

Enlightening Minds, Enriching Lives

St. Germaine Family Newsletter

June, 2022



If you have been in the parking lot over the last two weeks, you undoubtedly saw all of the roofing equipment near the gym. The project is almost finished. The cost to the parish is over \$200,000.

If you've been in the school building, you may have noticed all of the new "conduit" that has been installed for the upgrade required by the Village of Oak Lawn to our fire alarm system. The cost for this project is about \$190,000.

Boiler repairs to the school heating system are in the offing. The projected cost is about \$50,000.

These repair/upgrade items are ones that directly impact our students and school families. We recently sent an appeal for your help in covering the costs. The parish contributions to the Raise the Roof campaign amount to about \$350,000 so far.

We are grateful to those families who have either made pledges to the campaign or have used the blue envelopes we included with our recent letter to support the project. We hope that through the campaign we will be able to raise sufficient funds to cover the expenditures. Unfortunately, the bills will have to be paid—and a shortfall will likely affect the services/programs in the school and may result in significant tuition increases.

The founding members of the parish raised the funds necessary to build the Church and school in the 1960's. In subsequent years, the Activity Center and computer lab were added to the physical plant. Many enhancements to our buildings and programs have been added in the interim. It was only thru the generosity of our parishioners that this was possible. Now the time has come for us to pay it forward for the next generation. St. Germaine has a bright future, and with your help, we expect to continue our tradition of academic excellence for years to come. Our school motto is "Enlightening Minds; Enriching Lives" with your help, we can continue this important mission for future generations of students. As you and your families were the beneficiaries of the generosity of parishioners and school families in the past, we now ask that you become the benefactors for St. Germaine School's future.

Blue contribution envelopes are contained in each month's Church support envelopes. You can also contribute using the GIVE CENTRAL app or by sending a check directly to the parish. (We ask that you mark the memo line with "Raise the Roof" so we know how to apply your contribution.)

We, and the students and families of our St. Germaine future, thank you.

End of the School Year! Summer FUN Ahead

Once again, we mark the successful conclusion to a great school year!

We are grateful to our teachers and staff, our students and their families, for all the positive experiences we shared this year.

In a special way, we thank Mrs. Kurey for her many years of service to our school community. She has been a wonderful addition to our school and we will miss her. We wish her well in her retirement and look forward to being able to ask her to "sub."

We welcome Mr. Philip O'Rourke as he assumes the role of principal. He has so many great ideas for moving our school forward into the future. This school year, he was able to get to know the faculty and students and some of the "ins and outs" of how our school works! Expect great things!

I-Ready Diagnostic Scores

We recently sent home a summary of your child's I-Ready performance over the the diagnostics that were administered this year in Reading and Math.

The bar graphs contained on the charts show the improvement in "scale score" points your child your child made. We were pleased to see that many of our students scored above the "typical growth" that the diagnostic predicted.

The I-Ready platform provides a very detailed analysis of the items your child mastered and those that still need improvement. This analysis is a valuable tool for the teachers as they provide instruction that will help each students to succeed.

If you would like more information about your child's performance on the diagnostics, please give Mr. Reedy or Mr. O'Rourke a call.

Please check your child's backpack for these important documents for the next school year::

Final Third Trimester Report Card

June Family Newsletter

Tentative School Calendar for 2022-2023

Supply List for 2022-2023

Medical Forms/Immunizations for Grades K and 6

Dental Forms for Grades K, 2, and 6

Vision Forms for students in K and 1—(the form needs to be on file by the beginning of first grade.)

Blue Sports Participation forms will be available at Registration.

(If you need a copy before then, please call the office)

Graduation Talk, 2022

Here is a copy of Mr. Reedy's Remarks at Graduation, 5/27/22

This evening, we congratulate, you, our graduates, for your years of learning at St. Germaine. Those of us who were lucky enough to watch you grow, to watch the joy you showed in being Germainiacs, are so proud of your accomplishments!

Graduations are important, but on many levels they are very hard. They take place in the complex reality of the world around us. At graduations, we experience a huge mix of emotions and hopes. The pride we have in the accomplishments of our graduates is mixed with our hope that each of them will have a future in which their fondest wishes are realized. We live in hope, but we cannot guarantee it. The state of our world, especially in light of events in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas and a grocery store in Buffalo, make the point all too clearly.

