



# St. John The Baptist Catholic School

## Newsletter

February 17, 2010

Phone: 952-890-6604 Fax: 952-890-9481  
St. John's website: [www.stjohns-savage.org](http://www.stjohns-savage.org)  
Sycamore: <https://www.sycamoreeducation.com/index.php?schoolid=1520>

Principal, Beth Behnke, ext. 245  
Assistant Principal, Mike Smalley, ext. 234  
**Articles due by noon Monday for Wednesday publication to Mike Smalley at [mssmalley@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:mssmalley@stjohns-savage.org).**

### *Mrs. Behnke's Corner*

Thank you to all who have returned their registration materials at this time. Linda Haas, secretary, and Christine Kelly, bookkeeper, have been busy entering the data into the system. As indicated in previous communication we will be moving to a tuition management system next year. We will be hosting an information meeting to share more about the benefits and how it will work. With registration happening we wanted to schedule this as soon as possible – it will be held **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the church atrium**. We hope that if you have questions you are able to join us Monday evening.

During the registration process, there tends to be concerns raised about financial aid, scholarships, privacy and confidentiality, and who is involved in the process. I thought it best to direct these issues in today's article so everyone has a better understanding of the process involved around registration and requests for financial assistance.

St. John the Baptist Catholic School depends on tuition and a parish subsidy to meet its operating expenses. We know that not all families can afford to pay tuition without some sort of assistance and it is for this reason that the finance council determines an amount to set aside for financial assistance. By doing so, we are able to help families who desire a Catholic education for their children so that attending our school is both affordable and fair.

Each year all families are welcome to apply for financial assistance using TADS as our objective third party which provides a confidential process of evaluating financial need of those families who apply for aid. This information is then reviewed and the amount of assistance is determined by Fred Fox, parish finance and business director, our Pastor, Father Tix and me. I wish to assure you that all information related to our families' finances is completely confidential and no personal information is shared at any committee level. To apply online visit [tads.com](http://tads.com).

As I reviewed our profile of those who receive assistance, I see folks who are my neighbors who have experienced unforeseen changes such as loss of job, divorce, sickness, medical needs, reduced hours or pay, etc. We greatly appreciate everyone who has given generously through our "adopt-a-student" campaigns. How wonderful it is that we have students here because of others giving a little extra each month in their tuition payment, giving at year-end to tuition assistance, adopting a student for the year, or pooling dollars as a bible study to help the kids. This is what Jesus has called us to do as church – be there for one another! I thank you for making it possible.

Our Celebration! Gala February 27<sup>th</sup> again this year is focused on exactly this very thing, to offer financial assistance to those who are not able to afford the full tuition for a variety of reasons. Please know that even buying a ticket to come have dinner with us benefits the students. It can even be a great ladies night out. Hope to see many of you February 27!

If you have any questions regarding any information provided in this article, please contact Beth Behnke, Principal at (952) 890-6604 ext 245.

### *Upcoming Events*

#### February

##### **I LOVE TO READ MONTH**

- 20 - WEE Faith, 9-11am
- 20 - Used Uniform Sale after 5pm Mass
- 21 - Used Uniform Sale after 9am and 11am Masses
- 21 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm
- 22 - Washington's Birthday
- 24 - Character Day
- 24 - RE Large Group
- 25 - Mass, 9:25am
- 25 - Middle School Fine Arts Program 7pm
- 26 - School Registration, Open to the Public
- 26 - Book Swap
- 27 - WEE Faith, 9-11am
- 28 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm

#### March

- 1 - Tubing (contact the RE dept.)
- 3 - RE
- 4 - Mass, 9:25am
- 5 - End of Trimester II
- 6 - First Eucharist Retreat
- 7 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm
- 8 - 5th Grade Learning Fair
- 8 - Home & School Mtg., 7:30pm
- 8 - Davanni's Night
- 9 - SAC, 7pm
- 10 - RE
- 11 - Penance Service, 9:25am
- 12 - Middle School Dance
- 13 - Lent Retreat, Grades 6-8
- 14 - Daylight Savings Time begins - Spring ahead
- 14 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm



## *A note from Father Tix*

This past Sunday we celebrated Valentine's Day. When we think about Valentine's Day many things can come to mind ranging from colors like red and pink, to gifts of chocolate and roses, to cut out hearts and the exchange of cards. All of these things help to make Valentine's Day a time to remember and celebrate the gift of love. During the season of Lent we celebrate in a unique way the gift of God's love for us. In this season of 40 days that begins with Ash Wednesday, we think about the many ways that God shares with us his gift of love.

In the scriptures of this season we remember the gift of God's love that comes in creation. God makes the world out of nothing we are told in the Book of Genesis and gives it to us as a gift. Throughout the Old Testament we hear stories of God's love and faithfulness to his chosen people. In the pages of the New Testament we remember God going even one step further than giving us the world as a gift, now God gives us his only Son. From the Gospel of St. John, we hear Jesus' words that we are to "love one another." Jesus not only speaks these words, but shows the depth of their meaning as he lays down his life on the cross that we might live.

