

February 2, 2012



St. Stephen's  
Catholic School

# Newsletter

506 Jackson Street / Anoka / Minnesota 55303 / tel: 763-421-3236 / fax: 763-712-7433 / web: www.ststephenchurch.org/school & www.edline.net

## Important Dates...

### February...

- 2—Commission Mtg. 6 PM
- 13—Edline Posting
- 13—Magazine Drive Kick-off
- 18—Mardi Gras

### Art & Adventure Field Trips

- Grade 1—Feb. 14
- Grade 3—Feb. 14
- Grade 2—Feb. 15
- Grade 4—Feb. 15
- Grade 5—Feb. 17

- 20—No school—President's Day
- 22—Ash Wednesday
- 23/24—Spring Picture Day
- 28—Magazine Turn-in Day

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

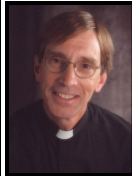
Fr. Michael A. Van Sloun  
*Pastor and Superintendent*

Mrs. Rebecca Gustafson  
*Principal*

Ms. Sarah Kelly  
*School Counselor*

- School Office 421-3236
- Heidi Staggert 712-7473
- Dawn Graf 712-7427
- Absence Line 712-7467
- Kitchen 712-7460
- BASE 712-7453
- BASE (cell) 612-418-7010\*

\*After Hours Emergency



From the desk of Fr. Mike...

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, Year B

Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2,6-7,7-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2012

Homily by Fr. Michael A. Van Sloun  
Sunday, January 29, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

Today is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. It is a week to celebrate the crucial role that Catholic schools play in the life of our students, their families, the parish, and the wider Church.

Catholic schools are all about students and learning, and of course, the teachers and the curriculum, the content that is taught.

Over the past two years the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has been paying a lot of attention to our Catholic schools. There are major problems in many Catholic schools around the Twin Cities. A few have closed. Almost all have seen a loss in enrollment, some as bad as 20, 30, or 50 percent. Others are troubled financially. A few have problems with low student achievement. And unfortunately, some do not look very Catholic; but rather look more like a private school where the stress is on academics, but there is little or no attention to spiritual matters.

So the Archdiocese brought in an expert consulting firm from the University of Notre Dame to analyze the present situation and then make recommendations on how to improve Catholic schools.

The consulting firm recommended a stronger Catholic identity, regular Masses, sacraments, prayer in the classroom every day, religion classes in the curriculum, the celebration of Christmas and Easter and the liturgical seasons, and crosses and statues and religious objects in the building. St. Stephen's did not need to make one single improvement. Every recommendation was already in place.

Continued on Page 2...

There were recommendations about the quality of teachers. The teachers should all have undergraduate college degrees, bachelor's degrees, a BA, a bachelor of arts, or a BS, a bachelor of science. As many as possible should have graduate degrees, a Master's degree. And all should be certified, licensed by the State of Minnesota for their academic field. Again, St. Stephen's did not need to make any upgrades. All of our teachers have degrees; all of our teachers are certified.

There were recommendations about marketing, about getting the message out about Catholic schools, to tell the wider parish, the tell the wider community, about the value and importance of a Catholic-school education. The consulting firm made recommendations about messaging, marketing: announcements at Mass, material in the parish bulletin, outdoor signs, indoor signs, mailings, post cards, telemarketing, advertising in the newspaper. Guess what? St. Stephen's does all these things already!

There were recommendations about good organizational structures. The consulting firm said for a parish school to flourish, the parish should be well-organized. There should be a Pastoral Council and a Finance Council. There should be a School Commission. The school budget should be part of the parish budget, and the budget should be balanced, and the budget should be carefully administered. Again, you'll be glad to know that every one of these recommendations is already in place.

While other schools are scrambling to get these things in order, at St. Stephen's every one of these items has been in place for a long time.

The Archdiocesan motto is: "Aim Higher!" We've been aiming high for years. "Aiming Higher" is not new for us; it is standard procedure. It has always been my dream that our parish would be a model parish and that our school would be a model school.

