



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

February March 7, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of SVdP,

Thank you to all of our parents and friends of the school for treating me to my first SVdP Gala! It was a thrilling evening and a perfect culmination to the hours and hours of work that have gone into its preparation over the past eight months. So many hands have touched the gala to make it successful: sponsors, diners, donors, decorators, bidders and more. It was astounding to see what can happen when our entire community pulls together. We will post results in the next Crusader, but it looks like a very successful gala. We definitely exceeded our target on the Paddle Raiser. I look forward to sharing more with you after sitting down with the builder and architect again. Thank you!

The video which was shown at the gala was filmed by 7<sup>th</sup> grade student Stella Fenton, and edited by Stella and her father, Walker Fenton. Thank you for sharing your gifts! Enjoy the video again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTj5YxV8QQM&feature=youtu.be>

With prayers for your families,

*Sister Dominic, O.P.*

**Congratulations to our Academic Junior High Decathlon Team**, sponsored by Beth McConaty

- SVdP placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the overall team competition. This was our second year competing so last year was an introduction to how the competition operates.
- Maggie Hass placed 5<sup>th</sup> in individual Social Studies competition
- Tristan Christofferson placed 4<sup>th</sup> in individual Fine Arts
- Zach Rhilinger placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the individual Religion competition
- Natalie Burnham placed FIRST in the individual Science competition
- Additional 2017 Team members included: Ethan Karr, Grant Keelin, Jacob Nearing, Keely Dillon, Alexandra Stumpf, Ashlyn Viereck, Jonothan Judge

**March 6-8: Saint Vincent de Paul Parish Mission**

-Monday and Tuesday (March 6-7)

6:30 p.m., Rosary. 7-9:15 p.m., talks with breaks. Confession available.

-Wednesday (March 8). Healing Liturgy: Adoration and Mass.

6:30 p.m., Rosary. 7-9:45 p.m., Healing Mass followed by prayers for Baptism (Immersion) in the Holy Spirit

### **Friday Fish Fry's at St. Vincent's: Fridays in Lent**

Attending Stations of the Cross and the Fish Fry is a wonderful way to remember the Lord's love for His people and to come together as a community. Sign up below if you and your family would like to help set up, serve, cook, or clean up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F45A4AF23A5FC1-volunteers>

### **March 10: Forty Days for Life at St. Vincent's**

Please consider joining the parish community in praying for an end to abortion. Two opportunities are:

- Attend 8:00 am Mass on Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> which is offered for this intention
- Pray at the abortion clinic, Planned Parenthood, at 7155 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver 80207

### **March 15<sup>th</sup>: Tuition Assistance Application Deadline**

### **March 15<sup>th</sup> - Operation: Giving Thanks**

*Operation: Giving Thanks* is an opportunity for St. Vincent de Paul students to express their gratitude through card making. On the third Wednesday of every month after school, students are invited to the Garden Room to bring their creative energy to design and decorate cards for anyone they want to give thanks. In addition to personal notes, Operation: Giving Thanks will also be creating cards for the military and seniors living in nursing homes who would love to receive a greeting card to brighten their day. Materials will be provided. All are welcome to drop in for some or all of the time, however, if your student is in Kindergarten through the 4th grade, a chaperone is required.

Next opportunity: March 15, 2:15-3:30 in the Garden Room

\*All students younger than 5th grade must be accompanied by a chaperone.

If you have questions, please email Lara O'Shaughnessy.

### **March 16-18 Forty Hours Devotion**

Please bring your family, your child/ren, or yourself for some time of prayer and adoration at the traditional Forty Hours Devotion March 16-18. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration for 40 straight hours, including night time hours. Great blessings accompany this special time of prayer. There are sign up boards in the back of the church if you can commit to signing up, or use the following link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4af23a5fc1-40hours>

### **March 15<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of Diaper Drive**

We are low on needed diapers and supplies for the Gabriel House. Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders are delivering supplies to this important ministry in a couple of weeks through their SVdP Serves project, and they hope that you will be able to donate an item to the drive which ends on March 17<sup>th</sup>. You can drop items off in the front lobby of the school. While diapers of any size are greatly appreciated, there is a strong need specifically for sizes 4, 5, and 6, as well as baby wipes. Additionally, Gabriel House accepts donations of baby toiletries and gently used baby blankets and clothing. We are grateful for every donation, and we would like to thank you in advance for contributing to this most meaningful endeavor!

### **March 16, 2017: Irish Step Dancers Assembly at 1:10pm in the gym**

Please join us (the seniors of the parish and the school children) to enjoy an afternoon assembly of Irish Step Dancing in our school gym.

