

September 15, 2009

Dear Parents,

Mass: Please join us at 8:30 tomorrow, Wednesday, for our all-school rosary led by the Student Council. No student Mass this week because all priests are in Flagstaff participating in the annual fall priests' convocation. As always your prayer presence is very important to us.

Student Pictures: Students were given their individual student picture packages today. We knew they were handsome and beautiful. We didn't realize they were so photogenic! Any students who were absent on August 24th will have their pictures taken on October 26th. If, for some reason you are dissatisfied with your child/ren's picture(s) and want retakes, leave the package intact, attach a note as to the reason and your package will be given to the photographers on October 26th. Send the package(s) to the office. We will also offer the opportunity for you to have your younger siblings photographed on October 26th. That time would be about 9:30am.

Diocesan Activity: Make a difference in the life of a child and have fun at the same time! Plan to join us on October 24th at the new Sheraton Hotel in downtown Phoenix for the second annual **Night of Hope**, an evening of dinner and fellowship that celebrates our Catholic Schools. You won't want to miss hearing Dr. Elinor Ford's keynote address. She is an extremely powerful and entertaining speaker who is totally committed to Catholic education. All proceeds from this evening will go towards the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund, which provides tuition assistance for every school in the Diocese. For on-line reservations and more information, check out the website at www.diocesephoenix.org/NOH or call the Catholic Schools Office at 602-354-2345. (For reservations drag your cursor under Night of Hope.)

Bulletin Reflections: I have **attached** Fr. Chuck's Sunday, September 14th church bulletin *Reflections* on President Obama's speech to the nation's school children for your reading and/or re-reading.

Volunteers Needed: The Development Office is looking for volunteers to help promote CTODP. Contact Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development at ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org or 602-840-0010 x 204 for more information.

CTODP: Families, it's never too early to redirect a portion of your Arizona State taxes to Saint Theresa Catholic School. Taxpayers filing single can redirect up to \$500 of their AZ state tax to Saint Theresa Catholic School and taxpayers filing married can redirect up to \$1000 to Saint Theresa Catholic School, school code 190. Because this is a dollar for dollar tax credit it cost you absolutely nothing to redirect your taxes back to your school, which is then used solely for tuition assistance scholarships. In 2009, Saint Theresa Catholic School received over \$275,000 in redirected taxes through CTODP for the 2009-2010 school year. Every redirected tax dollar is needed and the more we receive, the more we can award to our school families. Don't wait until the last minute; redirect today! The process is easy. For more information contact Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development at ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org or 602-840-0010 x 204 for more information.

STCS Alumni: Help us find our treasured Alumni! Saint Theresa Catholic School is celebrating its 52nd year and we are looking to find our Alumni. **Attached** is a quick form to help us find our Alumni; simply write down who you know (maybe even yourself!) who's attended STCS over the years and their contact information. You can return the form to the school office or e-mail Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development at ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org.

Church Musicians: Does your child read music and play the drums, guitar or a brass instrument? We are looking for some student musicians to accompany Mr. Sage and our singing at our Wednesday, 8:30 children's Mass. If your child does play an instrument, can read music and is interested in being considered for the opportunity to be an accompanist please send a note to my attention indicating name, grade, instrument and level of expertise.

Catering/Hot Lunch News: "Hello! Wanted to let you know that the web site is up and running! Yeah! You can reach us at www.bluewilllocafe.com; click on the St. Theresa link or you can go directly to the site by typing sttheresameals.com and it will take you to the site. We are working to get the site linked to your school website. The only issue with the site is that the menu will not print. I am copying menus and will leave them in the Front School Office for you. Our web site

person is working to fix this issue. The cost per meal is \$3.00 for kindergarten -3rd grade students and \$3.50 for students in grades 4-8. Also, a reminder for those who are not purchasing meals that they can purchase milk or bottled water for .50. Please feel free to e-mail me at info@bluewillocafe.com with any issues or call the café at 602-277-5644. We do need feedback on the meals...we need to know what is a hit and what is not so we do not bring it back! Thank you so much for hanging in there with us!" Carol Woodall Chef/Owner Blue Willo Café and Catering

Sports' Activity (Age 10-14): There is a special *running flyer attached* for any students, age 10-14, who might be interested in this activity. All the information is provided on the flyer.

Student Council Officers/Members: *Congratulations to all of our elected Student Council officers and classroom representatives!*

Officers: President: Catherine Zacher
Vice President: Jake Dempsey
Secretary: Kate Bullington
Treasurer: Charlie LaBarr

Classroom Representatives: Mrs. Allen's Room: Taylor Tolson/Sebo Diaz (alternate)
Mrs. Howe's Room: Sadie Wintergalen/Haley Trueman (alternate)
Mrs. Dwyer's Room: Conor Hunt/Madeline Hernandez (alternate)
Mr. Foudy's Room: Millie Woodbury/Devon Douglas (alternate)
Mrs. Beane's Room: Daniel Weinberger/Siena Gruler (alternate)
Mrs. Quintana's Room: Isabella Ward/John Zacher (alternate)
Mrs. Woods' Room: Abby Hebert/Nina Merrill (alternate)
Mrs. Mehr's Room: Garner Blake/Allison McQueen (alternate)
Mrs. Schaff's Room: Betsy Dries, Ian Hart/Jack Seeger (alternate)
Mrs. Griffin's Room: Kate Hall, Michael Kempton/Kelly Martin (alternate)

Moderators: Mrs. Jackie Drummey and Mrs. Dee Schaff.

