

May 26, 2017

Dear Parents,

As we continue to celebrate Easter and prepare for Pentecost, we are reminded to pray. Prayer is communicating with God. Prayer is the quiet communication of hearts and souls. We teach our children that prayer is more than asking God for things for ourselves. It also involves asking God for things on behalf of others and thanking God for the many blessings we experience each day. In this week's Gospel we hear that Jesus prayed for us! The prayer we hear coming from Him comes from the closing moments of His last discourse; it briefly sums up His life and mission. It is comforting to know that Jesus loves us so much that He prays for us. Let us dedicate some time to prayer this week in thanksgiving to God. Let us also continue to encourage our children to pray always and **all ways!**



CHANGES: It is a time of change for the Churches in Branford. For those of you not from St. Mary Church, I am not sure if you know or not, that Fr. Matt will not be at St. Mary's after June 29th. He has been assigned to Our Lady of MT. Carmel in Hamden. He will now be working in Campus ministry at Quinnipiac. We wish him God's blessings as he begins this new assignment. We are planning a little farewell on First Friday as he will celebrate the last school Mass for the year. The children have enjoyed his creative homilies each month and the Grades 6, 7 and 8 have also benefited from his Religion classes. He will also present a retreat to the 8th Graders before they graduate. We appreciate all Fr. Matt has done for us during his time with us this year.

Some good news is the fact that out of the three newly ordained priests in the entire Archdiocese, one of them has been assigned to the new St. John Bosco Parish here in Branford. Fr. Glen Dmytryszyn will be our new Parochial Vicar. He stopped by for a quick visit on Wed. when Fr. Keefe brought him to meet the faculty, staff and students. As a Deacon, Fr. Glen worked at a parish with a school, so I hope he will quickly get involved now with the children at our school. We look forward to sharing the good news of St. Mary School with Fr. Glen.

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS in 7th and 8th: Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven is looking for students, 13+ (even when the form says 14+) to apprentice with their teacher assistants and faculty during their summer programs. If interested please go to: <http://creativeartsworkshop.org/get-involved/juniorta/> to fill out their form. For more info please email Nelli Shevelkina at mnshev@yahoo.com Tell her your child is been recommended by Mrs. Corina Alvarezdelugo, who's also a faculty at CAW.

BABYSITTING: A note to parents: Hi, my name is Sarah Peck. I am a St. Mary alum, I graduated in 2011. My sister is in the 6th grade at SMS and I still spend a lot of time volunteering around the school so some of you or your kid(s) might already know me. I usually work on Block Island during the summer, but I decided to stay home this summer for a change. I am a Red Cross certified babysitter and I am VIRTUS trained. I have been babysitting since I was 13 and I have experience with infants to age 12. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me my email is sarah.peck@drake.edu and my cell phone number is (618)225-0908. Thank so much! Sarah Peck



JUNE ACTIVITIES: The June calendar is enclosed in this week's envelope. Please take note that the last day of school is a 12:10 dismissal. There is **NO EDP** on the last day. The lunch calendar will be sent home Wed. June 1st.

CAMP FOR THE ARTS: Please take note that the deadline to register has been extended to June 9th. The early bird discount does not apply after June 5th. There is so much planning that goes into this camp. If we do not get at least 20 sign ups we will have to cancel it. Please register soon!



Have a great Memorial Day weekend. See everyone on Tuesday!

God bless America!

Sr. Annette



P.S. Have you ordered a yearbook? Last call for orders. Send in your order this coming week. \$15.00. Thank you.