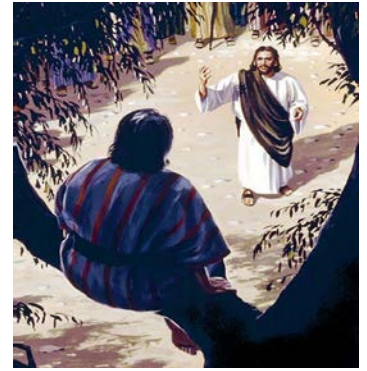


October 28, 2016

Dear Parents,

This week the readings for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary time, once again reflect the gracious and merciful Lord. The first reading teaches that God's love and compassion are made real and experienced whenever we exercise the same love and compassion for all. For Paul, in our second reading, it is through faith that we are gifted with the power to live faithfully in God's love and have the ability to forgive and share God's mercy. No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. We must continue to be open to a personal encounter with Jesus and thus freely accept what he offers us. In the Gospel, the delightful story of Zacchaeus shows how he enthusiastically responds to Jesus' invitation to experience God's mercy and love by offering to give half of his possessions to the poor because of what Jesus has done for him. Let us continue to have this "attitude of gratitude" and look for the love of a God of mercy in our everyday experiences.



ACCREDITATION: Thank you too all the parents who have responded to the survey so quickly. Although it was due today we are extending it until Nov.3 for anyone who has not had the opportunity to do so. We are aiming for 100% responding. Here is the link for the survey.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56XT4FZ>

STOP AND SHOP: Once again Stop and Shop is running their Education rewards program. Every time you shop, St. Mary School receives points which turn into cash returns for the school. Last year we received over a \$1000.00 for the school. Invite your friends and neighbors to sign up. Our ID code for our school is **06142**. Please see the flyer in today's packet.

RECYCLE WIZ: We have signed up to accept old cell phones, lap tops and tablets. You will see drop off containers in the entrance of the school, in church and at the Branford Police Dept. We will accept them all year long since everyone is always upgrading at different times and in need of new equipment. We will also have some other projects with this company as the year progresses. Perhaps you can tell your co-workers and friends if they don't know what to do with their old technology, maybe they would think of donating it to us!

Reminders



Friday: See you tonight at the Halloween Party. After the trick or treating and candy eating, we are requesting that no candy be brought to school for morning snacks or lunch. I ask that they leave all that sugar home for you to deal with! 😊

Monday, Oct. 31st is our All Saints parade! All students are asked to come dressed from home and either wear their play clothes underneath the costume or change after the parade. The younger grades that have gym may wear sneakers with their costumes, as they need to have them for gym.



Tuesday Nov. 1st is All Saints Day. **Full Winter uniforms and no gym on this day.** This is a Holyday of Oblation. We are walking with the children to the 12:00 noon Mass. Several parents have been

contacted to walk with classes. Although we have had many who volunteered for this, we did not need many this time. The next time we walk with the children we will select others who volunteered. Everyone is welcome to join us at this parish Mass and meet us in the church. Grades PK-3 and PK-4 will not be attending this Mass as we have First Friday Mass in school this week as well. They will be with us in the gym that day.

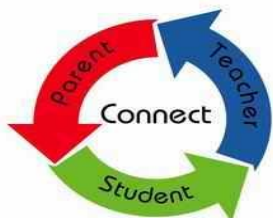
NO HOT LUNCH ON TUESDAY NOV. 1st ! CHILDREN NEED TO BRING BROWN BAG LUNCH AND THEIR OWN DRINK THIS DAY.

Friday Nov. 4th is First Friday and a 12:10 dismissal.



Included in this week's envelope is a **Guide for Catholic voting**. I hope it will help you with more information before the important election day.

Our **Yankee Candle** fundraiser is now open until Nov. 15th! Please find the information in this week's envelope. Although it is a small window of time to sell, this was a great fundraiser last year and we hope you will again promote this great product. These sales can also profit us **online** too. Please help us by asking friends and neighbors too.



Conferences are now completed for the midpoint of our Trimester. Keeping open lines of communication between home and school is the best way to see your child succeed. Working together, we will help your child reach their full potential. We all want what is best for them. Remember you can always keep up with your child's progress through edu-connect.



As we begin to see the signs of early evening darkness, we know Fall is upon us. Reading a good book with the children by the warm fire, (if you are fortunate enough to have a fireplace), or simply a story before bedtime, continues to share the importance and love of reading. We are having an author visit the school on Nov. 18th. An assembly including a book signing will be part of the event. It is a Pep Rally for Reading for Grades Pre-K to Grade 5. It is at 9:00am to 10:00am. Parents are welcome. Look for more info to come in next week's envelope.



This Friday was Mrs. Heidtman's last day as she begins her maternity leave until Feb. 1st. We wish God's blessings upon her and her family as they welcome their newborn sometime very soon! We will let you know as soon as we hear of the blessed event. We are so fortunate to have a seamless transition with Mrs. Cunningham, who has been in close contact with the class and will be the permanent sub until Mrs. Heidtman returns. Filling in as the aide in Pre-K for Mrs. Cunningham is Mrs. Duffy, who is the parent of last year's graduate, Lauren Duffy. We welcome her back, as she has helped in the classrooms in the past. Thank you to all the parents and staff for your kindness, patience and understanding with these changes.

God bless you,

Sr. Annette