

# St. Ann School

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# Wednesday Memo

## Lunch supervision volunteers must arrive by 11:15 AM

Total for 20 Lunches for Jan. : \$58.00

Monday, Jan. 13	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza
Supervision	Mueller, Ross
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Walking Tacos
Supervision	Wise, Balthazor
Wednesday, Jan. 15	Hot Ham and Cheese
Supervision	Waldorf, Wise
Thursday, Jan. 16	Beefy Macaroni "Goulash"
Supervision	Trautman, NEEDED
Friday, Jan. 17	Chicken Nuggets
Supervision	Milota, Martin



## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

For all boys and girls ages 10-14.

**When:** Sunday, January 12, from 11:30—2:00 PM.

**Where:** St. Ann School Gym

Winners will be eligible for Regional Competition Sponsored by the St. Ann Knights of Columbus. Any questions, please call Ron Welhoefer at (608) 516-6314.

## January Lunch Supervision Needed

We are in need of Volunteer Lunch Supervisors for the following dates in January: 16, 22, 29, 30.

If you can help, please call or email the school office.



## 3 yr. old Pre-K, Kindergarten and General Informational Meetings

We will be holding informational meetings for our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs and for General School Programs for the 2014-15 school year.

General information meetings are as follows: The Kindergarten meeting will be held on January 27, 6:30-7:30 PM in the Kindergarten Room. The grade school meeting for grades 1-8, will be held on January 28 in the library. The 3 year old Pre-Kindergarten Informational Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2014, 6:30-7:30 PM, in the Pre-Kindergarten Room. The PK3 Meeting is for those families whose children are 3 years old by September 1, 2014. These meetings are designed to acquaint new families to the programs that we offer at St. Ann School.

If you know of someone who has a Kindergarten or Pre-K child, or who is interested in finding out more about St. Ann School, please invite them to these meetings.

**Youth Bowling League registration is Friday, January 10. See the flyer sent home by email for more details.**

## Enrollment Forms for 2014-15 School Year

Please be sure to fill out the enrollment forms that were sent home today. We will need your input before determining tuition and fees for next school year.



## St. Ann School 4K Program

St. Ann School will again be one of the sites for the Stoughton Area School District's 4K Program for the 2014-15 school year. Our St. Ann School 4K Program will be held in the afternoon from 12:00-3:00 PM with special religious instruction offered from 3:00-3:20 PM each day. 4K registration for the 2014-15 school year will take place on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:00 AM—7:30 PM at Sandhill Elementary School. A special 4K Open House will be held at St. Ann School on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, from 5-7:30 PM Please call Miss Leonard in the school office for more details.



# Principal's Corner

**And a voice came from the heavens saying,**

**“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” ( Matthew 3:17)**

The Gospel of this upcoming Sunday describes the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. The event was quite different than what we are used to when infants are baptized today. Jesus came to the riverbank a fully grown man, not an infant. He stepped into the river's rush and the waters flowed about his body, unlike the infant whose head is held carefully above the font. No one brought Jesus to the place of Baptism; he came there on his own accord. No one lit a Christ candle for the occasion, for he was the Light. No one wrapped him in a white garment; he wore his sandals and traveling robe. No gentle handed priest anointed his head with oil. Instead, God the Father spoke and the Spirit came in person in the form of a peaceful dove.

Several questions are often asked regarding Jesus' Baptism. “Why was Jesus baptized? Why did Jesus answer John's call to repent when no trace of sin could be found in him?” Through the ages, people have said Jesus was baptized to show his dedication to God's call and to show solidarity with those people he came to serve. Jesus' Baptism declared his readiness to begin his ministry of love as he shared his Father's presence and power through his mission on earth. Jesus' Baptism set an example for us as he showed us that God lives in the everyday and in the ordinary places and events of our lives.

Jesus was baptized according to the custom of his time and we are baptized according to the custom of the Sacrament of Baptism, but the same voice speaks to us that spoke to Jesus on that muddy river flat, “You are my beloved children and I am well pleased.”

As we begin this new year together, let us remember our own Baptism by saying, “ Loving God, from whom all favor comes. At Baptism you called us into a wonderful life of grace. You sent your blessing upon us and made us your children. Keep us faithful to our calling and lead us in the way of truth and loving service to others. Amen.”

*~ Joan Leonard*

## Special Congratulations

The following students received special honors in the Knights of Columbus “Meaning of Christmas” Poster Contest: Grade One... Erin Blankenheim-Villarreal (1<sup>st</sup> place), Benjamin Apel (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Jackson Mueller (3<sup>rd</sup> place); Grade Two... Addie Milota (1<sup>st</sup> place), Alena Wood (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Cole Sarbacker (3<sup>rd</sup> place); Grade Three... Maggie Langenohl (1<sup>st</sup> place), Teresa Tran (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Alyssa Kuhn (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Grade Four... Maddie Grutzner (1<sup>st</sup> place), Luke Fernholz (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Tom Unitan (3<sup>rd</sup> place).

Congratulations to Maggie Langenohl (Grade Three), who also had her “Bringing Light To Christ” poster highlighted in the December 26 edition of the Catholic Herald.



## Basket Raffle Donations Needed

It's crunch time. We are very much in need of donations for the Spaghetti Dinner basket raffle. If you donate cash, we will do the shopping for you. Donations from our school families are vital to this very important fund raiser. We cannot do this without your help. Please bring your donation to the school office by Friday, January 10th so our committee can shop and put the baskets together.

Every donation brought in by our St Ann school families enters you in a drawing for a \$25 Roundy's gift card. You must have your donation in to the school office by 3 PM on Friday January 10 to be entered in the drawing. Also, don't forget to sell your raffle tickets. Additional tickets are available in the school office.

