



SHSF NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of Information

February 2015

On Our Lenten Journey

Each year the church sets aside 40 days as a special time we call LENT. This year's Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. This is our vacation week, so please make every effort to get your children to church to receive ashes.

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday afternoons (2/27, 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20) in our multi-purpose room beginning at 2 PM. All are welcome.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for students in Grades 3 through 8 will also take place during the Lenten season.

Lenten boxes to help support Operation Rice Bowl are being sent home for all our students to use during Lent. Please emphasize with your children the importance of sacrificing for others. These boxes will be collected during Holy Week.

It is important for us to journey together with Jesus remembering the sacrifices He made for all of us.

Mission Statement

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.



The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales 307 School Street Bennington, VT

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Tuition Assistance Forms

Tuition assistance applications for next year will be sent home the week of February 23. These are due to FACTS management by March 30th. A few key points to keep in mind:

- If you are seeking scholarship assistance, you must file these forms by the stated due date. Scholarship amounts will be announced in April and each family applying for assistance will receive a letter announcing their scholarship amount. FACTS has a toll free number if you need help filling out your application. You may also file on-line.
- Families who believe they need financial aid are encouraged to take advantage of the assistance that is being offered. Grant Aid applications assure fairness to all our families.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Estes and he will gladly answer your questions.

Winter Break

Our school will be closed for "Winter Break" the week of February 16 . Enjoy this time with your family.

Catholic Schools Week 2015

We are celebrating with other Catholic schools across the nation this week. So far, our activities have been a great success, even a snow day treat. We are certainly pleased to see so many people taking part in the festivities. Everyone seems to be having a great deal of fun celebrating the week. It is in the true spirit of Christ that we all rally together to show our faith in each other and in our school.



Wintertastic



Join us for a fun evening with your friends and colleagues and help us raise funds that will benefit the educational programs at The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales.

DATE: Saturday,
February 28, 2015

TIME: 5 PM Preview
Dinner at the GRILLE

6 PM Hors d' oeuvres
and Cash Bar

7 PM Live Auction

WHERE: The Mount
Anthony Country Club

180 Country Club
Drive -Bennington, VT

COST: \$25 Admission

\$20 Preview Dinner
(optional)

Call the Club at

802-442-2617 for
Dinner Reservations

St. Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year. There are no actual parties scheduled for this holiday, but students will have the opportunity to exchange Valentines with their classmates and have light refreshments at the end of the day on Friday, February 13. Room Parents will be contacting you to help out once plans have been made.



Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will have a Valentine's Day Dance on Friday, February 13, from 7:30 PM—9 PM in our multipurpose room. Admission is \$5 per person. Refreshments will be available and students may bring a guest. Middle school parents are welcome to send in baked goods for the dance and parent chaperones are always welcome.

Lenten Lent Reflection

*Yet even now, says the Lord,
Return to me with all your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
Rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain-offering and a drink-offering
for the Lord, your God?*

Joel 2:12-14

From the Principal's Desk

The Bible consistently speaks of honesty and integrity, which illustrates the importance of these virtues. As adults, we have seen the importance of being honest and truthful in many aspects of our lives. We also know the pitfalls and temptations that can challenge even our own practice of the value of honesty and its companion virtue, integrity.

Honesty is being truthful and sincere, which builds trusting relationships. When people are honest, they can be trusted not to lie, cheat, or steal. Integrity is adhering to moral principle, being faithful to moral conscience, keeping your word, and standing up for what we believe. Simply stated, integrity is being truthful to yourself, and honesty is telling the truth to others.

How can you help your child develop and appreciation for the practice of honesty and integrity in every aspect of his or her life?

- ◆ Work together to identify your family's values regarding honesty and integrity.
- ◆ Model honesty for your child. For example, if a clerk in a store gives you too much change, correct the situation immediately. Admit if you have fudged the truth and apologize.
- ◆ Don't overreact when your child lies to you. Children will lie if they fear your reaction. Instead give your child every opportunity to tell the truth. Ask, "Are you being honest?" and remind your child that they can always tell you the truth.
- ◆ Take every opportunity to demonstrate and show that you appreciate truth-telling in every situation. Spend time with your child reinforcing the importance of honesty.
- ◆ Be consistent in modeling your integrity for your child to observe. Be true to your word.
- ◆ Help your child develop an ability to be kind and tell the truth from a loving place.

Cultivating honesty and integrity in your child is one of the greatest and most enduring gifts you can provide. These values will not only benefit your children, but also the world around them.



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We are always seeking new students. If you know of any family who may be interested in enrolling their children, please let us know or have them give us a call. Word of mouth is a great marketing tool. Maintaining our enrollment is crucial to our existence. Please help your school community.