

ST. LAURENCE
SAINTS

SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

APRIL 12, 2017

**THANK YOU TO SEVENTH GRADE
 FOR A BEAUTIFUL LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS!**



Our 7th graders beautifully presented the Living Stations of the Cross this morning! This moving display depicts the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were very impressed by the reverence and prayerfulness of our students as they shared this tradition of our faith during this Holy Week!

HAPPY EASTER!

IMPORTANT DATES

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| 4/13 | Holy Thursday Spring Conference Day In-Store Barnes and Noble BOOK FAIR . Read more HERE! |
| 4/14-4/18 | Online Barnes and Noble BOOK FAIR . Read more HERE! |
| 4/14 | Good Friday – No School |
| 4/15 | Holy Saturday |
| 4/16 | Happy Easter! He is Risen, Hallelujah |
| 4/17 | Easter Monday – No School |
| 4/19 | Jean/Spirit Day Main Campus Oratoricals |
| 4/20 | NJHS Meeting 4 th Grade Field Trip School Board Discernment Night-7:00 pm Dining Hall |
| 4/21 | Auction Preview Day All School Mass Led by 1B |
| 4/22 | School Board Discernment 8:30-3:00 p.m. |



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Parents,



We are now in the holiest part of the year and as you prepare to reflect on the events leading up to Easter Sunday, I am asking that you please dedicate some time with your child to sit down and have a serious conversation about how much was sacrificed for us. Jesus paid the price for all of us, not just some of us. Our God is so loving that no matter what we do, He will still love us and not one of us is any more important than another. I say this because the past few weeks I have been listening to some very upset parents and staff members who are truly saddened by some of the choices being made by some of our students. These are great young people, who many of us have watched grow since they were in PreK. Understandably, at this time of year, many of our children have “spring fever” are ready to move on, especially our 8th graders. Recently, though, we are hearing more and more about verbal bullying and teasing taking place. Often, this happens outside of school or involves technology and/or social media. Please see below regarding communication and our Social Media Policy. Parents look to us as educators for answers. When we talk to them, they often are unaware of what their child is doing or don't want to believe he/she is capable of treating others in this way. We cannot make a difference by ourselves, no matter what program we use, how many times we attend Mass or how much religion we teach. The students are very aware of what is right or wrong, they are just not applying it to real situations. This is where we need your help and need to be working together as a team.

This behavior is happening across all grade levels and often goes unreported at school. Please talk to your child about standing up for what is right, even if they are worried about retribution. The “bystanders” are the majority. I think of all those that could have spoken up for our Savior, yet stood back. You have chosen to give your child the gift of a Catholic education, which many can't do because of limited spots or finances. If we can't work together to help these children understand the importance of empathy or the choices they make and right vs. wrong, then we are not fulfilling our mission. This cannot be the duty of the school alone. The administrators and counselors, along with the teachers have been meeting with groups of children, classes and grade levels to address behavioral concerns. We ask that you as parents reinforce the message at home. Stand up, don't remain silent when others talk negatively about each other, adults or students. We need to model the behavior we expect our children and students to reflect. I encourage you to take some time to ask your child about who might need their help and role-play situations with the younger students. Many times students participate in bringing others down because they are afraid of getting picked on themselves or feel like the person “deserves it” for things they have done to others. That doesn't make it right! Our biggest mistake is in thinking our children are not capable of this. If you need help or guidance as to how to approach your child or deal with a situation that involves the school, please reach out to us. We are all in this together! You have a very important job to do as your child's “first teacher” and parenting is never easy. These are the formative years where we have a small window of opportunity to make a big difference. Thank you for considering this and for all the support you provide. As partners, we share the same goal of forming future saints and I truly hope that when we all come back after the break, we will be renewed and ready to do God's will.

Have a blessed Easter and remember, no school on Good Friday or Easter Monday!