Thank you,  
The Spaghetti Dinner Committee

# It's a CLASS ACT

## My New Year's Resolution—Read Aloud More

By Mrs. Stano

Long winter nights are just that...long. I find myself depending on the TV and ipad to keep my family occupied until it is bedtime. I decided that my resolution would not be about getting healthy, (although I need to do that as well, next year, right?) but to find family friendly books that we can read aloud and enjoy. Even though I have an age gap between my kids, the benefits of reading aloud are endless no matter what their age.

Children that are exposed to reading aloud have larger, more developed vocabularies. We all *talk* with our children, but books have rich, descriptive language and complex sentence structure. This is not how we normally speak. Books take language to a new level of fancy.

Reading aloud to your child increases their attention span and listening skills.

Reading with your child is a way to advertise books. I know with my kids, if they have not seen it on TV they have no idea that it exists. However, what I have discovered with my son and the fifth graders that I teach, if I can say that I have read the book and tell a bit about it, they are hooked. They *want* to read it.

Reading aloud fosters a lifelong love of reading.

We all grapple with how to handle tough kid problems, finding a book that deals these issues might open up the lines of communication and allow for an honest discussion with your child.

Closeness - What a great way to get the family all snuggled up on the couch or in the living room. Now, your middle schooler might opt for another chair, but at least they are there, in the same room, committed to family and not the ipad or their smart phone.

As we face our next three months of winter I hope that you consider finding a good read aloud book for your children so they can start reaping the benefits of being read to.

Research taken from Jim Trelease's *Read Aloud Handbook*

## First Grade News

By Mrs. Urven

The new year has brought us some new students to First Grade! We are very excited to welcome DeJah and DeKian Baltus and Mina Estrada to our class. We are so very glad to have you join us!

It may be cold outside, but we are keeping our brains heated up! We are moving along nicely in math, studying a variety of concepts, including addition and subtraction facts, money, time, geometry, graphing, and many other things. Feel free to quiz your students on their math facts frequently, and remember to check over their homework at night! In reading and language arts we have been doing a lot with word building and sound segmentation, writing complete sentences, and practicing our fluency as we read through our stories. We have also been learning about the various story genres, discussing plot and characters, and working on story comprehension. In science we are moving into our unit on physical science, which means we will be studying matter, movement, sound, and energy. We will also be starting our FOSS kit on balance and motion in a few weeks. In social studies we are going to be studying our country and some of the important landmarks and patriotic symbols we have. I will be assigning a family project related to any landmarks or historic places in the United States that you may have visited, so be on the lookout for more information about that! In religion we are learning a lot about how to pray, about God's unconditional love for us, and about what we can do to spread His love to others. We have been talking a lot about making good decisions, treating others with respect, and about the importance of saying we are sorry when we need to, but also forgiving others when they make mistakes.

I can't believe we are already almost halfway done with our school year. The time is flying, but we are learning a lot! As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact me at the school or e-mail me at [heather.urven@stoughton.k12.wi.us](mailto:heather.urven@stoughton.k12.wi.us). Thank you!

# Thoughts from the Pew

Many of you have heard Fr. Randy's call to all St. Ann Parishioners to reach out to fallen-away Catholics or to those who are interested in the Catholic Faith. We can do this through our example as faithful Catholics who live the life that Christ called us to live. You may feel that you can share stories of what God has done for you, those "God moments" in your life. Or you may be comfortable talking about your faith to others, taking opportunities to learn more about your faith and creating opportunities to talk about God. Recently I received a quarterly newsletter from the Carmelite Monks of Wyoming. They expressed their desires to encourage the faith of fallen away Catholics in a beautiful way. And so I wish to share an excerpt of this letter with you; their thoughts in their words:

"For a monk, Christmas is a time of particular prayer for conversion. We each find that when we venture out to Christmas Mass, that our parish churches, so often quite empty for Sunday Mass or regular devotions are suddenly filled to overflowing at Christmas. The structures cannot hold any more folks as the countless families kneel in prayer for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, eager to receive in Holy Communion the same sweet Jesus whose birth we celebrate on this holy day. Have you ever marveled at the mass numbers of folks who attend Church only for this one day of the year; at no other time do we find our churches so packed. What a heartache! What an agony that so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ - baptized, confirmed, married in our holy Mother Church only enter our churches to kneel in the Divine Presence on this one day of the year! They are missing so much and they are terribly missed by the Mystical Body of Christ. This is where a monk has the power in the mystical order to change the tide to plead with the Christ Child and his Virgin Mother that the hearts of men and women throughout the world be softened. We pray for the men and women of our modern world, who sadly so often are meandering through life without Christ in the center. May the Holy Family draw the proud and mighty of this world: government, leaders, politicians, those of power and means to bend their knee with the magi in adoration of our God. These modern times are full of challenges, suffering, confusion; these problems cannot ever be adequately resolved and borne without the Lord, Whose Divine heart yearns for our love. May our prayers all the way from Wyoming bring your fallen away brothers, sisters, children, friends, parents back to the Adorable Trinity of this Christmas. May Bethlehem's crib be like a magnet that draws the hearts of men and women to turn to their God, who lies in a cattle trough that we poor sinners might approach Him. Let us pray together for the greatest Christmas miracle, which is the grace of conversion."

So if you think that you cannot make a difference in the conversion of another, remember the tremendous power of prayer. Even as the monks dedicate themselves to the conversion of others, we too may pray every day for the conversion of those who have fallen away from the Catholic Church. So I ask you, as you consider your New Year's resolutions, to add prayer for the conversion of others to your daily life.

God bless you all.

Virginia Carrano