Thank You: Our 9-11 all-school prayer ceremony last Friday afternoon, prepared by Mrs. Schaff and her seventh grade students and Mrs. Downey, was reverent and moving. Special thanks to our special parent guests who are active firefighters, police and/or military. The presence of the color guard from the AZ National Guard as well as the white peace doves added solemnity and a sense of peacefulness to our ceremony.

Scrip News: We want to hear from you! LaGrande Orange, Fox Restaurants (Bloom, Sauce, Olive and Ivy, etc.) and Ruth's Chris Steakhouse have offered to participate in our Scrip program. Marybarb needs to know from you, if she should stock these merchants. So, stop by the Scrip table, call the Scrip office, 602-840-0010 x 179, or send her an e-mail at stsScrip@diocesephoenix.org, telling her that you would buy their Scrip. If there is enough interest, there will be new restaurant merchants.

Also, since Mobil stations here in Phoenix are now Circle K's, is there an interest in Marybarb stocking Scrip for Circle K? Also, do you want her to stock Scrip for Chevron (there is a station at 48th St & Indian School)?

We have a few \$50.00 certificates for Honeybaked Ham and \$50.00 MomBomb cards that we want to sell. To purchase, stop by the Scrip table or contact Marybarb. Let Marybarb know your interests and/or concerns.

Safe Environment Training: We thought we had had our last **Called To Protect** training on campus for this school year. However, there are still many parents who have not become compliant and we are sure you will want to volunteer for classroom activities, etc. throughout this year. Therefore, Terez has agreed to do two more **Called To Protect** sessions. There will be an 8:15am session Tuesday, 22nd and a session at 6pm on Tuesday, 22nd. Both will be in Fr. Feeney Hall. Choose one and pre-register with Terez at terez@staffing-consultants.com. If any parents are not compliant as of September 22nd, they will need to take the initial foundational training elsewhere. There are still some parents who have not yet done the annual renewal called, "Remaining Vigilant". This can be done on-line at www.safeenvironmenttraining.org. Click on "my obligation" and follow the prompts. As you know, our school deadline for compliance is this Friday, September 18th. All parents who were not compliant with **Called To Protect** were notified last week as well as receiving a letter today. Likewise, any parents who are not compliant with renewal were notified today. There have been many reminders to become compliant by September 18th. We know you want to be actively involved with school projects and we want you to be. However, as you know, compliance in this diocesan program is mandatory. All event chairs will be notified shortly after the 22nd as to who is and is not eligible to volunteer.

Health Update: H1N1 Update: We've had one 7th grader diagnosed from a hospital as having the H1N1 flu. We've also had two 5th graders diagnosed by their doctors as having H1N1, and another student from the same class diagnosed with Type A flu, which is most probably H1N1. It should not come as a surprise that the flu is showing up here and at other schools across Phoenix and across the country. The Diocese continues to follow the recommendations from the AZ Department of Health, and all students with the flu or flu-like symptoms are required to stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of any fever-reducing medications. Because we need to know how many of our students have flu-like symptoms, please be specific when you call your child in absent from school. I need to know if there is a fever and how high it was, and if there is a sore throat or cough.

We continue to disinfect frequently touched surfaces here on campus and the children are reminded to cover their coughs and sneezes with their arm and wash their hands frequently. If we all practice these simple measures at home and at school, hopefully the numbers of students who become ill will remain low. I also want to mention again what was said at Curriculum Night, that if the flu season does get as bad as predicted, we may be required to keep students with flu symptoms home for 7 days. Now is the time to make plans for such an event, especially those families with no stay-at-home parent. We will, of course, hope for the best, but we must prepare for the worst. If you have any questions or concerns please e-mail me at ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org or call 602-952-1208.

Yearbook Orders: If you are interested in purchasing a Saint Theresa catholic School yearbook for the 2009-2010 school year, please use the **attached yearbook order** form. The cost of the yearbook is \$26.00 if ordered by October 30th. Books ordered between October 31st and November 18th will be \$29.00 so place your orders now! Be sure to include your e-mail address on the order form. A confirmation that we received your order will be sent to you via e-mail. (Reminder to 8th grade parents: Each 8th grade student already has one yearbook reserved for him/her as part of the graduation fee. Please only order any additional books for your family.)

Enrichment Class: Representatives from Desert Bells International gave a demonstration yesterday at lunch. Many students showed an interest in participating in this Enrichment class starting tomorrow at 1:40 in Room 8. The class will run for 6 weeks (not 8 as indicated in the print of the flyer). Each student received a flyer in today's Family Envelope. If interested complete the information and enclose the appropriate payment... because of the late notice do not mail the information, have your child bring it to the class tomorrow.

