



SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Rosary School Family Communication Newsletter

December 8, 2011

Dear Families,

I am currently reviewing grades for the first trimester and I am pleased with what I am seeing. I would like to first thank the students for their hard work. I have been deeply impressed by the Holy Rosary students. They are attentive to their studies and come prepared to learn. I know that this is a positive reflection on you, their parents, so thank you for the support you give them at home.

I would also like to thank our teachers and staff for their excellent work this first trimester. Without their dedication, experience and hard work, the learning success of our students would simply not be possible. I applaud all members of this community in the wonderful results I am reviewing.

Holy Rosary is blessed with a remarkable faculty. I realize that you know this already, but I wanted to state how wonderful it is to serve in a school with them. We will not stand still however, and I look forward to helping facilitate professional growth as we go forward. Because we will build upon the strengths already established, our possibilities are very exciting to contemplate!

Sincerely,

Michael Cantu,
Principal
Holy Rosary School

CONFESSIONS OF AN AGEING AND DEVOTED PASTOR.

***“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
To heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives
And release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the Lord
And a day of vindication by our God.***

***I rejoice heartily in the Lord,
In my God is the joy of my soul”.***

On a recent Sunday when I had to admit to my scattered and struggling efforts at Sunday Mass and acknowledging my distracted state due to the condition of my Mom's declining health and other things a parishioner spoke to me after Mass saying how much she appreciated hearing and seeing this side of me and what I have to wrestle with in my personal life. She suggested that it might be beneficial to my work in the parish if I let that side out a little more often. I was ordained with the understanding that as a priest that I focus on God and not myself or my difficulties or struggles or anything to do with my family: difficulties and struggles were to be dealt with outside of what I am expected to do.

If I was to describe how I understood priesthood when was ordained and sent out into this world then the quote above from this Sunday's first reading summarizes it perfectly. It is firmly planted in my DNA to try and live up to this regardless of how often I think I don't and regardless of how often people have reminded me in recent years that the Pope and Bishops and Priests have not lived up to it. We will all continue to try since it is our mandate from the earliest times and it is the mandate Jesus himself used to describe his mission.

The responses I have received from the recent survey from parents along with letters that accompanied the survey along with my review by the Archdiocese has me reviewing for myself how my ministry corresponds to this statement from Isaiah. I experience successes and failures and in both cases I try to keep Psalm 127 in mind: "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it". This saves me from thinking that either successes or failures are all my doing or that the success or failure of parish ministry rests completely on my shoulders.

I continue to receive the yellow sheets back each week and I am very grateful to all who have done so and signed them; they have provided lots of food for

thought and I have been able to have some very helpful conversations --- some of these conversations have challenged me to rethink and reassess how I do what I do and say. I have picked up many things from indignation at being asked these questions to being fine with the questions; from agreeing with the expectation of regular Mass attendance as part of being an in—parish school family to rarely ever attending; from happy to be married in church to taking issue with why I should even ask that because people can get married wherever they wish; from my having every right to ask and expect compliance to saying that I am only turning people off by asking these questions; from my faith is a private thing that we do in our family but don't want to talk about to I would like to be in a small sharing group or a bible study group and from we are already way too busy and overcommitted as a family to be able add anymore church or school events to I love this faith community and I need the church part to keep me focused in life; from give, give, give to I need to find the best way to use my time and talents; from why doesn't school volunteering count for church to aren't they the same thing?

I have read every single one to date and have been prayerfully digesting what you have written and have been trying to figure out the best way to make a response in appreciation for the time you took to fill it out.

Let me say the following, with a “wag” and not a “bark” and with God as the “joy of my soul” from Isaiah.

1. I am taking no delight whatever in putting myself in unpopular positions that come across as demanding about church involvement or “good standing” issues or anything else on the list.
2. I accept my responsibility for stating the Catholic Church position on issues since that is what I accepted at ordination. They are teachings taken from scripture, not made up and even if we priests or anyone else has not always lived up to them, Jesus is still the criteria not we who fail.
3. I agree with those who wrote that there are many other options and perspectives out there other than Catholic in the matter of belief or getting married in church: absolutely true and the only reason we even get into this discussion is because of a choice to have your child in a catholic school as a catholic. If this were not the case we wouldn't be talking about this. You would be perfectly free to make whatever choice you want and I would have nothing to say about it. I wish that while you are with us you would give Catholicism a fair shot to find it's rich heritage. If you find it has not worked over 8 years then you can say you tried and are ready to move on.
4. Some said that faith/religion is a private matter: I respect and greatly

appreciate the honest answer yet allow me to say equally honestly that if that were the case Jesus would never have sent out the first disciples to preach and I would not be doing it and we would not have teachers teaching it; there would be no churches and no Catholic schools or Christian schools of any denomination.

