

December 9, 2009

Time is traveling at lightening speed. But, no! You are not crazy! It has only been one week since the last brown envelope. I decided to send one home this week because the school community of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is so alive with activity that I wanted everyone to be equally informed as to what is going on and the timing of all the activities.

First, lest I forget – In the event I have to close school due to inclement weather, OLMC will be listed on Channel 4 (www.clickondetroit.com). Now, OLMC actually has three codes that have to be entered into the network's reporting system: PreSchool, Elementary School and High School. On a snowy morning, it is difficult to get through on the phone lines three times in a row. So, I want you to understand that **if you see any OLMC facility listed as closed, the entire complex is closed.** For example, the Elementary School would never be open when the High School is closed, etc. If one is closed due to weather, all are closed despite the fact that there may be a reporting lag in listing each faction.

A quick recap - Last weekend, the PTG sponsored Breakfast with St. Nicholas and the CHRISTmas Cookie Walk. What a turn out! Both events sold out! Thank you to all of the families that came to support the efforts of our dedicated PTG. Thank you to all of the volunteers (too many to list) that gave so generously of their precious time at this busy time of year to work the events. In particular, thank you to John and Judy Drongowski for 'chairing' the Cookie Walk and the Domski and Rodriguez's for taking the lead on the breakfast. When you support Catholic Schools, you support the work of God's Church here on earth. Thank you for giving so generously of your time and talent. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity! Incidentally, platters and tins are cleaned and ready for pick up in the school office. So, please stop in yourself or remind your student to pick them up.

Please keep our Junior and Senior Classes in your prayers this Thursday as they will be attending an off site retreat. We pray that they will reap many spiritual benefits from this day of reflection and prayer.

Friday, December 11th is the last day for donations to the All Saints Food Kitchen and Pantry. The list of items requested by grade is available online @ www.ourladyofmountcarmel.org under the Christian Service portion of the school home pages.

The last day to order CHRISTmas SCRIP or Spirit Shop presents is Monday, December 14th. Order forms are available in the office or online at the school web site.

The January calendar is enclosed for your convenience. The preorder form (K-4) for January lunches is also enclosed. Order forms with payment are due back into the office on Monday, December 14th. On January 4th, we jump right into full days with lunch so your cooperation in submitting these forms on time is greatly appreciated.

Reconciliation Services for Grades 3-12 will be conducted on Tuesday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m. Also on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. our elementary school students will be performing in a CHRISTmas concert. Children should report to their classrooms using the Tenth Street doors and dressed in their Sunday best at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, December 19th, our high school thespians will be performing *The Gift of the Magi* after the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. This one act play focuses on the meaning of CHRISTmas and would offer a wonderful respite from your hectic holiday planning. There is no admission charge (free will) and light refreshments will be served.

HOPE Tickets are due in by December 31st. In the event that the school office is closed, they can be turned into the Rectory during normal business hours or dropped through the Rectory mail slot after business hours. In the event you need last minute stocking stuffers, these tickets make great gifts. Call Mary @ 734.250.2158 to receive more.

Here's a wonderful CHRISTmas story: About 5 years ago, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel helped a neighborhood family that was down on their luck. The mother never forgot the kindness that was shown and vowed to give something back some day. This year, she made two beautiful CHRISTmas wreaths and asked that we coordinate a raffle for the wreaths with the proceeds going back to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She, in turn then, could continue the circle of giving. If you have did not purchase your ticket at the St. Nicholas breakfast, they are still on sale in the office. The raffle will take place this Saturday, December 12th so that the money can be turned over to St. Vincent de Paul in time for them to purchase food baskets this holiday season.

And, speaking of food baskets – Mr. Crider, the parish St. Vincent de Paul Coordinator, approached me this weekend and humbly asked for our help. With the economy so depressed, the society is getting a record breaking amount of appeals for help and assistance. I realize that you have already been so very generous with the Christnet and All Saints Food Pantries this fall. However, if we could fill up a food box or two (and I am confident that we can), it would go a long way in helping some less fortunate folks this CHRISTmas season. Here is what I propose: please consider bringing a canned good and/or nonperishable food item to your child's CHRISTmas concert on December 15th and/or the drama presentation on December 19th. Of course, I am not imposing a mandatory admission charge. However, we will gladly accept a donation at the door and pass along all items collected to the OLMC St. Vincent de Paul Society. I thank you, in advance, for your kind consideration. Please continue to pray for those that are less fortunate and lonely this holiday season.

Have a Happy and Holy CHRISTmas Season!

Timothy Scanlon
Principal