While Lent is about God's gift of love that is shared with us, this season also invites us to look into our hearts to ask about how we share God's sense of life and love with others. In baptism we know that we become God's new chosen people. Lent calls us to a kind of conversion that calls us out of ourselves to share the light and life of God's love for all our world to see.

Not long ago there was a story in the news about a man trapped in a grain bin in Farmington who in the end was safely rescued. The story caught my attention for a variety of reasons. Among them is not only do I know where the grain elevator in Farmington is located and have driven by it many times, but for many years my Dad managed a grain elevator. It was not uncommon that I would help Dad at the grain elevator doing different tasks and among them was sometimes shoveling corn in a bin. Thankfully I never had the experience of the man from Farmington in getting trapped, but it has made me stop to think. One of the great pictures from the man in Farmington was seeing everyone working together to rescue him. People unknown to him were not only in the streets watching and praying, but rescue workers were reaching out their helping hands.

The thought of the hands reaching out to help makes me think of Lent. While Lent is about God reaching out to us with his gift of saving love, it is also about us reaching out to others to share the gift of God's love. The story from Farmington was an extraordinary one of people working together. For us the Lenten question is how do we work together to share God's gift of love in the ordinary events of our lives, and where in this season are we called to both conversion to reach out in new ways, as well as reconciliation to ask forgiveness for those missed opportunities we all have in our lives. Lent is about God's gift of love, and growing in the many ways we are called to share this best of all Valentine's gifts with one another and our world.

## *Hope for Honduran Children*

Lenten Soup Supper on March 5th - Help us Pay it Forward! We have been selected by the *Catholic Spirit* newspaper to participate in the *Pay It Forward for Lent* project. We want to make a special invitation to attend the Parish Soup Supper for Lent on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Your participation will support the *Hope for Honduran Children Foundation* and the good work of Sister Maria Rosa of Honduras. Sister is commonly known as the "Mother Teresa of Central America" and has been the "mother" to thousands of Honduran children. Black bean soup and rice will be served. This typical Honduran meal is the staple meal of many Hondurans. We will also give a short presentation about the work of Sister Maria Rosa and her connection to our family.

If you are unable to make it on March 5<sup>th</sup>, soup mix is available for preparation at home. It is accompanied by educational information, family conversation starters and a prayer. Please contact us for more information: [gomezot@yahoo.com](mailto:gomezot@yahoo.com) or 952-707-1130. Thank you! Liliana, Catarina & Rosa Gómez

## ***Altar Server Training***

All kids in the parish currently in 5th, 6th or 7th grade that are interested in becoming an altar server are invited to attend an altar server training session on Tuesday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:45 PM to 5:15 PM in the main body of the church. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Mike Kelly at (952) 226-2332 or send an e-mail to [mike.kelly@integraonline.com](mailto:mike.kelly@integraonline.com).

## ***Amy Mannick Benefit***

The Amy Mannick Benefit Committee would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all of the people who donated items to the Mannick/O'Hagan Benefit and those who donated their time to help make the benefit a great success. We also thank the many people who showed support for Amy Mannick and her family by attending the benefit. Amy enjoyed her evening immensely and was overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people. Thank you for your support!

Please remember to keep Amy and her family in your prayers as she continues her brave battle against cancer.

## ***Fine Arts Performance***

Fine Arts Performance, Thursday, February 25 – Doors to the art exhibit and seating will open at 6:30. Music students are to check in by 6:45. 8<sup>th</sup> grade goes to 306. 6<sup>th</sup> grade reports to 305.

## ***Alumni News - Holy Angels students inducted into National Honor Society***

The Academy of Holy Angels (AHA) has inducted 42 new members into the Seraphine Ireland Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). They join 36 current members of the NHS.

To qualify for NHS membership, a student must maintain a grade point average of 3.6667 or above, be actively involved in service, display proven leadership qualities, and exhibit the highest level of character. Students who meet the academic requirements for NHS submit a Student Activities Information Form that is reviewed by the AHA faculty selection committee and staff.

NHS members of AHA benefit the schools, by facilitating pre-finals study groups, and by participating in community service projects, such as working at Habitat for Humanity sites in the fall and spring.

St. John's School Alumni new members are Rachel Adam, Ryan DeMuse, Claire Girouard, Jenna Gruenwald, Taylor Hill, Joshua Holt, Sarah Ober, Molly Olson, Nolan Radziej, Kayla Roberge, Erin Sislo and Chloe Walbruch.

## ***Holy Angels presents winter band and sacred choral concert***

The Academy of Holy Angels invites the community to a winter band and sacred choral concert at the school, 6600 Nicollet Avenue South, Richfield, on Sunday, February 28. The band concert begins at 1 pm in the theater; the choral ensembles will perform at 3 pm in the school's Chapel.

