

A Message from the PTO

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall season and all of its magnificent color. We are well into our 2009-10 CCD year. I have no doubt our students are learning and discovering great things about their Christian faith, as well as being challenged to be part of the community/outreach service outside the classroom. The PTO is working hard to do whatever we can to assist them with their projects. We have had many parents willing to help, but more parent involvement would make our CCD program even more successful. Our monthly PTO meetings are the second Sunday of each month. We look forward to you joining us to make our CCD program the best it can be.

CCD PTO Board 2009-2010

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Faith Buddies

On Sunday November 8th, The CCD PTO put into action our idea of Faith Buddies. The idea was to pair students (1 older and 1 younger) while we pray the rosary. The purpose is twofold:

- 1) To help bring even more meaning and attention to the rosary (the younger students will benefit from the older students helping them with the rosary and the older students may be more engaged because they are asked to help the younger students.)
- 2) To provide ongoing connection/community between the older and younger students.

It is our hope that over time our idea of Faith Buddies will be a positive step towards building a great Christian community.

Dates to Remember

Nov 17th First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Nov 29th No CCD Class – Thanksgiving Break

Dec 13th CCD PTO Meeting

Dec 20th CCD Advent Program – Parents/students

Surfing For Souls!

Father Donald Calloway, wildly popular conference speaker on Divine Mercy and the Blessed Virgin Mary will tell his amazing conversion titled Former Drug Dealer to the Catholic Priesthood on Sunday, December 6th @ 6:30 pm at St. Catherine in honor of The Year for Priests. He will give two talks: his conversion story, which could only be the work of our merciful God, and the second on the Blessed Virgin Mary. Guaranteed to be enjoyed by all ages, it is the perfect advent celebration for your family and friends! Tickets are \$5.00 at the door. Our youth are encouraged to wear Hawaiian shirts for this surfing priest! Any questions please call Terri 441-3438 or Sharon 441-1069.

Our Many Blessings (David Kohrs)

In these coming days of preparation for the perfect family holiday let us not forget the reason we come together. This season of Thanksgiving gives us a special opportunity to step back and reflect on all the goodness that God has bestowed upon us. Make this a time for your family to pray together first, and then prepare the feast. Consider Mass on Thanksgiving morning as a first step in giving thanks for the bounty that God has given you and those you love. I pray that the Lord continues to bless us richly in our walk toward eternal life. Happy Thanksgiving!

IS YOUR FAMILY GOING OUT OF TOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

www.masstimes.org

A Ministry to Traveling Catholics

St. Bernard Pantry

We are looking for Jr. High students interested in helping transport monthly food collections to St. Bernard's Food Pantry. This will take place on the third Monday of each month. We will need 3-4 students and 1 parent with a vehicle to transport food and students to the pantry. Parents must be VIRTUS certified. Once there the kids will need to unload the donations and stock the shelves. If you volunteer for this we will leave St. Catherine's at approx 3:30 PM and will return by 4:45 PM. We will place signup sheets in the classroom.

Available dates are as follows:

December 21, 2009

January 18, 2010

February 22, 2010

March 22, 2010

April 19, 2010

May 17, 2010

Items to be collected for December are cookies and Jell-o. We do not have a list for 2010 as of now. We will send out that list as soon as we receive it. The following is a quote shared by Sharon Kohrs from the Faith Community Pharmacy's website, which services the entire Diocese of Covington. "Poverty often deprives a man of all spirit and virtue; it is hard for an empty bag to stand upright." – Benjamin Franklin.

News from our Classrooms

Mrs. Neundorfer's 1st Grade CCD

In addition to our regular curriculum, we are learning a lot about mass and our Church. Fr. Bob came to our class this past month to talk about why we do a First and Second Reading, and Gospel. Fr. Bob shared some wonderful Bible stories with us!

Fr. Stef has hosted our class at the church. On our first visit we learned about what was in our church and why it is there (i.e.; sanctuary, altar, host) and the importance of showing respect with a bow or by genuflecting. On our second visit we learned all about Baptism and what it means to be welcomed into the Catholic Church.

Jessica & Peggy Renchen's 2nd Grade CCD

The 2nd graders have been learning how to pray the rosary. They have learned the story of each of the mysteries. They made rosaries with different colored beads and they also made rosary boxes. This past Sunday, November 8th the 2nd grade joined the rest of the classes to pray the rosary together. We welcome our 2nd graders!

Mary Beth & Natalie Schultz 4th Grade CCD

The 4th Grade class is off to a great start. We have learned about the first three commandments which teach us about love of God. We also studied the Creation Story and God's Covenants. We are working on designing the December Bulletin Board. We are looking forward to being a part of the live Nativity scene at St. Catherine's. Keep up the good work 4th Grade!

