

FAMILY BULLETIN

Calendar

November 30: Girls Basketball vs. St. Christopher @ St. Clement of Rome, 4:00 PM

December 1: Soccer at HOME vs. St. Rita @ Cleary Playground, 4:00 PM

December 2: School Mass, 8:15 AM, Church

December 2: Girls Basketball vs. St. Mary Magdalen @ OLPH Kenner, 5:00 PM

December 4: Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:00 PM, Cafeteria

December 5: SBS Choir Christmas Concert, 6:00 PM, Lefriener Park

December 7-11: Advent Book Fair, Library

December 7: Girls Basketball vs. St. Francis @ St. Christopher, 4:00 PM

December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass, 8:15 AM, Church

December 9: Grandparent's Club Meeting, Cafeteria

December 9: Girls Basketball vs. St. Clement of Rome @ OLPH- Kenner, 4:00 PM



Generosity: December's Virtue

Each Friday at the end of the day, the student body prays the Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola. This simple prayer best sums up the meaning of December's virtue:

Lord, teach me to be generous.

To serve you as you deserve.

To give and not to count the costs.

To fight and not to heed the wounds.

To toil and not to seek for rest.

To labor and not to ask for reward.

Save that of doing your will.

Amen.

Over the course of this month, children will learn about St. Nicholas in Prek 4 - Grade 2; St. Mary Magdalene in Grades 3-5, and St. Maximilian Kolbe in Grades 6-8. Each of these saints provide us with compelling examples of generosity of heart, mind, and spirit. At home, you can do much during Advent and the Christmas season to promote generosity in your children,





Saints Junior Training Camp - New Date

The Saints Junior Training Camp has been moved to Tuesday, December 15th starting at 1:00. All students in Kindergarten through 7th grade will participate in the pep talk and giveaway session lead by the Saints Community Outreach coordinators. Look for permission forms to come home this coming Friday, November 30. **Volunteers are still needed at 12:30 to help with set up and leading the games. Please email Susan Connick (sconnick@stbenilde.com) if you can help.**

Foodie Fest Thanks!

Thank you to all who attended and volunteered at this year's Foodie Fest. Thanks to your participation, we will be overhauling the Middle School Math classroom during the second semester!

from beginning a family tradition of giving to the poor during Advent, or talking specifically about how your family's tradition builds upon our call to be generous. We also strongly encourage you to join in school and parish opportunities to give during the next three weeks.

#iGiveCatholic on December 1 & Win SBS Money!

The St. Benilde Fund is the annual fund for St. Benilde School. Proceeds benefit our children by ensuring teachers have access to top notch training and learning resources. This year, we launch the St. Benilde Fund with a twist: The #iGiveCatholic giving day is an initiative of the Catholic Foundation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans to promote charitable giving in the schools, parishes, and nonprofits of the Archdiocese. The giving day this year is on December 1, 2015. From 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM, secure, tax deductible donations will be accepted on <https://igivecatholic.org/#npo/st-benilde-school>. 100% of the donations you make for St. Benilde School will come directly to us! There is even a competition involved. The school with the highest number of new donors will receive a prize of \$5,000, with lesser amounts also given to the 2nd and 3rd place schools. So mark down on your calendars December 1 and make your gift through iGiveCatholic.org, and help us win \$5,000 more to benefit the children and teachers of St. Benilde School!

The Whitman Family Foundation Challenge

The Whitman Family Foundation - a long time family and alumni of SBS - have issued our community a challenge! They will match every gift to the St. Benilde Fund up to \$20,000. So turn your \$50 gift to a \$100 gift, and let's raise over \$40,000 for our students and teachers! And if you give this Tuesday through the #iGiveCatholic campaign, you can help us win the \$5,000 and turn the Whitman Family Foundation Challenge from a \$20,000 challenge to OVER \$45,000 IN GIVING TO ST. BENILDE SCHOOL!

