



A message from the Principal

St. Michael Families,

I hope that you all had a wonderful and joyous weekend. I know for the students it was slightly longer than anticipated, but I do believe God plays a role in orchestrating our lives and gives us blessings that we haven't asked for or didn't expect. I know for myself, while the morning was chaotic and crazy and I had inner turmoil about sending the students home, that afternoon I experienced peace and tranquility as I was able to catch up on emails and graduate school work. I also took time to pray and reflect on the quarter and how it went, the direction the school is taking and where I would like for us to be in the future. I hope that while it may have been unexpected, you relished in the extra time spent with your children.

On Friday, the staff and I were at school for our workday. Together we reflected on how the quarter went and listened with an open mind and an open heart as they provided me with feedback on things they thought went really well for our school this year and things that they would like to see changed or things that could be improved. While I am pleased with how the quarter went, I am aware that there is indeed progress to be made. It would be beneficial for me to gather feedback from you, the families of St. Michael, as well. I will be sending out a link with questions, similar to the ones I asked my staff. I would appreciate any constructive feedback you can provide for me, as I want to ensure that students, staff and families are happy here at St. Michael and we continue to provide a safe learning environment for students to receive a quality religious and academic education and they continue to

Upcoming Dates

- Mass on Thursday, November 5th
- No School on Friday, November 6th
First Quarter Conferences
Please look for communication from your child's teacher for more information
- NCEA Catholic Schools Week is November 9th - 11th
- Scholastic Book Fair comes to SMCS!
November 9th - 11th
- Dress Down Day on Tuesday, November 10th
Jeans for Troops
\$5.00 to wear jeans and a red, white or blue shirt!
- Mass on Thursday, November 12th
- Wednesday, November 18th
School pictures for 1st - 8th grade
- Thursday, November 19th
School pictures for PreK & K
- Mass on Thursday, November 19th
- BINGO
Thursday, November 19th
5:30 Food
6:00 Bingo Begins!
- Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday November 25th - 27th



A message from the Principal

thrive and grow.

As part of our year of learning and growth as we move towards a transition to the Catholic Liberal Arts, the teachers and I along with Father Rossi recently read the book "The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools" by Archbishop J. Michael Miller. On Friday, we discussed this book, specifically the "Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools" which I will share with you below:

1. Inspired by a Supernatural Vision
2. Founded on a Christian Anthropology
3. Animated by Communion and Community
4. Imbued with a Catholic Worldview Throughout its Curriculum
5. Sustained by Gospel Witness

In reading this book, it helped bring to light the true purpose of Catholic schools and the vocation that each educator within a Catholic school is called to. This book is so eloquently written and the beautiful words inspired us all. I believe I speak on behalf of the entire staff when I say we all felt a renewed sense of resolution on why God has us to be where we are today. We share a dedication in educating these children and instilling them with the "love for wisdom and the passion for truth", not just academically, but in spirit and faith.

Families will be able to participate in a book study of this book, lead by one of our wonderful staff members, come early spring. We look forward to sharing what we have learned and having you join us on our journey of learning.

God Bless,

Michelle Vollman

Reminders

- Turn in lunch orders by Friday at noon
- Morning Drop off ends at 8:00AM. If you arrive on campus after 8:00, please park and bring your students in through the office. We will no longer be outside past 8:00AM
- Please try to minimize visits to the front office during the day unless it is to pick up or drop-off your child. If your child forgets their lunch, one will be provided for them. Please no lunch drop-offs during the school day



Father Rossi's Column

Dear Saint Michael School Families,

On November 1st, we celebrated the great feast of All Saints. Halloween comes from the reference to All Hallow's Eve, which refers to the night before All Saints day. This month, we should each develop or deepen our relationship with the saints. Which saint comes to your mind right now? Why not read a book or watch a film about that saint? Why not add prayers to this special saint to your daily prayers? We can turn to Blessed Carlo Acutis, a 15 year old boy from Italy who was beatified (declared holy by the Church) earlier this past October. He died in 2006 from leukemia and used his love for computers to evangelize others. We can also turn to Blessed Michael McGivney, a parish priest from New Haven, CT and founder of the Knights of Columbus who was beatified 31 October 2020. His prayerful intercession healed a baby boy from Tennessee who was given a fatal diagnosis and not expected to be born alive. All Holy Saints of God, pray for us!

In Christ, Fr. Rossi

A message from the CSO

"Hello, Families and Friends. As Catholic Schools, we use this time of the year to remember to pray for the souls of the dead and pray to the Saints in Heaven! November 1st is a wonderful holy feast day in the life of the Church. It is a time to pray to the Communion of Saints on this All Saints' Day where we honor the saints in heaven, and November 2nd is All Souls' Day when we pray for all of the Souls in Purgatory.

Attached is a special message to our Hispanic families who are celebrating a special holiday rooted in the Catholic tradition: Día de Muertos. We celebrate and honor the memory of those who have gone before us, and pray for their intercession so that we will hopefully be reunited with them one day in Heaven with Christ.

Hola familias y amigos. Como Escuelas Catòlicas, tomamos este momento en el año para recordar a las almas de nuestros difuntos y orar por los Santos en el cielo. El lero de Noviembre es un día maravilloso de fiesta santa en la vida de nuestra iglesia. Es el momento de rezarles y hacerles honor a los Santos en el cielo. El 2 de Noviembre es el día de todas las almas, y es cuando oramos por todas las almas en el purgatorio. A continuaciòn hemos incluido un video con un saludo para las familias Hispanas que celebran este especial "Dìa de los Muertos" y que tiene sus raices en nuestra tradiciòn Catòlica. Celebramos y hacemos honor a la memoria de quienes ya partieron, y oramos por su intercesiòn para que podamos estar reunidos con ellos un día en el cielo y al lado de Dios.

<https://youtu.be/RMK8q431Be4>

NCEA Catholic Schools Week

This year, we are continuing to promote a second week for Catholic schools to leverage their good news in a national initiative: Discover Catholic Schools Week. This year, Discover Catholic Schools Week will be held November 8-14, 2020, and is designated to help schools connect with prospective families, donors, educators and other community members. We want to help showcase what makes Catholic schools the best when families are looking to find the right school for them. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service. Here at St. Michael, we are having several special events to help showcase our wonderful school and celebrate the our faith, the excellence and service that is happening here! On Monday at 10:00am we are having a dedication of bricks bought by donors in the 2019-2020 school year. We will have a small Veteran's day celebration on Wednesday. On Thursday, come celebrate Mass with the school and have coffee with the principal in a discussion on "Why Choose Catholic Schools?" All week long, there will be a Book Fair in our media center that will be open to St. Michael school and church families. Please feel free to join us for one or more of these events as we celebrate this week.

Virtue of the Week: Gratitude

This past week we learned the virtue of Gratitude. Gratitude is the thankful disposition of mind and heart. The simplest way to show gratitude to someone is by saying the words "Thank You". You can also express your gratitude to someone by writing them a thank you letter or giving them a token of your appreciation. Gratitude means taking into consideration all the blessings in your life. We should be grateful for not just the positive things, but also mundane ones such as homework, cleaning your room, doing laundry, etc ... these may seem like strange things to be grateful for, but there are people in the world who can't go to school or who don't have a room to clean or clothes to wash. We should count the blessings in our lives.