



April Newsletter 2011

Easter Morning Glory! Alleluia!

On Sunday, April 24th, Christians around the world celebrate the joy of Easter. In the gospel of Luke when the followers of Jesus returned to the tomb that first Easter morning, "two men in dazzling garments appeared to them They said to them, " Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised." (Luke 24 4 & 5-6)

Mission accomplished! We remember the promise made by God to save his people and grant the ultimate gift of eternal life. A gift that is freely given but may not be freely

accepted.

Though it has been thousands of years since Christ walked the earth, the love and mercy He has shared has never changed. As Catholics, we are given so many gifts within our faith and it is up to everyone to say yes to the Father and accept his love and grace in our lives in good and bad times.

The gift of Easter is the ultimate sacrifice given to us in forgiveness for all our failings. It is up to us to accept it and attempt to live a holy and Christian life.

Our ancestors have lead the way for us by

choosing a Christian life for us. The rewards that may be attained is really up to us to "earn it". The rewards of eternal life and oneness with our the Father is up to us.

As we continue down the journey of our lives , we are to nurture our relationship with God through prayer. Through prayer we develop a true relationship filled with love that we in turn share with all those we meet beginning with our family, friends , coworkers and neighbors. We also share that love with our St. Luke family.

Daily are we an example of this love that God so freely gives.

Happy Easter!

Mrs. Ana E. Gomez, M.Ed.

April 6, 2011

School Council Meeting
April 18, 2011 , 6:30 p.m.

Our Mission Statement

St. Luke Catholic School is to provide a Christian environment where children can grow spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally under the guidance of a nurturing community .

Our School Motto

We show love, care, and respect for one another.

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Service in Action!

Our students are always aware of the needs of others. On April 5th our Middle School students , 5th graders & teachers participated in an awareness program, " One Day Without Shoes" sponsored by TOMS shoes.

Macarena Martinez, a seventh grader, saw the importance in remembering the less fortunate around the world who do not have access to the basic needs such as shoes. Facts about different areas around the world were shared with students. The goal of the day's activity

was to give the students an opportunity to feel what many children around the world experience every day.

Many across the nation are making other aware and beginning projects to help those in need.

Hats off to our students for taking this initiative!



Upcoming Events at St. Luke School :

4/8/11—Teacher Inservice—no classes

4/11/11—Pilgrim Queen Apostolate Begins today!

4/13/11- PTO Ballot for Officers Announced

4/14/11— PTO Officers Election

4/19/11- Montessori Prayer Service 9 a.m.

4/20/11—Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.

4/21/11- Holy Thursday Noon Dismissal Cold Weather Make-up Day

4/22/11—Good Friday No classes

4/23/11—Holy Saturday, St. Luke Choir will assist with the music at Easter Vigil 9 p.m.

4/24/11- Easter Sunday

4/25/11- Easter Monday - No Classes

4/25-4/28—National Catholic Educational Association Convention , New Orleans

4/26/11- Easter Celebration—Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by PTO 9:30 a.m. Montessori-2nd

4/29/11— Father Daughter Princess Ball—Kid's Castle , 6:30 p.m.—9 :00 p.m.



SPRING

Lenten Prayer & Service Projects

Stations of the Cross

Our middle school students will be preparing a special prayer service including a dramatization of the Stations of the Cross. This prayer service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20th in the church. Everyone is invited to join us as we remember the Passion of Jesus during Holy Week.

Pennies for Peace

Our fifth grade students are leading a service project for our school community. We are collecting pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters as part of our Pennies for Peace Campaign. This campaign was inspired by the story *Three Cups of Tea* written by Greg Mortenson. In this book, Mortenson describes his journey to Pakistan and the people he encountered there. After observing children writing with sticks in the dirt because they had no school, Mortenson made a promise to build a school in this remote, mountainous village. Today, his non-profit organization, The Central Asia Institute, has built dozens of schools in underserved areas of Pakistan and

Afghanistan. Mortenson believes that education is the best way to combat terrorism and poverty.

Our St. Luke students have rallied to support this worthwhile cause. Midway through our campaign, they have collected \$747.09

Counselor's Corner: National Autism Awareness Month *Vilma Wolfe, M.Ed.*

April is National Autism Awareness month and what an appropriate time to discuss with our children the need to respect and be tolerant of others' uniqueness. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 1 in 110 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) with boys outnumbering girls four to one. People with ASDs may have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills. Autism affects individuals in all ethnic and socioeconomic groups and in different and to varying degrees. Sadly, there is no cure.

Here are some signs to look for:

- Lack of or delay in spoken language * Repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms (e.g., hand-flapping, twirling objects)

- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Persistent fixation on parts of objects

A common myth about children with autism is that they don't desire social relationships. However, many adults with autism who have gained greater communication skills have expressed that they were interested in making friends when they were younger, but simply didn't understand how to do so and had to acquire social skills through trial and error. As we learn more about this disorder, we can continue to teach our children about the

need to be tolerant of others' differences.