The St. Vincent DePaul Society Food Drive

Each year, the St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Benilde Parish counts on our help to stock their pantries to ensure that needy families have food and goods during the Christmas Season. That is why on **December 8 during the Feast of the Immaculate**

Conception Mass at 8:15 AM we are asking children to bring with them a donation, which will be brought forward during Mass at the offertory. Children in the Loreto Center who do not ordinarily attend Mass are also encouraged to bring in their donations, which will be collected and given to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Each class is being assigned one item to donate on December 8:

New Beginnings & Taking Steps: Canned Sweet Potatoes
 Moving Along: Canned English Peas
 Stepping Up: Sugar
 Prek 3: Stuffing Mix
 Prek 4: Canned Cranberry Sauce
 Kindergarten: Canned Sliced Carrots
 First Grade: Canned Chicken Broth
 Second Grade: Toilet Tissue
 Third Grade: Paper Towels
 Fourth Grade: Boxed Cake Mix
 Fifth Grade: Boxed Cake Icing
 Sixth Grade: Rice (One Pound Bags)
 Seventh Grade: Canned Gravy

Parents and grandparents may also participate in this important food drive by bringing in any of the above items. Please do not send in baby items, as St. Vincent dePaul Society does not receive many requests for these types of items.

The 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off Trifecta

Make your plans now to join us for the Second Annual Men's Club Chili Cook-Off Trifecta on **Sunday December 20**. Teams begin cooking at 8:45 AM, with gates opening to the public starting at 12:00 PM, with the best tasting chili in the South ready by 12:30 PM. A gate charge of \$10 (children 10 and under are free) gets you unlimited tastings, great music by band *Parish Avenue*, an Old Fire Truck, and inflatables for the kids. If you would like to enter a team, please contact Dax Barret at 504-931-7489 or David Mockin at 504-352-6124, or email sbschilicookoff@outlook.com. Teams must cook chili, participate in the corn hole toss, the jalapeño eating contest, and create your favorite Louisiana-inspired dish.

The Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has called for the new Church year, which begins on Sunday November 29, to be the Year of Mercy. Building upon the Gospel message of Christ's saving love for humanity, the Year of Mercy is to be a time of penance, reconciliation, and prayer for peace. In a time of war abroad and unrest at home, it is clear that the world does indeed need the mercy of Christ.

Mercy starts at home, where it must be shared and taught to our children. And while mercy itself can seem to be rather abstract and complex, the Church gives us a very concrete way to understand, live, and

teach mercy in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Believe it or not, families practice the Works of Mercy on a daily basis.

The **Corporal Works of Mercy** come from the “Judgement of Nations” in Matthew 25:34-46, with one addition (the seventh work) from the Book of Tobit. Here is the list, with examples of how we do this in our families:

1. *To Feed the Hungry* (Parents feed their hungry children)
2. *To Give Drink to the Thirsty* (From milk to juice to water, parents make sure their children have something to drink)
3. *To Clothe the Naked* (Ever run down a hallway - clothes in hand - after a naked toddler?)
4. *To Shelter the Homeless* (From welcoming visiting family members into our homes to elderly family members moving in at the end of their lives, the family constantly shelters those who need it)
5. *To Visit the Sick* (From taking care of sick children to visiting a relative sick with cancer, visiting the sick is a staple of family life)
6. *To Visit the Imprisoned* (The post-timeout heart-to-heart between a parent and child is how we model bringing forgiveness and good council to the prisoner later in life)
7. *To Bury the Dead* (Respect for the dead is first taught at family funerals)

While the Corporal Works of Mercy are directed at relieving physical suffering, the **Spiritual Works of Mercy** are directed towards relieving the spiritual suffering we all experience in our lives.

1. *To Instruct the Ignorant* (Children lack experience and knowledge of the world, which we teach them in our home and by sending them to school)
2. *To Counsel the Doubtful* (Faith is a long road, and as parents, we are often the first people to talk to children about their own doubts about God as they grow in faith and love)
3. *To Admonish the Sinner* (Parents correct children when they break family rules)
4. *To Bear Wrongs Patiently* (Anyone who has lived with a 2 year old understands this well)
5. *To Forgive Offenses Willingly* (The hug after timeout is essential to developing a well-adjusted child)
6. *To Comfort the Afflicted* (When a parent comforts a child, they comfort the afflicted)
7. *To Pray for the Living and the Dead* (Prayer before bed and before meals presents wonderful opportunities to live this Work of Mercy)

By living the Works of Mercy in our daily lives as families, we introduce our children to proper Christian living. As our children get older, it is important to then remember as families to introduce them to the final part of Jesus’ admonition in the Judgement of Nations, “Whatsoever you did for the least of these, you did for me.” That is why taking your children to volunteer with homeless shelters and similar acts of charity is so important. Teach them in your words and actions to understand that we always have an obligation to those who are poor and vulnerable, and must show mercy, even when that mercy makes us uncomfortable and challenges our own bias and prejudice.

Welcome to the Year of Mercy. May it be fruitful for you, your family, our community, our nation, and our world.

Sincerely,

Matt Downey
Principal & Executive Director