

February 23, 2010

Dear Parents,

Mass: Please join us for our 8:30 Wednesday Mass, tomorrow, planned by Mrs. Downey and the Staff as we continue the holy season of Lent.

Lenten Theme: We have chosen to incorporate our year-long school theme of ***Our God Is Here*** into our Lenten activities which will include student participation in the diocesan-wide Charity and Development Appeal (CDA) as well as other age-appropriate student activities.

Lenten All-School Activity: Our Student Council is coordinating our all-school Lenten outreach activity of collecting extra coins of any denomination/change for ***Our God is Here STCS Change for Lent*** for our diocesan sponsored student CDA participation. Each classroom has a well marked milk jug for students to put their extra change/coins in throughout the week. Money will be counted for each grade each weekend. Money will be given to the diocesan CDA project at the end of Lent.

Lenten Fish Fry Supper/Stations: All are welcome to participate in the parish sponsored Lenten Friday night Fish and Faith Suppers in Fr. Feeny Hall starting at 5pm. Stations will be in the church at 7pm.

Health Office News: I still need a couple volunteers to help with the Health Safari Van screenings (heights, weights, blood pressures, scoliosis) on Friday, March 12th from 8:00 am to 2:45pm. If you are available that day, please let me know. No experience necessary, but you must be current with your Called To Protect/Safe Environment Training. Questions? Contact me at ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org or 602-952-1208.

Head Lice: This past week, two parents reported to me (after the fact) that their children were treated for head lice. One child is in Kindergarten and the other in first grade. It is imperative that if a child is found to have head lice, the school be notified immediately so all the children from the affected classroom(s) can be screened. Also, it is school policy that the student be screened by the school nurse BEFORE he/she returns to school, to make sure all nits (eggs) were removed. Questions? Contact me at ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org or 602-952-1208.

Auction: *The Yellow Brick Road* is getting shorter. We are less than three weeks away from our annual school Auction. Please help us make ***Follow the Yellow Brick Road*** a success with your item donations and/or financial support with underwriting.

Thank you to all who have made donations of items and/or financial support. We are still in need of more items for the Silent Auction and are accepting more daily. Please bring in your item donation or financial donation and receive a button for one free dress item for every Tuesday until Auction.

Please visit our web site and see our great item donations. The list grows daily. ***See the attachments*** for our current lists of parents/friends/business donors. Thank you.

Remember to hurry and make your reservations and table selections. You can register on-line at sstheresa@maestroweb.com and have a fast pass to check in the night of Auction. You will have more time to spend in the Silent Auction and move ahead of the line. Auction will be starting at 5:30pm sharp this year. You won't want to miss our mini-live Auction in the Silent Auction, so don't be late. There will be a fun trip to Disneyland and many more opportunities! Questions? Contact Monica LaBarr at monicalabarr@g.com

Community Building Events: 1. (Event with New York Times Best Selling Author) Announcing an up close and personal event with Kelly Corrigan, well known author of ***The Middle Place***. This book is a story we can relate to with families of our own and aging parents. We are in the "middle place". Kelly will be here in March to discuss her new book, ***Lift***. The event proceeds will go to STCS. Kelly's presentation/event will be held at Xavier College Prep at 7pm, March

25th. The cost is only \$35.00 and her next book is included in the cost. Please sign up on-line at <http://sttheresaphx.maestroweb.com/> Better yet, buy two tickets and bring a friend. Also, this would be a fun event for a "book club" field trip. Questions? Contact Monica LaBarr at monicalabarr@cox.net

2. Come to the Cassidy's house THIS Thursday, 25th at 6:15pm to learn about a very unique Live Auction item. A week at a summer camp on Catalina Island has been donated. Bring your children and come to learn about Catalina Island Camp (www.catalinaislandcamps.com) before bidding on this summer adventure. **See the attached flyer** for details. Questions? Contact Lynn Cassidy at seclac@aol.com

It's Cookie Season: Now seriously, where would Girl Scouts be without their world famous COOKIES? If you missed out on our girls' smiling faces at your door, all is not lost. You can find and enjoy your cookies after morning Masses this Sunday. For those of you who gave up sweets for Lent, remember that our cookies freeze and are especially good frozen. If you have given up chocolate, we make several flavors that don't involve chocolate. If you are trying to practice the spirit of Lent, we can help. In the spirit of giving, we will be donating a percentage of our sales on Sunday to the STCS Scholarship Fund. Thank you in advance for your support of our Girl Scouts. See you Sunday. Questions? Contact Debbi Douglas at debbidouglas@g.com

Father/Daughter(s) Dance: Sincere thanks to those who donated their time, ice chests, decorating skills and sweets to the Father/Daughter(s) Dance last Friday evening. We had over 200 people who danced, smiled for pictures, looked beautiful and handsome and just had a good time. Over \$4500.00 was raised for the fall 7th grade CIMI Science trip. The committee of Robin, Ali, Lynn and the entire 6th grade appreciate all of your help and enthusiasm in making this annual event so special. Thank you so much!