If you are interested in learning about the uniqueness of people with and without autism, start by seeing the movie Temple Grandin. You will be inspired as were so many people, the movie had 7 wins and 15 nominations at the Emmy Awards in 2010.

For more information go to www.cdc.org/autism and www.autism-society.org

In continuing to learn about differences, we as a Christian people learn the power of acceptance and love that we are called to have for all people.

Double Play : St. Luke Basketball Players attack BANSA and City League

Passion is one thing for sure our kids have when they hit the court. With over 100 students participating in basketball this year, teams worked hard and worked around not having access to the gym by practicing outdoors and on other campuses. Teams played in the city league against various teams and BANSA where teams put together by our fellow private schools. By participating in two leagues students sometimes played twice a day which was a true challenge but great fun! We appreciate the parents who did all they could to make sure kids got to practice and to the games. We know that a big part of it all is the commitment to the team. We thank the following Coaches and sponsors for the commitment to the students of St. Luke:

*Coach Flores Coach Manny Coach Angelo Coach Perez
Coach Carbajal Coach Nicol Coach Rodriguez Coach Rosales
Coach Trevino Coach Duran
Coach Wood assisted by 7th Graders (Brittany, Alondra and Dorianna)*

Team Sponsors: McDonald's and Dr. A. Betancourt



St. Luke Shines in Science and Safety

Safety is always a top priority at St. Luke Catholic School. Recently, we were notified that our school earned top honors in the city of Brownsville School Fire Drill Competition. St. Luke placed first among elementary schools in Division IV. We thank all our teachers and staff members for guiding the students and instructing them on fire drill procedures. We also thank our students for a job well done!

Science Fair

Our fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students competed in our annual school Science Fair last month. We congratulate all our students and

their science teachers, Mrs. Espinosa, Mrs. Tamayo, and Mrs. Soto for their hard work and effort. We also extend special congratulations to the following students who placed in our school science fair:

Fourth Grade:

First Place: Alexandra Fierro
Second Place: Jesus Eduardo Lozano
Third Place: Mariana Coss
Honorable Mention: Alexis Alvarado

Fifth Grade:

First Place: Rene Rico
Second Place: Gaby Rodriguez
Third Place: Joanna Vasquez
Honorable Mention: Paulina Zamora

Sixth Grade:

First Place: Alexis Nino
Second Place: Luis Fernando Guerra
Third Place: Roberto Gonzalez
Honorable Mention: Jose Raul Guerra

Seventh Grade:

First Place: Emile Fierro
Second Place: Dorianna Alcalde
Third Place: Daniel Salinas
Honorable Mention: Sandra Masso

The top two students from each grade level advanced to the BANSAs Science Fair where they competed against students from other private schools. They did an exceptional job representing our school.

Earth Day Events & Environmental Awareness

The Pledge of Allegiance to the World

*I pledge allegiance to the world,
to cherish every living thing,
to care for earth and sea and
air, with peace and freedom
everywhere.*

Each morning, our students recite the pledge of allegiance to the world. During April, we celebrate Earth Month. This month long celebration offers us

an opportunity to focus on how we can protect and preserve our environment, and truly live out the pledge that we make each day.

The Student Council will be leading a recycling campaign at school. Class representatives and officers will help coordinate recycling efforts in the classroom. Students and teachers will be encouraged to recycle paper and cardboard. We will also be collecting aluminum cans. Families may send clean,

rinsed aluminum cans to school. The proceeds from the aluminum can recycling will help support the Student Council programs.

The students will also participate in some creative art activities using recycled materials. On Friday, April 29th, we will have a sidewalk chalk art event. Look for additional information about recycling programs and environmental events in the near future.

Student Council News: Father-Daughter Princess Dance

Our St. Luke Student Council continues to work hard to plan events and activities for our school community.

This month, our Student Council will be sponsoring a father-daughter dance for all St. Luke students. The dance will take place on Friday, April 29th from 6:30–9:00 p.m. at Kids' Castle on Paredes Line Road. Dads, uncles, grandfathers, godfathers, and other family members are all welcome to attend the dance with their favorite St.

Luke princess. The dance will be a royal ball. Girls may wear their Sunday best or princess attire. Dads and other special guests may dress casually. We are looking forward to a delightful evening!

The cost of tickets for the Father-Daughter Dance is \$10.00 per person. If two or more daughters attend the event, additional tickets may be purchased for \$5.00. (For example, a dad who attends with two daughters would pay \$25.00) Tickets will be on sale in the office beginning Monday, April 18.

All proceeds from this event will help purchase new, deluxe backboards for our renovated gymnasium. These backboards would be easily adjusted to meet the needs of students at various grade levels. The Student Council Executive Board has set a goal of purchasing these backboards because they would benefit the entire St. Luke student population.

Moms, don't feel left out! We hope to have a Mother-Son dance before the end of the school year.