### **March 16: St. Patrick's Day Socks & Accessories**

The Student Council would like to invite the students to participate in a St. Paddy's Sock and Accessory Day on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, the vigil of St. Patrick's Day. Consider head bands, jewelry, a green bracelet and socks to celebrate the day that everyone wants to be Irish. Because it is a Mass day we will still be in uniform. Students are off school on the actual St. Patrick's Day.

### **March 23: Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue Visits SVdP**

Mark your calendars! Remember the Miracles!

*The world-famous **International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima** is coming for a **one day only** visit to St. Vincent de Paul School. The historic statue was sculpted in 1947 by Jose Thedim, based on the description of Sr. Lucia, one of the three young children who saw Our Lady each month from May to October 1917 in Fatima, Portugal. On October 13, 1947, in the presence of some 150,000 pilgrims, the statue was blessed by the Bishop of Leiria at Fatima to be the pilgrim, the traveler. Sent out to bring the Message of Fatima to the world, the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue has traveled the world many times, visiting more than 100 countries.*

During World War I, Pope Benedict XV made repeated but forlorn pleas for peace, and finally in May 1917, made a direct appeal to the Blessed Mother to intercede for peace in the world. Just over a week later, Our Lady began to appear at Fatima, Portugal to three shepherd children, Lucia dos Santos, age 10, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto (siblings), ages eight and seven. Fatima is a small village about 70 miles north of Lisbon.

So many miracles and signal graces have been reported wherever the statue has traveled that, in 1951, Pope Pius XII remarked: "In 1946, we crowned Our Lady of Fatima as *Queen of the World* and the next year, through Her Pilgrim Statue, She set forth as though to claim Her dominion, and the favors She performs along the way are such that we can hardly believe what we are seeing with our eyes."

More information can be found at [www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com](http://www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com)

Join us in the Church following all school Mass on March 23 for a presentation on the message of Fatima.

### **Yearbooks Now on Sale Orders DUE: March 24**

Order forms are coming home on Tuesday, however, you can order online at:

[ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) with our yearbook code of 4357117

Please print your confirmation for your records

### **April 6<sup>th</sup> Faith Rally Volunteers Needed**

There are about 10 sign up slots for helping cover adoration, lunch shifts, and craft project support in the classrooms. Thanks for signing up if you are available on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72BA57-faith>

### **April 8 Annual Moms' Retreat (with optional overnight on April 7<sup>th</sup>)**

Father Dubai wrote, "if you love your husband and children, the best thing you can do for them is to become a saint." Often, good moms feel guilty about leaving the family on one of those special weekend days for a day away or an overnight trip without the children, but being renewed in Christ and rediscovering the peace that God intends for us has the power to transform the home. Please consider attending the retreat with Father Doug and Lynn Grandon. Space is limited.

Location: Franciscan Retreat Center, Colorado Springs

Contact: Sister Marie Dominique on Fast Direct by March 14<sup>th</sup>

**NOTEWORTHY DATES:**

March 10 Adoration in church for MS students. Parents are always welcome.  
March 11 Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show – School Gym at 6PM  
March 11 Used Uniform Sale at School 10:00am-12:00pm  
March 16 Irish Step Dance Assembly  
March 16 Eat in Classroom Day – everyone bring sack lunch  
March 24 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (report cards come home April 7)  
March 27-31 Spring Break  
April 6 Faith Rally

**SAVE THE DATES:**

April 25<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls/Moms Night with Mrs. Lynn Grandon  
April 28<sup>th</sup> Grandparents/Special Friends Day  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Spring BBQ

*Deadline for Crusader Connection: Monday at 6:00am of the week it is to be published.*

## 3D RENDERING OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

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CHICKEN COOP • GREENHOUSE • VEGETABLE/HERB GARDEN • BUTTERFLY GARDEN • COMPOST • RAIN BARREL

# PLAN VIEW OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER



# **USED UNIFORM SALE**

**THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 11  
10:00 AM TO 12:00 AM**

**DROP OFF ANY UNIFORMS TO BE SOLD/DONATED TO  
THE FRONT OFFICE BY FRIDAY, 3/10 BY 3:00 PM**

## **Help SVdP earn extra money this year!**

*Looking for an easy way to give back to the school without any extra cost to you?*



*Use GROCERY CARDS!*

*Did you know that the school has reloadable grocery cards for Kings Soopers and Safeway?*

*You can use them to buy groceries and even gas!*

*5% of your purchase goes back to SVdP to help with day to day school operating costs.*

**Get your card at the front office TODAY!**



QUESTIONS: Any questions, email Lisa Buesing at [grocerycerts@saintvincents.org](mailto:grocerycerts@saintvincents.org)

## Catholic Schools: Communities of Respect

Catholic schools across the country have always been recognized and known for their academic excellence, character development, safety and faith formation when compared to other schools. Thus far in this parent series, we have talked about Catholic schools as communities of academic excellence and of faith. This month we take a look at the aspects of character development and school safety. In other words, Catholic schools as communities of respect.

