

Siena Circular



February 19, 2008

Be ready always with an answer to everyone who asks a reason for the hope that is in you.

Yet do so with gentleness and fear, having a good conscience.

1 Peter 3:15-16

Dear Parents,

“Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.” This glorious vision depicted in last Sunday’s Gospel, at first glance, seems out of place with the penitential tone of Lent. The ending of this Gospel account, however, closes on a solemn note: “As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, ‘Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’” Christ’s Passion was yet to come; His ultimate transfiguration must be preceded by His sacrifice on the Cross.

Peter, James, and John obeyed their Master; they kept this ‘secret’ well until after His Resurrection, at which time, thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit, they let out the ‘secret’ of Christ’s triumph over death and sin with great gusto. Tirelessly, they gave witness to Christ so whole-heartedly that two of them – Peter and James – eventually gave the perfect witness of martyrdom.

The last of the “Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools” from *The Holy See’s Teaching on Catholic Schools* by Archbishop J. Michael Miller describes the Catholic school as a community which is “sustained by Gospel witness.” Speaking of the importance of the presence of “witnesses” for our children, Archbishop Miller quotes Pope Benedict:

This witness becomes a proper reference point to the extent that the person can account for the hope that nourishes his life [cf. 1 Pet. 3:15] and is personally involved in the truth that he proposes.

As we pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Conkey – that she experience the peace of seeing her transfigured Savior – and for her family, let us take time to reflect on the “hope that nourishes” our lives. Let us continue to strive to prepare well our children – by the personal witness of our words and actions – to “be ready always with an answer to everyone who asks a reason for the hope” that is in us – the hope of seeing God face-to-face one day.

With prayers,

Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

- The Pope’s prayer intention for February: That the mentally handicapped may not be marginalized, but respected and lovingly helped to live in a way worthy of their physical and social condition.
- The Pope’s mission intention: That the Institutes of Consecrated Life may be faithful to the radical choice of evangelical counsels and be generous in bearing witness to and announcing Christ to the ends of the earth.
- The Taylor Family
- The McNally Family
- The Raake Family
- The Conkey Family
- For requests submitted to the Spiritual Committee's prayer chain

Calendar at a Glance

Wednesday, February 20

- School Mass (6B)

Friday, February 22

- Stations of the Cross (2:20 p.m. – Church)
- 3rd quarter midterm reports to be distributed
- Deadline for reserving a place at the Athletic Banquet

Tuesday, February 26

- John Rosemond presentation (6:30 p.m. check-in – gym)

Wednesday, February 27

- School Mass (3B)

Thursday, February 28

- Athletic Banquet (6:30 p.m. – gym)

Friday, February 29

- Spirit Wear Day
- SCS Oratorical Competitions

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Thank you to:

- Our HSA for hosting the upcoming presentation by John Rosemond.
- All who are helping to prepare for our upcoming Athletic Banquet.
- All who are assisting Mrs. John in preparing for our "Author Visit" in-house cultural field trip on Thursday, February 28.

ROBOTICS TEAM

Last week we announced the good news that our Robotics Team placed 19th in the state. This week we announce even better news: Our team actually ranked 17th overall, based on the following four criteria: robot performance, research presentation, technical/design of robot, and team spirit. SCS was the only Catholic School in the Archdiocese which progressed to the States final. Way to go, Blazers!

PLAYGROUND HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help on the playground on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you are able to help, please call Arantxa Mejia at 770-794-0794. Thank you!

MEIDA CENTER HELP NEEDED

The Media Center needs help in the afternoons, from 2:45-3:15, for shelving books and straightening shelves on Wednesday and Thursday. Please contact Mrs. John if you are able to help. Thank you!

SNACK AND YAK

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Chris Poole, our new Snack and Yak Coordinator. Mrs. Poole began working with Ms. Anna Gamache last week, taking care of our "Snack and Yak-ers." Mrs. Poole is a parishioner at Saint Catherine of Siena parish, a recently-retired nurse, and a youthful grandmother with boundless energy and a gentle manner. Ms. Rebecca McIntosh and Sister Mary Jacinta will continue to serve as substitute Snack and Yak helpers when needed. We are glad to welcome Mrs. Poole into our Saint Catherine of Siena School family.

FACTS TUITION PLANS

FACTS Tuition Agreements for 2008-2009 will be set up automatically for families currently using FACTS tuition service for tuition deductions. In April when tuition rates for 2008-2009 are announced, we will send letters to each family with the new contract rate and tuition deductions for the 2008-2009 FACTS tuition account. If you have questions, please contact Anna Coppock at 770-419-8601 ext. 1418.

FACTS TUITION ASSISTANCE

All tuition assistance applications for the 2008-2009 school year must be completed by **February 28**. All applications for tuition assistance must be mailed directly to FACTS Grant & Aid or completed online. Hard copies of the applications are available at the front office; for on-line applications, go to www.factstuitionaid.com. A \$20 fee is due to FACTS Grant & Aid for processing your application. For questions, please contact Sister Mary Jacinta or Anna Coppock.

ATHLETIC BANQUET

All volleyball and basketball players and their families are invited to our Athletic Banquet on Thursday, February 28th, during which we will honor our coaches and our fantastic athletes! Please access forms for the banquet on-line.

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.