The Academy Concert Band and Jazz Band will be joined by the Richfield Symphonic Band, a local community band under the direction of Ken Ziemann. Each group will perform its own program and then will join together for two selections.

The Holy Angels Concert Choir, Academy Singers, Praise Group, and soloists will perform a variety of sacred choral literature from Gospel songs to classical, contemporary liturgical music and ethnic music. Soloists and small ensembles will perform as well.

The public is cordially invited. Admission to the concert is free; donations will be accepted.



# Faith Community News



## **Middle School Day Retreat**

All youth in grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> are invited to a day retreat on Sat., March 13 9:00am ending with mass. The theme is *Disciples on the Journey*. This retreat will engage the youth in scripture and reflect how to live the Gospel in their daily lives. Cost is \$10 per person which will cover breakfast and lunch. Deadline is Friday, March 5. For more information please contact Lori.

## **Tubing at Buck Hill is Monday, March 1**

The hill is snow-covered and conditions are sure to be perfect for an afternoon of snow tubing at Buck Hill in Burnsville on Monday, March 1. St. John's has the hill reserved for two shifts: 5 to 7pm and 7 to 9pm. Tubers can choose one session for \$15; or choose to tube both sessions for \$25. Bus transportation between St. John's and Buck Hill also is provided. And in the Hutch, there will be hot chocolate and snacks.

Tubing children must be at least 5 years old and 42 inches tall. Adult chaperones who can choose either to-tube or not-to-tube also are needed to help – both inside the hutch and on the hill. All tubers must have paid passes for their chosen sessions. There is no cost for adult chaperones who choose not to tube. While this event will be promoted specifically to children in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades – everyone is welcome to join in this great opportunity for family fun!



All tubing tickets must be purchased prior to our tubing day. Registration deadline is

**Wednesday, Feb. 24.** More

information, including a special page of "Tubing FAQs," and registration forms are available on the parish web site at [www.stjohns-savage.org](http://www.stjohns-savage.org) or call (952)890-9434.

## **Fr. Steve McMichael presents on Wednesday, Feb. 24**

"Following Jesus: What Are We Supposed to Do?" is the topic of a large group presentation from 6:45 to 8pm, Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the church. Featured presenter is Fr. Steve McMichael, OSF Conv., Guardian of the Friary and staff member of Franciscan Retreats & Spirituality Center in Prior Lake. He also is an associate professor in the Theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. The evening's presentation serves as class for all teens registered in St. John's Grades 7 – 12 religious education program (including our newly Confirmed 10<sup>th</sup> graders!) and all are welcome to attend. For more information, contact St. John's Religious Education at (952)890-9434.

## **Save the Date: Spring Break Stretch is March 30**

The details aren't set yet but there's a great day of faith, fun, fellowship and service brewing up for young people in Grades 3, 4 and 5, as we plan to take a bit of a stretch during spring break and take a big, yellow bus (or two!) around town from 9am to 5pm. Adult chaperones also will be needed so check your calendars now! If you don't have plans that day, plan on joining in the fun! Watch this newsletter, parish bulletin and individual flyers for details as we welcome March!

## **Healing & Forgiveness is topic of March 7 Adult CCD**

Everyone is invited to a Lenten evening of conversation and insight into "Healing & Forgiveness," at Adult CCD (Catholicism, Coffee & Dessert) from 6:45 to 8pm, Sunday, March 7, in the atrium.

Our featured guest will be Brother Bob Roddy, OSF Conv., who has served as director of Franciscan Retreats & Spirituality Center in Prior Lake since 2007. He is a native of Nebraska and has served at the Franciscan Retreat Centers at Mount Saint Francis, Indiana and Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

Brother Bob brings more than 17 years of experience in preached retreat ministry. He also has served as an editor for a major Catholic publishing company and as administrator of St. Bonaventure Friary in Washington, DC.

There is no cost to attend and all are welcome! For more information about St. John's Adult Faith Formation programs, contact Brenda Schroll at [bschroll@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:bschroll@stjohns-savage.org) or call (952)890-9434.

## **Sister Parish Vacation Bible School Team Forming**

Applications to volunteer at this summer's VBS at our sister parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary, in Houston, Miss., are available in the Education Office. IHM VBS team members are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or older who want to help provide a fun and faith-filled week of Bible school and reading enrichment to the children of Houston and Vardaman, Mississippi. Travel is scheduled Saturday, July 3 through Saturday, July 10. There is a cost of \$100 per person to help defray transportation and housing costs for the week. **Space is limited!** Applications from youth volunteers will be accepted only after the number of adult participants is confirmed and then, on a first-come, first-served basis starting Feb. 15.

To find out more about how you can share your gifts with the children and adults of Houston, Miss., contact Andi Little at [alittle@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:alittle@stjohns-savage.org) or call (952)890-9434, ext. 249.