

Dear Parents,

Tomorrow is **Ash Wednesday**, which marks the beginning of the season **Lent** for Catholics around the world. Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday, and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday, Good Friday and concluding with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday before Easter. Traditionally, Lent was the time of serious discernment and preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, and the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. Since these new members were to be received into a living community of faith, the entire community was called to join them in preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is still marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate our Lord's resurrection at Easter. Christians today use this period of time for prayerful introspection and repentance. When I was a young child attending Catholic school, Lent was traditionally characterized by penitential prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe the customs of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets and other things we typically like to enjoy. Within the past several years, however, we have not placed as great an emphasis on fasting and "giving up" things we like, but instead we focus more on acting as people of faith and performing charitable deeds, especially helping those in need with food and clothing, or simply volunteering our services or making monetary donations to charities. The time of Lent is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Catholic Christians. Let us keep one another in prayer as we begin our Lenten journey.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

It is time, once again, to begin the process of re-registration for the next school year. This is very a time consuming procedure that begins with a close scrutiny of our budget by the school's administration, Finance Committee and School Advisory Council, and ends with what we always believe to be a fair tuition rate to our families. As always, our goal is to keep tuition increases to a minimum, while keeping the quality of Catholic education and our tradition of excellence high. Our philosophy has always been "whatever is needed for the spiritual and academic benefit of our students, within reasonable boundaries, is acceptable."

Enclosed with today's communication are the **Intent-to-Return** forms and the **2011-2012 Tuition and Fee Schedules**. Please take a few minutes to read the information carefully. **If you intend to register your children for the 2011-2012 school year, you must return the INTENT FORM no later than next Monday, March 14, 2011.** Please do NOT send any money to school until you receive your registration packets.

Tuition contracts and registration packets will ONLY be sent to those families who indicate they are returning next year. **Our families will have until Monday, April 18, to return the fees and completed registration packets.** If you have any questions regarding the registration process, please contact Christine Nguyen at (714) 962-1642.



FIGHTING CHILDHOOD CANCER...ONE MATH PROBLEM AT A TIME!

This year for our Lenten project, the faculty, staff and students of Sts. Simon & Jude School will be raising funds in an effort to help children with the fight against cancer. Sts. Simon & Jude School's Math-A-Thon will begin tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, to raise vital funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®, one of the world's premier centers for research and treatment of pediatric cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases. St. Jude was also named the nation's top children's cancer hospital in the 2010-2011 Best Children's Hospitals rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report*. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. It is the first and only pediatric cancer center to be designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.

The SSJ School parents and community members can support students by making donations to St. Jude Children's Hospital in honor of our students' participation in the national math fundraising program. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, Math-A-Thon has become one of America's largest education-based fundraisers. More than 10,000 schools across the country participate in the program every year, and this year SSJ will be one of them!

Mr. Chris Gray, the coordinator of our school event, shared with the faculty that St. Jude's is a research institution that develops and shares protocols and expertise to treat deadly childhood diseases. By pledging donations to students participating in Math-A-Thon, SSJ will be supporting the St. Jude mission of finding cures and saving children across the country and around the world.

Math-A-Thon works in the following way: Teachers serve as volunteer coordinators for the Math-A-Thon at their school. Participating students solve math problems in the Math-A-Thon Funbook. Students ask family and friends for donations in support of their participation in the Math-A-Thon. **All donations are sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital, the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatment not covered by insurance. No child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay.** Math-A-Thon allows students to build and practice essential math skills covered in state standardized tests, while also raising funds for kids battling cancer at St. Jude.

As an extra added feature to this special Lenten project, our students will be celebrating "**National Pi Day**" next Monday, March 14, a day that is sure to make students who love math very happy! Pi, Greek letter (π), is the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of (distance around) a circle to its diameter (the width). Pi Day is celebrated by math enthusiasts around the world on March 14th. $\pi = 3.1415926535\dots$ With the use of computers, Pi has been calculated to over 1 trillion digits past the decimal. Pi is an irrational and transcendental number meaning it will continue infinitely without repeating.

On Pi Day, all students will be creating Pi puns, participating in Pi-related activities—and enjoying a delicious slice of apple pie, courtesy of **Mr. Chris Velardi**, a very generous SSJ parent! If any room parents are available to help slice and serve pie on March 14, please contact the homeroom teachers and let them know. We'd *really* appreciate the extra help! ☺



SSJ FISH FRY NEWS

With Lent just around the corner, you can bet that fish is on the menu at SSJ. Our first Fish Fry is **THIS FRIDAY**, March 11th! A BIG thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help during this year's Fish Fry. Your support is greatly appreciated! Please know that it's not too late to sign-up to help. This can be done in one of three ways: you can go to <http://tinyurl.com/fish2011> and sign up via VolunteerSpot, send an e-mail Joyce Peterson at hbpetes@verizon.net, or show up on Friday evening and we'll find a place for you!

Lemon Donations – Thanks also to all who so generously donate lemons every year. To avoid a huge deluge of lemons one week and a shortage the next, we have devised a schedule for donations to ensure we have a steady stream of delicious, fresh lemons. **Please bring lemons according to your last name (lemons can be dropped off at the kitchen.)**

Week 1 (3/11)	A thru D
Week 2 (3/18)	E thru J
Week 3 (3/25)	K thru P
Week 4 (4/1)	Q thru U
Week 5 (4/8)	V thru Z
Week 6 (4/15)	A thru Z



Dessert Donations – Bakers, heat up your ovens! The bake booth needs your yummy desserts! It seems that fewer and fewer folks give up sweets for Lent because the bake booth is always busy with happy customers. You are welcome to donate desserts even if it's not your assigned night. Whether you are earning service hours by working the event or just enjoying dinner with family and friends, the Fish Fry Committee thanks you for your support! If you have any questions please call or text Joyce Peterson at 714-747-7383, or send her an e-mail at hbpetes@verizon.net.



