

FAMILY BULLETIN

Calendar

December 20: SBS Family Mass & Bless the Baby Jesus, 11:00 AM, Church

December 21: Men's Club Chili Cook Off Trifecta, 12:00 PM, School Grounds

January 4: School Resumes, Start of Third Grading Period

January 6: School Mass, 8:15 AM, Church

January 7: Soccer at HOME vs. St. Philip Neri, Cleary Playground

January 8: Boys Basketball vs OLPH, 4:00 PM

January 9: High School Application Day, 8:00 AM

January 11: Soccer AWAY vs. St. Edward the Confessor, 4:00 PM

January 12: Spelling Bee, 8:15 AM, Teen Center

January 12: Boys Basketball vs. St. Mary Magdalen, 5:00 PM

January 13: Grandparent's Club Meeting, 6:30 PM, Cafeteria

January 14: Class Picture Day, School Uniform Required

For Unto Us



The Vision Statement for St. Benilde School begins, "To nurture and educate children in a family environment..." As we come to the conclusion of this season of Advent and finish preparations for the celebration of Christmas, it is fitting to remember that over two millennia ago, the Savior of the World - Jesus Christ - first came into a family. And that family - mom, dad, cousins, aunts, and uncles - nurtured and educated Him. It was His family who first showed Him how to love, to have compassion, and to show mercy. It was His family who first taught Him about God, how to pray, and to worship God in thanksgiving for the many gifts that God gives each of us. Taken together, they formed Him as a human person. And then this person - both fully divine and fully human - redeemed humanity in His ministry, passion, death, and resurrection.

So this Christmas, may your family and our school family be blessed and find inspiration in the Holy Family, who not only kept Christ safe in His most vulnerable years, but nurtured and educated Him into a man the world needed over 2,000 years ago... and still needs today.

Merry Christmas!





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Family



The Luck of the Irish Spring Gala

Plan to join us for the party of the year at the “Luck of the Irish” Spring Gala on Saturday, April 9, 2016 **in Metairie** at the Landmark Hotel (Copeland Tower). The Gala will begin at **7:30 PM**. Groups purchasing sponsorships at the Gold level or higher will also get exclusive access to the Sunset on the Lake Patron Party upstairs at the Landmark from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Order forms will be coming home after Thanksgiving, or you can order online now at www.stbenilde.com/irish-spring.

Please note... only 40 seats remain for the Sunset on the Lake Patron Party! So get you table reserved ASAP!

Bless the Baby Jesus... and Then Come Eat Chili!

Get ready for the next distinctively St. Benilde fun family event: The Men’s Club Chili Cook Off Trifecta! The Trifecta is this Sunday, December 20, 2015 in the St. Benilde School yard immediately following the 11:00 AM SBS Family Mass & Bless the Baby Jesus in the Church. So first, bring your family Christmas Creche with you to Mass. During the homily, Fr. Cooper will call all the children up front with their family creche. He will bless the creche, and then gear the homily and Mass to children.

Gates to the Trifecta open at noon after the mass is over with food tastings beginning at 12:30 PM. Here is how it works. Multiple Men’s Clubs throughout the Archdiocese, including multiple St. Benilde teams and a team led by our own faculty, will spend the morning preparing their special chili and a separate Louisiana inspired dish called “Louisiana Lagniappe.” Your \$10 admission gets you unlimited tastings (kids 10 & under are free)!

While you enjoy the food, you will be able to dance to the beats of New Orleans band, *Paris Avenue*. An old fire truck and inflatables will be around for kids. Concessions will be available for purchase if you don’t like chili (or want a hot dog to go with your favorite chili). You can also watch the jalapeño eating contest and cornhole toss tournament, which complete the Trifecta. There is even going to be a 50/50 open entry cornhole toss tournament.

Don’t miss out on the fun! Tickets can be purchased at the gate!

Thank You SBS Families!

