



Prairie Catholic Weekly Newsletter October 31, 2013

PINCH HIT

As we are finishing up the baseball season, I thought this might be a suitable subject. With Mr. Marlow taking some well-deserved time off to be with his wife and newborn son, Nathan Thomas, I was asked if I would help out with an article for our parents.

As you know, November is a month devoted to those that have gone ahead of us, and to remember one day we will join them. All Saints day and All Souls day set the tone for this month of remembering our ancestors and our own journey. One aspect of this is to recall that we are all on a journey in this life, one that lasts only for a moment. The next life is one that does not end, but there are common characteristics that we bring from one to the other. As St Paul puts it *'Now three things remain, faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love (1 Cor 13:13)*. These three virtues are all interconnected in this life and the next, so it is good to ask: how am I doing in passing this gift I have received on to my children? We do this by living and practicing our faith. It has always concerned me to see how many of our Prairie Catholic School children are not with us on Sunday at Mass.

Parents, it simply is not enough to send your children to a Catholic school. If the faith is not practiced and lived at home; including regular attendance at Sunday Mass and Holy Days of obligation, being an example for our children by bringing them to the sacrament of penance and daily prayer we will fail to pass this most precious gift to the next generation. Yes, all of us have very busy lives, and there are more and more demands on our time. Making this a priority can actually help take some pressure off, as when it is known that Sunday Mass and family time is a simply what we do on Sunday's the other things become more balanced.

If this is your practice, please continue being an example to your children and community. If this has not been your practice, consider this an invitation. If you make a concerted effort between now and Christmas to being faithful to the commitments we have as Catholics, I believe that you will see the fruits of this in areas of your life you cannot imagine. You are in my prayers, and as Bishop Callahan says: *See you at Sunday Mass.*

God bless

Fr. Jim

- **It is important that parents take the time to register for Parent - Teacher Conferences.** They are being held on Tuesday, November 5th and Thursday, November 7th from 4:00 to 8:00pm both days. Please, log onto your Skyward account and schedule a time slot for each student in the family. Time slots fill up quickly. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact either school office.
- For all students out for basketball all forms need to be signed and returned to the office. Reminder to get your physicals. The school offices must have a copy of the physical or alternate card before your student will be allowed to practice for the upcoming basketball season. **If you played a fall sport, we need a copy of that card here at our school.**
- The Iowa Tests will be administered at both schools beginning next week. The St. Gabriel's students in second through 5th grade will work on them during their normal day. Gabe's students may take many tests one day and no tests the next. It will depend on their daily schedule.
- The students at St. John's will take their tests on Tuesday, November 5th and Thursday, November 7th. The students will attend Mass and then work through all their tests. With that stated, please take measures to ensure your students will attend those two days.

- The Prairie du Chien Fire Department visited St. Gabriel's School on Friday, October 25th at 9:30 pm to award two new bikes donated by Wal-Mart. Karly Kramer and Shawn Egstad were this year's lucky winners. Congratulations to both students! Prairie Catholic would again like to thank the PdC Fire Department and Wal-Mart for their kind donation.
- Parents please remember that this is that time of year where the temperatures start to drop, especially in the morning when students are waiting outside before school. Please remind students to dress for the cold. We will not allow students inside the buildings due to under dress.
- Since we are discussing clothing: students may still be going outside for physical education. The middle school students will be going outside until the snow sticks so please remind your student to dress for the elements.
- Your student's report card is in today's brown envelope. Please sign and return the envelope.
- As tomorrow is a Holy Day of Obligation, all Prairie Catholic students will attend Mass on All Saints Day. The students will attend the daily 8:15am St. Gabriel's Mass. The St. John's students will need to be dropped off at St. Gabriel's. Also, Prairie du Chien Public Schools are not in session tomorrow. **Parents will be responsible for drop off (all at St. Gabriel's) and pick up (at their normal school).**
- The Prairie Catholic Christmas Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at St. Gabriel's Church with a make-up date of Wednesday, December 18th.
- The 8th grade is selling candy bars for their Washington DC fundraiser. They have many different varieties of chocolate so please find your favorite 8th grader when purchasing sweets.
- The 5th Grade will be hosting a Soup Supper on Wednesday, November 20 at St. Gabe's school cafeteria as a Washington DC fundraiser. They will also be taking pre-orders for quarts of soup so be on the lookout for order forms soon. Also, if anyone would like to donate any quart jars to the class, they can be dropped off at the St. John's school office.

Prayer: Loving Creator, almighty God, you are with us at all times. May we remember that nothing can lessen the love that you have for us. Guide us Lord as we attempt to love others with the same depth and commitment. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Mark Your Calendars

- October 31st – Halloween Parties in PM at both schools
- October 31st – Report Cards go home
- November 1st – All Saints Day, All School Mass at St. Gabriel's, 8:15am
- November 1st – Parent Transportation Day
- November 3rd – Fall Festival – St. Gabriel's
- November 5th – Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-8:00pm
- November 7th – Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-8:00pm
- November 8th – NO SCHOOL
- November 13th – Basketball Pictures, St. John's, 3:45pm
- November 14th – Play Matinee, High School, 1:00pm
- November 20th – 5th Grade Soup Supper @ St. Gabriel's
- November 28th – Thanksgiving – NO SCHOOL
- November 29th – NO SCHOOL

