



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

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Stillwater MN 55082

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FEBRUARY 4, 2010



Val-O-Grams

Student Council will be selling Val-o-Grams for 50 cents a piece. With a Val-o-Gram you can send your friends and loved ones a message and a treat on St. Valentine's Day. We will be selling them Thursday, Friday and Monday from 8:30 - 9:00 am and 3:00 - 3:30 pm outside of the computer lab.

Because Valentine's Day is on a Sunday this year, the Student Council will deliver the Val-o-grams and treats on Thursday, February 11th.

From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed in profit.

Amos Bronson Alcott

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February is earmarked to celebrate *I Love to Read Month*. Our theme this year is: **Send a Book on a Journey**. This month provides an opportunity to focus on the positive effects of reading, no matter what age you are.

Throughout this month, a conscious effort will be made to read, read, read. Parents you can be part of this too! The following are ten top ways to raise a reader. Just make sure there is plenty of reading material for everyone in your family and set aside a regular quiet time for family reading.

Ten Ways to Raise a Reader©

1. Read to your child every day. It's never too early to start - even newborns respond to hearing you read.
2. Continue reading together even after your child learns to read. Older children still enjoy listening to others read.
3. Make stories come alive for your child when you read. Be animated and use different voices.
4. Be patient - let your child read aloud at his or her own pace. Offer help only when needed.
5. Discuss what you read together. Ask questions, and listen attentively to your child's answers.
6. Make reading time special. Cuddle up in a quiet, comfortable spot. Your child will associate reading with feeling secure, relaxed and loved.
7. Encourage your child to read at least 15 minutes a day, either to you or independently.
8. Take along your child's favorite book wherever you go. Read on the bus, in line at the store, or in waiting rooms.
9. Take your child to the library often and check out a variety of age-appropriate reading material.
10. Be a role model - read on your own. By seeing how much you enjoy reading, your child will learn that it's a great source of information and fun.

REMEMBER-

By encouraging your children to read, no matter what age they are, you are helping to ensure school success and building a lifetime skill.

© Top 10 Tips taken from Positive Promotions



After School Drop – In Chess

Many students have been enjoying the SchoolHouse Chess after school classes these past couple of weeks.

Once the classes are completed, ALL STUDENTS are invited to drop-in for some after school chess playing on three Tuesdays - February 23, March 2 and March 9 from 3:30 – 4:30 pm.

No registration is necessary for drop-in chess – but please let your child's teacher know that he or she has permission to stay after school. Also please be sure to pick up your child promptly at 4:30 pm.

There will be no instruction during these sessions – just the challenge of playing with new partners and having fun.

SCCS Does Make a Difference for *Feed My Starving Children*



On Tuesday, February 2, SCCS students presented checks totaling \$2,331 to the *Feed My Starving Children* organization to help support their efforts to provide meals for children in Haiti. *Feed My Starving Children* regularly sends food to Haiti and around the world to feed the hungry, and now they are dramatically increasing the number of meals sent to Haiti due to the recent earthquake. As a Catholic Schools Week project, SCCS students choose to collect funds to help *Feed My Starving Children* with this effort.

Mr. Mark Crea, uncle to SCCS students Matthew and Nick Crea, and Executive Director of *Feed My Starving Children*, visited SCCS to receive the check. He thanked the students and Mrs. Epperly and told them that the money they collected would provide **over 13,700 meals** for Haitian children, especially those in orphanages. Mr. Crea also told the students that the need in Haiti will be ongoing - even months from now. Mrs. Epperly assured him that our students will continue to support and pray for the people of Haiti and those who are caring for them. **The *Feed My Starving Children* jar will remain in the SCCS office for ongoing contributions.**

Thank you to everyone who gave to this important cause and please remember the *Feed My Starving Children* jar when you have some extra change. Your efforts are truly appreciated. For more information about Feed My Starving Children, please visit their website at www.fmssc.org

February is I Love to Read Month *Book a Trip for a Reading Adventure!*

Who Was Caught Reading by Mrs. Epperly?

On Monday, February 1 these students were caught reading: **Matthew Harrington; Eli Holper; Nathalie and Maddie Loehr; Edward, Tony and Oliver O'Keefe; Claire, David and Gracie Pearson; Theresa Roth; Celeste and Cameron Pawelski.**

On Tuesday, February 2 these students were caught reading: **Nicholas and Matthew Crea; Matthew, Jason, and Katie Gozum; Anthony and Marco Wald; and Robbie Weides.**

The lucky readers from Wednesday, February 3 will be listed in next week's FYI. Mrs. Epperly will be calling again between 7:00 and 7:30 pm on Thursday, February 4 and during the week of February 22nd.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Mrs. Thomas
\$132.70

Mrs. Berry
\$131.80

Mrs. Rustin
\$106.90

Mrs. Lehman
\$100.70

Mrs. Binford
\$87.20

These are the most recent top earning classroom Box Top totals. Your child's teacher has most likely already begun to spend their portion of the \$1,367.80 check SCCS received from *Box Tops for Education* last month.