To St. Benilde School and Principal Matt Downey,

Thank you *all* for the beautiful Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mary. A big thank you for all the food donations to our St. Benilde St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry. All of these food gifts from you and your families will help 48 families enjoy a wonderful Christmas dinner. Thank you again and Merry Christmas!

- Jane Wright, President, St. Benilde St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Director of Early Childhood Appointed

St. Benilde School is proud to announce that **Mrs. Mary Munoz** has been appointed to be our new **Director of Early Childhood** starting in April 2016. Mrs. Munoz currently works as the Assessment Coordinator/Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) Anchor for the State of Louisiana Quality Star Program through the Tulane University Medical Center. Mrs. Munoz has nearly thirty years experience in Early Childhood as a teacher, director, site manager, consultant, and assessor of early childhood programs in Louisiana. She has a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Early Childhood Education from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette and Tulane University. Before she begins her full time work as our new director, Mrs. Munoz will be working as an instructional coach for our Early Childhood Program teachers.

Early Childhood Faculty Positions Announced

On January 4, 2016, St. Benilde School will open a new classroom in our Early Childhood Programs: Prekindergarten 2. This move will allow us to expand our programs, ultimately welcoming an additional 16 children to our school this year and even more in the future. These important improvements and continued school expansion will also necessitate some changes in assignments of faculty and staff in our birth - five Early Childhood Programs. The changes are outlined as follows:

- **Mrs. Ashlie Wilson** has been named the new Prekindergarten 4 teacher for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Wilson has worked to this point as lead teacher in the Taking Steps classroom, and has been working this month with Mrs. Susan Connick to prepare for her new position. Mrs. Wilson has a Bachelor's Degree from Holy Cross College. Mrs. Wilson will also continue as the school's cheerleading coach in addition to her appointment as the lead teacher for Prekindergarten 4.
- The **Prekindergarten 3** classroom will remain the same, with Mrs. Elisa Huber the lead teacher and Mrs. Shannon Antonucci as the assistant teacher.
- Mrs. Karen Brown and Mr. Kenny Marocoli will be the teacher and assistant in the new **Prekindergarten 2** classroom, which will have 19 children in it. We currently have more than 19 children older than two in our program, so the children who are our older twos will be placed in this room, with the younger twos placed in the Stepping Up Classroom in the Loreto Center Building.
- The Stepping Up Classroom will be taught by **Mrs. Rachel Murakami** as the lead teacher. An assistant has not been appointed as of this writing, but one will be appointed shortly. Mrs. Murakami worked previously this year as an aide in the Moving Along Classroom and also subbed extensively throughout the school. The Stepping Up Classroom will consist of our younger two's with an enrollment of 17 children.
- The **Moving Along** Classroom will be led by Mrs. Joanne Bourgeois, with Mrs. Laura Guzman as the assistant. This classroom will have 16 children between 15 and 23 months.
- The Taking Steps Classroom will be led by **Mrs. Darlene Hilbun**, who will be assisted by Mrs. Sarah Hinrichs. Mrs. Hilbun has a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education from Ashford University and an Associates in Early Childhood Education from Delgado. She worked previously as a Prekindergarten 4

Assistant at St. Clement of Rome School. This classroom will start in January with nine children from eight months to thirteen months, with three other children transitioning from the nursery during the spring, bringing the enrollment to twelve.

- The **New Beginnings Classroom** will continue to be led by Mrs. Kelly Bassil with Ms. Alyssa Scott as the assistant teacher. This classroom will start January with four children, ultimately expanding to eight children.

Children who are currently in Prekindergarten 3 & 4 will continue in their current classrooms. Families of younger ages will receive a mailing from the school over the Christmas Break informing them of which classrooms their children will be placed. Questions or concerns should be directed to Principal & Executive Director - Mr. Matt Downey - at 504-833-9894 or via email at jdowney@stbenilde.com. Families may also contact Admissions Director - Mrs. Shanon Beyerback - at 504-833-9894 or via email at sbeyerback@stbenilde.com.

