



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Our students, faculty and staff returned to the classroom this past week from Christmas break. Even the threat of a winter storm couldn't keep the administration and faculty away from the school, ready to continue educating the students as the school year unfolds. The season or time of the year do not matter, creativity is always in season in the Upper Grade Center (UGC) as well as the Primary Grade Center (PGC) at the School of St. Mary. This is evidenced in the attractive and colorful themes that cover the walls in the entrance to the school, on the walls of each classroom as well as on the many bulletin boards throughout the school buildings.

The teachers are creative in adapting to the needs of their students, sharing multiple paths to expanding and learning things that are new and challenging as well as old and familiar concepts and topics. Working with the students, parents, and families, the remaining months of the current school year will be filled with effort, work, support, learning, discovery, and growth for all involved in educating our school children.

Dedicated parents are working creatively for the upcoming School Gala on March 9. Mark your calendar now as additional information will be announced in the coming weeks. We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week later this month with a full calendar of activities the week of January 28. A special Catholic Schools week Mass will begin the celebrations and events on Sunday, January 28 at the 10:00am Sunday Mass. I look forward to the events and celebrations in the school, church, and community in the coming months.



Creativity is always in season in the Religious Education (RE) program that is held at both the PGC and the UGC campuses. The catechists and staff work with the students and families as the students grow in and share their faith with one another. Themes related to the particular liturgical seasons and RE activities also adorn the bulletin boards at both campuses. The most recent bulletin board catches the eye of the pastor, students, and people walking through the atrium of the UGC. Read slowly the bulletin board included in this article. No, there is not a typo, this year is a leap year reflected on our calendars. As February 29 falls on a Thursday, I may get an extra day off this year.

Creativity is always in place on the third Friday of the month because of the generosity of many at the parish. The third Friday of the month is when we provide for the meals and ministry of the Most Blessed Trinity Soup Kitchen. Some months there are over 100 guests looking for a delicious homemade meal. Recently that number has approached or exceeded 200 meals. Creativity in the kitchen and God's guiding grace allows for all to be cared for with love and respect. If you have been a supporter of the MBT Soup Kitchen, thank you. If you want to join the many supporting this ministry, please keep reading.

In addition to providing a delicious home cooked meal, a goodie bag is offered to each guest that comes to the Soup Kitchen. You may support the Soup Kitchen by donating items for the guests to be able to bring home in the goodie bag. The contents of the goodie bag vary from month to month, depending upon what has been received and can be offered to the guests. Often it includes fresh fruit (e.g., apples and oranges), soft granola bars, mini water bottles, packages of individual cereal boxes, and shelf stable milk boxes which are always useful. In addition, toiletries such as toilet paper, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes are regularly requested. Lastly, it is very useful to have items available now that the weather is cold - gently used blankets, jackets, hooded sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and socks. Heartfelt thanks go out to all those who support this ministry and all who staff the Soup Kitchen on the third Friday of the month. If you are interested in learning more and getting involved, please let me know.

We are in the liturgical season of "Winter Ordinary Time." We celebrate our faith around the Word and Sacrament. Winter Ordinary Time will lead us up to the season of Lent which begins on February 14 this year.

May God bless us in living extraordinary lives of faith in ordinary time,