Suzanne Barto



SCHOOL BOARD CONNECTS



SCHOOL BOARD DISCERNMENT

Discernment Information Night is Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall, and the actual discernment takes place in the school library on Saturday, April 22nd immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the church. Please prayerfully considering serving the school in this way as your help is invaluable to the principal and pastor!

WHAT IS SCHOOL BOARD & DISCERNMENT?

The School Board members serve as advisors to the pastor and the principal in matters pertaining to all aspects of the school. It is a three year commitment and meets once a month. A discernment process is one that allows the Holy Spirit to guide the truthful outcome needed for the success and growth of a community.

The following persons may not be considered as candidates for the School Board:

- Spouses, siblings, or children of members of the School Board;
- Employees of the School or Parish or their spouses, children, or siblings;
- PTO Officers (other than the PTO President(s), who shall be an ex-officio member of the School Board) or such Officers' spouses;
- Board members or professional educators of another school or school system.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Wells at dwells@stlaurenceschool.org.

AND THE SURVEY SAYS...

Thank you so much for the tremendous number of you that completed our yearly Annual Family Survey this year! We asked for an ambitious 90% participation this year! Last year, we were pleasantly surprised to receive close to 60%, which was a big improvement from the previous years. This year, we are now up to 75% ! Even though we didn't receive 90%, we are still so happy to have this much feedback **that we have decided to allow students to come in free dress on April 25th**. We appreciate those of you that took the time to answer the questions. This will allow us to plan for the future and determine whether school communication is effective or being utilized correctly.



WE HAVE A FEW REMAINING SPOTS REMAIN OPEN ON OUR FABULOUS PTO BOARD FOR NEXT YEAR

If you have an interest in helping our school and be a part of this great group that supports our students and staff so well, please let us know. We can use your talents in several areas and are always looking for great volunteers. The following areas have spots open at this time.

- Co-Prayer Liaison - Support our families through regular prayer meetings (children are welcome)
- Co-Fundraiser - Work on Steps for Students
- Committee Members for Teacher Appreciation and Hospitality

Meetings are held once a month on Tuesday mornings! Please email Kristin Holy at ckholy@windstream.net

LUNCH ROOM DUTY, WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Parents we are in immediate need of lunch room volunteers. It is a great way to see your child and all their friends. It is also a great needed and appreciated role. If you are interested in even doing a day a month or more please email Crystal Helcel at cfh102198@gmail.com.



FAMILY TUITION WORKSHEETS

Your family's 2017-2018 Tuition Worksheet will be sent home on Wednesday, April 19th. Please look for it and return promptly as it is specific to your family. Reminder . . . all fees are due May 1, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Marie Brown, mbrown@stlaurence.org. Thank you!

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

As part of the Trinity of parent, child and educator, we ask that if you ever have concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to go directly to the source. That is the reason we have a Communications Coordinator, whose job is to make sure our community is well-informed. Information passed on through other sources, though well-meaning at times, can create confusion. For example, the school has a well-maintained official Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, Weekly Newsletter and more. Other forms of communication that are created such as "class pages" or parent email

groups to share homework, etc. often send incorrect information based on opinion. Please check with your child's teacher or the office first if you have questions. Before creating any groups or sharing pictures and information, please refer to our [Social Media Policy](#) [HERE](#) regarding using the school's name, or spreading anything that could reflect negatively on the archdiocese, school, students, staff or other parents. Thank you!

ATTENTION! TALENT SHOW AUDITION INFORMATION!

