

St. Alphonsus
Patrick School

Principal's Corner

Holy Week is a special time of reflection on all that Jesus did for us. It's sometimes hard to bring those ideas to reality in our minds. We hear the story so often that it sometimes seems like a TV show or a story book. The reality is that Jesus actually went through all that suffering and death because He loves each of us.

Several years ago, the movie "The Passion of the Christ" was released to much hype and discussion. Lots of people saw the movie, discussed it and spoke of the reality of it. It caused people to see graphically the cruelty of Jesus' suffering. The movie, however, was about that suffering and fell short on what happened three days later—His Resurrection.

So as we enter into the Triduum today, we reflect on how that affects us and helps us to understand the love of Jesus, without only focusing on His terrible suffering.

Children understand Jesus, probably far better than adults because the images and stories of Jesus with children all show His understanding and love of them. Even in the days and culture of His time, Jesus allowed children near him. He laughed with them, and even let them climb all over Him. He expected them to be kids. Children naturally relate to His goodness.

Yes, they also need to know about His suffering—but in terms they can understand. Children can understand that He was condemned without cause and didn't complain. Ask your child if they have ever been accused of something they didn't do. Suggest to them that Jesus had never done anything wrong—not ever—and yet He didn't protest. They can understand that He could have escaped death, but He didn't—He loved us so much.

They can understand that they need to live their lives within His guidelines. Sometimes the concept of sin is lost in our society. Everything is justified. Kids need to know sin exists in the world and in each of us. That's why Jesus died—to overcome evil so that we could see—and BE light to the world.

REMINDERS

Friday, March 25 to Sunday, April 3:

Easter Vacation

Tuesday, April 5: Special Lunch

Please remember there is **NO BUS SERVICE** the week of April 4.



As we participate in the prayers of the Triduum let us offer prayers for world peace.

May each of us be peacemakers in our "little" worlds and let that carry over to our communities and to the larger world.



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. Colossians 3:15

On behalf of Fr. Brian, Fr. Kurt and the school staff I wish you many blessings as you celebrate the Resurrection of our loving God.



HAPPY EASTER



SHOP Corner

There will be no SHOP order for the week of March 28 because of spring break. The next SHOP order will be placed on Tuesday, April 5. Please keep in mind the convenient Manna eScript option where you can purchase gift cards online and have them emailed to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! When placing orders, including MannaPay orders, we ask that you print out a summary of your order and send it in an envelope labeled SHOP with your last name and the grade of your oldest child. Orders can be placed online at www.mannaorders.net.



Thank you,
Your SHOP Team

March 24, 2016

FSA News! It's the corner of eThursday where you can keep up with everything going on in our Family School Association.

Have a blessed Easter! Enjoy the break (and hopefully some chocolate bunnies :).

Important Dates: Plan to join us on the Thursday when we return from break:

Thursday, April 7, at 7pm: FSA monthly board meeting

Monday, April 11: Monthly dinner at Gelsosomo's Pizza

2016-2017 FSA Board Opportunities: We have board positions available for next year. Take care of your mandatory volunteer hours having a ton of fun with great parents and students! Please click on the [VolunteerSpot Button](#) on the FSA webpage to see what positions are available.

Please contact any FSA Board Member with questions or concerns.

Have a blessed week!!



8TH GRADE CIRCUS

Ms. Wenzel, our Physical Education teacher, teamed up with her 8th grade students to create a Circus performance for the youngest students in the building! Each group of 8th graders was charged with the responsibility of creating their own "circus act" complete with music and props. After some rehearsals during their gym classes, they were ready to take their show to their audience and they performed an exclusive engagement for the Kindergarten through third grade students. There were jugglers, gymnasts and even a unicycle rider! The planning, teamwork and final orchestration of this project comprise a very important skill set for our eighth graders. They had a great time staying fit while practicing their acts, and they were also happy to be bringing enjoyment and entertainment to the younger students of the school.





