



March 2, 2017

Dear Parents,

Our sacred Lenten journey has begun! Our forty days of prayer, fasting, and abstinence have begun! Our personal renewal lies before us. In our society of abundance, we become accustomed to possessing everything we want. Mother Church offers the season of Lent as a time to consider what is missing in our lives. Perhaps we need some solitude, reconciliation, serenity, patience, humor, prayer, selflessness.....the list could be endless. Lent is that time to find what has been lost in the midst of activity and abundance.

Any journey is blessed when it is shared, and our Lenten journey is no different. As we practice prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving within our families, there is need for spiritual support. A Lenten tradition that we celebrate is having school family partners to hold in prayer throughout the next forty days. Coming home today is a sheet with the name of another school family that you are asked to hold in prayer during Lent. The spiritual and material needs of another school family are placed in your hands for the next seven weeks. Please accept this precious responsibility seriously. Prayer is the source of all miracles.

Our parish school will celebrate Lent in the following ways. Students received religious necklaces to wear at school daily, Lenten readings will be part of our daily prayer, students received an offering box to place any donations for the poor throughout Lent, student-led Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday of Lent at 2:00 in church, and our buddy project will have the students making a small crown of thorns. As Lent progresses, students in grades 2 through 8 will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Parent Club provided a fun-filled Mardi Gras for our students on Tuesday. Numerous arcade games were brought in to the gym, and each class had 30 minutes to enjoy playing them. Our eighth graders did a great job manning the games for all the classes. Thank you in a very special way to Chris Martineck, Letty Garcia, Denise Collins, and Michelle Pasinski who set up for the day, monitored the events, and packed up the games.

Last Sunday evening, a wonderfully large crowd of school families and parishioners gathered for a Prayer of Thanksgiving, followed by fellowship, to celebrate the official word that our parish school will be open next year. A real sense of a community of stewards was present. The singing, praying, applauding, and laughing made God's presence very tangible.

Information about the final fundraiser is coming home today – the World's Finest Chocolate Candy Drive. Participation is optional for our families. This is another chance to put 50% of your profit from the drive toward tuition. Please note the due date for orders and payment. **No order can be accepted without payment.**

A few weekly reminders:

Student Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday, at 2:00, in church. All are welcome!

Men's Club Boxing Show will be held this Saturday evening. All are welcome!

Report cards will be issued next Thursday, March 9th.

Blessings on your Lenten journey! Let's hold each other in prayer! Please worship with us this weekend!

Peace and all good!

St. Stephanie