

Important Dates

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NIGHT AT THE RACES
JANUARY 28

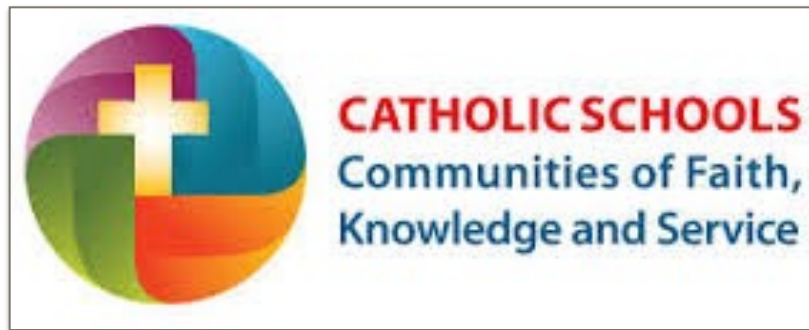


ALUMNI APPRECIATION DAY
FEBRUARY 1



CABBAGE BALL TRYOUTS
FEBRUARY 2

FAMILY BULLETIN



WHAT IS CATHOLIC EDUCATION?

A REFLECTION FROM FR. COOPER AS WE CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

With great enthusiasm and gratitude, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, January 29 – February 4, 2017. I am tremendously proud of our wonderful students and the many contributions of all those who make Catholic education possible at St. Benilde Parish: dedicated administrators, teachers, school staff, volunteers, and parents, and, in a special way, generous parishioners and benefactors. Thank you for all you do to support the ministry of Catholic education.

“Catholic education” seems like a known commodity. How can we have serious questions about it, given the array of Catholic schools in this country? Surely, the history of Catholic education has clarified the matter. Unfortunately, things are not so simple. There are three basic issues in Catholic education: What is *education*? What is *Catholic* education? And how do the “education part” and the “Catholic part” fit together? This last question is what I call the “two friends keeping each other honest” part of Catholic education.

The Second Vatican Council’s *GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATIONIS* (Declaration on Christian Education) insists that “a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate

end and of the good of the societies of which he as man is a member and in whose obligations as an adult he will share.” The same document speaks of helping young people “to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual endowments,” and it insists that because young people need moral formation, “together with a deeper knowledge and love of God,” public authority should make sure they get what they are entitled to.

The Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education defines a school as “a place of integral formation by means of a systematic and critical assimilation of culture.” *Integral* means all the pieces are there and they fit together. *Formation* means education concerns the kind of person one becomes, not just what one knows. In other words, it concerns intellectual and moral knowledge but also virtues — habits of acting for the true, the good and the beautiful. Integral formation also includes spiritual formation.

Education involves the *systematic and critical assimilation of culture*. It’s not a haphazard and uncritical endeavor. “The integral formation of the human person, which is the purpose of education, includes the development of all the human faculties of the students, together with preparation for professional life, formation of ethical and social awareness, becoming aware of the transcendental and religious education.”

In short, this Congregation speaks of *liberal education* — that is, the education of the “free man,” the person who knows his mind and exercises virtue, who participates thoughtfully and virtuously as a member of civil society, someone who seeks the true, the good and the beautiful in his own pursuit of happiness and in his contribution to that of others. Only liberal education truly develops all the human faculties, as well as prepares one for professional life, forms one ethically and socially and develops one’s awareness of the transcendental — what goes beyond this life. The Church *presupposes* all of that when she speaks of Catholic education.

The Church refers to the *common function* of Catholic education, which it shares with all genuine education, and the *proper function* of Catholic education. The *proper function* involves evangelization and discipleship training for life and mission.

As the *Declaration on Catholic Education* states:

“A Christian education ... has as its principal purpose this goal: that the baptized, while they are gradually introduced to the knowledge of the mystery of salvation, become ever more aware of

Upcoming Calendar

January 27: Jr. and Sr. Boys Basketball vs. St. Christopher, 4:00 PM

January 28: Cats Rehearsal, 9:00 AM, Cafeteria

January 28: Night at the Races, 7:00 - 10:00 PM, Cafeteria

January 29: SBS Family Mass, 11:00 AM, Church

January 29: Principal's Town Hall Meeting, Noon, Cafeteria

January 30: Catholic Identity Day

January 31: Student Appreciation Day

February 1: Alumni Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Church

February 1: Cabbage Ball Try-Outs, 3:15 PM

February 1: Cats Rehearsal, 3:30 - 4:30 PM, Teen Center

February 2: Staff Appreciation Day

February 2: Faculty/Staff Business Meeting, 3:30 PM, Teen Center

the gift of faith they have received and that they learn in addition how to worship God the Father ... especially in liturgical action and be conformed in their personal lives according to the new man created in justice and holiness of truth; ... also that they develop ... to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ ... and strive for the growth of the Mystical Body; ... that they are aware of their calling, they learn not only how to bear witness to the hope that is in them ... but also how to help in the Christian formation of the world that takes place when natural powers viewed in the full consideration of man redeemed by Christ contribute to the good of the whole society ...”

Notice the *principal purpose* of Catholic education is to *form disciples* — people who *know* Christ, *follow* Christ and make Him *known*. Not excellence in education, as important as that is; not equipping students to have successful careers, however valuable that may be. But *forming disciples*!

