

ST. GABRIEL

Centered in Jesus, St. Gabriel Catholic School is committed to excellence in developing our faith, academics and service.

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS...

November

- ...4—Preschool Story Hour
- ...4—Report Cards Sent Home
- ...9—Dental Screening for students in grades k-4
- ...10—School Liturgy planned by Grade 3 at 8:15 a.m.
- ...11—PTO-sponsored Roller Skating Party from 3:30-5:30 at Fox Valley Roller Rink
- ...14—TCCES Fundraiser, Jumbo Gumbo
- ...16—PTO meeting in the school library from 6-7:00 p.m.
- ...17—School Liturgy planned by Grade 2 at 8:15 a.m.
- ...19—Seton Buddy Visit
- ...20—Reach Counseling Visit for kindergarten through Grade 5 (details to follow)
- ...24—School Liturgy planned by Grade 1 at 8:15 a.m.
- ...25—Thanksgiving Vacation begins (no school)
- ...30—School Resumes

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK... Did you know that the name for the eleventh month really means "the ninth month"? In the ancient Roman calendar, November was the ninth month because the year began in March. In Church traditions, November is the month to remember the dead and to pray for them. The month begins with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Here at St. Gabriel School, we will be remembering members of our families and friends who have passed from this life into eternal life with God daily in prayer. Candles of remembrance surround each classroom door. The Advent season begins at the end of the month also. In folklore, November had a strange name. It was called "Gossamer," which means "goose summer." That meant something like Indian Summer, which is a time of warm weather after the first frost. St. Martin's Day, the 11th day of the 11th month, was a time to feast on roast goose.

As Catholics, we believe in the Communion of Saints—which simply means that all of the faithful, both living on earth and living in the final life, are still connected. We are lucky as Catholics because we have much more than memories to lean on; we believe that all of the faithful departed are still very much a part of our lives. We can connect with them any time—not in a séance—but in a real way that provides us comfort, strength and promise of eternal life. Each time we share in the Eucharist, the whole Church is united through time and space to become one Body of Christ. We call upon "all the angels and saints," who we believe are present with us throughout

FOR YOUR INFORMATION... We have had several deaths and illnesses within families of St. Gabriel School recently. Some of our families have welcomed new arrivals. As a school community, we pray for the sick, the deceased, and new life on a daily basis. We are all one family.

REPORT CARDS ARE COMING HOME TODAY; PLEASE RETURN THE ENVELOPE AND SIGNED SLIP TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



HONOR VETERANS... Veterans Day honors all people who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces to keep the world free from tyranny and hate. This year, let us especially remember the young men and women of our country who are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and the impact of their service on their children and families. Contact the National Military Families Association or visit www.nmfa.org for ways to help support military members and their families, especially during a time of deployment.

D.A.R.E...(Drug Awareness Resistance Education) Classes have begun for the 5th graders. Officer Pete Ehler from the Winnebago Sheriff Department meets with the group every Monday morning for ten weeks. Under Officer Ehler's guidance, the students discuss topics such as peer pressure, the effect of drugs on the human body, ways to say NO, and much more. At the end of the class, each fifth grader will receive a certificate and a T-shirt. The PTO sponsors the cost of the shirts.

REMINDER TO 3rd/4th GRADE PARENTS...

The 3rd/4th grade Saturday Morning Basketball Skills Program begins this Saturday, November 7th at St. Margaret Mary School and runs from 8:30-10:00 a.m. If your child is interested in joining please return the sign-up form to school as soon as possible. Additional sign-up forms will be available Saturday morning at St. Margaret Mary.

SMC Zephyr Players - Fine Arts Department proudly presents **All Shook Up** a story from the Elvis era. Tickets can be ordered from showtix4U.com.

Wednesday, 11/4/09 7pm show (6pm Senior Reception); **Friday**, 11/6/09 7pm show; **Saturday** 11/7/09 2pm Dance Camp Performance and show; **Saturday** 11/7/09 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for Senior Citizens/Students. Each seat requires a purchased ticket as seats are assigned.

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR, A SUCCESS...We thank Wendy Schultz and Maggie Starr for co-chairing the Scholastic Book Fair held at St. Gabriel last month. Special thanks to Sue Houlihan for the creative decorations; to all of the parents who worked shifts during which the books were sold, especially JoAnn Schmitzer who filled in extra shifts during conferences; and also to the set-up and breakdown crews. Many new books were purchased with the proceeds from the fair for the school library!

TCCES Food Service Positions Available TCCES Food Service is currently accepting applications position at St. Mary Central High School to serve breakfast. This is a fun way to work in a TCCES school and earn a little extra money. Typical hours would be 6:45-10:00a.m. Please send resumes to TCCES Food Service 900 Geiger St. Neenah, WI 54956 or contact Lynn Graves at 920.967.0107

SAINTS FOR TODAY'S KIDS... *St. Isidore of Seville*, died in 636, so he never surfed the Web, had a Facebook account or downloaded tunes to his iPod. But he did compile a 30-volume encyclopedia of all of the knowledge of his time. In the 1990s, when Catholic webmasters were looking for their own saint, they heard about Isidore's encyclopedia, thought it sounded like the world's first database, and proclaimed St. Isidore the patron saint of the Internet!

It is said that in her heart, *St. Cecilia* always sang a hymn to Jesus. Over the centuries great artists have shown St. Cecilia playing a pipe organ as she sings, so she has become the patron saint of all musicians and music students.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is not just the patron of Athletes. He's the patron saint of the adrenaline rush. He loved mountain climbing and long hikes, but his favorite sport was skiing—particularly wild free-style skiing races down the Alps.

On a hot August night in 352, the Blessed Mother appeared in a dream to Pope Liberius and to a Roman senator named John, telling them to build a church dedicated to her on the Esquiline Hill in Rome. The next day the pope and the senator visited the hill and saw the exact spot where Mary wanted her church—it was outlined in the snow. The church is now St. Mary Major Basilica.

Jesus loved all of his apostles, but his closest friend was *St. John*, who was known as "the Beloved Disciple." When Jesus carried His cross, St. John was the only apostle who followed Him. As Jesus was on the cross, He entrusted His blessed mother, Mary, to St. John, and asked Mary to treat John as if he were her own child.

All you Saints of God, Pray for us.

CANDLES AROUND OUR CLASSROOM

DOORS...Traditionally, November is a month in which Catholics remember all of the people who have died and share eternal life with God in Heaven. The school community was all given paper candles on which each person wrote the names of people in their families or friends that have died. Each morning at prayer, these people are remembered in prayer.

FOOTPRINTS IN PRESCHOOL ...Recently the Preschool children studied a unit on movement. They discovered different ways in which they could move. At the end of the unit the children painted their feet and put their footprints on paper. The paper footprints were displayed on the classroom walls.