



“...where the love of Christ is lived and shared”

NEWS AND NOTES

REPORT CARDS are going home today.
JOIN US FOR GODSPELL THIS WEEKEND! (You DON'T want to miss it!)
Join us for **Stations of the Cross** this Friday at **1:30** in our church

April 8, 2014

Dear Parents,

God's peace!

Yesterday we began our final week of Lent. Next week we begin Holy Week. Our Christian Holy Week is the most important journey in our Church calendar. It takes us through the passion, death and resurrection of Christ who came to this earth that we might know His great love for us, and to assure us that we have been given eternal life. Knowing this, what is our response? Do we recognize in our own lives that same passion, death and resurrection? When we are challenged...when we feel despair... when we feel alone...when we feel lost... do we see in these experiences the experiences of Christ? In the midst of all these feelings and experiences do we cry out like Christ to His Father for help? And when we get beyond these troubling times, do we turn again to the Father to thank Him for the grace we have been given to live through...and even triumph over the challenges and hardships we faced?

I encourage you to take a few minutes out of your busy day to watch a video that has haunted me since I first viewed it. It opens us to the experience of Mary as she sees her son's experience of life especially during His last days... The "back story" however, is the one the composer/lyricist shares as to why he felt moved to write this piece. His story focuses on a young couple who were good friends of his. They had a child who suffered from leukemia. The writer didn't know what to do for these friends in the face of so much sorrow. As he prayed to know what he could do, he was inspired to use his gift of music to write this song. I believe it was divinely inspired, for it has inspired so many others... This piece speaks of the sorrow of watching another's suffering...especially a child's...and feeling helpless... This was Mary's experience as well... and yet she bravely walked with her Son... through her sorrow and His... until both experienced deep joy in Christ's resurrection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l09AJ9IXSE>

As Christian believers we cannot distance our experience from that of Christ's. Our experiences in life are His...for He experienced all we experience save sin. His mother, Mary, is our mother and she aches with us and rejoices with us as we go through life with all its sorrows... with all its joys.

Mission Statement

Saint Rita School is a Catholic parish elementary school that provides the opportunity for students to achieve academic excellence in a nurturing faith-filled environment. We prepare our students to be responsible Christian citizens who can make sound moral choices and think critically to meet the challenges of today's rapidly changing society and those they will face in the future.



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During this Holy Week, let us reflect on Christ's passion, death and resurrection... let us find in our own experiences of life this same cycle of death to life... and let us find HOPE in all.

May we pray for each other these holy days... may we pray for our children...

In prayer,

Sr. Maureen

PS In the name of all of us at St. Rita School, we wish you many blessings during these Holy Days, and we assure you of our prayer throughout the year.

PPS Next week I will be traveling to Haiti to join our sisters who are engaged in running a small school, and clinic. I am not quite sure what my tasks will be, but I have no doubt that in the midst of great poverty I will find great joy! I will bring you with me as I celebrate Holy Week there. I ask your prayer... and I remain grateful for your prayer and for those who have sent monetary support as well. May you be greatly blessed!



Prayer Corner

Let us remember to hold the following people and intentions in our prayer:

St. Rita Parishioners

All those who pass our school on Whitney Avenue

For all those who serve us in the Armed Forces

For peace in Syria and in the Middle East

For those who are unemployed

For those who suffer with addiction

For a little girl recovering from a bone marrow transplant

For those diagnosed with cancer

For those awaiting the results of medical tests

For Fred Kelley

For Susan F diagnosed with breast cancer

For David Larson who was diagnosed with ALS

For those recovering from surgery

For our new Archbishop Leonard Blair

For those undergoing surgery

For the good health of Joey Fagen



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For Shirley Bartozzi grandmother of Isabella DeGregorio

For those in rehab

For John diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

For a friend diagnosed with breast cancer

For Ron Lagace, the great grandfather of Lukasz and Addisyn Kozloski

For Sara who is beginning her journey as a religious sister

For Ann Westlake who is undergoing surgery

For the repose of the soul of Evelyn Leclerc, the grandmother of Magnus Turcotte

For the repose of the soul of Florence Fierlit, great grandmother of Jack and Luke Hamling, and Chole Fierlit.



School News

Home and School Association:

Working together to build community

Check the HSA link on our website at ... www.stritaschool.org for forms and other information.

GODSPELL Tickets are still available to all performances for the middle school production - GODSPELL. Come support our hard working cast and crew as they showcase their hard work and talents on stage. Order forms can be found on the website at stritaschool.org and can be sent in to school. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. If purchasing at the door please arrive early - performances begin at 7PM - (Saturday Matinee at 1PM). You can call the school at [203 248-3114](tel:2032483114). Thanks for your support!!

MIXED BAG DESIGN FUNDRAISER -Thanks for supporting this fundraiser! It looks to be a great success! Thanks to Nicole Mele for running this HSA fundraiser!

ALEX AND ANI BRACELET FUNDRAISING Thanks to Elisa Colonis for organizing this event! It was a great success and all who attended the event had a wonderful time!

ST RITA FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE is Friday April 25th 6-9pm. Dance Tickets are \$20.00 per family; please make checks payable to St. Rita H.S.A. Please remit payment to the Main Office by Tuesday April 22nd. Attn.: Marianne Engengro, Father/ Daughter Dance. No ticket needed, you will check in at the door the night of the dance. Photo Tickets are \$10.00 for a 5x7 Photo taken by Moto Photo. Payment for your photo will due the night of the dance at the time you check in at the door.