As pastor of St. Benilde Parish, I continue to ask myself: Is our school succeeding in this main goal? Do our students know Jesus, follow Him and share Him with others? In our zeal for academic excellence, do we obscure or minimize the evangelical purpose of our school? Can we honestly say that St. Benilde School is *principally* about forming educated disciples?

A final point is what I referred to at the beginning of this article as the “two friends keeping each other honest” aspect of Catholic education. The “education part” of Catholic education must keep the “Catholic part” honest when it comes to the formation of the whole person, including the intellectual dimension. This helps Catholic education avoid becoming a glorified Bible study or apologetics program. When that happens, the “Catholic part” of Catholic education suffers, too. Vital dimensions of the student’s life are not fully developed in light of the Gospel because they are not developed or adequately developed. The minds and wills God gave young people to exercise and grow are stunted.

But the “Catholic part” of Catholic education must keep the “education part” honest, too. Otherwise, Catholic schools may achieve academic excellence or worldly success but at the expense of forming disciples. Ironically, such education is less than full academic excellence, for it has shaped the student without regard for his ultimate end — union with God.

Catholic education must be genuine education — formation of the whole person according to high standards of intellectual, moral and physical excellence. But all of that must be ordered to the formation of genuine disciples of Jesus — people who know Him, love Him and serve Him in mission to the world. That is what makes Catholic education truly *Catholic*.

I continue to pledge my personal commitment to do everything within my power to maintain a strong Catholic Identity within our school and to ensure its long term vitality and viability. May the Blessed Virgin Mary guide us all in the privilege and joy we share in forming and shaping our youth according to the mind and heart of Jesus Christ.

Returning Family Registration Ends Feb. 3

Time is running out to secure your child’s spot for the 2017-2018 school year. Here is what you need to know.

- ❖ Registration now occurs online through a link that has been **emailed directly to families**. The online registration process will greatly reduce the amount of paperwork families need to

complete as part of Back to School Days next August. If you have not received the link, please contact the school office to ensure we have your correct email.

- ❖ Returning families have until February 3 to register their children and guarantee their spot for the 2017-2018 school year.
- ❖ New Family Registration will begin on February 4, 2017. At this point, spots are filled on a first come/first served basis. We currently have nine students on the waiting list. Please register by February 3 to guarantee your child's spot!

Catholic Schools Week Schedule

Catholic Schools Week is our annual celebration of the gift of Catholic education to our city, state, and nation! Below is a list of the various events during the week. Please plan on joining us!

Saturday January 28: Mr. Downey will speak during the 4:00 PM Mass at St. Benilde Parish. In the evening, join us for the wacky "Night at the Races" starting at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria (this event is geared for adults only).

Sunday January 29: Mr. Downey will speak during the 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 6:00 PM Mass. The 11:00 AM Mass is the monthly Family Mass, featuring our choir and students serving as lectors. Finally, Mr. Downey will host his annual Town Hall for families and parishioners in the cafeteria shortly after the 11:00 AM Mass ends.

Monday January 30: Catholic Culture and Identity Day at school! Students are encouraged to bring their rosary to school. During class, they will learn about what a patron saint is and discover who their patron saint is (or choose one if they do not already have one!). Then at 2:15 PM, the student body will assemble in the cafeteria to pray a living rosary with a rosary made out of balloons.

Tuesday January 31: Student Appreciation Day! Students may dress down today. There will be no homework Tuesday night and no tests on Wednesday. At 2:00 PM, we will have a special buddy activity, as well as some cookies and lemonade as a special end of the day treat.

Wednesday February 1: Alumni Appreciation Day!!! The Catholic Schools Week Mass is dedicated to our alumni and their families! If you are an SBS alumni, please plan on joining us for Mass and a reception to follow. We will also have a special guessing game for students to see who can match each teacher to their SBS Graduation Picture!!!

Thursday February 2: Staff Appreciation Day. Our wonderful support staff will be able to dress down for the day, and each class will find some fun and creative ways to show their support for all the behind the scenes work that they do.

Friday February 3: Faculty Appreciation Day. We end the week by allowing our phenomenal faculty a dress down day along with the annual Faculty Appreciation Lunch. A secret TGIF is also being planned.

Thank you to everyone for everything that you do in support of Catholic education at St. Benilde School. Our purpose every day is to nurture and educate students... and every day we do.

Athletics Corner

- ❖ Bowling, Girls and Boys Cabbage Ball, Boys Volleyball, and Fencing sign up sheets have been sent home via email for you to sign up!
- ❖ The Lower School soccer clinic will start March 8th. More info will be sent home soon.
- ❖ **Soccer News:** Congratulations to the SBS Soccer Team, which completed just its third season as the Tournament Runners-Up this year!

Congrats Geography Bee Winners

On Thursday January 26, SBS hosted our annual School Geography Bee. We would like to take a moment to congratulate our winners!

School Champion: Giovanni Rodriguez

School Runner Up: Brandon Devun

Mason Blount

Nicholas Gallito

Benjamin Waguespack

Evan Valenti

Nathan Blount

Remy Marshall

Benjamin Murakami

Zoey Valley

Night at the Races!

Date night parents! Make plans to join us on **Saturday, January 28 for Night at the Races**. The “races” will be held in the School Cafeteria at 7:00 PM, and consist of celebrity jockeys riding stick horses. If you have never been, it is a unique experience.

It will be a night of fun, food and socialization. We will have 10 - 12 races. Food is free. There is a nominal fee for wine. Bets are \$1 per race.