The idea that one can be spiritual but not religious is not something you can find in the bible or in spirituality books through the centuries. I will acknowledge that people will say they have had questions that have never been satisfactorily answered by the church and I would tell you that I have never heard a plausible explanation for spirituality separated from religious practice.

I understand and appreciate all the things that have been written.

I have family members who do not attend church either because of lack of interest or too busy. I have nieces and nephews who live with someone or are married outside the church and I have a relative through marriage who is in a gay relationship. I have not experienced divorce in my family to this point and have not known of abortion but I have just about every aspect of life that you go through right down to my Mom being the final living member of the generation ahead of me. When she passes I will be the next oldest family member. I can hardly get used to the idea that not only am I as old as your parents but I am as old as some of your grandparents!! I could be a grandfather in many of your families!! I need your prayers more than I need to be in conflict with you just as you probably pray for your grandparents!

Going back to the opening quote from this Sunday's first reading from Isaiah: I believe God has called me and sent me to proclaim the good news of salvation; I may well need an overhaul to find a more inviting way to do this and I am invested in doing so. I will also tell you that I haven't always found God's good news or his ways to be the most inviting thing in my life but I have not found anything better to take his place. I don't always understand or agree with every church teaching and everything the Pope says but I am willing to prayerfully wrestle with the teachings rather than turn away or reject them. I don't see anything better to turn to so I am going to continue to be a devoted though ageing pastor.

Happy Advent as we prepare the way of the Lord.

Fr John.

First Trimester Report Cards Report Cards will be handed out tomorrow. When looking over the report cards, the care and time that the teachers spend completing them becomes evident. It is also easy to see how dedicated the students are to their learning. Thank you to our teachers for their continued excellent work and congratulations to our students on their accomplishments this first trimester. Please review your child's report card, sign the report card envelope, and return the signed envelope to school before Christmas vacation. You may keep the report card. If you have questions regarding your child's progress, please contact the appropriate teacher. Thank you.

Lost And Found Dishes

The office is holding several serving dishes left from the Kingston Funeral. If you are missing something please check the school office. All unclaimed items will be stored in the school kitchen after Dec.16. Thank You.

HEART BUSINESS DONATIONS

The Procurement team is gearing up to solicit businesses for donations for the 33rd Annual HEART Auction; Puttin' on the Ritz! If you have a business that you generally collect a donation from, or if you have a personal connection with a business that may like to donate to the HEART Auction, that would be swell!

If you plan to acquire a donation from a local business please contact the Procurement Team before Friday, December 16th. This will prevent our procurement team from duplicating efforts. Packets for these businesses will be available for you in the school office Monday, January 9th.

Please email Angela Nichols at auction-procurement@holynosaryws.org with the business name(s) that you will be contacting that will ensure that your name will be in the credits! Now them's the bee's knees!

THE HEART OF GIVING! The Christmas gifts are not even unwrapped yet (or wrapped for that matter), but, in the event that you see a screaming deal while you are out holiday shopping, or if you feel the need to negotiate a swaky deal with the Big Cheese, Puttin' on the Ritz is just around the corner! We've all been "nice", so keep us in mind. Happy Holidays from the HEART Auction Committee!

Parents' Club Corner

Holy Rosary Christmas Tree Lot

Remember to buy your Christmas Tree at the Holy Rosary Tree Lot this year. We are open 7 days a week through December 18th.

You can also buy your wreaths, swags and garland - and earn a free dress pass with every purchase.

There are also shifts available to work at the Tree Lot. This is an opportunity to earn some fundraising hours and have some fun family time.

I wanted to share a fun evening with all of you. Our friends noticed that the Tree Lot was short on sign ups for last Saturday night so we got together several families to

sign up and work the lot. We had a great time. A couple of adults took the kids caroling around the neighborhood and to see Christmas Lights and the remaining adults worked at the Tree Lot helping customers, moving trees and sweeping needles ... all while listening to Christmas Music and visiting with friends that came to buy their tree. We all enjoyed the evening so much we plan to make it a holiday tradition each year.

There is still time to make your own family tradition at the Holy Rosary Tree Lot this year. Sign up at the Tree Lot link. We need your help and you might just be surprised how much fun to have.

Announcement: Next Parents' Club Meeting will be Thursday, January 12th at 6:15pm - look forward to seeing you there.

And a special thanks to Jerry Velling and his Pancake Breakfast Team and to those of you that attended.

Blessings, Currie Baker, Parents' Club President
curriebaker@yahoo.com

Tree Lot News

Volunteers are needed to work this Saturday and Sunday.

