

The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

Bennington, Vermont

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF INFORMATION

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.



VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is Sunday February 14. Due to COVID there are no actual parties scheduled. The teachers will be sending home information about exchanging valentines and/or having a snack on Friday, February 12. We must keep with what is appropriate given all our safety protocols.



This Issue

Catholic Schools Week	P. 1
Lent Begins	P. 2
Safety Update	P. 2
Tuition Assistance	P. 2
Calendar Notes	P. 2
CSW Events	P. 3
From the Principal	P. 4

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2021 with other Catholic schools across the nation next week. Unlike past years when we could gather, we had to adapt many of the activities because of COVID 19. We have planned a number of fun things that we can do in the safest way possible. If you feel that might like to help in some

way, please feel free to reach out to the office staff. The calendar of events for the week can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. It is in the true spirit of Christ that we all rally together to show our faith in each other and in our school. Let's celebrate our wonderful school.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK DAILY THEMES

Sunday-January 31

Celebrating Our Parishes

Monday-February 1

Celebrating Our Community

Tuesday-February 2

Celebrating Our Students

Wednesday-February 3

Celebrating Our Nation

Thursday- February 4

Celebrating Our Families

Friday-February 5

Celebrating Our Faculty and Staff



CALENDAR NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

We have several dates in affecting the month calendar. They are noted below:

NOON DISMISSAL

STAFF IN-SERVICE

MONDAY,

FEBRUARY 8



LENT BEGINS ON

ASH WEDNESDAY,

FEBRUARY 17



WINTER BREAK

FEBRUARY 15—

FEBRUARY 19

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 17.

Stations of the Cross will take place virtually

The number of cases is rising at an alarming rate in Bennington County, we must continue to practice good safety habits if we want to keep everyone healthy and safe. We must remain vigilant especially now. Please remind your children about wearing masks appropriately, washing or sanitizing their hands

Tuition assistance applications will all be **done online** this year. You may begin the application process starting on March 1, 2021. Families who are currently enrolled and seeking assistance must have these done by March 31. A few key points to keep in mind:
❑ If you are seeking scholarship assistance,

LENT BEGINS SOON

this year, prayed in each classroom. Lenten boxes to help support Operation Rice Bowl are being sent home for all our students. 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.

SAFETY UPDATE

frequently, and social distancing. Our Governors' orders are in place for a reason. Please limit contact with others outside your household. If you can't, then keep your children home for a period of fourteen days or for seven days with a negative test result.

If your children are sick or are complaining about being sick follow the protocols and consult your primary care providers. We cannot over emphasize the importance of following these guidelines. Everyone's health and safety are on the line.

TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR 2021-2022

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 the amount of assistance our school is able to offer. FACTS has a toll free number if you need help filling out your application. 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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021



Sunday—January 31

Celebrating Our Parish

- **OPENING CELEBRATION**—Liturgy at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church via YOUTUBE.COM. Students will actively participate in this celebration. A link will be sent to all families.
- **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL**—A special note of thank to all our parishioners for supporting our school.

Monday—February 1

Celebrating Our Community

- **DRESS DOWN DAY FOR A CAUSE**— Students may dress down today paying a \$1 to benefit **HIS Pantry**
- **SPECIAL MOVIE VIEWING**— (1:00 PM) A special movie will be shown to help lift everyone's spirits during these difficult times.

Tuesday—February 2

Celebrating Our Students

- **PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**—(9:00 AM) Liturgy live streamed from the church.
- **BUDDY DAY**—Students will create special notes for their school buddies.

Wednesday—February 3

Celebrating Our Nation

- **RED, WHITE, AND BLUE DAY**—Students can wear red, white, and/or blue hats, socks, and scarves to exhibit pride in our country.
- **RED, WHITE, AND BLUE PRAYER CHAINS**—Students will create red, white, and blue paper chains with special prayer intentions.

Thursday—February 4

Celebrating Our Families

- **ALL SCHOOL TRIVIA**—(1:30 PM) A friendly competition among classes led by our teachers via ZOOM
- **THANK YOU PARENTS AND FAMILIES**—We will have a special gift for all of our families in car-line today.

Friday—February 5

Celebrating Our Faculty and Staff

- **DRESS DOWN DAY**— for our faculty and staff
- **MID MORNING COFFEE/TEA CART**— (9:30 AM) We want to thank our teachers and staff for going above and beyond.
- **LUNCH-ON-THE-GO**— (11:15 AM) Special delivery lunch will be ordered for the teachers and staff.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parents make a difference every day! Parents strengthen our school community by being responsible citizens, good parents, and generous volunteers. In the process, we teach our children a most valuable life lesson. Even during these difficult times this is important.

Each of us is blessed with different gifts and talents, beliefs and

backgrounds, and that is something to celebrate. For it is through the combination of these countless very different gifts that we are able to create a rich and vibrant community.

The most important thing to remember is to remain true to yourself and, wherever you are, do what you can to be of service each and every day. Whatever your

gifts, each small action or kindness has a ripple effect. If you make a difference in the life of just one person, you have made our community a better place in which to live.

There could be no more powerful gift for our children than learning from the shining example of their parents. We each

have the power to make a difference for our children and in our community every single day. Let's be sure that no matter who we are and what gifts we bring, the difference we make is a positive one.

Together, we can make our school the amazing community we want it to be. Let's begin today!

**THE SCHOOL OF
SACRED HEART
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**

**307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont**

Phone: 802-442-2446

Fax: 802-442-2344