It is that time of year to sing, play instruments, dance, juggle, joke or tumble your way into the 2017 Talent Show on Tuesday, May 30th! We love unique acts too! Auditions are open for grades 2nd - 8th grade. Once again we are using the same format for the audition process because so many of the students have busy after school schedules. Instead of holding live auditions in the gym on a certain day, each student wishing to audition will send in an audition video of no longer than 3 minutes by Tuesday, May 2nd. The audition video may be dropped off at the front office as a DVD or flash drive labeled with the student's name and marked TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS OR email Ms. Bonno at jbonno@stlaurence.org with a video or youtube link attached. A group of performance experienced judges outside of St. Laurence will then view the audition videos and acts will be chosen for the show on June 2nd. The results will be posted at end of day on Monday, May 15th. An audition form [HERE](#) must be filled out, signed by a parent and turned in may be found below or on the Music bulletin board located by the Music Room 112. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Bonno

SERVE AS A "HOST FAMILY" FOR NEW FAMILIES ENTERING SLCS!

Would you like to serve as a "Host Family" for new families entering SLCS? Our First Friends Program can use your help! Please email Nora Sessions [HERE](#), for more information or if you would like to volunteer!

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE FAIR

Thanks to all who participated in our SLCS Elementary Science Fair! A special congratulations to our 4th grade winners Kayla Rivera (1st place) and Gabbi Arenas (2nd place) and to our 5th grade winners Emily Zaccardo (1st) and Eshaan Mani (2nd). These students will be going on to participate in our Archdiocesan Science Fair on April 6th at Corpus Christi Catholic School. A special thanks to all of our judges who volunteered their time! It was a great learning experience for all!

VIRTUS TRAINING AT ST. LAURENCE

If you would like to volunteer for the school and have not received VIRTUS training, visit www.virtus.org and register for an upcoming training session. Now it the time! VIRTUS sessions are scheduled at St. Laurence soon!

-Protecting God's Children Classes being offered: May 27th from 8-11 a.m.

-Keeping the Promise Alive (Refresher): June 5th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Both classes are being held in Marian Hall at the AMC. Register now!

STAYING ON TRACK DURING THE SUMMER

We are sending home flyers in the red folders today from the Summerbook Company. This is a way for your child to stay on track and not lose valuable academic progress over the summer. There is one page a day with math/science on one side and Reading/Social Studies on the other. These workbooks are grade specific and many of our parents have found them helpful. As usual, we will honor completion with an automatic grade of A in the first quarter if your child brings in the certificate of completion! For online access, please use summerbookcompany.com.

We are also including a flyer from the University of St. Thomas regarding a Reading Skills Program Camp offered over the summer. Classes take place in Missouri City and Richmond. If you feel like your child needs the reinforcement, please contact them at 800-903-0162.

Check our website for [SUMMER READING LIST](#) and [SUMMER CAMPS!](#)



HAVE YOU BOUGHT RAFFLE TICKETS YET?

No worries! There's still time to purchase raffle tickets and be eligible for one of five fabulous prizes AND the EARLY BIRD DRAWING AND INCENTIVE DAY on Thursday, April 20.

The early bird winner will be announced Friday, April 21, and will receive a SLCS goodie bag and an AMC gift card. The child(ren) of families selling at least one raffle ticket will enjoy a Free Shoe incentive day on April 26, 2017.

Read more [HERE!](#)

READ AUCTION WEEKLY NEWSLETTER [HERE!](#)
FOLLOW SLCS AUCTION FACEBOOK PAGE [HERE!](#)



SAINTS SPORTS SCOOP

SPORTS UPDATE

TRACK

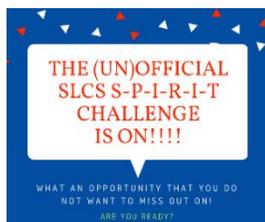
The Team did an outstanding job this weekend at the SVDP Invitational. The Girls' team finished 2nd place overall and the Boy's finished 4th in the Large School Division. We had many kids out for the meet due to illness and injury, so this was a great TEAM effort. The team set two school records in the Girls 6th 800m Relay Team (Arielle Caranto, Jaelyn Rodriguez, Melissa Coppedge, Sydney Messersmith) and the 7th Grade Girls 800m Relay Team (Marlie Armatta, Lilianna Garcia, Abby Canal, Gianna Pane.