So, in the context of the reality all around us, we struggle to find images of hope. Each year, watching the eighth graders as they present the annual passion play, I find reason for hope for the future. And that hope is enveloped in our faith.

One of the songs included in the Passion Play was titled "I Believe." The words directed to our Loving God, belong to each of us in this uncertain world:

"When I feel I don't belong, you say I am yours. And I believe."

"Taking all I have, and laying it at your feet, You have every failure and every victory."

The words give us hope. They also present us with the challenge of making our words and our actions congruent. I won't ask the graduates for a definition although I am sure all of Mrs. Kinsella's math students would know. **Congruent** figures have "the same size and shape--they fit exactly over one another. The sentiments the lyrics represent are life-giving only if we carry them into action in all of the aspects of our lives. Throughout this year our school community explored the meaning behind the principles of social justice that are foundational to the value of Jesus. The values of peace, justice, and respect are all entwined in the principle that calls for "The Dignity of the Human Person." When we say we share Jesus' value of peace, but fight with families and friends and sow dissent, our words and actions are not congruent. When we say we share Jesus' value of justice, but allow classmates and friends to be picked on or refuse to defend the disadvantaged, our words and our actions are not congruent. When we say that we share Jesus' value of respect but refuse to listen to the opinions of others or belittle the differences we find among friends and neighbors, our words and actions are not congruent.

If we turn to the gospel to increase our understanding, we find an interesting difference in some of the translations. We have all heard the phrase, "The kingdom of God." We say it each time we recite the Lord's Prayer. It refers to Jesus's hope for the world. In some translations, the phrase "The reign of God" is used instead. I think there is a subtle but important distinction in the mind-set that each phrase represents. The "kingdom of God" seems to me to be a PLACE. For many, the kingdom of God comes at the end of time or at the conclusion of our lives, but it is not a concept we feel we can change or that we can contribute to. The kingdom will come because God wills it not because of anything we do. On the other hand, the phrase, "The reign of God," seems to me to be a PROCESS. And the process demands our active cooperation. The reign of God requires that our actions and our words are congruent—that they fit exactly over one another. Sharing the values of Jesus requires more than just words.

As teachers and parents, we think about what we want students to learn, and then need to evaluate, somehow, if we have succeeded. When we look back on how well our efforts to foster faith have succeeded, we find evidence that students know the vocabulary and religious tenants and practices are an important part of the picture. But even more important is to see how our students live out their values of Jesus. Saying "I believe" is only a part of the required response. The rest of the response, to truly represent success, must be authentic and carry what we believe into the reality we live. Our honest response has to be a visible, honest desire to act as the values of Jesus call us to act.

And so, my message for the graduates and for all of us, is to find ways to make our knowledge of the values of Jesus into the guiding principles of our lives. Graduates of 2022, live the REIGN of God every day of your life. God bless you.

Enjoy the summer! We'll see you for the first day
on August 22nd!



EFFORT RECOGNITION ROLL

Third Trimester

June, 2022

GRADE EIGHT

William Bautista
Isabella Garcia
Allison Lai
Ronan Mannion
Hannah Missey
Jacob Pritchard

Hector Castillo
Owen Hayes
Hannah McNeela
Kristen Mikutis
Colin Nye
Madilyn Schmit

Julianna Gamboa
Camille Hudler
Noah McNeela
Benjamin Miller
Juan Padilla
Carys Umecker

GRADE SEVEN

Benjamin Carrillo
Ashley Garza
Ryan Mayo
Avery Shipman

Abigail Covarrubias
Julia Hawkshaw
Jacob Medina
Logan Tinoco
Kim Victoria

Abigail Daley
Charles Kearns
Brooke Ruzich
Adilene Urbina

GRADE SIX

Benjamin Bautista
Kaitlyn Griggs
Nathan Miller
Izael Rodriguez

Flynn Daley
Samuel Hudy
Ryan O'Shea
Molly Ruzich

Elena D'Souza
Logan McNulty
Ernie Pedroza
Luke Zolna

GRADE FIVE

Charlotte Bautista
Sophia Guzman
Katelyn Mariano

Tomas Carrillo
Hazel Kincinas
Alejandro Posada
Jason Umecker

Madeline Daley
Elizabeth Kopec
Isabella Tapia