PLEASE NOTE...

Effective the week of March 28, the **weekly communication will only be sent to our school families via e-mail**. We will no longer be utilizing the family envelopes for distribution of our school newsletter and accompanying flyers. To join our email list, simply log on to our school or parish website, click on the “**join our e-mail list**” button, and complete the information required. It's quick and easy. Whatever e-mail address you register is the one that we will be using to send our information to you each week. Both parents can receive the e-mails; all you need to do is sign-up separately. Please note that the student data is needed so that we can send targeted e-mails regarding specific sports announcements, grade level reminders for special events/activities, field trip itineraries, etc. (Please note that personal and confidential information will not be sent through this system.)

SEES CANDIES FUNDRAISER

Our annual Sees Candies fundraiser is back! Information packets and order forms will be sent home with the students on Tuesday, March 15th. This is a sweet and delicious way to fulfill your fundraising obligation. Families will be credited with 50% of their total Sees Candies orders. Items are reasonably priced, and families will have the opportunity again this year to donate an item to the children of Thomas House. For questions about the fundraiser or volunteer opportunities please contact Wendy Lotts at 714 488-2555 or send her an e-mail at hblotts@yahoo.com.



GIRLS' "A" BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the Girls' "A" Basketball team for completing the season with an awesome 20 and 1 record. The girls took 1st place in league, and won the Diocesan Championship last weekend in overtime against St Jeanne's. This wonderful accomplishment was the result of a lot of hard work, determination and heart...and it truly paid off for this amazing group of girls. Many thanks to the team coaches: *Karen Foster, Jacquelyn Machado* and *Russ Smith* for all of the time and dedication you shared with these students. We are truly appreciative of your efforts, and very proud of this team! Congratulations to the 2010- 2011 Dolphin Champions!

*Cynthia Le
Rachel Buyan
Estefania Guillen
Veronica Neach*

*Madison Feldman
Jennie Kwok
Brianna Selbo
Lauren Markwith
Meghan Jacinto*

*Rachel Flory
Elaina Mullins
Allison Turnbaugh
Cassie Sturdevant*



SSJ SPORTS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the SSJ basketball teams!! Another great basketball season has come and gone! Congratulations to all the players and coaches for their time and dedication, many memorable moments, exciting games, excellent Christian sportsmanship, and for representing our school as wonderful student-athletes!

BOYS' "A" BASKETBALL – Led by the superb coaching of *Chris Gray, Paul Bush* and *Tom Saeman*, the boys won league with a 7-1 record, and their tournament results led them to a 3rd place finish in the Diocesan Championship! Thank you, coaches, and way to go, Dolphins!

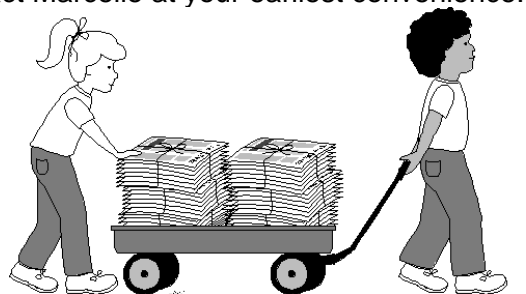
GIRLS' "B" BASKETBALL – Thanks to the dedicated coaching of *Rob Briggs* and *Joe Gergen*, the young girls finished 3rd in league and earned trophies in each of their tournaments! It is accomplishments like these that have led us to plan for the addition of a fourth trophy case in our school hallways.

BOYS' "B" BASKETBALL – Our thanks go to *Tom Neal* and *Bob Alcantara*, who successfully led their huge team to a 2nd place finish in league, and the championship of the St. John Episcopal Tournament! By coaching such a large number of fifth and sixth grade boys successfully, these two coaches have ensured that our boys' basketball program will be in great shape for many years to come! Kudos to you all.

We look forward to continued success next year with our entire basketball program as all of our coaches have prepared these student athletes to compete at the next level, by teaching them how to work hard and have fun at the same time!

SSJ RECYCLE DRIVE

Do you realize that there are only two months left in the school year to satisfy your service hours requirement? If you cannot be here during the week, there's always the weekend. The next recycle drive is scheduled for THIS weekend of March 12th and 13th. Please call Marcelle Capps at 714-421-2976, or send her an e-mail at mcapps2338@aol.com if you would like to volunteer. Marcelle is also looking for a dedicated family to assume the responsibilities for the recycle drive since this is her family's final year at SSJ. This is a great way to meet other SSJ families throughout the year. If you are interested, please contact Marcelle at your earliest convenience.



WITH MUCH GRATITUDE

Lauren Hughes (8B) and Madison Cardullo (8B) would like to thank everyone who donated to their Girl Scout Silver Award project to help Carl Harvey Elementary School. They have exceeded their goal of 460 books and received many books that can be used in the school's library. THANK YOU for helping these dedicated scouts bring the joy of reading to the students.

MATER DEI APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Mater Dei High School is currently accepting admission applications on a rolling basis for students interested in 2011-2012 enrollment. A make-up **Entrance Exam** will be offered on **March 12, 2011, at 7:45 a.m.** We invite you to a Campus Tour for your family and a Shadow Day for your prospective student. These are great opportunities to learn about the Mater Dei community, our excellent academic, spiritual, outreach, artistic and athletic programs, as well as our exciting traditions and extracurricular activities. Call (714) 754-1175 or visit www.materdeiadmissions.org for admission and financial aid applications, and information about the Entrance Exam.

In faith, pride and spirit,

Crystal Smith & Faculty