As the Archdiocesan Task Force did their comprehensive study, and as they looked for schools that do it right, and for schools that employ "best practices," St. Stephen's was mentioned over and over again. We as a parish have every right to be very proud of our school ministry. We are in a good place thanks a broad base of support from the parish, parent support, and the good work of our faculty and staff, and our principal, Mrs. Gustafson.

I would like to ask that teachers and staff members and Mrs. Gustafson to please stand. You have performed your ministry well. You have put our school in a great place. Thank you for aiming so high for so long. We congratulate you!

Just because our faculty and staff has done so well does not mean that they have arrived. We are not so good that we do not need to improve any more. The Archdiocesan motto, Aim Higher, is on the money; we are high already, and we need to go yet higher. We are on the path of continuous improvement, because "you are either getting better or getting worse;" there is no standing still in life.

Would you like to "Aim Higher"? Would you like to go to a place where you never thought you could go? Jesus, the Teacher, can and will take us higher! Jesus is asking every one of us to Aim Higher. If we listen to Jesus, and takes his words to heart, Jesus will take us higher than we ever thought we could go.

For Fr. Mike's complete homily, please visit [http://ststephenchurch.org/Worship/homilies/2012-01-29\\_The\\_Fourth\\_Sunday\\_in\\_Ordinary\\_Time\\_Year\\_B.pdf](http://ststephenchurch.org/Worship/homilies/2012-01-29_The_Fourth_Sunday_in_Ordinary_Time_Year_B.pdf)

**PRESCHOOL/ELEMENTARY TEACHERS**

**Mrs. Angela Tjosaas**  
*Pre-School*

**Mrs. Deb Cherney**  
*Kindergarten*

**Mrs. Mary Kay Wesp**  
*Kindergarten*

**Mrs. Julianne Haenel**  
*First Grade*

**Mrs. Mary Kay Tyminski**  
*First Grade*

**Mrs. Jan Applen**  
*Second Grade*

**Mrs. Sherry Miller**  
*Second Grade*

**Mrs. Marileen Diederichs**  
*Third Grade*

**Mrs. Betty Kowalski**  
*Third Grade*

**Mrs. Marie Penn**  
*Fourth Grade*

**Mrs. Susie Toenjes**  
*Fourth Grade*

**Ms. Katie Geis**  
*Fifth Grade*

**Mrs. Kim Taggart**  
*Fifth Grade*

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/SPECIALISTS TEACHERS**

**Ms. Desiree Hyrkas**  
*Sixth Grade Advisor/Media*

**Mrs. Lynelle Kocher**  
*Sixth Grade Advisor/Art*

**Mrs. Theresa Hefel**  
*Sixth Grade Advisor/Spanish*

**Mrs. Jaime Verkuilen**  
*Sixth Grade Advisor/Music*

**Mrs. Peg Brown**  
*Seventh Grade Advisor/Math*

**Mrs. Shelly Miller**  
*Seventh Grade Advisor/Social Studies*

**Mr. Kurt Werk**  
*Seventh Grade Advisor/P.E./A.D.*

**Mrs. Colleen Hansen**  
*Eighth Grade Advisor/Science*

**Mrs. Shelley Lysdahl**  
*Eighth Grade Advisor/Literature*

**Mrs. Judy Radcliff**  
*Eighth Grade Advisor/Formation*

**Mr. Tim Burke**  
*Computers*

## Don't forget to order your yearbook!

If you still need an order form, they are available in the office. Please makes checks out to St. Stephen's school.



# Teachers Wish List

- LCD Projector for Middle School Science Class.
- 16 oz. Gatorade for School Store/Concession Stand (We are ALL OUT).
- Small Parts Storage Cabinet for Lego Robotics Class.
- Please see the office for details.
- new or "gently used" board games for indoor recess
- Paper towel tubes
- 6 stackable file crates for the music room
- "metal cookie tins-no more than 5" high"
- e-6000 glue for art class
- clear glass bottles/vases for art
- silk flowers for art
- toothpicks for art
- 27 Gallon Size zip Lock Storage Bags!

