

ST. MATT'S MATTERS

MISSION STATEMENT - As a Christian community of believers at St. Matthew School in Oak Creek, we declare our mission to be one in which we promote academic excellence by providing a high quality, Catholic education. Through value-centered education and spiritual nourishment we strive to meet the needs of our families. Our mission is to build a Catholic community where we encourage others to proclaim the Gospel with compassion and hope.

A Note From the Principal

Dear Parents,

This Sunday marks the beginning of the third week of Advent, a time of quiet, joyful preparation of Jesus' birth. Congratulations to our second graders who will be making their first Reconciliation on Saturday! Our prayers and blessings are with the second grade, for they, as all who receive the sacrament, will now experience the way Jesus gives us for being reconciled to God and to those we've hurt. Through the sacrament of Reconciliation we are strengthened in our connection to God's entire family.

Winter weather has arrived, and with it, colds and flu. The CDC offers these guidelines for preventative actions to stop the spread of germs

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

Please note, we cannot honor requests to keep sick students in at recess as we do not have the resources to accommodate such a request. I ask that you do not send your child/ren to school if they are ill or running a fever. Our goal, of course, is to take the best care of our students and minimize the spread of colds and flu.

Thank you to Mrs. Shelton and Mrs. Pook and all of "Santa's Helpers" who helped make Santa's Secret Gift Shop a wonderful Christmas shopping experience for St. Matthew students.

Thank you all for supporting Catholic education!

Mrs. Barber

December 9, 2011

What's Happening 12/10 - 12/16

Saturday, 12/10 - Grade 2, First Reconciliation, 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, 12/11 - Cookie Walk

Monday, 12/12 - Mad Science, 3:25-4:25 p.m.

Tuesday, 12/13 - Christmas Concert, 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Church; SMPAA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, 12/16 - 1:20 P.M. DISMISSAL; School Liturgy Hosted by Grade 1, 9:15 a.m.

MEMORY BOOK PHOTOS - We are looking for photos of fun school activities, concerts, field trips, etc. If you have a photo you think could be used in the 2011-2012 Memory Book, please email the photo to school@stmattoc.org. You could also forward the actual photo to the school office but it will not be returned. Thank you!

CHECKS - When submitting a check to the school or parish office, please put in the memo line what the check is for. This will be extremely helpful when we are posting. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - December 13th, 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. All students are expected to attend.

SUNRISE UNIFORM CLOTHING SALE - All uniforms are half price during the month of December at Sunrise (located at 916 Milwaukee Avenue, South Milwaukee).

SECRET SANTA - Thank you to all the elves that helped make the Secret Santa Shop a great big hit.

Mrs. Pook and Mrs. Shelton

CONGRATULATIONS - Congratulations to Samantha Lee and Sophie Koronowski for a great performance at the 2011 State Gymnastics Meet last weekend. Samantha received 5 medals by taking 5th place on the beam, 6th place on the vault, 11th place on the floor and bars. She placed 9th overall with an All Around score of 36.075. Sophie placed 6th on the balance beam for level 3. Great job Samantha and Sophie.

DSHA CHRISTMAS CONCERTS - Divine Savior Holy Angels High School is proud to present a holiday orchestra concert on Monday, December 12th. Conducted by John Christian, the performance will welcome the sounds of the season in a joyful and melodic manner. A choral concert will take place on Wednesday, December 14th. Three choirs comprised of over 50 student vocalists under the direction of Rebekah Wickert will perform traditional Christmas Carols. Both events will take place at 7:00 p.m. in The Robert and Marie Hansen Family Fine Arts Theatre. Performances are free and open to the public. For more information, please call (414) 466-3706.

USED UNIFORM SALE – A sale will be held in the fish bowl beginning Saturday, January 14th until Sunday, January 22nd. School and scout uniforms, bulldog gear and first communion clothing is accepted. To provide used clothing please contact Lori Gillespie at 262-752-0439 or loriandjohn04@aol.com or Julie Czajka at 414-768-0363 or ajczajka@sbcglobal.net. Each item should have an envelope attached with your name and price or donations are welcome.

HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING DATES – The dates of the next three Home and School meetings have changed. The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18th (instead of the 4th), the March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21st (instead of the 7th) and the May meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16th (instead of the 2nd). Please make a note of these changes. Remember that two Home and School meetings are required or \$20/meeting as stated on the 5K-Grade 8 Tuition Contract.

“LIVING OUR FAITH” - The fifth season of the archbishop’s television program, “Living Our Faith with Archbishop ListECKI,” presented by Catholic Financial Life, begins Saturday, December 10th, at 2:30 p.m. on WISN TV Channel 12. Seven episodes are planned for this season. The shows will air on the first Saturday of the month, beginning in January 2012. Watch for more information, or visit www.livingourfaith.net.

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| SERVERS – | December 10 | 4:00 p.m.: Alex Reinke | Cross: Jenny Budzisz |
| | December 11 | 7:30 a.m.: Emily Shelton | Cross: Carly Sikora |
| | | 9:30 a.m.: Rachel Pogodzinski | Cross: Kayleigh Pook |

WE COLLECT – St. Matthew’s School collects the following items to earn money and/or supplies: McDonald’s receipts, empty HP ink/toner cartridges, General Mills box tops, Campbell’s UPC codes, Kemps milk caps and labels, Golden Guernsey/ Morning Glory milk caps and cancelled postage stamps. It is helpful if you separate the items. They can be placed in the marked drawers in the plastic bin in the hallway outside of church or sent to the school office. We have also joined the My Coke Rewards for School program. Go to www.mycokerewards.com/school. Thank you for supporting St. Matthew School.

Family Faith Sharing

In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced.

During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:6-8, 19-28. Discuss the signs of Jesus' presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God's love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us.

(<http://www.loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm?sld=60012>)

“Charity should be the rule not the exception.”



“C U @ Mass”