WELCOME BACK!
Happy 2017! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends and enjoyed your week break.

CONFIRMATION REMINDERS
For our Level 6 students, the first Confirmation forms that are due are the Confirmation Information form and the Confirmation Preparation fee of $35.00. Both these items are due next week, January 11, 2017. Any questions please contact Mrs. Gnida via email or at 215-295-3079.
Just another reminder since it’s that time of year our emergency closings are posted on the parish website, www.holytrinitymorrisville.org at the PREP link. If you or someone you know does not have internet access, please remind them to leave their name and phone number at the office so that in case of a closing we can give them a phone call. Those who have shared their email addresses will receive an email message. Decisions about closings are not made until 3:00 PM. Please do not call the rectory.

**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT NEXT YEAR’S KINDERGARTEN**

Although it seems early, now is when we begin to think about our classes and catechists for next year. It is important for us to know now if we will have enough students interested in our Kindergarten to have a class next year. Please email Mrs. Gnida at HTCRE@aol.com or call 215-295-3079 to let us know if you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten next year. Please let your friends who may not already have a child in PREP know about our Kindergarten. This will help us decide whether or not there will be a Kindergarten next year. Thank you!!

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION GOING HOME IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS**

In January we begin our registration for next September. Registration forms and information will be available on the PREP link of the parish website in a couple of weeks. Forms and letters will also be coming home with each child. There are two very important reasons why you should register your child(ren) as soon as possible. First, a discount is given to those who register early. Second, it is important that we know how many children will be coming to PREP next year. This is especially important with our Kindergarten level. If we do not have enough students we may not be able to have a Kindergarten level next year. Please get your registration forms in early. Decisions about Kindergarten will be made before the end of PREP in May. Once a decision is made it will not be changed.
PARENT BOARD MEETING

We will not be having a Parent Board meeting in January. Please keep any comments/suggestions that you might have regarding the Christmas Pageant and Social until our February meeting which will be Wednesday, February 1st at 6:45 PM in the faculty room downstairs. If you are interested in becoming a part of our Parent Board we would love to have you join us at our meeting on February 1st. See you then!

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for all your generous donations. Over sixty families have benefited from the food your children have brought to PREP. Keep up the good work!!

IN JANUARY OUR THEME IS THE NEW YEAR
AND WE ARE COLLECTING:

SOUPS
SALAD DRESSINGS
CANNED TUNA & CHICKEN
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
We hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas Pageant. All our students did a wonderful job! Thanks again to our Parent Board for an excellent job on our social afterward. Here are some pictures from our pageant.
SAINT OF THE WEEK

John Nepomucene Neumann

Feast Day: January 5  
Canonized: June 19, 1977  
Beatified: October 13, 1963  
Venerated: December 11, 1921

The new Bishop of Philadelphia had just about had it with the unfair treatment of Catholic students in the public school system of his city. We can hardly imagine such an occurrence today, but in the middle 1800s, school boards, administrators and teachers were mostly Protestant and forced their beliefs on all the students. Catholic children were pressured (often with whippings) to read the Protestant Bible and participate in Protestant worship services in their schools.

Bishop John Neumann worked hard to change this practice in the Diocese of Philadelphia. In some cases it took lawsuits; in others, he built schools and organized a diocesan school system in 1852. Even so, he was not a particularly popular bishop and faced discouragement when enemies burned down the convents and schools he built.

It seems that disappointment may have been a way of life for John Nepomucene Neumann, who was born in 1811 in Bohemia (part of the Austrian Empire then and today the Czech Republic). As a young man he entered the seminary and prepared to be a priest. Just before his ordination, the local bishop decided Bohemia had too many priests and no more would be ordained. John contacted other diocese throughout Europe, but they all had the same problem . . . too many priests.

There was one place in the world that needed priests. Immigrants flocked to the United States searching for a better life. Many of these immigrants were Catholic, and there were not enough priests to minister to them. The 25-year old John headed for the United States. He walked from Bohemia to France, where he boarded a ship bound for the United States. When he arrived in New York, the pockets of his worn black suit were empty except for one dollar, but Bishop John Dubois of New York was happy to see him. John was ordained in 1836 and went to minister among the German-speaking people of Buffalo, where he helped build churches and log schools.

He was the first priest in the United States to make vows with the Redemptorist Order, which he did in Baltimore in 1842. He became a U.S. citizen in 1848.

Although John studied six languages in the seminary, his English was difficult to understand. This frustrated many people and when he was appointed the fourth bishop of the sophisticated Philadelphia Diocese at the age of 41, people were unhappy. These prestigious people, in their City of Brotherly Love, were accustomed to professional and polished leaders. On top of that, by his own admission, John was not a very good administrator. He did not care for the details of
finances, personnel, and legal battles over who owned diocesan land. Things began to look up, however, when Rome sent him an assistant bishop who had been a banker.

John worked hard in several areas. First, he helped immigrants feel comfortable in their new home. He provided parishes where they could worship in their native language and he gave them food, clothing, and housekeeping items when they could not afford their own. He helped the Sisters of Notre Dame establish themselves in the United States. The Notre Dames taught in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, New York, Buffalo, and Philadelphia. Education was always dear to John’s heart. He built Catholic schools, organized Catholic school boards, and assigned Catholic teachers to these schools. During the time he was bishop, schools in his diocese grew from one to 200, and enrollment boosted from 500 Catholic school students to 9,000.

John worked hard and tirelessly. This may be in part the cause of his death on January 5, 1860, at the age of 48. He crumbled to the snow a few blocks away from his Philadelphia cathedral. Priests rushed to him with oils, but he was already dead. He is buried in a glass crypt under the main altar of St. Peter’s Church in Philadelphia.

In 1977, Pope Paul VI declared a saint, and he is the patron of immigrants and sick children.