



Dear Parents,

September 4, 2024

Coach Tom Landry, of football fame, defined his role as “someone who tells you what you don't want to hear, who has you see what you don't want to see, so you can be who you have always known you could be.” At times, the same could be said of Catholic school educators and parents! Perhaps I would change the last section to read, “so you can become the person who God created you to be,” but otherwise I think his description fits well.

Recently, I had the whole second lunch shift of third through sixth graders retreat from their exuberant entrance into the cafeteria and go back outside to try again. There were some groans, but the children know that lunchroom rules require them to enter silently. Within approximately four minutes from their entrance, they are free to talk with each other while enjoying their meal, but the entrance needs to be quiet. This helps them to settle down from recess and assists with accurate accounting of the lunch meals. When I had them retrace their steps, I tried to keep my voice and countenance calm. This was simply what we needed to do if the children were to grow in self-control. By the way, they did succeed beautifully on the second try, and I am pretty sure we will not need to do this very often in the future.

Parents and teachers well know that children do not always want to hear, see, or do that which is good for them. Not many children delight in going to bed on time, eating healthy meals, doing their share of household chores, or applying their minds to study. Yet we care enough to insist, knowing that such practices lead to more freedom and happiness in the long run. Though it is good to ease up occasionally, for the most part we must be consistent and firm in our expectations. Likewise, it is helpful if our manner can remain consistently calm while doing so.

This week our teachers are reflecting on and discussing these three questions below to better help our students grow in virtue and intellectual strength. Perhaps you parents might like to ponder them as well. They might make for a good conversation piece with your spouse or other parenting friends.

1. Are your boundaries, rules, and procedures consistent?
2. Are your emotions consistent when redirecting the children?
3. Do you say what you mean and mean what you say?
4. Do you ask the Lord to help you with His wisdom and strength?

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K

Eucharistic Revival: During this third year of our nation's Eucharistic revival, a portion of each newsletter will be dedicated to Eucharistic teachings and/or inspirational stories. Do you know what Catholics 1,924 years ago believed about the Eucharist? Exactly what we do now! Look at this teaching from St. Justin Martyr who lived approximately 70 years after Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

“For we do not receive these things as common bread or common drink; but as Jesus Christ our Savior being incarnate by God's Word took flesh and blood for our salvation, so also we have been taught that the food consecrated by the Word of prayer which comes from him, from which our flesh and blood are nourished by transformation, is the flesh and blood of that incarnate Jesus. (St. Justin Martyr, c. 100)

Calendar change: Please make this change on your calendars. St. James School will not be in session on Monday, March 3. We will have school, however, on Monday, March 17.

Coming Home Today: Directory, tuition reminders.

Upcoming Dates:

September 9 On Monday, September 9 and subsequent Mondays, 4th graders are welcome to stay after school and participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program directed by Mrs. Jamie Louch. Permission slips have been sent home. Please return these if your child is interested.

September 26 Picture retake day.

September 29 Book Sale in the school library 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
(Would you like to volunteer? Please call the office at 402-826-2318.)

October 2nd Book Sale in the school library 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
(Would you like to volunteer? Please call the office at 402-826-2318.)

October 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences – Sign up information will come soon.
Book Sale in the library 9:00 am – 8:00 pm.
(Would you like to volunteer? Please call the office at 402-826-2318)

October 7 The third graders presents “The Living Rosary” 1:20 pm in church. Parents are welcome.

October 15 SFA Meeting at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.

October 22 First Penance Meeting for parents of children in 2nd grade. 6:30 pm in the parish hall.

October 31 The first graders present the “All Saints Parade” 1:15 pm. Parents are welcome.
Mission Carnival follows at 1:45 in the parish hall. Parents are welcome.