Help support the Tree Lot by spreading the word via FB and Twitter:

The 22nd Annual Holy Rosary Christmas Tree Lot is open! Proceeds benefit the school and 15% of the proceeds go to 4 wonderful charities.

<http://treelot.holyrosaryws.org/>

Remember to turn in your Tree Lot Receipts to the school office for a FREE DRESS PASS.

Also, a reminder that 15% of the proceeds generated at this year's Tree Lot will benefit the following organizations: the Kingston Family, Hickman House/Salvation Army, West Seattle Help Line and West Seattle Food Bank.

The application for tuition assistance for the 2012 -2013 school year is now available on-line at

<http://fulcrumfoundation.org/tuition> (A link to the application is on the school website under 'School Forms & Other Downloads'.)

Please follow these instructions and note that in addition to submitting an application on-line to Fulcrum, paper copies of the completed application must be delivered to Thea at Holy Rosary School by February 6th:

Make a copy of your 2009 Federal Income Tax Form(s), IRS 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ, or E-file printout for the financially responsible parent(s) or guardian(s). Note: W-2 forms are not acceptable. Do not send originals.

Make a copy of any documents related to Non-Taxable income (Part C-3) such as 1099, federal or state aid, alimony or child support.

Submit your application form *online at

<http://fulcrumfoundation.org/tuition> At the end of the submission process a printout will be produced. If you have made a mistake, submit a new application and destroy the incorrect printout. When entering names, please do not use ALL CAPS.

Print two copies of the completed form. This can be done immediately after submitting the form. Be sure to sign your tax forms. This is often overlooked, especially with E-filing. Fulcrum will not accept un-signed forms.

Sign the form in Part E.

Staple the signed application in front of copies of the financial documents from steps 1 and 2.

Deliver or mail the complete application package to Thea at Holy Rosary by February 6th. Copies will not be returned.

*Fulcrum will not be accepting handwritten applications. If you would like to submit a handwritten application, please ask Thea De Francesco to assist you. She may be contacted at (206) 937-1488, ext. 211 or email: tdefrancesco@holyroaryseattle.org

Thank you.

Art Show Extravaganza

Mark your calendars! This year the art show will be bigger and better than ever. We have reserved the School Hall for the big night to allow for more space to mingle and enjoy the beautiful artwork. The show will allow students to display more than one piece of art. There will be awards given to best of show and most creative piece. Bring the whole family and treats to share.

What: Holy Rosary Art Show

Where: Holy Rosary School Hall

When: March 13th 6-7pm

* Please remember to bring cookies/treats to share and drinks will be provided!

*** If anyone needs extra hours please contact kboys@holyroaryws.org.
I would love help with organizing this event as well as setting up on the

big day!

Holy Rosary School Centennial 2013-14

Planning is already underway for the Centennial celebration for Holy Rosary School and we need you! To help get things started, please contact Karen Kuhar at centennial@holynosaryws.org. If you attended Holy Rosary School at any time (even if you think we have your information already) help us update our database by registering under the Alumni section of the school website www.holynosaryws.org. Many classes already have active Facebook pages for their graduation year. Check for yours, it is a great way to get in touch with old friends and help us contact as many alumni as we can to make this a wonderful celebration of Holy Rosary School!

Bake sale for Homeless kids

Thank you everyone for the wonderful donations to our first bake sale for the homeless children of Nicklesville. We are a group of four Holy Rosary 7th grade girls, who choose as our service project to sell baked items that we make at the home games of the Holy Rosary basketball games.

We are going to use the money earned to purchase items for the children living at the "Nicklesville" tent city.

Our next bake sale will be December 4th from 12:30-4:00, and December 11th from 12:30-4:00, please stop by for some delicious treats and help support the children of "Nicklesville"

Thank You,
Isabella S., Olivia D. Marla Mann, Rachel S.

Coat Drive

Claire and Kirsten from the 8th grade are having a coat drive at Holy Rosary from November 22nd-December 15th. This time of year gets really cold and West Seattle's Clothesline is in desperate need for clean, gently used jackets of all sizes. If you have any jackets you would like to donate, please bring them to the big box right outside the teachers' lounge. Thanks and have a warm holiday!

From,

Claire and Kirsten 8B

Matching Gift Programs

There are many corporations that offer gift Matching Grant Programs. Gift matching grant programs often aim to recognize and motivate employees, to engage in outreach and volunteerism to make our communities a better place to live, work, and play. They will often support employees' giving their time and talent to qualified non-profits and non-governmental organizations, in addition to schools. Some of these programs will also recognize employees who give of their time and give them the opportunity to earn money for organizations that are meaningful to them.

