

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

November 30, 2011

Dear Parents,

This year during Advent the students and staff at St. Patrick School are challenged to let their light shine and count their blessings as they prepare for Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Each day during Advent they reflect upon a blessing of God. They are also invited to tap into their priceless talents and gifts and share them with others just as the Magi shared their gifts with the Christ Child. By doing this, their lights will grow stronger and each good work will honor the birth of Christ. An evergreen tree has been created in the upper elementary hallway with student decorated paper candles placed on the tree. A daily tally sheet near the tree shows the number of blessings each grade has recorded. In today's family envelope a copy of the Letting our Light Shine and Counting our Blessings Advent Calendar is enclosed for those who would like to use the calendar as a family activity.

Prayer for the First Week of Advent

Lord, thank you for Advent and our excitement as we pray for Christmas, our birthday.

Help us to keep thinking of you through all the busy preparations and days of waiting.

Help us to remember that you are walking with us, and want us to share your love and joy with others. Amen.

During the Christmas season, I encourage you to visit the Monroe County Museum Tree Festival. Our Grade 3 / 4 class created a tree that is on display. Under the direction of Mrs. Wickenheiser each student created three ornaments for the tree - an angel, peace, joy, and love for the garland, and a lamb with a heart.

Today our students participated in the Monroe Vicariate Religion Quiz Bowl at SMCC. Congratulations to our school representatives.

Thank you to all who responded to our plea for additional support for the 2011-2012 school auction. We have received God's blessings through your generous response. Over 300 items will be included in the silent auction and over 40 items in the live auction. We have sold 252 dinner tickets. Our many guests, delicious food, and wonderful auction donations will make this a fun-filled evening for all who attend. Currently 251 sold tickets have been returned for our *Ultimate Christmas Tree* raffle. This is half of the 500 tickets printed to sell. If you are planning to bring sold tickets the night of the auction, please let Ms. Sroka know. If you are able to sell additional tickets, it is greatly appreciated. Please remember that we make no profit until raffle license and prize expenses are covered. I thank auction chairperson, Mrs. A, and the many others who are assisting with the auction. Your energy and commitment will allow this to be another successful auction. Thank you also to the Borg family and Quality Printing and Mailing for their donation of dinner tickets, raffle tickets, and silent auction bid forms for the night of the auction. This donation, as well as many other donations, decrease our expense and increase our profits. Thank you to those who put in many, many hours of assistance to our students in preparing their exceptional classroom projects that will be up for bid on Friday. Directions to Stone Creek Banquet Hall are included in today's family envelope for those attending the auction.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Thursday, December 1

- Auction Transport and Set-Up, 7:45 a.m.
- Student treasure Book Orders Due

Friday, December 2

- SMCC French Enrichment Class
- First Friday Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Service Project Jean Day
- Extended Day Program ends at 5:00 p.m.
- School Auction, Doors Open 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 8

- Holy Day Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 9

- Progress Reports Distributed

LATCHKEY END TIME ON FRIDAY: This Friday, December 2, the extended day program will end at 5:00 p.m. so all school personnel may attend the annual auction.

ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLE TICKETS: The auction raffle provides additional revenue to support our students. Each school family was provided five tickets to sell. Thank you to those who have returned their ticket sales to the school office. Our Michigan gaming license requires that all tickets are accounted for. Those with outstanding tickets are receiving a reminder to return both sold and unsold tickets tomorrow.

AUCTION SET-UP: Set-up help is still needed tomorrow at Stone Creek Banquet Hall in Flat Rock. If you have an hour or two (or three) to spare....please join the set-up crew! Items will be transported beginning at 7:45 a.m. tomorrow morning and set-up will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. The hall is located just west of I-75 on Gibraltar Road behind the Sleep Inn Hotel on Maguire Street.

