

NEWS YOU COULD USE

May 5, 2016

REMINDERS

Tomorrow, Friday, May 6: 8:15 a.m. Prayer Service

Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea

Saturday, May 7: St. Patrick's First Communion

Monday, May 9: Dine out at Gelsosomos AMOUNT EARNED LAST MONTH—\$651.82—Thank you Gelsosomos!

Wednesday, May 10: 7:00 p.m. St. Al's parent Confirmation meeting

FIRST COMMUNICANTS

Please keep in your prayers our second grade students from St. Patrick's as they celebrate their First Communion on Saturday! Our second grade class will receive Communion with the school body for the first time next Friday, May 13, as we celebrate May Crowning. Please join us in this celebration.



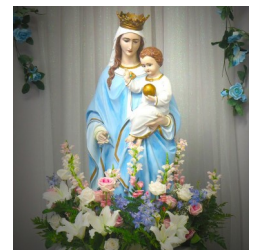
Why Do We Crown Mary? Julie was selected in her school to do the 'May Crowning' that year. It was a great privilege and the eleven-year old was excited to be dressed up for the ceremony. Her mom Joan helped with the event though she had no idea of what May Crowning meant. All that the little girl had to do was place a crown of fresh flowers on the statue of the Blessed Mother. Julie enjoyed the attention and solemnity of the celebration. At the ceremony the pastor talked about the meaning of it in a few words, which became the starting point for Joan's study of the subject. For details she had to rely on the book on devotions to Mary she had borrowed from the local library.

In the Catholic faith there are different devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are important to the believers and the Church encourages them. The Marian prayers and the liturgical feasts dedicated to Mary the Mother of God are ample proof of the universality of these devotions. The word 'May' is often considered a form of Mary though the name of the month comes from the Latin 'Maia' referring to the Roman goddess of grain. Special devotions to Mary in May date back to the time of St. Philip Neri who died in 1595. He began a custom of decorating the statue of the Blessed Mother with spring flowers in early May. Annibale Dionisi, an Italian Jesuit, proposed devotions to Mary throughout the entire month of May.

Just like many other traditions and customs, the Church incorporated the pre-Christian May celebrations and gave them a Christian dimension. The people of ancient Rome celebrated the first day of May by honoring Flora, the goddess of flowers. She was represented by a small statue wreathed in flowers. Later, a procession of singers and dancers carrying the statue developed. Soon festivals of this kind began to spread to other parts of Europe, especially England. Dances around a flower-decked May pole and choosing of a May queen were added to the festivities.

The month of May began to be celebrated in honor of Mary in the sixteenth century with similar types of festivities including floral tributes, processions and crowning of the statue. Soon it spread all over the world. In the United States May procession and May Crowning became current prior to the Second Vatican Council. The practice continues in parishes and schools where a statue of Mary is honored with a wreath of fresh blossoms to indicate the virtues of Mary. May crowning ceremonies often take place at a public parish celebration. Mary is celebrated as a queen because she was the perfect follower of Jesus Christ and the absolute 'crown' of creation.

Fr. Xavier Thelakkatt



SHOP Corner



The end of the school year is just around the corner. Now is the time to start stocking up! All credit earned from purchases made now will be accumulated towards your 2016-2017 school year fundraising goal. Beginning May 7 to May 20, the Manna Group is offering a 5% bonus offer for Shutterfly (14% total discount). The Manna Group is also offering a 2% bonus offer for Fuddruckers (10% total discount). SHOP orders are processed every Tuesday morning and are available on Thursdays each 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. This helps us with the order processing. Orders can be placed online at www.mannaorders.net and gift cards can be obtained using the Manna eScript option.



Thank you,

Your SHOP Team



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

All uniforms should be returned to the office by **May 13**, or bring it to the Awards Ceremony that night, in a zip lock baggie with your child's name on it.

Athletics Awards Ceremony - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - May 13

Please return your RSVP (in last week's eThursday) by **May 10**.

Athletes Masses at St. Al's and St. Pat's –all masses -May 14/15-(see flyer in last week's eThursday)

Girls Fall Volleyball Registration is NOW AVAILABLE through our On Line Store on the school Website. (See flyer for more info.)

POTENTIAL NEW SPORTS FOR 2016/2017

Our SSCC Conference is inquiring if our school would like to offer Floor Hockey as a Co-Ed team sport. Games would be played in the spring. We are also looking into offering Cross Country as well.

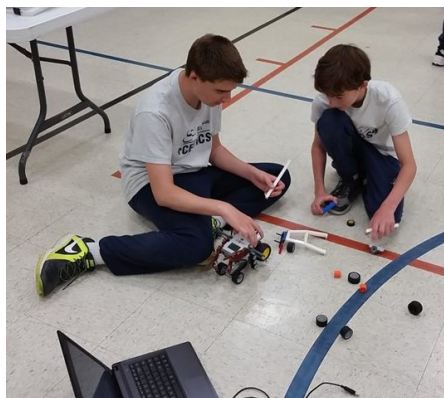
Grade level for all sports is grades 5 to 8.

For interested families please contact the Athletic Board as soon as possible.

Openings for the 2016/2017 Athletics Board - We are looking for people who will help mold the athletic program, want to meet new families, and have fun in the process! It also meets your volunteer requirement!!!

Treasurer or Secretary and Concessions Coordinators (2 person team). If you have any questions, please contact any board member or email your questions to athletics@stals-stpats.org.

Lego Engineering Assembly



Thanks to our wonderful Family School Association, the whole school enjoyed a terrific experience with Lego engineering on Thursday, April 21. Collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and perseverance were all at work during the entire assembly. Each class had a 90 minute experience. The youngest students worked with engineering stable and strong structures. Intermediate grades designed cars that used pull back motors to run. Finally, the junior high students worked with Lego Robotics to design and program robotic vehicles. The students had a great time during this active and thought provoking assembly!



**Thank you
Family School
Association**



CHECK OUT eThursday

FunDay pledge sheet

Special lunches

Volleyball registration

Chess Camp

Gym uniform

INSIDE Envelopes: Fundraising Summary

TENTATIVE DATES AS OF TODAY FOR 2016-2017

Aug. 19: Supply drop off

Aug. 22: First day of school (full day)

Oct. 7: Professional Development Day

Nov. 21: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov. 22: Professional Development Day

Dec. 23-Jan. 8: Christmas vacation

March 27-April 2: Spring vacation

April 14-17: Easter holiday