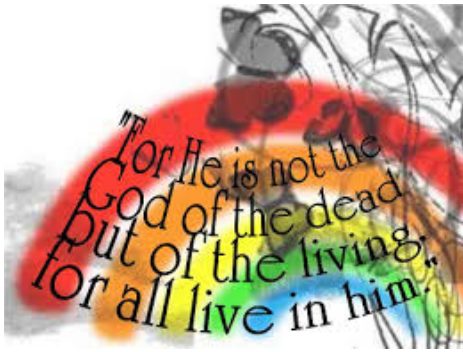


November 4, 2016



Dear Parents,

This is the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. This week's Gospel challenges us to consider what happens after our earthly life has ended. The church teaches us it has not ended, just changed. This is the month we especially remember our faithful departed. The children are learning the prayer for all the dead by reciting an eternal rest prayer. It is a short, response prayer. The leader begins with: Eternal rest grant unto them, Oh Lord. They respond: And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. Perhaps some of you may remember this from your days in Catholic School or from your parents.

It is our way of teaching the children that because we are all a part of God's family, we trust in His promise to us that even after we die, we will join Him in heaven. It is also important that they understand we are part of the Communion of Saints. But it all begins here on earth by being faithful and putting God first in our lives.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mrs. Heidtman and family. The newborn blessing arrived at 8:00am on Thursday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Everett Louis was born 8lbs 5oz and 20 inches long! Mom, dad, and baby are fine. We are so happy for the family. We can't wait for Mrs. Heidtman to come and visit with Everett.

So we have completed the month of October and it was very productive. With parent conferences completed, November will be a very busy month as it provides the last few weeks of the first trimester. Please continue to check on your child's progress through edu-connect. Basketball is now recruiting its members, but the families need to understand our policy that all students must be trying to strive for good grades. We do not want basketball stars that are failing in their classes. We want scholar athletes. Once parents have given the children their permission to sign up for the team, the names will first be first approved to play, and then submitted to Mr. Scussel, our athletic director. He will then be in touch with the families. Let's get off to a great start for the basketball season.



**READING**  
is the  to  
**SUCCESS**

We are having a **"pep rally for reading"**. This will be for Grades Pre-K to Gr.5. An author will come to speak with the children and parents are invited to attend. If you are interested in purchasing a book or tee-shirt, please see the details included in the flyer. He will also be available to sign your child's book that day.

Another flyer enclosed in this week's packet explains a project that the **Student Council** is working on as a preparation for Advent. Thinking of how the school could help those in need, I brought this project to their attention and they were very enthusiastic about taking part in it. Please take a minute and go to the website suggested in their letter to help you further your understanding of this project. We are only running it for a very short time, so please help them reach their goal.



Monday Nov. 7th, we are having a special "dress like a book character" dress-up. Any student who wants to participate in this charity dress-up is asked to bring \$2.00. We will use the money to help defray the cost of **the boxes of joy** being collected by the Student Council.

Our Fourth Grade was selected to participate in the Knights of Columbus Christmas tree decorating contest. Their tree will be included in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Trees. The museum provides the tree and the students make the ornaments. The ornaments must reflect the theme. This year's theme is **"Crèches of Germany: Tradition and Faith"**. The exhibit runs from Dec.5 to Jan.31<sup>st</sup>. Admission to the museum is free. Maybe you can make some family time and visit the exhibit during Christmas break!





At the end of the month we usher in the Advent Season. Here at St. Mary's the children will focus on **preparing our hearts**. The world is filling their heads with so much commercialism and Santa, etc. that we want to stress the birth of Christ. So we have school activities where they will focus on making room for Christ in their hearts. Yes, the Home/School will have breakfast with Santa and they will see other images of Christmas, but the true focus in school will be the Advent preparation. That is why we are a Catholic School! We are blessed that we can speak freely about the true meaning of Christmas. We also "keep **Christ** in Christmas" so no Xmas here! All these ways people try to take out the Religious focus, we keep in! It is our hope you will keep this meaning at home too. It is fine to say Merry Christmas here, not happy holidays. Why should we be afraid to show we are Catholic?

Thank you to the families working on trying to arrive on time for the opening of school. Now we need to continue to work on late pick-ups. **Our policy is: anyone who remains after 2:40 will be sent to EDP and parents will be charged.** Please remember the teachers have after school obligations and cannot stay.

I would also like to remind parents dropping off in the morning to have your children exit from the driver side of the car. It is too dangerous to have them come out on the right side of the car. The other day, someone passed a car as the children were exiting the car. Please be patient and do not rush! If there is a car in front of you, do NOT let your child out until that car leaves. We do not want to have an accident!



**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT TO BE ON TIME TO JOIN US FOR THE FAMILY MASS AT 11:00AM ON SUNDAY NOV. 6<sup>th</sup>.**



**REMINDER: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016 IS VETERAN'S DAY – NO SCHOOL!**

Let us give thanks for all the brave men and women who have sacrificed to keep our country free.



Exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, November 8, 2016! God bless America.

Have a great weekend.

Sr. Annette