

Siena Circular



April 1, 2008

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even those tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-6

Dear Parents,

While still in the Easter season, we celebrated another solemn feast yesterday: the Annunciation of Mary. Hopefully, most of us remember from our religion classes Mary's famous response to the Angel Gabriel when asked to be the Mother of God: "*Fiat* – Be it done. Be it done to me according to your word." Mary's response of total dedication of her life to God's will, we were taught, was a model for each of our responses to God's will for us in our life.

How difficult is such a response in our age when we live in an atmosphere of entitlement, as if "it's all about me", where often rights are divorced from responsibilities. Yet Christ taught his disciples in no uncertain terms: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it will bear much fruit"; and, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Eventually, as a Master Teacher, He went on to demonstrate what He preached: He, though perfectly innocent, died and rose again so that we may live the new life of grace.

In his book *Love and Responsibility*, Pope John Paul noted this paradox: it is the very act of giving ourselves to God and others which prove to us that we do, in fact, possess ourselves. Is this not the ultimate lesson of each human life? We are not our own; we are the Lord's! In all we do, we are to give glory to God. We must model this lesson for our young people each day.

Everyday our students are called to be sensitive and attentive to the needs of those around them, in all situations in which they find themselves at this stage of their life: to act respectfully towards all adults, to say only what is kind and helpful to build up their peers, to conduct themselves in ways which enable themselves and others to learn. Our children's happiness depends on the mastery of this lesson; they must learn to give of themselves, to their families, to their peers, to God, in order to experience genuine fulfillment and peace.

May the graces of this Easter season inspire us to take this lesson to heart: Christ is risen, and we are truly free to live the truth in love. May we follow His example of choosing to do all our heavenly Father asks of us each day.

With prayers,

Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

- Archbishop Gregory, Father Doyle, Father Terry; our seminarians
- Our second graders as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion
- Our benefactors
- The Taylor Family
- The McNally Family
- The Conkey Family
- The Ayers Family

Calendar at a Glance

Wednesday, April 2

- School Mass (4A)
- * B.O.B. Gr. 3-5 Final Rounds @ 2:00 (gym)

Thursday, April 3

- * B.O.B. Grade 6 Challenge & Final Rounds @ 9:00 (Media Center)

Friday, April 4

- First Friday Adoration (8:30-2:30)
- Scrip orders due @ noon

Monday-Friday, April 7-11

- Spring Break

Thursday, April 10

- Stevi B's Night

Wednesday, April 16

- School Mass (6B)

Friday, April 18

- Scrip orders pick-up (2:30-3:00)

Saturday, April 19

- SCS Auction

* Parents are invited to attend our Battle of the Books competitions.

THANK YOU!

- To our fantastic team of Auction volunteers! Our room parents and other helpers worked with students from each class on their class Auction projects last Friday. Our raffle helpers organized and offered raffle sales after each of the weekend Masses this past weekend.
- To our lunchroom and recess volunteers.
- Our seventh and eighth grade parents who are hosting the Cotillion program for our students.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Patrick Connolly, Tony D'Arienzo, and Katherine Morley for winning the Oratorical Competition, first, second, and third place respectively. Patrick will represent SCS at the archdiocesan semi-finals at Blessed Trinity High School on April 22.

Congratulations *and* thank you to our eighth grade students who put on an inspiring performance of the Living Stations of the Cross for our school and parish community on Holy Thursday.

2008-2009 INFORMATION

On Friday, April 4, the following information will be mailed to each family, if applicable:

1. Tuition scales for 2008-2009
2. Tuition assistance awards
3. Kindergarten and other new acceptances

Other items such as the calendar and uniform information will be sent in early May. Please contact Sister Mary Jacinta if you have questions.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Information and registration forms for summer volleyball and basketball camps are available on-line and at the front office. The volleyball camp is open to girls currently in grades four to seven. The basketball camp is open to girls and boys currently in grades two to seven. Please contact Mr. Shirley at 770-419-8601 ext. 1416 or tshirley@scsiena.org if you have questions.

Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School unites with family and community to provide an excellent academic and religious education, developing the whole child while encouraging individual talents and abilities in a Christ-centered environment.

In imitation of Saint Catherine, faithful daughter of the Church, we provide a formation grounded in truth through which we engage the culture, setting the world ablaze with the love of Christ.