Catholic schools emphasize scholarly achievement and responsible behavior, while at the same time, celebrate and instill the faith. Catholic schools have traditionally been successful because they understand that these are not mutually exclusive but complimentary to one another. This is why families, regardless of their faith, invest in Catholic schools. They see the value and embrace the understanding that they want more than just an academic education for their children. Families want their children to grow as individuals with a deep-rooted sense of respect for other people. They want their children to display good character when engaging with others. This is what makes a Catholic education different.

Another element that helps develop good character, and is also complimentary, is that Catholic schools emphasize a component of service to others. By offering opportunities for students to choose a volunteer service as part of their education, Catholic schools provide a rich advantage to them. Investing students in the process, by allowing them to make decisions for themselves that are grounded in the faith and make a difference in the lives of others, they are more independent and feel confident making respectful decisions about faith, life and relationships with others.

Parents who gift their children with a Catholic education are laying the foundation that will inspire and guide them through their lifetime. They know that their children will be nurtured in the Gospel message and challenged to see themselves as able to make a difference in the world. Another important value learned in a Catholic school community is that of inclusion. Helping each child understand the importance of respecting all, allows them to recognize that they are called to be responsible global citizens. This formation of recognizing the presence of

Christ in themselves and others, which is begun at home, is not only fostered but is celebrated in Catholic schools.

Not only do Catholic schools teach the value of respect for others, they also teach the importance of respect for various religions of the world. Teaching global awareness of other faiths and social justice issues encourages students to be responsible, responsive, compassionate and empathetic to the beliefs, feelings and needs of others. By teaching morality in accordance with Gospel values, all members in a Catholic school community show self-discipline and respect for everyone.

In 2015, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Kathleen A. Cepelka, Ph.D., encouraged her Catholic schools to consider what their communities can do to ensure the continued safety of their schools and that those within them are treated with nothing but respect. Reprinted with her permission, she offered them the following pledge:

**R**eceive each person who comes into our lives – student, parent, teacher, staff member, community or parish partner – as our brother or sister in Christ.

**E**ngage completely and regularly, without deliberate distraction, in face-to-face communication with those in our care.

**S**olve problems through open dialog, not silence or verbal violence.

**P**ray for those who have hurt us and for those whom we have hurt.

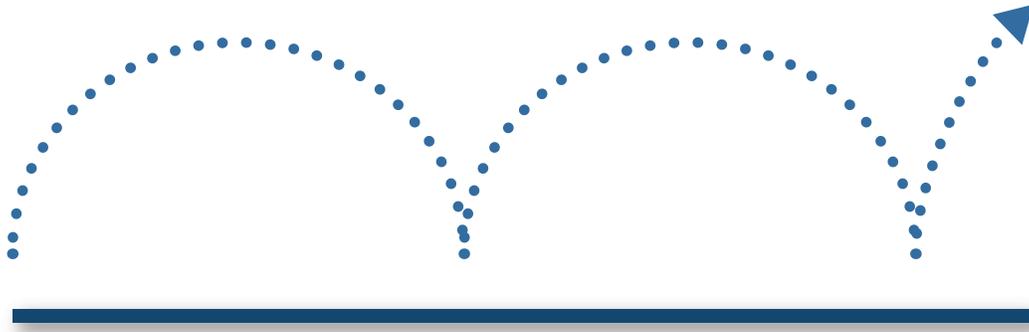
**E**xamine our hearts for prejudices, biases and judgements that drive us toward the darkness rather than the light.

**C**hoose to use words as blessings, not weapons, in a manner that heals, not harms.

**T**hink of no one as less than ourselves.

As Catholics, we believe that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and, therefore, everyone is entitled to be treated with love, dignity and respect. This is what students experience on a daily basis in Catholic schools. ✚

# Keep the two steps forward. **Lose the one step back.**



## **Summer learning loss puts students at a serious disadvantage.**

This is when skills and knowledge are lost over the summer months, causing students to move backwards instead of progressing.

By spending just **minutes a day** with *Summer Solutions*, students get the practice they need to keep moving forward. It was designed to help students return to school after summer break confident in the skills they've already learned and ready to master new ones.

**Your child worked hard all year. Make sure that progress sticks.  
Give your child the advantage of *Summer Solutions*.**

To order, go to [www.summersolutions.net](http://www.summersolutions.net)  
and enter \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.



iPad Mini Give-a-way! Order before May 16.  
Every customer who orders is automatically entered  
to win. The drawings will be on **April 17** and **May 17**.