Thank you to all of our school families that request matching funds from their place of work. Here are some of the local businesses that offer grant matching programs:

Boeing

Microsoft

Nintendo

Chase

Starbucks

Alaska Airline

Russel Investments

Symetra

There are others – so ask your company if they offer a matching program. Most companies will match donation to the Holy Rosary School Annual Fund and to the HEART Auction for Fund-an-item and Dessert (Scholarship) Auction.

Santa Claus is coming to the Holy Rosary Tree Lot! Formerly found bringing joy to little ones at Westwood Village during the holidays, Santa has agreed to visit Holy Rosary on Saturday morning, Dec. 10th from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. Children of all ages are welcome to come take a picture with Santa inside the school hall (bring your own camera and a canned good to donate). Then, step outside to carefully choose your specially blessed Christmas tree or lovely wreath to take home & decorate, completing the jolly outing!

Community Meal

Holy Rosary Church is sponsoring the December 18th Community Meal. The meal is served from 1-3PM at Our Lady of Guadalupe's Parish Hall.

We will need volunteers to help set up and decorate, serve the meal and clean up afterwards. In addition, we need desserts to serve the 125 to 150 people who attend. Desserts can be dropped off at OLG's parish hall the day of the event after 9:30AM. If you are interested in volunteering please send an email to Renee Harn. (rharnfamily@comcast.net)

Something New for Christmas Eve!

For the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass, we will try to have the Gospel acted out. To pull this together, we need a few adults who can help with directing the kids who will be a part of the Christmas Eve Mass. If you'd like to help start something new, please contact Patrick Barredo (pbarredo@holyroaryseattle.org; 937.1488 x204) in the Parish Office.

Give the Gift of Safe Shelter - Noel House Programs' 2011 Holiday Card

Holy Rosary Women's Shelter's host program, Noel House, sells holiday cards every year to raise funds for their Women's Referral Center, which supports four off-site volunteer run shelters (Holy Rosary being one of them), St. Mark's Shelter, and Noel House Enhanced Shelter. Every night, Noel House Programs provides shelter and food for 250 homeless women in our community.

For a suggested minimum donation of \$10.00, each
**5" x 7" Holiday Card you purchase provides for a safe place
to sleep and a nutritious meal for the women we serve.**

**Cards will be sold after the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass and 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Mass on December 10th/11th and December 17/18!**

Contact Nancy Stillger at nstillger@gmail.com for more information or to
arrange for purchase at another time.

***NOEL HOUSE PROGRAMS PROVIDES SAFE, COMFORTABLE SHELTER FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF WOMEN,
PARTICULARLY THOSE MOST VULNERABLE. THEY STRIVE TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF DIGNITY, RESPECT
AND COMPASSION. THEY RECOGNIZE THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF EACH PERSON AND HONOR HER UNIQUE
EXPERIENCE.***

Mustard Seed Corner

December 8, 2011

This section of the EFC is written by HR Parish Faith Formation staff and is specially created to present
information, inspiration, and education on different Catholic Traditions it is not *Imprimi Potest, Nihil Obstat,*
or *Imprimatur*.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception – December 8, 2011

On this day we celebrate and honor the holiness and innocence of Mary.
As Catholics we believe that Mary was at her conception free of sin. She
was free of original sin and is pure enough to be mother of Jesus. The
feast of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation.

Prayer to Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of Jesus, we honor you on this special day. You were born
to grow up to be mother of Jesus. As we remember you today, we ask that
you help us to love God with all of our hearts. You accepted God's plan for
you without hesitation and we ask that we too will be able to accept God's plan
for our lives. Amen.

Blessings to you and yours this Holiday Season!








LEE'S MARTIAL ARTS (West Seattle)

KIDS SELF DEFENSE CLASS Sunday December 11th, from 2:00-4:00 PM. (Please arrive 15
min early so we can start promptly) Cost is \$30 The Kids Self Defense Workshop is designed to
inform and empower kids 6 - 11 years of age on the basics of self defense. This class will include
a highly rated film, role-playing, and physical self-defense tools.

RSVP and advanced payment is required.

www.LMAWestSeattle.com

LMAWestSeattle@aol.com

-  **Dec 9** **Report Cards**
-  **Dec 12** **Gr 3 – 6 Advent Reconciliation**
-  **Dec 14** **Gr 7 & 8 Advent Reconciliation**
-  **Dec 16** **Noon Dismissal**
-  **Dec 16** **Faith Family Card Exchange**
-  **Dec 19- Jan 1** **Christmas Vacation**
-  **Jan 5** **Epiphany Program**