Reconciliation Services: All Grades 3-8 students are having the opportunity of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout March. We are very appreciative of our priests (and some visiting priests) of their willingness to celebrate this sacrament with/for our students.

Campus Expansion Project: We hope you have noticed the change in our Campus Expansion Project participation thermometers. Thank you to all who have helped us cross the 20% participation mark. Currently we have 79 families who have pledged. Let's keep this momentum going. I have spoken to many of you personally and to the Classroom Captains and many of you have given us your verbal yes for participation. Now we need to have you return your pledge card so we can count you in on our participation thermometer. Let us know if you need another pledge card or stop in the office to pick up a new one.

We know this is a tough time economically, but remember our goal is 100% participation. Even a small gift counts. Many have told me and/or the Classroom Captains that they wish they could give more. Don't focus on the size of the gift, but the gift itself and that it is a gift to our children and to the children of our school's future. If you cannot give much now, give what you can and when times are better you can give more. Don't forget you have several options: a one time gift, 5 quarterly payments, or 15 monthly payments.

Check the website, www.stcs.us for more information on the project and/or take a look at the renderings which are displayed on the wall near the Library. Thank you. Questions? Contact James Zorn, On-Site Parent Liaison for the Campus Expansion Project at james.zorn@cox.net

Athletics (Gr. 5-8): March 2: Track and Field paperwork is available on-line at <http://www.stcs.us/athletics.html>; March 17: All Track and Field paperwork is due; March 23: Track and Field parent meeting, 3:00, Room 16. Coaches meeting at 4:00, Room 16.

If you are interested in coaching track and Field, please contact Coach Kaye at skaye@diocesephoenix.org

Enrichment: Mad Science class will begin March 10th. Flyers are in today's Family Envelope. Questions? Contact Coach Kathy at kputta@diocesephoenix.org

Musical Practice: Tomorrow, Wednesday, 1:30-3:30, all cast members who are in the Tavern Dance Scene will have practice. On Friday, 3-5pm all cast members who are part of the "Be Our Guest Song" will have practice. Questions? Contact Coach Kathy at kputta@diocesephoenix.org

Campout: Enthusiasm for the first-ever Dads' Club sponsored campout was fantastic. However, the weather has not cooperated. The campout is being cancelled for this weekend. **All families will have their money refunded in next Tuesday's Family Envelope.**

Eating Out: Want to eat out next Thursday, 4th, evening? Yes? Then do we have a deal for you. Go to Rubio's and enjoy a great meal, show the **attached flyer** when paying your bill and 20% of your bill will be credited for the fall 7th grade CIMI Science trip.

Scrip Messages: BWC presents their café Bronco's Burgers which is located just north of St. Francis Church and offers daily \$5.00 lunch specials. Let me know if you would like STCS to carry Scrip for Bronco's Burgers. Contact me at 602-840-0010 x 179 or stsScrip@diocesephoenix.org

Do not use Visa and American Express cards at gas stations (including Costco). Due to the nature of the card, a \$75.00 hold is put on the card and is not released for over a week. If you want to use Scrip for Costco gas, buy an actual Costco gift card from Costco using the American Express card. Questions? Contact Marybarb at 602-840-0010 x 179 or stsScrip@diocesephoenix.org

Field/Fun Days: The annual STCS Spring Field Days are fast approaching. Volunteers are needed for Grades Preschool through Grade 6. If you can help out and are current with your safe environment training, please contact Coach Kathy at kputta@diocesephoenix.org

Monday, March 29 th :	8:30-9:30: Preschool/PreKindergarten/Kindergarten	Volunteers needed 8-9:30
	10:00-11:20: First and Second Grades	Volunteers needed 9:30-12:00
Tuesday, March 30:	9:00-10:30: Third and Fourth Grades	Volunteers needed 8:30-10:30
	1:00-2:30: Fifth and Sixth Grades	Volunteers needed 12:30-2:30

Fashion Show/Tea: We surely hope all of our Moms who have daughters are saving March 27th for our Fashion Show/Tea themed **Spring-a-licious**. All girls/Moms/Grandmothers/Aunts and friends are welcome to join the planned festivities of **Spring-a-licious!** Please see the **attached flyer**. This flyer is also in the Family Envelope as a hard copy.