5th Grade CCD (submitted by Sandy Nagel)

Barbara Nagel, Nico Thomas, and Ryan Stuempel 5th grade CCD students were involved in a project through The STLP (Student Technology Leadership Program) at Johnson Elementary. Mary Kay Connolly (a St. Catherine parishioner) and representative from Children's Inc. announced that Johnson Elementary has been recognized as a School of Distinction for the service learning projects completed by the students and staff this past year. The video for this project was created by then 4th graders and 5th grade STLP members. The video can be accessed through the following website www.fortthomas.ky.schools.us Click on Johnson Elementary, click on links, click on Johnson Digital Stories go to 2008-09, click on H2o Tiles for Life to view video.

Congratulations to our 5th Grade Students!

Kelly Hergott's 6th Grade CCD

The 6th grade CCD class has been studying the Old Testament. The students recently completed their board project. Each month a different CCD class takes a turn decorating the board across from Mr. Kohr's office and November was the 6th grade's month. The kids worked together to create a poster board of what they are most thankful for... Eternal Life from Christ. They drew three crosses to signify the Lord's crucifixion and an empty tomb representing Jesus' resurrection from the dead and his magnificent gift to us all..Eternal Life. The students then each created their own individual art work stating other things in their lives they are grateful for. With Thanksgiving right around the corner this is the perfect time for all of us to reflect on our many blessings and give thanks to the one they all come from.....Our Savior! God Bless!

Well done 6th grade. Keep up the good work!

Insights Retreat 2009 / 8th Grade CCD

This is a busy time of year for our Confirmation candidates. On Saturday, November 7th they spent their day together, beginning with 8am Mass. After a wonderful breakfast served by a group of their parents, they boarded a bus and began the day's journey, which would take them to several of our local agencies. They visited St. Bernard Food Pantry in Dayton, Be Concerned in Covington along with stops at Welcome House, The Parish Kitchen and Fairhaven, then ended at Hosea House in Newport where they were served lunch by the next group of parents and heard a very moving talk given by the director of Hosea House, Karen. From there they returned to St. Catherine's where more of their parents greeted them and helped as they created tri-fold displays of several of our local agencies to present at the Alternative Christmas Fair the weekend of November 14th and 15th. When completed, each group of students gave an informative presentation on their display and agency. Their day ended by again gathering in church for prayer and a Rosary led by several of their fellow students. I believe it was a day of thoughtful learning for all involved.

The next morning the students again came together, this time with their sponsors, to be presented to the parish in their Rite of Commitment Ceremony. It was a beautiful morning, full of sunshine, and Father Bob warmed everyone's heart with his

inspiring words, his blessing of the crosses each student received, and his enthusiastic and prayerful welcome to them. All in all, it was a busy but very good weekend for our 8th Graders! (submitted by Sharon Kohrs)

High School CCD

During the course of the High School CCD Program so far this 2009-10 school year, many fun activities have been held and many service opportunities have been discussed. While deciding as a class to become more acquainted with the readings and their meanings, we also decided we would like to hear from some guest speakers. Our wish for a guest speaker came true when Rob Wassler, a graduate of Ohio State University, came to speak to us about his 12 month long mission trip he took to Honduras to help teach English to orphan children. Rob shared with us his experiences from his trip, both good and bad. He discussed with us how he was sometimes mistreated but he had a special place by a river where he would go to be alone with God. On returning from his trip Rob now says that it was a life changing experience and that he does not take anything for granted, after spending 12 months without running water. By listening to Rob's talk it has turned some of our heads towards the idea of a mission trip. As a class we have decided to do more service for the parish and community. Some of the service ideas we are interested in include visiting some nursing homes, becoming involved with IHN, and helping elderly parishioners to rake their leaves. (submitted by Kelsey Dunn)

Thank you Kelsey for sharing this article with us!

Recently the High School students raked leaves for Mrs. Dolores Bourke. The feedback received was that she was very pleased with the work and the company of having someone to talk to. There were a lot of smiles on the kid's faces, but why not it was a beautiful day. The high school kids seem to be getting more involved in class and have made suggestions for future service projects which include helping out at a soup kitchen, taking up a collection for St Anne's Convent and going for a visit.

Thanks to our high school students for making us proud!

Something to Think About....

An excerpt from Prayerbook, A Catholic Religious Site, "A Collage of Catholic Information" <http://www.prayerbook.com>
(submitted by Sharon Kohrs)

Bring Back RIC

Our God is an awesome God. Full of power, love and mercy. In his great love for us He chooses to dwell with us day and night in the tabernacles of our churches.

Is that not truly a miraculous thing, that is worthy of our awe, of our thanksgiving and our praise and most certainly, our reverence in His majestic presence.

Reverence in our actions and reverence in our manner of dress.

"When My people humble themselves and seek my presence I will receive their land"

Bring back RIC...Reverence in Church