HOT LUNCH NEXT WEEK: The December food service calendar has not yet arrived, however, the following is next week's menu:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mini Ravioli Chicken Nuggets Garden Salad & Roll	Garden Salad & Roll Beef & Cheese Nacho Turkey & Cheese Sandwich	Sloppy Joes on a Bun Bagel Pizza Sub Sandwich	Cheese Quesadilla Chicken Fries & Roll Garden Salad & Roll	Garden Salad & Roll French Toast Stix & Sausage Jelly Sandwich

SANTA SECRET SHOP: The PTO is once again sponsoring Santa Secret Shop for students on Friday, December 16. Help is needed on Thursday, December 15 beginning at 2:00 p.m. to help set-up the shop. Volunteers are also needed to assist students as they shop on Friday morning, as well as inventory and packing on Friday afternoon. A potluck will be held for workers and staff at 11:20 a.m. If you are able to lend a hand, please return the sign-up sheet found at the end of last week's newsletter or call the school office. If you have items you would like to donate for Santa Secret Shop, please send them to the school office.

STUDENT TREASURE ORDER FORMS: Remember that if you wish to purchase a book this year, orders and payment are due tomorrow, December 1. Checks should be made payable to *Studenttreasures Publishing*. If you do not wish to purchase a book, please return the signed form with the "No" box marked.

PHONE BOOK COLLECTION: AT&T who sponsored the recycling of phone books has provided our school with t-shirts, rulers, and pencils to acknowledge our students for their recycling efforts. A drawing will be held to distribute these prizes at the end of our collection on December 12th. If your family has made a donation, please return the form at the end of the newsletter for an opportunity to win one of the prizes.

SERVICE PROJECTS: Thank you to all who participated in this month's service project of collecting new or gently used outer wear for distribution through the Father Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. A total of 13 bags of clothing and one box of books has been collected. Thank you for providing over 384 items for the homeless and needy. The jean day for those who participated is Friday, December 2. In December we will be collecting items for Heartbeat of Monroe. Items most needed at this time include baby wipes, pacifiers, sippy cups, Enfamil formula, crib sheets, socks (for 18 mo. to 24 mo.), and clothes (newborn, size 18 mo., and size 2). The jean day for those who participate will be Tuesday, December 20

SCRIP NEWS: Remember to take advantage of the remaining St. Patrick School scrip order opportunities on Monday, December 5 and Monday, December 12. Meijer gift cards are now available through Great Lakes Scrip in \$25 and \$100 denominations. After the New Year, scrip purchases will resume through SMCC.

PARENT HELP NEEDED FOR SPRING MUSICAL: Please return the form found at the end of last week's family newsletter if you are able to help with scenery, props, or costumes for the upcoming *Willie Wonka* musical.

GEOGRAPHY BEE WEBSITES: Grades 5-8 will be participating in the National Geographic Bee on January 13. To prepare for this year's competition students are encouraged to visit Google's Geo Education site at www.google.com/educators/geo and the National Geographic website at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee.

SODEXO FOOD SERVICE: Management at Sodexo asks that parents be reminded to keep current on their child's lunch account. If you pay at the beginning of the month, you may monitor your child's account online. Students who wish to purchase doubles on a particular day should bring \$1.00 for the double, rather than charging it against their account. This allows the foodservice to know that you approved doubles that day. It was brought to our attention that some parents were

unaware that their children were purchasing doubles, thereby increasing the daily lunch cost. If you do not want your child to have doubles, please instruct him or her and send a note to Sodexo. Both the school and Sodexo want to follow parent guidelines regarding double lunches and your help in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have questions please call the school office. I would also like to acknowledge Sodexo for providing a child's bike for our school auction.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There is a reconciliation service at St. Joseph-Maybee tonight at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD SEARCH: When doing your online holiday shopping, you can support St. Patrick School by using the *Good Search* search engine. St. Patrick School earns money from all the purchases made through *Good Search*. Open www.goodsearch.com...type in *St. Patrick School....*and select our school in Carleton, MI...and begin shopping.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

The duty of helping one's self in the highest sense involves the helping of one's neighbors. *Samuel Smiles*

Ruth Meiring
Principal

Phone Book Donation by: _____

Grade: _____

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Grade: _____

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Grade: _____

Phone Book Donation by: _____

Grade: _____