The Saints had 5 Individual Event and 3 relay team First place finishers: Reese Vannerson (800m/1600m), Sydney Messersmith (400m), Kody Smith (800m), Ricky Zubizarreta (1600m) and the Boys 6th Grade 1600m Relay Team (Nicholas McEnaney, Ben Andrews, Ethan Tran, Reese Vannerson) and Boys 7th Grade 1600m Relay Team (Christopher DeMoor, Will Lindsey, Kody Smith, Luke Yokley) and the Girls 6th grade 800m relay team listed above. Overall, the team had many good performances. Some athletes tried new events for the first time!

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Playoffs begin Tuesday, April 18th. Please watch Facebook for time and locations of Tuesday's games.

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS



THE (UN)OFFICIAL SLCS S-P-I-R-I-T CHALLENGE IS ON!!!!
ARE YOU READY?

Complete your task and show your SLCS Spirit!
Read more [HERE!](#)

BOOSTER CLUB SPIRIT STORE! Find the Booster Club forms [HERE!](#)



PARISH NEWS

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE [HERE!](#)

MINISTRY FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

Are you a foster or adoptive parent? A new ministry to support, educate and nurture families who are called to foster or adopt is being formed at St. Laurence. If you are interested in learning more or becoming a part of the core team to lead this new ministry, please contact [Martin Nguyen](#) at 832-419-4677.

WANT TO CONTINUE LEARNING ABOUT YOUR FAITH WITH OTHER ADULTS?

Our Adult Faith Formation team has some amazing opportunities for our parents. Click [HERE](#) for the upcoming opportunities and speakers. There is truly something for everyone!



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

TIME FOR A CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK! GET YOUR TICKETS!

Celebrate Catholic education and come out to the ballpark on Sunday, April 30 @1:15pm for Catholic Family Day at the Astros. A portion of each ticket sold goes to Catholic education. Groups of 20 or more can contact Christian Liebenow [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for additional information!

BODIES IN MOTION SUMMER PROGRAM

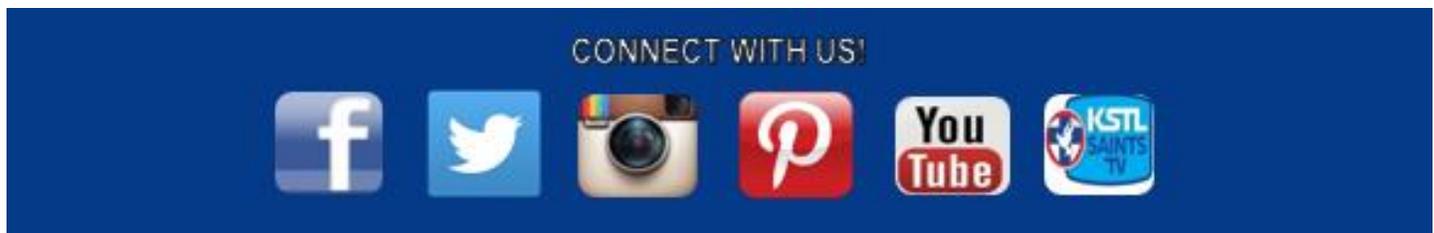
Bodies in Motion Summer Program is designed to educate students and their families on the importance of an active lifestyle and healthy eating. Read more [HERE!](#)

SUMMER VOLLEYBALL CAMPS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Join IWA this summer to experience team-building fun at Incarnate Word Academy's Falcon's Nest! We offer volleyball camps to help middle school students develop leadership skills, practice athletic fundamentals and connect with other students! Register [HERE!](#)

MISSION STATEMENT

As a pastoral instrument of the Church, St. Laurence Catholic School educates and develops the whole Christian person in body, mind, and spirit through the trinity of parent, child, and educator.



St. Laurence Catholic School | 2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX. 77479 | 281- 980- 0500