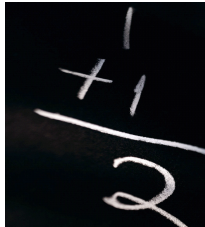


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We are looking for volunteers to help make your daughters, fathers or special guest's favorite dish, stuffed breads, appetizer or favorite finger food. Please contact Maria Mazzucco at mariakrm@sbcglobal.net and ask her how you can help us. We ask that you please deliver the food items to school gym on Friday April 25th from 3-4:30pm. Thank you for your continued support!

EASTER PIE FUNDRAISER for St. Rita School is going on now! Fill out your order form for your pies from DiSorbo's Italian Bakery. Orders are due on Friday, April 11th, and your payment is due with your order. The pies will be available for pick up on Friday, April 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at DiSorbo's Italian Bakery. See our flyer for the order form and more information.

PLANT SALE information attached!



SCHOOL EVENTS *and* OFFERINGS

ALL ST RITA FAMILIES are invited to attend the CHRISM MASS that will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 11AM at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, CT. Traditionally, if school is in session during Holy Week, our 8th grade students attend and receive the holy oils to be used in our parish for the celebration of Sacraments throughout the year. This year our school is not in session, but all are encouraged to attend. It is a wonderful celebration with priests from all over the Archdiocese and the bishops as well... concelebrating the Mass. Truly a religious experience!

WE WELCOME Mr. Stephen Cusano as our Music Teacher for this last quarter. Mr. Cusano is currently studying at HARTT school of music and excited to start sharing his love of music with our students!

FINANCIAL AID packets can be requested from our school office. They are due NO LATER THAN MAY 16, 2014. ALL REQUESTED information must be included and the form completed in its entirety. NO financial aid can be given without all requested information. Those submitting forms will not be contacted to ask for needed documentation... Thank you!

LIVING STATIONS Please join us Good Friday, April 18, 2014 at 12 noon in St. Rita Church as our school and religious ed students along with our youth group present the LIVING STATIONS of THE CROSS. This



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event will enhance our understanding of the significance of this day in our Church by walking with Jesus on his journey to Calvary...

BLUE FISH *Our One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish Bluefish Reading Program has come to an end! The students have been very busy reading wonderful stories and books and filling up their "Cat in the Hat" Hats outside their classrooms. Grades 5-8 did a fantastic job working together to present their favorite children's book to the younger classrooms. If your child has completed the reading program by finishing the 5 required books or participating with their class on their book presentations, then your child has earned*

1 FREE BRIDGEPORT BLUEFISH TICKET

Attached you will find the game information along with the ticket order form. Please fill out your free ticket along with any additional tickets you would like to purchase. Please return the order forms to your classroom by April 22nd. Thank you to all who participated! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Carissa Civitello, Librarian ccivitello.stritaschool@gmail.com



COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

ALPHA ACHIEVEMENT SUMMER PROGRAM 2014 The 2014 ALPHA Achievement Summer Program for Girls is registering children in Grades 3-8. Instruction takes place from June 25, 2014 until July 3, 2014, from 9AM-12PM at St. Thomas More Catholic Hall at Yale University, 268 Park St, New Haven. The goals of the program are to help students develop good character and leadership qualities, improve their reading, writing, math and critical thinking skills and prepare them for middle school and high school work. The summer fee is \$50.00. Please call 203 393 3396 or 203 507 7812 or send an email to dohofilena@aol.com



SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

The following offerings take place at the Caritas Christi Center 295 Benham St., Hamden, CT 06514
Phone: 203-281-2569 Fax 203-407-8965

Book Study: Catching Fire, Becoming Flame: A Guide for Spiritual Transformation

Eight Tuesdays, April 1 - May 27 (no session April 15)



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On Tuesday, April 1 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Caritas Christi Center, Hamden, Sr. Patricia Cigrand, ASCJ, will lead a book study of *Catching Fire, Becoming Flame: A Guide for Spiritual Transformation*. Author Fr. Albert Haase, OFM is a wonderful writer who uses stories and examples to draw his readers into the time-honored tools and practices for spiritual growth. The donation for this program is \$35 (includes the book). Please call 203-281-2569 to register. www.caritaschristicenter.org

Full of Grace: Gentle Yoga and Centering Prayer

Seven Wednesdays from April 2 - May 21

On Wednesday, April 2 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Caritas Christi Center, Hamden, please join our seven-week program of yoga and centering prayer. This class is lead by Ellie Quagliaroli, a certified Yoga instructor and parishioner of St. Mary’s Church in Branford, and features gentle physical and contemplative practice to develop a happy, healthy, faith-filled lifestyle. We will explore how the practice of yoga and meditative prayer in the sacred seasons can strengthen our mind, body, and spirit. Beginners welcomed. Please bring a yoga mat, water bottle, and blanket. The donation for this class is \$10 per session. Please call 203-281-2569 to register. www.caritaschristicenter.org

Bus Trip to St. Joseph Shrine, Tower Hill Botanical Gardens, and more!

On Wednesday, April 30 the Caritas Christi Center will have a day bus trip to St. Joseph the Worker Shrine in Lowell, MA. Enjoy a guided tour of the shrine and museum with an optional Mass at the shrine. Next we are on to lunch at O’Connor’s Restaurant located in Worcester, MA. After lunch, your tour continues to the Tower Hill Botanical Garden, a year-round garden paradise located on 132 beautiful acres in Boylston, MA. The bus departs Hamden at 7:00 am and returns at 8:00 pm. The cost is \$110 per person. Registration and payment due no later than March 17, 2014. For more information please call Sr. Patricia Cigrand at 203-281-2569.