

Enlightening Minds, Enriching Lives

St. Germaine Family Newsletter

February, 2022

Check out our New Look
Stgermaineschool.com

We're proud to unveil our updated website! Mrs. Clarke, Mr. O'Rourke and a multitude of other editors have changed our look and added new school information to the site.

The "For Parents" tab at the top of the home page will take you to resources like the Family Handbook and the current Family Newsletter. You can also access the FACTS Tuition Management site by clicking from the "For Parents" tab.

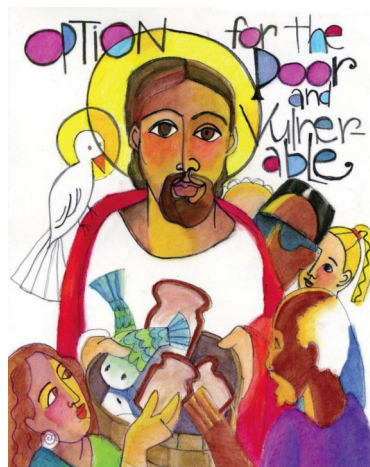
Please take a look and let us know what you think!

The screenshot shows the website header with contact information (708-425-6063, contact@stgcol.org, 9735 S. Kolin Ave Oak Lawn, IL 60453) and social media icons. The navigation menu includes Admissions, Curriculum, Programs, Teachers, For Parents, Student Activities, Fundraisers, Calendar, Alumni, Catholic Schools Week 2022, and DONATE. A search bar and a 'More Information' button are also visible. Below the navigation is a blue banner with the text 'Our Principals And Teachers Are Dedicated. Our Students Are Eager To Learn.' and a 'Parent Resources' section. The 'Parent Resources' section features a 'Together' heading and a grid of links: School Logos, Summer Learning Activities, CSW 2022 Sharing Program, Learning Websites, Handbooks/Policies, and Office Of Catholic Education Benchmarks. There is also an 'English' language selector.

University of Chicago "5 Essentials Survey"

The Office of Catholic Schools is again sponsoring the annual online parent survey of all schools in the archdiocese. The link for parents to take the survey: <http://survey.5-essentials.org/archchicago/survey/parent/>

We would like all parents to complete the survey. We need a high participation rate in order for the U of C to report data to us. The window for the survey closes on March 15th..



Catholic Social Justice Themes Helping the Poor and Vulnerable

Our theme this year will focus on the Church's social justice teachings. Each month the students from our National Junior Honor Society will facilitate small group discussions with each homeroom. The seven themes include:

- The Dignity of the Human Person
- Family and Community
- Solidarity and the Common Good
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Dignity of Work
- Care for Creation

This month, we will focus on the call to help the [poor and vulnerable. As a part of our Catholic Schools Week activities we created "Jared Boxes" with small items that would help young patients pass time as they waited for treatments of doctor appointments. The Messengers of Mercy created Valentine Day cards for a young cancer patient. We often collect items for the homeless or disadvantaged. It is important that we remember and assist others who are in need.

The lesson this month will focus on people who spent their lives helping the poor or vulnerable. We will explore biographies of a number of Catholic Saints who were champions for the poor and vulnerable. Mother Teresa of Calcutta founded an order of sisters who care for the poor and sick in India and around the world. St. Katherine Drexel, gave up her family fortune to educate native American and African American students who otherwise would not have been able to attend school. St. John Bosco worked with orphans in Italy at the turn of the century to provide homes and education.

Remember, too, to continue to emphasize our theme from last month: The dignity of work and of workers. Remind students of the importance of taking pride in the work that they do, and the importance of assisting with all the small tasks that make our lives together happier and safer. For example, students in the lunchroom are asked to wipe down the tables after lunch. While some students are excellent at sharing the responsibility, others do it haphazardly with the typical "roll of the eyes."

“Flex Days” Granted by Office of Catholic Schools

The Office of Catholic Schools has given all the Catholic Schools in the diocese four “flex days” to accommodate recent “snow days” and recognize all of the hard work and stress we’ve all been under during the COVID pandemic. The State of Illinois requires 176 student attendance days. The Archdiocese has always required us to provide 180 days. They are allowing us to use these four flex days to cover the recent snow closures. We’re planning to use one of the remaining days to provide a “breather” for all of us! **We will take Friday, March 18th as a “no attendance day.”** We all deserve a bit of a respite from the hectic events of this school year—and the GOOD NEWS is that we won’t have to extend the school year further into June!

Germazing Race 2022

Good news! We are planning to hold our Germazing Race (5K) in-person this year! Registration for the event opens on February 24, 2022! Here’s the link:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2022/58252/the-germazing-race-5k-runwalk>

The Race will be held on April 30, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Look for more details soon.

Looking Forward

- 2/26 First Reconciliation;
- 2/27 Third Grade Family Mass; 11:30 a.m. in the Church
- 3/7 Confirmation Retreat (details will follow)
- 3/10 First Communion pictures (5:30 to 7) in the Church
- 3/11 Second Trimester Report Cards distributed to students
- 3/18 “Mental Health” Flex Day—no student attendance
- 3/20 Second Grade Family Mass, 11:30 a.m. in the Church

