



# Saint Mary Catholic School

December 2009

Dear Parents:

I hope everyone enjoyed a blessed and relaxing Thanksgiving. We now find ourselves in the season of Advent. It is a time to reflect on our lives and to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. As a Catholic school community, we can make an effort to look for Jesus in everyone and to spread "kindness and gentleness" in all we do. We can remember that through our words and through our actions we are able to build up the Kingdom of God. Let us encourage our children to appreciate the gifts God has given them and to also challenge our children to look for God's gifts in everyone they meet.

## FIRST TRIMESTER PROGRESS REPORTS

The first trimester of the 2009-2010 school year ended on November 13. Progress Reports were sent home with students on November 24. Parent Access will re-open on December 8.

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

The last day of classes before Christmas is December 18. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2010.

## DECEMBER MASSES

Our **First Friday Mass** will be on December 4, at **10:30 A.M.** On Tuesday, December 8, **The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary**, a school mass will be celebrated at **10:30 A.M.** All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## NOVEMBER'S FIRST FRIDAY MASS

In attendance at our First Friday Mass in November were many saints. It was such a special celebration with the sixth graders portraying our heroes of the Church, the saints. They did a beautiful job sharing the lives of the saints with the classes they visited.

## Homeroom 6A

Yusra Ahmed – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Olivia Balog – St. Maria Goretti  
Skylar Bowers – St. Bridget of Sweden  
Maitlin Curtin – St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Ian Ferguson – St. Anthony of Padua  
Adam Fisher – St. George  
Maria Giannaris – St. Joan of Arc  
Tyler Gilks – St. Francis of Assisi  
Hannah Haley – St. Cecelia  
Annemarie Hilmoe - St. Catherine of Siena

Erin Macmullen – St. Lucy  
Jason Marinelli – St. Padre Pio  
Claire Murray – St. Helen  
Connor O'Malley – St. Sebastian  
Bailey Rafter – St. Rose of Lima  
Patrick Sacchet – St. Patrick  
Justin Semler – St. Justin de Jacobis  
Mackenzie Stockslager- St. Eulalia

## Homeroom 6B

Christopher Amos – St. Florian  
Taylor Blenckstone – St. Mildred  
Anna Carter – St. Ann  
Conner Caruso – St. Joseph  
Louise Dickinson – St. Louise de Marillac  
Ramsay Farah – St. Luke  
Hollis Gigeous – St. Rita  
Nathaniel Hammer – St. John Vianney  
Kaitlyn Hevey – St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Paige Kutzera – St. Elizabeth of Portugal  
Sierra Moore – St. Bernadette  
Gregory Oh – St. Gregory

Nicholas O'Neil – St. Nicholas  
Lydia Radley – St. Dorothy  
Angelina Rubino – Mother Teresa  
Colin Sappenfield – St. Matthew  
Ethan Spicher – St. Hubert  
Thomas Summerfelt – St. Christopher  
John Theis – St. John Bosco

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

#### **Good S.A.M.s**

**I want to congratulate our Good S.A.M.s for November:** Grace Minahan, Gabriella Tedeschi, Ethan Eberhart, Gianni Blundell, Gabriel Burgess, Madeline Sappenfield, Jared Semler, Michael Carter, Maitlin Curtin, Taylor Blenckstone, Cierra Quantock, Brayden Berezney, and Patrick Jones. **Thanks for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!**

### **HSA News**

#### **BONANZA**

The overwhelming support of our SMCS 2009 Bonanza was amazing. The evening of November 7 was truly a celebration of 135 years of Catholic education and a celebration of fellowship. St. Mary Parishioners, St. Ann Parishioners, St. James Parishioners, St. Augustine Parishioners, St. Joseph Parishioners, current school parents, former school parents, current teachers and staff, former teachers and staff, and many other members of our Hagerstown Community comprised the crowd of close to five hundred people who filled the Elks Lodge. The energy and support of all who attended is much appreciated. The Bonanza profited \$9,716.00!

We also want to acknowledge the generosity of the sponsors of our Bonanza Silent Auction. The auction items, the sponsors, and the winning bids are included in this packet.

The success of the evening is attributed to the partnering of Church, school, home, and community. We appreciate all who volunteered their time, attended the event, made donations, advertised to friends and neighbors, and offered prayers for our school.