## Sports News from Mr. Werk...

**Girls Basketball team is doing well—they are currently 4-0! Way to go!**

**The boys wrestling team kicks off tomorrow with their first match at Totino-Grace at 5:30 PM. Good luck boys!**

**Mr. Werk**

[kwerk@ststephenchurch.org](mailto:kwerk@ststephenchurch.org)

763-712-7465

# First Grade News...

This week the students celebrated Catholic Schools Week! One of the highlights of the week, for the first graders, was going on our field trip to Chuck E Cheese on Wednesday. The students enjoyed eating pizza and playing games with the kinders and second graders. On Monday, everyone was dressed beautifully for "Dress Your Best Day". Tuesday was "Class Color Day". The first graders in room 106 voted to wear purple while room 107 wore blue. After celebrating Mass on Thursday, the kids were able to be comfy and wear slippers for the rest of the day. We had a great week and talked a lot about why we are so thankful for being able to go to a Catholic School. Here are some things that the kids said: "I love going to a Catholic School because we get to go to a Catholic Church too!", "I love that we get to learn about Jesus!" and "I love Catholic Schools because we get to have lots of fun!" Happy Catholic Schools Week!!!



## Before & After School Enrichment



Director: Teri King

BASE Voice Mail: 712-7453

Week of: Feb. 6th

### Morning

### Afternoon

**Monday**

Gym

Color Pages

**Tuesday**

Gym

Fusion Beading

**Wednesday**

Gym

Make Play Doh

**Thursday**

Gym

Scribble Art

**Friday**

Gym

Spin Painting



**Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort to serve our parish community last Sunday morning!**

**SINGERS:**

Alycia Olzenak - 4	Ashley Werner - 4
Christopher Lamps - 4	Alicia Fripp - 4
Annie Beuning - 4	Gracie Moran - 4
Ryan Fonseca - 4	Skyler Gish - 4
Sarah McClellan - 4	Nick Donnay - 4
Trinity Gillen - 4	Katie Robinson - 4
Amy Infanzon - 5	Helenrose Jorgensen - 5
Killeen Wareham - 5	Alysa Thieschafer - 5
John Snell - 5	Katie Hathaway - 5
Mary Ann Toenjes - 5	
Maria Lamps - 6	Emily Smith - 6
Morgan Witt - 6	Megan Mullen - 6
Emily Ludewig - 7	Molly Rausch - 7
Becca Matlon - 7	
Tim Pinewski - 8	

Mrs. Verkuilen, Ms. Geis, Mrs. Miller & Mrs. Brown, staff

**GIFT BEARERS:**

- Madison Staggert - 8
- Angela Dehn - 8
- Theo Staggert - 6

**LECTORS:**

- Judy Radcliff - Parish announcements
- Charles Roskowiak - 1st Reading
- Judy Radcliff - 2nd Reading
- Charles Roskowiak - Prayers of the Faithful

**CROSS BEARER:** Angela Dehn - 8  
**SERVERS:** Brendan Corbin & Jacob Hilton

**Mass Procession**

Preschoolers	Josie Haenel	George Schmitt
Kindergarten	Grace Stevenson	Eric Jensen
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Erin Wareham	Layne Werk
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Allie McNamara	Parker Lang
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Annie Paulson	Tommy Kelly
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Rosalie Magpuri	Kyle Becker
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Grace Kelly	Gabe Hernadez
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Cassidy Matter	Aidan Moran
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Taylor O'Connor	Jeff Deisting
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Katie Loes	Tyler Casey

## Reading Buddies

### Preschoolers love Reading Buddies!

Our wonderful buddies from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade come to our class room ever so often to read to us. It is a wonderful time we spend together, getting to know other students in our school and to listen to our older friends read to us. Preschoolers get a chance to practice being great listeners to our buddies and the older kids have a chance to practice reading aloud to younger students. We really enjoy our time together and look forward to spending more time with our buddies!



Don't miss Middle School Spirit Day, tomorrow, February 3rd at 7:50 AM in the gym!  
Come and see our 6th, 7th and 8th graders accept awards for awesome behavior and honor roll!

**The ducks are back! The magazine drive kick-off will be Monday, February 13. Please watch for more information!**