Please feel free to ask them what they spent it on! We will be collecting Box Tops again very soon for our last submission for this school year that is due at the end of this month. Funds from this collection will arrive in April. Once again, please look in your pantry, cupboards & refrigerators for all your Box Tops. Don't forget to check the expiration date (we cannot use expired ones), trim them, & send them in to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Thank you again for supporting this easy fundraiser!

*Ann Tomek &
Deb Frericks*

SCCS Welcomed a Special Alumnus at Our Catholic Schools Week Mass

On January 27, during Catholic Schools Week, St. Croix Catholic School had the privilege of welcoming back a special alumnus. Father Peter Williams grew up in Stillwater and attended Kindergarten through 8th grade at SCCS. He was in the 8th grade twenty years ago and now has 3 nephews (Thomas, Yonas and Getahun O'Malley) and a niece (Marta O'Malley) who attend SCCS. Father Williams concelebrated the weekly all school Mass with Father Randal Kasel, pastor of St. Charles Catholic Church in Bayport. Father Williams is the pastor of Maternity of Mary in St. Paul and the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The gospel at Mass was from Mark 4:1-20, the parable of the seeds. Some seeds fell on the path and were eaten by the birds, some fell on rocky ground and withered from lack of roots, some seeds fell among the thorns and were choked by them, and some fell on rich soil and produced fruit.

Father Peter told the students that in 2nd grade he wanted to be a priest, by middle school he wanted to be a famous quarterback, then in college he wanted to marry and have a family, thinking that would make him happy. He asked the students how many of them knew what they wanted to be when they grew up. Most hands went up. Then he asked how many had asked God what God wanted them to be when they grew up. Most of the hands went down. Father Williams says he is happier than he ever dreamed he'd be. He told the students, "We are happiest when we do whatever God wants us to do."

"I was at the seminary with Father Kasel," Father Williams told the students, "It's different from a cemetery. Sometimes people may confuse the two! But the seminary is where you train to become a priest. Father Kasel and I played basketball together and I'll let Father Kasel tell you who won." (Father Kasel was behind Father Williams, smiling and pointing at Father Williams.)

"I am very grateful for your formation in my life," Father Peter said to the teachers. He personally thanked those of his teachers who are still at SCCS. Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Binford, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. McDermott and Mrs. Thomas have been at SCCS as constant witnesses to the faith and excellent teachers since Father Williams attended the school.

"I am grateful to Father Miller (pastor of St. Michael's and St. Mary's) for inviting me to come home." "You children prayed so reverently, you give me great hope."



The O'Malley family with: Father Kasel on the left, Father Williams in the middle, and Father Miller on the right.

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Sponsored by St.
Croix Valley Faith
Formation

Wednesday,
February 17
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
St. Michael's
Social Hall

Join us to break
fast on Ash
Wednesday with a
light soup supper,
fellowship, and a
chance to support
the youth of our
Catholic
community.

A free will donation
will be taken to
benefit our tri-
parish young
people who will be
attending World
Youth Day in
Madrid, Spain
(August 2011)

World Youth Day is
a gathering of
Catholic youth from
around the globe
and the Pope
himself for a week
of events inviting
the pilgrims into
deeper relationship
with Christ and love
for the Universal
Church. World
Youth Day 2011 will
be held in Madrid,
Spain.

If you are unable to
attend but would
still like to support
the young World
Youth Day pilgrims,
contact the St.
Croix Valley Faith
Formation Office of
Youth Ministry, 651
351-3175.

Students Help Our Community During Catholic Schools Week

Last week in recognition of Catholic Schools Week, SCCS students were busy collecting, sorting, and packaging various items to be donated to community organizations that help those in need in our community. Our youngest students in kindergarten, first and second grade collected food for St. Michael's Food Shelf.



Second graders sitting in front of the food they collected for St. Michael's Food Shelf.

Our third and fourth graders put together birthday bags to be given to Valley Outreach so that families in need could have the supplies for a child's birthday celebration. Each bag contained a cake mix, frosting, candles, birthday plates and napkins, and party favors.



Cake mix and frosting are the beginning of a "Happy Birthday" surprise.

Fifth grade students made treat bags for veterans living at the Minnesota Veteran's Home. They filled 40 bags with items such as snacks, games, socks, pencils and a card or note.

Middle School students collected and put together packages of toiletries and personal hygiene items for Sharing and Caring Hands. The bags included items such as washcloths, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, and bandaids.

Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

Last week, during Catholic schools week, SCCS students performed works of mercy for many in need. Examples of this include: prayers for those in need, prayers for the living and the dead, letters of thanks and comfort to those who keep us safe, collecting money for Feed My Starving Children, and the special projects mentioned in the last article.

Herberger's Community Day

Remember that our SCCS Home and School Association is selling Herberger's coupon books for the February 27th Community Day Sale.