Knights of Columbus News: The St. Theresa Council 13497 invites Catholic men to join our 1.7 million member fraternity! Pope John Paul II referred to the K of C as "The Strong Right Arm of the Catholic Church". Not Catholic? Join the parish RCIA program and you can join us in 2011! Now you have been invited. **You** take the next step. Catholic men interested in growing in faith, support of Catholic values – vocations, marriage, families, life, justice and of course living out the Gospel through acts of charity are needed and invited to apply. See www.kofc.org for the depth and breath of this international organization founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Haven, CT on March 29, 1882. Contact membership Director Tom Hart/STCS Dad at 480-970-0428 for a membership application and interview.

K of C District Free Throw Finals: The finals will be hosted in the McMahon Center Gym this Saturday, 27th from 10-12pm. Good luck to our 10 champions! Special thanks to Coach Kaye and Coach Kathy for coordinating our contest and to all the volunteers who helped during PE classes. Winners will advance to the **AZ State Finals** on March 14 at US Airways Center on the Phoenix Suns Home Court! New this year... the AZ K of C event includes the offer of discounted tickets for the Suns game that evening at 6pm. There is no cost to attend the State Finals from 12-3pm. Please plan to attend and cheer on our STCS State Finalist! **See the attached order form** to attend the Suns game with other Catholic School families from across the diocese.

Save the Date: The St. Theresa K of C will host the Third Annual Parish Wine Festival after the 5pm Mass on Saturday, April 17. **See the attached flyer**. Business owners: Auction prizes are now being requested to support our Wine Festival Charities of St. Theresa's SVDP, Scouting programs and our diocesan seminarians. Contact Chris Campbell, STCS Dad, for more information.

2010 St. Joseph Youth Camp: Our St. Theresa K of C will again sponsor 2 children to attend summer camp in July. Each applicant must write an essay. Sponsorship will also be offered at the STCS Auction. Children ages 8-15 who enter this contest will also be entered in the state-wide essay contest. **See attached SJYC Essay Contest Form** which may be submitted at the Parish Office or by e-mail to Tom Hart/St. Joseph Youth Camp Board of Directors at tdhart1@cox.net. See www.sjyc.org for the 2010 camp schedule, programs and on-line registration details which includes a 10 camper free offer when friends/classmates sign-up together. Children are taken by luxury coach bus from OLMC in Tempe on Sunday at 1pm and returning on Saturday at 12pm. (Mom and Dad: Sounds like the children could be at camp 6 nights and 7 days in July!) Questions? Contact Tom Hart at 480-970-0428.

Families: Join the Knights at SJYC Holiday weekends this summer. Don't miss the big 4th of July celebration/K of C Family Weekend in the cool pines at the camp. Questions? Contact Tom Hart at 480-970-0428.

Usher Training/Saturday 5pm Mass: Fr. Chuck has asked the St. Theresa K of C to organize ushers and presentation of gifts during the 5pm Saturday Mass. STCS families are welcome to present the gifts or attend usher training (by appointment) starting at 4:30 prior to the 5pm Saturday Mass. Questions? Contact Patrick Dempsey/STCS Dad 602-509-0980 for more information. (Contact Jim Sage in the Parish Office if you would like to sign up for other weekly Mass ministries)

Lunch Menu: We have provided a hard copy of the catered lunch for March. The month begins next Monday so your hot lunch days/money should be in by this Friday. As always, please go on-line at <http://www.sttheresameals.com> or www.bluewilllocafe.com to complete your order and make payment..

No School: Reminder of no school next Friday, March 5th. All staff will be participating in the diocesan sponsored in-service at St. John Bosco School in Chandler.

The mission of St. Theresa Catholic School is to prepare students spiritually, academically, and socially to assume responsible and productive roles in society while living out the values of the Gospel. (STCS Mission Statement)

Sincerely,

Sister Patricia

Sister Patricia Gehling, SSND
Principal