On behalf of Father Collin (Pastor), Mo Tedeschi and Cathy Reiter (HSA Co-Presidents) and Lori Balog (Bonanza Chairperson), we want to thank you for your continuous support of Saint Mary Catholic School. Please reserve November 6, 2010, for our next Bonanza!

#### **THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON**

Our Thanksgiving Luncheon was absolutely wonderful! Four hundred forty-nine dinners were served. Delicious food, festive decorations, and good company were definitely among the highlights. Thank you again, Lisa Dorsey, for organizing this enjoyable event. With the help of Jenny Beck, Mimi Dickinson, Cheryl Dillard, Jacque Ewing, Victoria Grossman, Mary Beth Hackett, Beth Haynes, Cynthia MacMullen, Mary Minahan, Kathleen Murray, Christine Quantock, Chris Sherman, Stacey Stine, Jackie Strama, and Jenn Sword, the luncheon was a success.

#### **BAKE SALES**

Grade 3 will have a bake sale on December 2 and grade 2 will hold a bake sale on December 16.

### **SOCIAL HOUR**

Middle School Social Hour will be held on December 4 from 3:00 to 4:30.

### **PHASE I RAFFLE TICKET FUNDRAISER**

Congratulations to the following November winners:

- (\$50) Week 1: Steven Epstein
- (\$50) Week 2: Tom & Tina Theis
- (\$50) Week 3: Emily Haller
- (\$50) Week 4: Tina Castell
- (\$100) Week 5: Susie Reed

### **ONLINE FUNDRAISERS**

HSA has received several requests from families about former fundraisers, specifically, Innisbrook gift wrap sales and Rada knife sales. HSA does have accounts with each company. Parents, friends, and out-of-town relatives can place online orders with either company, and a portion of each order will be donated to the SMCS HSA. Orders can be placed with Rada year round. Innisbrook orders can be placed until March 31, 2010.

Check the school's website for direct links, or use these sites:

**Innisbrook** , [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com).

Our school ID number is 102874.

**Rada**, [www.helpourfundraiser.com](http://www.helpourfundraiser.com).

Our Internet Ordering Number is 501900 and the password is "stmary".

Remember, as with all HSA fundraisers, these online fundraisers are *completely* optional! As always, we are so grateful for your support.

### **PHASE II RAFFLE TICKET FUNDRAISER**

Fundraiser II raffle tickets were sent home on November 19 and are due back by December 18. Phase II begins January 1. The tickets make great Christmas gifts.

### **SCRIP**

Last SCRIP order date before Christmas Break is December 14. Thank you, Mrs. Shaper, Mrs. Bachtell, Mrs. Bracken, and Mrs. McCarter for helping so many families save money towards tuition.

### **PIXIE SHOP**

With Christmas around the corner, Mrs. Menard and Mrs. O'Malley, assisted by many wonderful parent volunteer elves, are currently hosting the Pixie Shop.

### **HSA LUNCH**

The first HSA lunch of the year was held on November 20. Thanks to Angela Borum, Rhonda O'Malley, Tina Castell, Teresa Schmitt, Ann Marie Fisher, Alison Ortiz, Lisa Dorsey, Jen Beck, Mary Minahan, Rachel O'Connor, Mo Tedeschi, Bo Oh, and Mary Beth Hackett, our students enjoyed fried chicken, mashed potatoes, cheese bread, salad, and ice cream.

### **TUITION RAFFLE**

Thank you to the families who have purchased Tuition Raffle tickets! Remember, each ticket is \$100 and the winner will receive free tuition for one child for the 2010-2011 school year! If you have been so blessed that you would prefer not to win, you may purchase a ticket whose winnings are designated for the Sr. Margaret Mary Tuition Assistance Fund. Tickets may be purchased through May 24, 2010.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS**

#### **CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

Thanks to the efforts of the Student Council and the generosity of the student body, St. Mary Catholic School donated 1,046 items of food to the

Hagerstown Food Bank. All students who contributed should be applauded for their kindness. The Student Council would like to thank Mrs. Forsythe, Mrs. Tedeschi, Mr. Sponaugle, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Quantock, Mrs. Schmitt, and Mr. Ramirez for delivering the canned goods to the food bank.