Wish List Update: Thank you for the gift cards that have already been donated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If any parents still want to make a donation for classroom items the current list is:

Math Manipulative Sets:	\$80.00
Fraction Card Sets:	\$25.00
Office Max Gift Cards (8):	\$25.00
Target Gift Cards (5):	\$25.00
WalMart Gift Cards (5):	\$25.00
Michaels Gift Cards (4):	\$25.00
Best Buy Gift Cards (2):	\$25.00
Radio Shack Gift Cards (4):	\$25.00
Costco Gift Cards (4):	\$50.00

Calling All Artists: Don't forget to look in today's Family Envelope for the lavender information sheet explaining this year's STCS Spirit T-Shirt contest. The theme this year is, "Our God is Here: All designs are due Wednesday, September 23rd. Questions? Call Heather Chapman at 602-558-9184."

Rosary Sunday: The annual Rosary Sunday celebration is Sunday, October 11, 2-4:15pm at the Phoenix Convention Center, Halls F and G, 3rd St. and Washington. During this 40th anniversary of our Diocese and the Year of the Priest, families are especially encouraged to attend and participate in the beautiful celebration of our Mother Mary. Mary will be honored this year under her title of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted will be presiding and Fr. Jim Parker will be the keynote speaker. Jesus will also be present in the Blessed Sacrament. Please bring your whole family for this Phoenix tradition of prayer, and adoration. If you wish to take part in the blessing procession, please contact me here at school. Watch the parish bulletin for more information regarding Rosary Sunday. I hope to see many of our school families there this year. If you have any questions or concerns e-mail me at ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org or call 602-952-1208. Thank you.

Organ/Piano Concert: Mr. Jim Sage, parish/school liturgist will be presenting a sacred concert Friday, October 2nd, 7:30pm in the church. There will also be a guest vocal soloist. Please **see the attached flyer** for more information.

Playground Helpers: WOW! What a response. We only have Thursday and the first/third Friday of the month still available for moms or dads to volunteer to spend some quality time on the playground with our students. If you are interested and are current with your Safe Environment training and would like to help between 11:45 and 1:10 please contact Coach Kaye at skaye@diocesephoenix.org.

East Parking Lot: We are getting there. The traffic flow seems to have improved tremendously. Thank you! It may also help if **eastbound** drivers on Thomas do not make a right turn on red into the parking lot. When the eastbound signal is red the left turn arrow comes on for the westbound traffic to turn south into our campus. If the eastbound traffic turns right on red the intersection gets blocked for those trying to turn left on the arrow. Also, please remember to drive to the far east end of the basketball courts or as far as possible before stopping your car to let your child/ren out. If your child/ren usually take a long time in gathering their things out of the car it might possibly be a better idea for you to park rather than using drop-off. **PLEASE! Do not let walkers cut in front of you. Walkers need to wait until there is a break in traffic.** PLEASE! No cell phone use while you are dropping-off or picking-up. **Reminder: Only Preschool and Pre-kindergarten parents should be parking in the north lot. All others should be in the east lot---do not cut through the north lot to get to the east lot.** Thank you for your cooperation for the sake of the safety of all of our students.

Lost-n-Found: There are many very nice insulated lunch bags on the lost-n-found cart. Are your children missing any?

Recycling: Thank you for supporting our recycling efforts. The **paper recycling** collection bins on the south side of our gym have been filling regularly. Please continue to bring your newspapers, catalogs, phone books, regular paper, etc. The monies received from this project will go to help with many of the projects chosen by our Student Council. Our **aluminum can recycling** efforts are also doing fairly well. Please continue to bring your aluminum cans (soda cans, fruit juices, beer cans) and drop these off in the receptacles outside of Mrs. Sotelo's classroom. Only aluminum cans can be recycled through our program. Please do not send tin or steel cans. Monies received from the aluminum can recycling project are used to support the orphans in homes run by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are making an effort to recycle the **plastic water bottles** which are used by the children at school. This project does not bring any funds in for our school. **If you use plastic bottles at home, please do not bring them to school for us to recycle.** Mrs. Sotelo has to take all of the school generated plastic bottles home. Thanks to her, and several of her kind neighbors, they are placed in the city recycling receptacles. Thank you for continuing to **Think Green!** This is just one more way **we can make a difference!**

Uniform Shirts: Reminder! If your new Dennis Uniform shirt with the crest "patch" on it is, or has, come loose you are welcome to return it to Dennis Uniform for a replacement shirt. Kelly, of Dennis Uniform, has repeatedly promised that the "patch" is guaranteed for the life of the shirt. Additionally, Dennis has only 60 "patches" left. They will then start selling our school shirts with an embroidered crest on it. If you are interested in helping deplete their current stock, we suggest you buy a white school shirt with the "patch" on it. It looks very smart on the white shirts, and you have the guarantee!

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