



"For everything there is a season and a time to every purpose" Ecclesiastes

Dear Family,

Last Friday, the teachers were at school for a day of professional development. As teachers in a Catholic school, we are privileged to help support parents in the faith development of the children. As you may know from the messages in the weekend bulletin, on the first Sunday of Advent the church will begin to use the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. Some of the responses and prayers that we are familiar with in the mass have been revised. Much of the text is not changing.

Fr. Cesar gave a presentation to the faculty to help explain some of the background knowledge for this revision. As a parish staff, we have attended workshops to help our parish community during this change. For all of us, change can sometimes be difficult. It can also be seen as an opportunity for growth. We have purchased some booklets for the students in grades 3-8 to learn about the new responses. It is an opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty of the liturgy, the mass. In music class, the students will start to learn some of the new sung responses.

I would encourage you to ask your children about what they have learned about the changes. The children will bring the booklets home to share this information with you. Please help the children remember to bring the booklets back the next day to be prepared for class.

As it says in the scriptures "there is a time for everything..." This is a time that we are invited to listen more carefully, respond more fully, and participate with a new appreciation for the liturgy.

Professional Development Day Part 2: Technology

The faculty reviewed the progress that we have made over the years with improving our technology program, including both the physical improvements as well as the curriculum improvements. Technology is a valuable tool to engage the learner into the total school curriculum. An improvement in the last year was the acquisition of three SMARTBOARDS, the interactive whiteboard technology. We were able to get two of the SMARTBOARDS through a federal grant. The third was purchased through the gifts of two donor families. What that means is St. Rita School did not have to expend any money for these boards.

Keep reading the next page for more good news!

United in Faith Education Endowment: A number of years ago the Rockford Diocese held a major campaign to help support education. For a number of years the schools and RE programs of the Diocese were given financial support to our programs. In recent years, with the unfortunate impact of the economy, United in Faith grants were not available. A few weeks ago, to our surprise the Diocese presented checks to the pastors for the parish schools and RE programs. Since the grant was not part of the budget for this fiscal year, the Diocese suggested that we use the monies for something that was not available in the budget. With this allocation, St. Rita School will be able to get 2 new SMARTBOARDS.

Everyday, I see classes using this technology across the curriculum. Literally, in every subject including Religion class there is an application to improve the delivery of instruction. Having the additional boards will make this opportunity expand.

Our teachers also use the four laptop/projection carts that we have to do Reading lessons, Grammar lessons, Vocabulary each day. Having the two additional SMARTBOARDS, gives the opportunity to stretch our resources with reallocating the laptop carts to individual classrooms.

Thank you to all our school families and parishioners who supported the United in Faith campaign through diocesan stewardship. What a blessing to announce this news to our teachers on Friday. We did an analysis to determine the best use of these resources. What I love about our staff is the generous way they approach decisions to work for the benefit of all the children.

Our dream is to have a SMARTBOARD in each classroom one day. We have moved in this direction through these unexpected gifts and blessings.

SAINT QUESTION: Did you know that there is a patron saint of Technology?
St. Isidore

MORNING ARRIVAL: We are very blessed to have our teachers sponsor a number of activities for students. Most mornings we have students who are coming early for Choir, Math Team, Student Council and Band. In addition, we have parents dropping off for Extended Day.

SAFETY: With the changes to our bus service, the school busses are arriving at or before 8:00 when our activities are starting. I have asked the drivers to park back from the main sidewalk for the safe drop off of students. Please be sure that students are not getting dropped off behind the busses or on the outside of the circle. I don't want anyone to get hurt. This is a fire lane and only parents dropping off for extended day may temporarily park there. All other drivers need to remain in the car to drop off for clubs or patrols. Thank you for your help.

"Celebrate Life Baby Shower": Tuesday, Oct. 25th at our school mass.

Please remember to help support of school tradition of providing important needed baby items for families serviced in our community. If you remember the story from the bible: There was a woman, a widow who gave her last coin to help the poor. To some it would seem like a small contribution, but she gave all she had generously. One jar of baby food may seem like a small contribution but to a mother who needs to feed her child; it is a treasured gift. Gently used clothes and blankets may help to keep a child warm this winter. No gift is too small, every item is important. Thank you for helping our little brothers and sisters in Christ.



VETERANS & ARMED FORCES SCHOOL LITURGY: Tuesday, Nov. 8th at 9:00

Mrs. Bender's class will lead the All School Mass. We will remember with gratitude the work of our men and women in the Armed Services. In anticipation of the National Holiday of Veteran's Day we will show our appreciation in a special way for local Veterans. Fr. Cesar, who serves as an Army Chaplain will celebrate the liturgy. We want to invite all those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces or who are Veterans to join us. What a wonderful way to demonstrate to our children that we need to be grateful to these faithful citizens who help to preserve the freedoms that we all enjoy.

STUDENT COUNCIL. Students in grades 7 & 8 are eligible to join our Student Council. This is a social-service organization. The first activity they have planned is a "Fall Dance" after school on Friday, Oct. 28th.



FAMILY SKATE NIGHT! Come join your St. Rita School families and friends at Funway in Batavia for our Fall roller skating party on Wed., Nov. 2nd . This event is just for St. Rita students and families. It is from 6:30-8:30 PM. Students in PreK- Grade 5 must have an adult stay in attendance. Students in grades 6,7 & 8 may be dropped off at 6:30 PM and picked up promptly at 8:30 PM. (A parent emergency contact # must be left if the student is dropped off.) Students may not be in the arcade area during the party.



Brochure Sale continues:

Please be sure to complete your requirement for this sale. I think it helps that you can have family members from out of state participate by placing on line sales orders. There is a magazine flyer, even if you renew a subscription it will count. The wrapping paper is very good quality. Thank you for your support of our school. This fundraiser helps the Home & School support our school budget...The class with the highest sales wins free time in the gym.

RED RIBBON DAY! Our students will celebrate Healthy Life Choices to honor the gift of life given to us by our Lord, the Creator. Activities are planned for students to demonstrate how they will make good choices that will help them be healthy. The NED assembly will be that day, with a YO – YO expert teaching students that there are healthy and wholesome activities to help them have fun and be fit! It will be a jeans day – students should wear something red (shirts, socks) in support of Red Ribbon Day!

Peace and blessings,

Bette Faxon