

Woven in Christ

Direct From the DRE

Dear Families,

On behalf of the parish staff, we would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year! May 2008 bring many good days filled with wonderful times and peaceful moments for your family. As we begin a new year, let us take time to thank God for the many wonderful gifts he has bestowed upon us. As you consider some New Year's resolutions for your family and yourself, consider reflecting on your faith journey and make a resolution to take more time for God and your relationship with Him during 2008. Our children need to see the importance of God and our faith in the lives of those around them. How would your child describe your relationship with God? Resolve to make your relationship and your children's relationship with God a priority for this year. Watch the bulletin and the newsletter for additional opportunities for prayer and enrichment in the coming months. Don't forget about the Pledge that your family made for peace and non-violence in 2008. Make a special effort to work for peace in your home and in the world this coming year.

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Elaine Driscoll

REMINDERS:

START TIMES:

As we begin the second semester, just a few reminders about being on time for class. Classes START at the time posted; therefore, the bell rings 5 minutes prior to that. All students should be here ready for the bell at 9:25 on Saturdays, 6:25 on Tuesdays and 6:55 on Sundays. Family Program begins at 8:45. Please try to have your children here on time.

HOMEWORK:

All missed work must be completed and turned in for students to receive credit for completion of the year, for students in Grades K-6 that means completing the work in your textbook. Students in Grades 7 and 8 will receive their homework at the next class unless parents make arrangements to pick it up earlier, while high school students will have the work mailed home on Monday and must be returned to the REO completed by the following Sunday. Family Program work must be picked up the following week to be completed for the next session. All families that miss a GoF Gathering are also asked to pick up the homework and complete it in a timely fashion. December's GoF homework is ready in the REO. As of this writing, quite a few students and families are delinquent in returning missed work for the first semes-

IMPORTANT DATES

RECONCILIATION

The parent and student books for "**The Gift of Reconciliation**" are due **January 5th** along with the family **quilt piece**. First Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Friday, February 1st at 7 PM and Saturday, February 2nd at 11 AM**.

EUCHARIST DATES:

All families should have received their date and time for First Communion along with the date and time of the Teaching Mass in January. If you have not received the letter please call the REO. Children must go to confession before they receive their First Communion. The First Reconciliation Service is a good opportunity. February 1st at 7 PM or February 2nd at 11 AM. The "Gift of Eucharist" parent and child books are due February 12th.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The REO is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 20th from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Please mark your calendar and join us for a hearty breakfast of pancakes and sausage. All proceeds will benefit the Religious Education Program.

We need servers and kitchen help. Please consider helping us for an hour or two. I would like to have enough workers so that no one has to work the entire time. Please fill out the form or email Elaine as soon as possible so we can make out a schedule. We will also need help setting up the day before and cleaning up after the event. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Besides it's fun!!!!

CANDLES

We have several dozen candles of a variety of scents available in the REO for anyone who would like to buy some. During the month of January, we will be selling the jar candles for \$6 instead of the regular price of \$7. I have 2 or 3 of the large jars

SCRIP SALES

We are encouraging our families to participate in the SCRIP program. To help raise funds for our program. You can help by buying the SCRIP cards and checking the box for proceeds to go to the Religious Education Department. I would love to double our profits from last year. You can buy SCRIP when you bring your child to class on Saturdays and Tuesdays or after Mass on the weekends. If we do not have the cards you want you will need to order them. All orders must be placed by 9 AM on Monday morning for pick-up that Friday. If an order is made on Tuesday, it will not be placed until the following Monday. Orders may be picked up in the REO or in the rectory. Forms are also available on the parish web site www.stmarysonthehill.org. Do not use old forms. The value of the cards changes from time to time.



CLOSINGS

If for some reason you are wondering if there is class on a given day due to weather, please turn your radio to WBEN 930 or watch channel 2 or channel 4. We will notify them immediately of any closings. If the Lancaster Schools close afternoon activities due to weather, we will follow suit. Unfortunately, Saturday mornings are difficult. The radio stations run promos and they don't always include the closings. However, the TV stations should run closings as trailers.

