. Patrick School will help distribute the toys to families. We take toys for any age child but the age that is most in need are infants and teenagers. If you prefer to donate cash that will be used to purchase toys, you can send it in a clearly marked envelope to the office. Checks can be made out to "Toys for Tots". Direct any questions to Christine Wilcox, 566-7788.
- **Reminder:** Please send in any new or gently used McDonald's kids' meal toys for the **Appalachian Project**. The deadline is November 26.
- On Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, WION radio (1430 AM) will be broadcasting live from the St. Patrick School parking lot. This is part of a county-wide food drive in which non-perishable food items, personal care items, and household items (laundry detergent, soap, etc.) will be collected. Please contribute to their efforts by dropping off items at the school parking lot between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. on this day. A portion of these donations will go to the Helping Hands Ministry at Epic Community Church in Portland.

## Lost and Found

Please come in and check out the "Lost and Found" box. It is overflowing with many clothes items. There is also a bamboo rake left from Pay-It-Forward Day. It has a red cloth tied around the handle. Items not claimed by Christmas break will be donated to a charity (or the PTO if it is a dress code item).

## Unscheduled Jean Day

Students in grades 1-12 will be allowed to wear jeans on Tuesday, November 24. The cost for this jean day is one canned good per student.



## Benefit Breakfast for the family of Kelly Barnes

Sunday, November 22, 2009  
8 a.m. - 12 Noon

### Cost:


**\$6.00 ages 11 and up**  
**\$3.00 ages 10 and under**

Portland  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
690 Maynard Road

## Wreath Pick-up

If your son or daughter sold wreaths for the German or Spanish Club fundraiser, the pick-up is going to be at the Spohn residence at 10544 Cutler Road on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 pm. Maps will be given to students who need them on Monday and Tuesday. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Spohn for letting us use their pole barn for distributing the wreaths! If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Holman or Mrs. Leon at school.

## Calendar of Events

- 11/21 Paper and Pop Can Drive   
Right-to-Life Sub Sandwich pick-up
- 11/23 No Bussing for DK-p.m. students to school  
MS VB vs. Fulton Home 5p
- 11/24 3rd Gr. Pilgrim Feast-MultiPurpose Room  
No Busing
- 11/25-27 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/30 MS VB @ Dansville 5p  
JV Girls' BB vs. Morrice Home 6p  
Var. Girls' BB vs. Morrice Home 7:30p
- 12/1 School Commission Mtg. after 6p Mass  
Parish Hall
- 12/2 MS VB vs. Carson City-Crystal Home 5p
- 12/4 Freshmen Girls' BB @PW 4:30p  
JV/Vars. Girls' BB vs. Fulton @PMS 6p