



Saint Patrick School

Sponsored by the Daughters of Charity



February 22, 2017

Dear Parents:

Last Sunday, the Church reminded us our nature as bearers of God in the world:

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

1 Cor 3:16

Let us make sure we share this message with our children and young people. May they discover the greatness of God in themselves and in one another so that they may align their treatment of one another, and of every person they meet accordingly.

We hope you had a peaceful long weekend together with your children. We need you to continue encouraging your children to do their best in their work in class as well as in their homework, for we are getting ready to end the second trimester on Friday, March 3. We also hope that during this long weekend, you were able to recruit sponsors for the participation of your children in our yearly Read-A-Thon. Please, keep in mind that **this Friday, February 24, students need to turn in their list of sponsors**, and they will be receiving their Minute Recording Sheet #1 to begin their participation in the **Read-A-Thon** which will not only be a fundraising activity, but an academic activity as well.

Last week we sent a letter to all the families who have not yet filled out the necessary forms for financial aid, and who have not yet **re-register for next year**. **It is very important that you enroll your children as well as fill out the TADS financial aid application** for every family is being subsidized by the Daughters of Charity. We need to know if your children will be returning to St. Patrick School next year, for we are on beginning to consider the applications of new students.

Next week we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. We will be having our School Mass at 10:30am. Please, make sure you discuss with your children the importance of our Lenten practices: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It would be ideal for you to choose a day during the week in which the family spends an evening sharing faith, praying and enjoying each other's company. The following is a description from the US Conference of Bishops of how fasting and abstinence should be kept:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

We are including a **handout "Purple is for Lent, Too!"** with creative ideas to pray, fast and to give alms, together with a **blank "My Lenten Plan"** to fill out and post on the refrigerator or in a spot at home where everyone in the family can see it and follow it. The following link, also gives a wealth of ideas to share and consider with your entire family: <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/1339504/posts>.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus be with you and your family,
Principal: Ms. Olga Islas (oislas@dsj.org)