#### **READ-A-THON**

The students did a fabulous job of reading for 100 minutes! Students in the younger grades enjoyed listening to stories by guest readers. The students in the older grades appreciated a good book as a quiet diversion from normal studies. Many of the middle school students were invited to read to the primary students. Besides encouraging students to value the gift of reading, this activity also gave students the opportunity to earn money for purchasing Christmas gifts for needy families. Each grade has adopted a family through the Salvation Army. With the effort of our students and the generosity of our school families, many families less fortunate than us will have a brighter Christmas!

#### **DECEMBER TAG DAY**

Students who made a donation through the read-a-thon for the Salvation Army family their grade adopted will receive a pass to come out of uniform on December 9. The theme for the day will be Christmas attire. Any students who forgot to contribute may still bring in a donation to their homeroom teachers by December 4 and receive an out-of-uniform pass. Passes will be distributed through December 4.

## **SPORTS**

#### **CRUSADER BASKETBALL**

Saint Mary Catholic School is excited to begin the 2009-2010 basketball season. The schedule for the Boy Crusaders is included in this packet and can also be found on our website (Student Life Section, Athletics Tab). All boys' games are played at Broadfording Christian Academy. As soon as the schedule for the Lady Crusaders is finalized, it will also be distributed and posted on line.

#### **PEP RALLY**

There will be a pep rally on January 4, at 2:00 P.M., to acknowledge our 2009-2010 basketball teams.

#### **OTHER NEWSWORTHY ITEMS**

##### **SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHORUS TO PERFORM WITH**

##### **THE MARYLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Our SMCS Chorus has been invited to perform with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra for their *Home for the Holidays Christmas* Concerts on Saturday, December 19, at 7:00 P.M. and on Sunday, December 20, at 3:00 P.M. Reserve your tickets by calling (301)797-4000.

#### **CHRISTMAS SHOWS**

- The Christmas Show starring the students in grades two through five will be Thursday, December 10, at 7 P.M.
- The First Grade Christmas Alphabet will be at 1:45 on Friday, December 11.
- The Kindergarten Christmas Play will be at 1:30 on Monday, December 14.

### **POSADAS CELEBRATION**

The Mexican tradition that reenacts Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem will be shared with SMCS students by our fourth graders through their Spanish classes. On Tuesday, December 15, fourth graders will have a procession through the school during which they will act out how Mary and Joseph asked for "posada" at the inns and houses in Bethlehem. Ms. Fleischer has posted on her webpage a Posadas PowerPoint she shared with her classes.

### **CAREER DAY**

On Friday, February 5, 2010, we are planning a Career Day for Catholic Schools Week. If you are interested in sharing your career with our students, please complete the attached form and return it to school by December 18. More details will follow after Christmas.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

St. Mary Catholic School follows the announcement for Washington County Public Schools. Please listen to your local radio stations or NBC25 for possible school cancellations, late openings, or early dismissals.

### **HANDICAPPED PARKING**

There are several handicapped parking spaces designated on the Walnut Lot. We realize these spots are often utilized by parents at dismissal time. Please make sure there is space available for persons needing handicapped parking. It is the law and it is also common courtesy.

### **STAND TRAINING**

In July of 2007 the Archdiocese of Baltimore updated the procedures for

volunteering in schools. "If a volunteer will have *Substantial Contact* with children, then the following must be completed before he/she begins to serve in the Archdiocese of Baltimore:

1. Application for Volunteer Service completed;
2. Names of references provided and checked;
3. VolunteerSelect Criminal Screening completed; and
4. Training received regarding child abuse and protection of children, including STAND video."

If you have a Volunteer Compliance Card from another parish and want to be a regular volunteer at St. Mary Catholic School, you must complete the Application for Service, including the reference section. **The STAND training is now available online.** A complete packet including directions for the online training is available in the school office or visit our website. On the Families Tab, select STAND.

### **IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Please remember Timothy W. Andrews (grandfather of Sierra Moore) who passed away this past month. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

As always, I ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to give me the guidance and wisdom needed to serve as principal of St. Mary Catholic School.

May God Bless You!

Patricia A. McDermott