



# VERITAS

*"In the Dominican Tradition"*

St. Pius V School, Providence

March 2, 2010

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

I am happy to return to school today after spending time with my mother during her final days, death, and funeral. This last week in Michigan gave my family the opportunity to do the necessary paperwork, write mounds of thank-you notes, and take some time for the reality of a new life to sink in. Death is always a mystery that takes time to be pondered, questioned, observed. "Jesus wept" at the tomb of His friend Lazarus (John 11:35). These two words, the shortest verse in scripture, convey a world of meaning for the reality before which all words fail. He, the Resurrection and the Life, who knew that Lazarus would rise again to eternal life, and would Himself experience death in the flesh, knew what it meant to grieve. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this past year of my mother's illness and now in the days of mourning. Your prayers and kindness are a true consolation.

As March begins, we catch a glimpse that the death in nature around us is soon to end. Despite the continuing predictions of snow, signs of spring are evident around St. Pius V School! In the front of the school, witch hazel is blossoming, and heads of crocuses and daffodils push through the thawing soil. Students enjoyed the fresh air and sunshine at recess today, while new energy seems to animate us all as we look forward to tackling spring cleaning and working in gardens. The death and rebirth cycle in nature mirrors our own life experience, and the heart of the great mystery of faith we ponder this Lent: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*

The Lenten season's practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving call us to cleanse our hearts and renew our lives. God wants to give us a new heart—freed from the weeds of selfishness, envy, sadness—so that we can live in the full freedom and joy He won for us by His death and resurrection.

Have a blessed week!

## THANK YOU...

- Pre-K would like to thank Mrs. Signore for her wonderful dental health presentation. Mrs. Signore also provided books and supplies that the children were able to take home.

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

- It is time to begin planning the annual Donnelly-Johnson Golf Tournament, which will be held June 12<sup>th</sup>. We need your help! All are welcome to come and be a part of this important fundraiser which supports St. Pius V School scholarships. If you are interested in helping, please contact Patrick Breen (861-2258). **All are invited to attend our next meeting tomorrow night, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.**

## REMINDERS & INFORMATION

- There will be no Drama practice this Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Practice will resume on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Please join us for our all-school Mass on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m., which the third grade is preparing. All are welcome!
- Tomorrow the fifth grade class will represent St. Pius V School at the annual Lenten Mass with Bishop Tobin.
- The second trimester ends this Friday. Report cards will be sent home next Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, and are due back to school on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- If you applied for financial aid through FACTS, you should have received confirmation of your application. If the application was not complete, you would also

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Saint Pius V is a Roman Catholic parish school founded in the Dominican tradition. Members of the school community work together to provide a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment. We provide challenging academic programs enhanced by cultural arts that educate the whole child. We strive to instill Christian values that will enable our students to be contributing members of society and of God's kingdom.*

have received notification. Please be prompt in submitting any missing paperwork if you wish to receive aid, since awards will be distributed soon. No families will receive financial aid from St. Pius V School for 2010-2011 if this preliminary requirement has not been met.

- As a reminder, parents are not permitted to bring fast food lunches to students during the day. Please send your child in with a lunch in the morning and avoid late morning deliveries which are very disruptive to learning.
- There is no school on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. St. Pius V School teachers will be attending a professional development symposium sponsored by the Catholic School Office of the Diocese of Providence.
- The R.I. State Circle, Daughters of Isabella is once again offering scholarships to memorialize Rev. Msgr. Thomas V. Cassidy. Two eighth grade girls entering a Catholic high school of their choice will each be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship based on scholastic merit and financial need. Any girl interested in applying is asked to request an application in writing and return it by April 1<sup>st</sup> to Mrs. Helen Maiella, Chairperson, Msgr. Thomas V. Cassidy Scholarships, 1 Robin Hood Dr., East Prov., RI 02915. Please call 433-2796 or 821-8461 if you have any questions.

## SAFETY REMINDER

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Please review the important drop-off information from our *Parent/Student Handbook*, page 11:

*“Students enter and exit the school building in lines with their classroom teacher. Class lines form in the school yard at 8:00 a.m. Parents should not stand in the line with the children. During inclement weather (rain or temperatures below 25°F), students will report directly to the school cafeteria and not gather outside.*

*St. Pius V School staff will begin outdoor supervision of students at 7:50 a.m. Students who arrive before this time must report to the Before School Program and parents will be charged the required fee.*

*School administration does not assume responsibility for supervision of students who arrive before 7:50 a.m. or remain after 2:45 p.m.”*

We have noted some confusion with these policies in recent weeks. Thank you for abiding by these policies and being prompt in any payments for Before School Care. (*Handbook, page 13: “The Before School Care Program begins at 7:00 a.m. each day of the school week and takes place in the school gym. Participating students are dismissed to the school*

*yard at 7:50 a.m. There is a flat fee for participation in any part of this hour long service.”*) The Before-School care fee is \$8 per child or \$10 for a family.

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

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- Students will take part in Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent beginning at 1:45 p.m. in St. Pius V Church. Parents are welcome to join us! In addition, Stations of the Cross will take place in the Church each Friday at 7:00 p.m. during Lent.
- Rice Bowls were sent home with students prior to February Break. This is a program of Catholic Relief Services. Since 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has inspired Christians in the United States to pray, fast, learn, and give as we increase understanding of our global community. Students are encouraged to share of their resources with those in need. Rice bowls should be turned in to the school office on Holy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Parents and students are invited to take advantage of opportunities to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Pius V Parish: Saturdays from 3-3:45 p.m., Wednesdays from 7:15-7:45 p.m. and by appointment.
- The Dominican Friars will be participating in Wednesday Adoration from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Church. At 5:00 p.m. they will pray Vespers (Evening Prayer) with those present. All are invited!

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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During the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>, teachers in grades Pre-K through eighth grade will be discussing personal safety with our children using the diocesan Safe Environment Curriculum. The curriculum is designed to teach age appropriate personal safety skills, and is taught each year. If you would like to view the specifics of the curriculum, please contact your child’s teacher(s) directly.

## THIRTY WEEK CLUB

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The 30 Week Club winner for week #24 is ticket #151, Cheryl Brennan. Michael Brennan sold the winning ticket. Congratulations, Cheryl!

## CALENDAR

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Friday, March 5 <sup>th</sup> :	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester
Wednesday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Stations of the Cross, 1:45
Friday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> :	All-school Mass, 8:30 a.m.
	Report cards sent home