



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish

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February 24, 2016

Letter from the Principal

My readings from *Rediscover Jesus* have been thought provoking this week. One in particular should resonate with all of us: the idea of Jesus as the Master Teacher.

Matthew Kelly writes that “Jesus’ teachings were radical in content and method. But they also provide unique insight into the mind of God” [p.50]. The content was radical because it focused on conversion of heart rather than external behaviors. Jesus’ teaching was radical because his method – the parable – used stories and metaphors that ordinary people could understand.

We are challenged today to go beyond reading the stories. We are asked to ponder and meditate on the lessons Jesus shares with us. It’s clear what Jesus was doing: “He was constantly trying to get to the root of every problem, to expose and transform the root of each person’s heart” [p.51].

Have you ever really considered Jesus to be your teacher? Which of Jesus’ teachings do you find it most difficult to live?

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house upon rock.” – Matthew 7:24

Blessings,
Mrs. Rachel Gonsalves



Now Accepting Applications for the 2016-2017 School Year

Please share the good news about St. John Catholic School with your friends and family! We are accepting applications now for grades PreK-7 for the 2016-2017 school year. Applications are available in the school office, and new student testing begins the week of February 22.

Registration Packets Coming Soon!

We will be distributing registration packets in March for the 2016-2017 school year.

Note: Packets will be available to those families who are up-to-date with their tuition and fee payments. Please make sure that you are in good financial standing with the school.

If you have any questions about your status, please contact Mrs. McClintock, our school bookkeeper, M-F 8 a.m.-3p.m. at 510-276-6632.

See’s Candy School Fundraiser



It’s time to order your See’s Easter Candies for your family and friends! Profits from this all-school sale will be credited to your \$300 fundraising commitment; please note that profit margins vary by product (i.e. all Easter candy is 50% profit). Please make sure to turn in your order form and money by Thursday, March 3. Checks should be made payable to St. John Catholic School.

Service Hour Opportunity – We Need Your Help!

Do you need service hours? St. John Catholic School needs a volunteer or two to help this Sunday at the Lillian Black Arts Festival at Bishop O'Dowd. We need volunteers to take down our SJCS projects and return them to school the following day. Art projects can be removed at 4:30 p.m. from the gym facility at Bishop O'Dowd High School. If you can volunteer to help us out, please contact Mrs. Flynn at cflynn@cndo.org. This is a great project for parents who cannot volunteer during the week!

4th Grade Class Service Learning

Congratulations to Ms. Krisman's 4th grade class for their service-learning project to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The class raised more than \$350 for the cause! We congratulate the class for their efforts to benefit those in need.

Go Shamrocks!!

Congratulations CYO 6th Grade Boys

The St. John CYO 6th grade boys' team took first place in the Tournament of Champions! Our SJCS students on the team are Lance Hill, Miguel Dela Vega, Henry Pacheco, Angel Perez, Dominic Wolfe, Diego Bracamonte, and Kyle Sagun Gomez. Congratulations on a successful season!

Congratulations CYO 8th Grade Boys

The St. John CYO 8th grade boys' are participating in both the Tournament of Champions and the Oakland Diocese Playoffs this weekend! We wish all three of our 8th grade teams luck as they play in Brentwood and St. Bede this weekend. Our SJCS students on the team are Isaiah Thomas, Patrick Ramos, Jeremy Berena, Carlo Ferreira, Kainoa Lee, Isaiah Enos, Karill Alfonzo-Yumul, Kobe Herrera, and 7th grader Sammy Hadley. Congratulations on such a successful season – their last season of CYO before they graduate!

FACE and BASIC Financial Aid Applications Now Available

FACE (Family Aid - Catholic Education) and BASIC financial aid applications are now available.

BASIC is available for new students whose families meet all the application requirements.

The deadline to apply is March 11, 2016. For more information, please pick up an application in our school office or go to www.basicfund.org.

FACE applications are now available in the school office or by applying on-line at www.my.psas.org. This application requires documentation for income received in 2015. **The deadline to apply is March 16, 2016.**

NEW! Please read:

All families wishing to be considered for in-house tuition assistance through the school *must* first apply for FACE before the March 16, 2016 deadline. If you are currently receiving aid or wish to apply for the 2016-2017 school year, you must first complete a PSAS application and apply for FACE before consideration for in-house tuition assistance.

If you have any questions regarding FACE, BASIC, or in-house tuition assistance, please contact us. Deadlines established by FACE and BASIC are firm; a missed deadline will mean a missed opportunity.

Lenten Soup Night – TONIGHT

Join the St. John the Baptist Parish for Lenten Soup Night beginning at 5:30 p.m. tonight in the gym meeting room.

This is a free event sponsored by various parish ministries during the season of Lent. It is a time for us to share a simple meal together in community. All are welcome to come.

St. John Catholic School Hosts Lenten Soup Night

Please join the SJCS community as we host our annual Lenten Soup Night on Tuesday, March 9 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Our families are invited to sign up to donate food items for this event. You can find the list of needed donations and sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4ca4aa2baaf58-lenten>. Historically, the Soup Night sponsored by the school is the most attended, which means we have a wonderful reputation to uphold! See you there.

Sharing God's Mercy – 2016 Bishop's Appeal

This week marked the beginning of the annual Bishop's Appeal. The enclosed letter from The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J. explains the purpose of the Appeal, and our personal obligation to our diocese and those in need. Our parish goal is \$28,500; this first weekend, St. John raised \$6,000. If you were unable to contribute and pledge this past weekend, a Bishop's Appeal envelope is enclosed for your convenience. You can mail your contribution directly to the address given – please make sure to mark your donation from St. John the Baptist San Lorenzo so it's credited to our parish. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.oakdiocese.org/giving/bishops-appeal-2016>

Parent Club Announcement!

This week's Coffee Chat has been canceled. Please join us Friday, March 18, for a Lenten presentation from Maryknoll. Our next General Meeting will be Thursday, March 10th.

Save the date for our Spring Social: Saturday, April 16th, starting at 6pm. Get ready to don your superhero costumes!

Handbook Policy of the Week

This week we will provide a reminder about the **Family Service Hour program**

"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve"
(Mark 10:45)

Research indicates that parent volunteerism in schools enhances student self-esteem, increases academic achievement, and improves student behavior and attendance. We appreciate the priceless service that our parents and families provide.

The details of the program at St. John Catholic School will assist you and help you be informed of all aspects of volunteering at our school.

- Parent service hours for the 2015-2016 school year start on May 1, 2015 and must be completed by May 1, 2016.
- Families are required to complete twenty (20) hours.

- Service hours are valued at \$25 per hour. Parents will be assessed \$25 per hour not completed by the May 1 deadline.
- Payment for hours not completed are due by May 10.
- Collection of unpaid service hours may be collected through FACTS.
- At least two (2) of the required annual hours must be completed at the Parish Fall Festival either in time or through equivalent donations (value = \$25/hr).



Stations of the Cross, 2 p.m.

Friday, February 26 (3rd, 4th gr)
Friday, March 4 (PreK, 6th gr)
Friday, March 11 (1st, 5th gr)
Friday, March 18 (Kdg, 8th)

Lenten Soup Supper

Wednesdays: February 17, February 24, March 2, and **March 9***

Tuesday: March 15

Gym Meeting Room, 5:30 p.m.

(*St. John Catholic School sponsored event)

End of Trimester 2

Friday, February 26

Lillian Black Arts Festival

Bishop O'Dowd High School

Sunday, February 28