Welcome to **CELTICS CORNER**- Here you will find information regarding our athletics program.

Congratulations to our teams who participated in the Matt Mammosser Tournament at St. Mary Nativity.



After going undefeated all the way up to the championship game, the 8th grade CoEd Volleyball team took 2nd place. They were unable to play in the championship game because it coincided with their Confirmation. Congratulations!



Playing the entire tournament with only six players, the 7th grade CoEd volleyball team took 3rd place. Way to go!

UNIFORM DROP OFF: If you are not playing CoEd or Boys volleyball, please bring in your clean uniform, in a zip lock baggie with your name on it. A basket is available at the front office.

SAVE THE DATE:

MAY 13 – ATHLETICS AWARDS CEREMONY

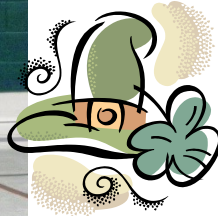
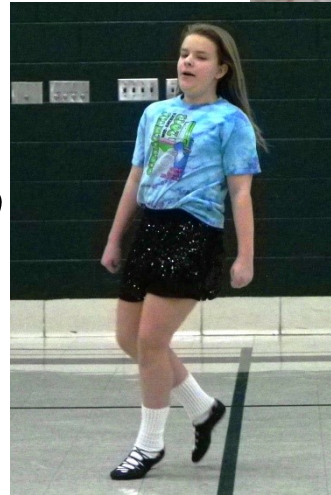
APRIL 4, 7PM: Monthly meeting in SCHOOL LIBRARY

Anyone interested in becoming an **Athletics board member** – Please join us April 4 at 7pm in the school library to answer any questions.

Openings for the 2016/2017 Athletics Board—WE HAVE ONE FILLED AND TWO MORE TO GO!!! We are looking for people who will help mould the athletic program, want to meet new families, and have fun in the process! It also meets your volunteer requirement!!!

Treasurer and Concessions Coordinators (2 person team). Positions need to be filled by April 2016 for transitional purposes. If you have any questions, please contact any board member or email your questions to athletics@stals-stpats.org.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day with Irish Dancing! Thank you, Kyle K., Eileen E., Sabrina P. and Anika P. for sharing your talent with the school community! We are so proud of you!



Coach Theo shares his expertise with our young chess players.



Mark Your Calendars—End of the Year Dates

- April 11-22: ASPIRE testing
- April 13: BSJ meeting
- April 21: Lego assembly
- April 23: St. Al's First Communion
- April 28: Field trip (K-3)
- May 6: Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea
- May 7: St. Pat's First Communion
- May 13: May Crowning
- May 13: Athletics Awards Ceremony
- May 19: Uniform measurement
- May 18-19: Grade 8 field trip

- May 20: Walk-a-thon (revamped)
- May 20: Early dismissal
- May 20: Celtic Night 2016 (grades 7 & 8)
- May 27: Final ALL school liturgy
- May 30: Memorial Day (No School)
- May 31: Special lunch
- June 1: Eighth grade banquet
- June 2: All school picnic
- June 2: Awards assembly
- June 3: Eighth grade graduation
- June 7: Kindergarten/PreK Step-up

June 8: All school liturgy followed by report card distribution and dismissal.

LENTEN PRESENTATION: STATIONS OF THE CROSS: "I Did This Just for You"



On Friday, March 18, our eighth grade students were proud to present a very special journey with Jesus as He carried his Cross to Calvary. Their dramatization of the Stations of the Cross was done with scrim and shadow and meaningful narration throughout and was a perfect preparation for entry Into Holy Week. The reflections voiced by our 8th graders gave all in attendance a chance to ponder deeply on the Scriptural accounts of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. There were constant reminders that Jesus did all of this for us. The students also put the meditations into a context that helped everyone reflect upon their own lives and how well we live up to our responsibilities as Christians. If



you did not have the opportunity to witness this very moving enactment or would like to pray through it again, you may watch the video on our website.