Pilgrim Queen of the Family : "Let her into your home and she will let you into her heart"

We hear all the time, "a family that prays together stays together." There is much truth to this statement. The power of prayer is witnessed everyday and many times the only thing that helps a family get through the tough times of life. Our faith and prayer life is at the center of our lives and allows us to do what we do everyday.

If we turn on the T.V. we may question the presence of God with all that is happening around us but when we look very closely we see the presence of God and the power of his mercy and the work that is being done through the people. If we look closely we can see the face of God in the red cross volunteers in Japan, Haiti, the teacher who is helping a child during a difficult year, the witness to an accident who stops to render help, the soldier who risks his life and now lies in a hospital wounded but full of passion. It is all around us.

Many times in our busy lives (myself included) we may not find those quite moments to pray much less model and teach our children. It is our responsibility as parents to teach & (along with the school) to equip our children with the power of prayer. I speak from experience it is a powerful gift that I received from my own parents that has lifted me in tough times.

There is no right or wrong way to pray. It is quite time to engage in conversation with our Lord. There are also many traditional prayers, novenas, books and music that may aid our prayer life. Praying the Rosary is also a form of prayer and meditation that allows us to meditate on the life of Christ and offer our intentions.

As a school community, we would like to promote family prayer. The Pilgrim Queen of the Family arrived to St. Luke in the month of February. She is a network of Catholic families united by the desire to live and share the gospel and promote the devotion to our Lady of Guadalupe through the family praying the Rosary for the intentions of the church, the Pope and consecrated life.

On Thursday, March 24th, Monsignor Bert blessed 20 images of the Virgin to begin our apostolate. Beginning on Monday, April 11th she will travel via each classroom and remain in each home for three days. When visited by the Pilgrim Queen there will be simple steps that each family will follow. Instructions will be provided with the image. The following steps will be followed:

Day One: Gather as a family and welcome her into your home placing her in a special area in your home. A welcoming prayer is provided.

Day Two: Family will gather at a designated time to pray the Holy Rosary using the guidebook. May refer to pages 8 / 22-25. Prayer books are available in English and Spanish

Day Three: Family will gather and pray the parting prayer and mediation. Image will be prepared to return to school.

Each family will keep our Lady's shrine for three days. The following schedule will be used Monday-Wednesday / Wednesday-Friday. With the remaining school year the oldest and only child will receive the image. Remember that our Blessed Mother is here to listen to our needs and intercede for us to her Son.

We thank Mrs. Claudia Hernandez for helping coordinate this apostolate. We also thank the following parents who generously contributed to help purchase an image for each class: Mrs. Leticia Rodriguez, Mrs. Claudia Hernandez and Mrs. Liz Reyes.

Feel free to call the school if there are any questions. Your child's teacher will be contacting you and feel free to visit the web site www.pilgrimqueen.org for more information or to share your testimony.



Casino and Auction Night a Great Success !!

We thank all the parents and friends who attend our grand event to celebrate and support our kids at St. Luke. All proceeds are to benefit the daily program of St. Luke and special renovations projects that are under way. . With record attendance, all had great fun and merely the time to socialize with one another was great. A big hug goes out to our Casino and Auction committee who worked anxiously for various months to assist with this night. I thank all the parents who helped with collecting/giving donations, ads and advertisement, who helped set -up and clean-up. Our school made over \$63,000.00 dollars.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Alvarado for being the master of ceremonies the entire night. His time and energy are greatly appreciated. We also would like to thank once again our sponsors and the families who purchased our beautiful student auction items. I know that they have found a special place in your home. On behalf of the teachers and students, we thank you.

As many expressed, we look forward to next year for another night of celebration!

VISA Softball : Roadrunners Hit the Field

Our students are participating in a co-ed softball team. Our team competes with private schools across the valley. The team opened its season on April 1st vs. St. Paul's in McAllen with a victory of 38-2. The team continues down the road to victory with a win yesterday at home vs. St. Paul of Harlingen with a score of 7-1.

We thank our coaches , Coach Perez and Coach D. Gomez. Also we thank, Dr. Bossolo and Mr. Alvarado for coordinating the use of the Brownsville Sports Park for our home games!

Registration for 2011-2012

"We hear great things about St. Luke" is the common comment heard from new families when they come in inquire about our school. We do not doubt this because they are talking about our students. Our school community continues to work hard in providing a quality , well rounded education for all students. We continue to maintain a safe and nurturing environment for all. The positive feedback is one that is a result of the work that comes out of the parents, teachers and students. We continue to work to reach the goals of our mission.

Remember that the necessary paper work and fee is necessary to reserve your child's place in our school. The registration fee will increase at the end of this month by a conservative twenty-five dollars. All paperwork may be downloaded on our website at www.stlukecatholicsschool.com or received at the office. The registration process will continue (PK-8th) until each class closes. Space is limited so we encourage you to register early.