



**From the Desk of Mrs. McDermott  
02/22/12**

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

Thank you to PreK 4 & 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and students for preparing Sunday's Family Mass. We would like to see more of our students attending Sunday Masses— we are a Catholic School and should be celebrating if not weekly, at least at the Family Masses.

Our February raffle winners were 1<sup>st</sup> place Rodriguez family (Rachel 4<sup>th</sup>), 2<sup>nd</sup> place Juan Arreola (Xitlali PreK), and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Rabadan Family (Raul 6<sup>th</sup>). Congratulations!!

**Lent**

Today, we celebrated Ash Wednesday with an all-school Mass. Ash Wednesday marks for us the beginning of Lent, the season of 40 days leading up to Easter, the most important event and holiday in the Christian calendar. I encourage you to talk with your child about what their ashes mean and what the season of Lent means both personally for you and for the Christian church worldwide. Please also use the calendar (back of newsletter) to help your family prepare for Easter.

**Operation Rice Bowl**

As part of our Lenten service, we are once again participating in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). ORB is an opportunity for our students and families to actively help the poor locally and internationally. 75% of the alms raised go to the development projects in the five countries designated for 2012. Those countries are: Madagascar (Agriculture), Vietnam (Education), El Salvador (Water/Sanitation), Zambia (Microfinance), and India (Mother/Child Health). 25% of the alms raised stay in the Archdiocese of Chicago to address hunger locally. Please encourage your children to save their extra nickels, dimes, and quarters and put them in the Rice bowls that are going home in today's envelope. All rice bowls should be returned by Wednesday, April 4.

**TerraNova Standardized Tests**

On Monday, March 5, our students in grades 2-7 will begin taking the TerraNova tests. Title I students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade will also take the test. The TerraNova assesses students' knowledge level in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The students will also take an INView or IQ test. The most important things that you can do for your child/ren are: limit evening activities, make sure they get a great night's sleep, have a healthy breakfast, bring in a healthy snack each day of testing, make sure they have two #2 pencils, and give them positive encouragement before and after school.

**St. Joseph Table**

The annual St. Joseph's Table and Grand Raffle will be held on Sunday, March 18, from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Please support this Parish Fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 per child age 6-12 (5 and under are free) and are available through the school office or the Rectory Office. Come out for some good food and great company. Volunteers are also needed for set up and take down. All hours worked will go towards the mandatory fundraising hours.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Report Cards**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester ends this Friday, February 24. Per Archdiocesan policy we are required to hold two parent/teacher conferences each school year. This year we will hold a second conference for all parents on Thursday, March 15 from 12:00 pm – 7:00pm. Please mark this date in your calendars. Conference sign-up times will go home in next week's envelope.

**Sports Meeting**

The next meeting for Sports will be Thursday, March 1 at 7:00pm in the Faculty Room. All coaches and coordinators are invited to attend.

**Regards, Katrina McDermott**