MONTHLY THEME

THE CHURCH

Reflection on the Theme:

People talk about the Catholic Church in many different ways. When people say, "I'm going ***to church***," they mean they are going to the Sunday Eucharist (Mass). When people say, "***The Church*** says abortion is wrong." They are often referring to the teaching role of the **Magisterium**, that is, the pope and the bishops who have the responsibility for safeguarding God's revealed truth. Or when people say, "We are ***the Church***." They are referring to the Body of Christ, the scriptural image of all the baptized acting as Jesus' living body in the world. All these ways of talking about the Church are true. The Catholic Church is too rich in meaning to be captured by any single image.

We believe that the Church, with a "capital C"), is a sacrament, a visible sign of Christ's presence here on earth. We believe, and profess in the Creed, that the Church is ***one, holy, catholic*** and ***apostolic***. Oneness or unity is the essence of the Church. The Church is "***the people of God***," united in Christ. The mission of the Church is to proclaim God's reign of love, justice, and peace throughout the world.

The family, called together by God, united in love, is the Church of the home. God loves all families, no matter the shape or size. Even when families go through difficult times, God continues to love them and helps them grow stronger. When families are loving, strong, and close, they are visible signs of God's presence in the world. Our Catholic Tradition teaches that the family is the *domestic* church.

The image of the church as the Body of Christ teaches us that every member and every family has a role to play. To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your CHURCH can do for you, but what YOU can do for your Church." What role do you or your family play in our Church? Are you as active as you could be? What roles might you consider taking in the near future?

"U R the CHURCH"

EPIPHANY

January 6th

The traditional day of Epiphany is January 6th—"The Twelfth Day of Christmas." On this day we mark the apex, as it were, of the Christmas Season. The season has been moving steadily toward this moment of great revelation and epiphany. Today we acknowledge and celebrate that the child born in a lowly manger in the darkness of night is revealed as the manifestation of God (the literal meaning of Epiphany). Today is also known as "little Christmas."

It is also the traditional day for blessing homes and other buildings by marking the doorways with chalk. The marking commemorate the three Magi traditionally known by the names of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The marking for 2008 are

20 + C + M + B + 08

As someone is writing this above the front door another member of the family prays, "Visit this home, we ask you, O Lord and bless it. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us and may we seek to serve Christ in each other. May your blessing be always upon us, Father, son and Holy Spirit. Amen
Make the sign of the cross together.

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 1	Solemnity of Mary World Day of Prayer for Peace
January 3	Teaching Mass #1
January 5	Religious Education Classes Grades K-4
January 6	Religious Education Classes Grades 9-10 7 PM VOLUNTEER BRUNCH 1 PM—3 PM
January 8	Religious Education Classes Grades 5-8
January 10	Teaching Mass #2
January 12	Religious Education Classes Grades K-4
January 13	Family Program Religious Education Classes Grades 9-10
January 14	Teaching Mass #3
January 15	Religious Education Classes Grades 5-8
January 17	Teaching Mass #4
January 19	Religious Education Classes Grades K-4
January 20	Religious Education Classes Grades 9-10 <u>PANCAKE BREAKFAST 9 AM—1 PM</u>
January 21	Service Opportunity at the Response to Love Center 8:30 AM —12:30PM Teaching Mass #5
January 22	Religious Education Classes Grades 5-8
January 26	MONTE CARLO NIGHT
January 27	Religious Education Classes Grades 9-11
January 28	Teaching Mass #6
January 29	Religious Education Classes Grades 5-8

FIRST RECONCILIATION
Friday, February 1st at 7 PM
Saturday, February 2nd at 11 AM

Generations of Faith
February 9th—12th

High School Workshop Grade 9
February 3rd 10 AM Mass—3 PM