Each \$5 coupon book purchased contains one \$10 off coupon to use on a single regular or sale price merchandise item of \$10 or more. You're getting paid back twice the amount of your \$5 donation! Also included are six 20% off coupons and one 30% early bird coupon (good from 6:00-9:00 am on Saturday, February 27th).

100% of the \$5 for each booklet sold is ours to keep. We're hoping for another successful event!

Order your coupon books using the order form on the SCCS web site: <http://www.stcroixcatholic.com/files/stcroixcatholics/files/FY1%200910/January/Herbergers.pdf>. Books may also be purchased through the school office and during conferences on February 11th & 12th.

The works of mercy are charitable actions motivated by Christian love by which we help our neighbor obtain what he or she needs spiritually and materially.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- To admonish the sinner (correct those who need correction)
- To instruct the ignorant (teach the ignorant)
- To counsel the doubtful (give advice to those who need it)
- To comfort the sorrowful (give comfort to those who suffer)
- To bear wrongs patiently (be patient with others)
- To forgive all injuries (to forgive others who hurt you.)
- To pray for the living and the dead (to pray for everyone who needs our prayers)

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Clothe the naked
- Care for the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Scriptural basis for the corporal works of mercy is the parable in the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus teaches his disciples about God's criteria for the Last Judgement (Mt 25:35-42). In this parable, the just and the unjust discover that in their merciful actions on behalf of the neighbor, they have been merciful to the Lord Jesus, who identifies completely with the hungry, homeless, sick, imprisoned and even the dead. God, who is rich in mercy, invites His sons and daughters to imitate his abundant mercy and loving kindness towards His children. *God is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us, he brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. – By this favor you were saved.* (Ephesians 2:4-5)

The spiritual works of mercy are drawn from a variety of Old and New Testament sources.

- My brothers, if someone is detected in sin, you who live by the Spirit should *gently set him right.* (Galatians 6:1)
- Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, *instruct* and *admonish* one another. (Colossians 3:16),
- *Correct* those who are confused. (Jude 23)
- As a mother comforts her son, so I will *comfort* you. (Isaiah 66:13)
- Help *carry one another's burdens*; in that way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)
- Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. *Forgive* as the Lord has forgiven you. (Colossians 3:12)
- *Pray* constantly and attentively for all. (Ephesians 6:18)

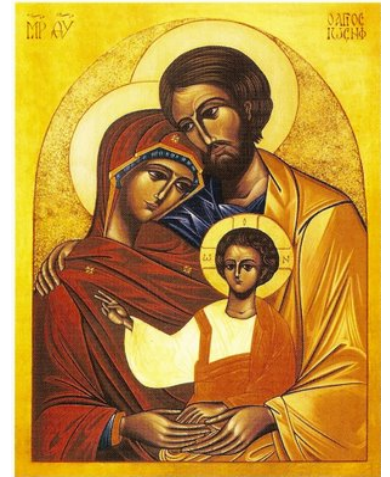
The works of mercy are not optional but are absolutely essential to living the Christian life of holiness and goodness. (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) paragraph 2447)

<http://www.dioceseofjuneau.org/Commissions/CJP/Corporal%20and%20Spiritual%20Works.htm>



Reclaiming the Culture of Marriage & Life February 22 – 7:00 p.m. St. Michael Social Hall

How many times have you heard the criticism, “The Church should stay out of the bedroom,” and not known how to respond? Why does the Church care so deeply about marriage and relationships? Does the Church really need to get involved in these issues? Isn’t it enough to focus on helping the poor and vulnerable? Many current issues, such as contraception, abortion, cohabitation, divorce, and same-sex unions, challenge Catholics to think deeply about the meaning of marriage, its purposes, its connectedness to life issues and its values to individuals, families and society. Because reflection based on reason and faith provides an appropriate framework for current debates, we invite you to join us for an evening of discussion about what the Church teaches regarding these issues—and WHY. Fr. Ralph Talbot will explain the Biblical, philosophical and spiritual foundation of Christian marriage and the interconnectedness of procreation and protection of human life. Dr. Teresa Collett, renowned law scholar and consultant for the Pontifical Council for the Family, will give an eye-opening presentation on the cultural and legal battle being waged against traditional marriage and life. This event is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office for Marriage, Family and Life. Call 651.291.4488 or visit www.archspm.org/family for additional information. This event is free and open to all. We hope that many will attend. Please see the attachment for more information.



Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 4

7:00 – 7:30 pm Get Caught Reading by Mrs. Epperly

Monday, February 8

Grade 5 Field Trip to Warner Nature Center

Tuesday, February 9

Middle School Field Trip to Afton Alps – bus leaves at 8:30 am

3:30 – 4:30 pm Chess Club

Wednesday, February 10

9:15 am All School Mass

Thursday, February 11

3:45 – 8:00 pm Grades K – 8 Scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 12 – NO SCHOOL

8:00 am – Noon K – 5 scheduled Parent – Teacher Conferences and MS Walk-in Conferences

1:00 am – 3:00 PM Staff Development

Monday, February 15 – NO SCHOOL – President’s Day

Tuesday, February 16 – No AM buses – parents drive

