

February 24, 2010

Exactly one week ago today, we began the solemn Lenten Season. On Ash Wednesday, Fr. Ptak delivered a beautiful homily to our students, teaching them about inner conversion and how the great sorrow of Lent gives way to the glorious joy of Easter. How lucky we are that we can profess our faith as a school community. At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School, God is the focal point of our instruction. He is the basis of our existence and through Him all things are possible. During this Holy Season of Lent, the faculty and staff are dedicated to teaching our children in very real ways about the three disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting/sacrifice, giving alms.

Each Lenten Friday, the entire student body will attend Stations of the Cross at 2:15 p.m. All parents are welcome to join us for this traditional Lenten Prayer.

Immediately following Stations of the Cross, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel sponsors Lenten Fish Fries in the school auditorium. Volunteering some time to help with this endeavor is a wonderful way of sacrificing some time for a wonderful cause.

Mrs. VanBoxell has established a Mission Bank in the Prayer Corner of the school in an effort to encourage alms giving. Please talk to your child(ren) about contributing their loose change to the mission bank or about sacrificing a luncheon treat and donating the extra pennies to the mission bank instead.

The parish community of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel offers extra opportunities for prayer and quiet reflection during the month of Lent, as well. Bitter Lamentation Devotions are held on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons at 7:00 and 3:00 p.m. respectively. A Lenten evening Mass is held each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. And, the annual Forty Hours Devotions is scheduled for March 14th – 16th (see enclosed calendar). I challenge you to attend an extra service or two and encourage you to take your children, as well.

And now for some other school issues:

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are driving in the coned area of the back parking lot during drop off and pick up times. PLEASE do not do that as it poses a grave safety concern for our children! Traffic should enter through the Vinewood gates and exit through the gates on Pope John Paul II Avenue. Again, please adhere to this plan for the safety of our children.

Because of some unscheduled days off during the month of February, the school owes some families lunch money. Obviously, this applies to those families that prepay lunch (K-4). Because the March lunch slips were already in process, the credit balance will be applied in April. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Lights, Camera, Auction is scheduled for April 17th. Have you donated your classroom items? The deadline for classroom donations has been extended until Friday, March 5th. Please refer to the enclosed list and send in your items ASAP. If you have any auction questions, please direct them to Lisa Domski using the PTG email: ptg@ourladyofmountcarmel.org.

Timothy Scanlon, Principal