



# The Light

St. Luke Catholic School



*Watch therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening or at midnight, or at cockcrow or in the morning. May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping.*

Mk 13: 35-36

### THOMPSON FAMILY

Mr. Gary Thompson, husband of our third grade teacher, Mrs. Carla Thompson, passed away on Tuesday evening, November 25, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy are with the Thompson family.

We love you, Mrs. Thompson.

We welcome you back to our St. Luke family where you are cherished by the entire school community as a loving and devoted teacher to all the children as well as a great confidant and friend to your colleagues. We have missed you. We can't wait to see you when you return on Monday, December 8.

### Christmas Program and 4th Grade Pageant

1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students will have the opportunity to perform in the evening Christmas Program on Tues., Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.. For more information, contact Mrs. Lucy Tavira, Music Teacher.

On Thurs., Dec. 18 at 8:15 a.m. we will celebrate our Christmas liturgy. Our 4th grade students are working on their beautiful pageant which they will perform during Mass on that day.

### Save the Date for the Next PTC/School Council Parent Coffee

Friday, Dec. 19, 8:00 a.m., Cafeteria

### Spirit Day Rescheduled

Spirit Day scheduled for Friday, December 5, has been rescheduled for Friday, January 23, 2009. Our St. Luke Spirit Day on January 23 will be the perfect kick-off for Catholic Schools Week which follows. More details later.

### IMPORTANT POLICY REMINDER

It is time to remind our students about the policy regarding cell phones (or other gadgets that ring) on campus. Our Parent-Student Handbook, page 40 states:

"...Cell phones are allowed on campus but are to remain in a backpack or locker, turned off during the school day. Only in very rare emergencies can the phone be removed from this storage area and used in the company of an adult..."

Too often students have their cell phones in their pencil cases or in their pockets; they are caught using them during the day or the cell phone goes off ringing some tune. In order to encourage immediate compliance with this policy – as it is becoming a significant distraction – any student found to have a cell phone on him/her, or one ringing, or using the cell phone to text another will receive a Demerit in addition to the parent picking up the cell phone in the office. A second offense will result in a suspension. There will be no further warning regarding this policy. Cooperation regarding this is necessary for a smooth instructional day for all our students. Thank you.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR

			3	4	5	6
			Book Fair open until 6:00 p.m. <b>Book Fair, Library, Dec. 3, 4, 5</b>	AS Mass led by 8B Basketball @ St. Matthew		High School Placement Test, 8 a.m., held at high schools <b>Bball B Teams @ St. John Bosco</b>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception AS Mass led by 5th grade Girls Bball teams vs. St. Luke Epis.	School Council Mtg., 6:30 p.m., TL MS Service Hours due 2nd Q. <u>Holiday Wishes Delivery, 2-6p.m., GYM</u>	PTC Board Meeting, TL, 6:30 p.m. Bball vs. Bless Sacrament		<b>St. Luke Basketball Tournament (11-14)</b>	

**Baby It's Cold Outside!**

The Beta Club will be holding a sale of St. Luke spirit sweatshirts and polos on Thurs., Dec. 4 in the front hallway before school starts. Proceeds will go toward the Beta Club Scholarship. No orders will be taken; limited sizes available. Sweatshirts & polos \$20; Jacket \$35

**First Semester 8th Grade Finals**

1st semester finals begin next week and will only include 8th grade students. Finals will cover material tested in previous quizzes and tests from the 1st and 2nd quarter. Students should compile these previous exams as a study guide. Exams will be structured so that they can be completed within the regular 50 minute class period. Each final exam will comprise 10% of the 2nd quarter grade for the class.

The schedule for exams is as follows:

- Dec. 9—English grammar
- Dec. 10—English composition
- Dec. 11—Science
- Dec. 12—Social Studies
- Dec. 16—Math & Religion
- Dec. 17—Literature

**Welcome, Mrs. Estela Arochi  
New Spanish Teacher  
Pre-k 4 through Grade 5**

We welcome our new Spanish teacher, Mrs. Estela Arochi. Mrs. Arochi is a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine; her degree is from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City. Mrs. Arochi completed the Texas Teacher Certification Program in 2006 and is certified as a Bilingual Generalist for early childhood through elementary school. Her experience of six years is in teaching undergraduate courses in immunology, microbiology and anatomy at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry at the university level. More recently, Mrs. Arochi worked with the San Antonio Zoo in the Activities for Education Program, teaching all school levels for the San Antonio School District; she also conducted tours at the zoo for the Spanish-speaking visitors.

Mrs. Arochi brings knowledge of the Spanish language and culture, a great desire to teach and a loving and enthusiastic attitude. Mrs. Arochi had two children at St. Luke School until one graduated two years ago. We welcome Mrs. Arochi's return in her new capacity as Spanish teacher. All parents are welcome to meet Mrs. Arochi or email her with comments or questions.

**PTC**

**Holiday Wishes Items Pick-up  
Tues., Dec. 9, 3:00-6:00 p.m., GYM**

All Holiday Wishes orders will be available for pick-up at the above times.

**Cookie Dough Pick-up  
Tues., Dec. 16, 2:00-6:00 p.m., CAFÉ**

All families that sold cookie dough need to come by the cafeteria on Tuesday, Dec. 16 to pick up all of their orders. **THIS IS THE ONLY TIME TO PICK UP COOKIE DOUGH.** As these items are perishable, and we do not have freezer space for them, all orders must be picked up on Dec. 16.

**Advent Angels**

Each grade level has adopted a family from the Faith Formation Advent Angel Tree. We are asking students to participate in whatever way they can. Know that each family has a real need.

The options include giving an age-appropriate unwrapped gift for one of the children, non-perishable food for the Holidays, Christmas decorations, Walmart gift cards (\$20 or less). The goal of the drive is to include another family in our thoughts for the Christmas season. *It is all about sharing our blessings.*

**Arts & Crafts Raffle Winners**

Congratulations to the following Raffle winners:

- 4-pack Spurs tickets – Scoop Davis
- Heirloom Wall Quilt – Joyce Finger
- Original Peruvian Artwork, "Madonna and Child" – Oralia Rodriguez
- Large Christmas basket – Veronica Ramirez

Thank you so much to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and supported the Arts & Crafts Show! We would also like to acknowledge Patsy Baumann, Eddie Estrada and the entire maintenance staff, Claudia Vasquez, Shannon Lopez, J. Moncada, Mark Resendez, Ed Garcia, Debbie and Ray Luna, Francisco Maldonado, Luis and Maxine Elizondo, Lisa Holguin, and the Girl Scouts for their contributions to the event. We appreciate everyone's time and effort!

**Bee Prepared for the Spelling Bee**



Spelling Bee books are available in the school office for \$1.00 for those who would like to start preparing for the Spelling Bee at the end of January during Catholic Schools Week!!

**COUNSELOR**

Information and application packets have arrived for the PREP 2009 summer program for interested middle school students. PREP is an eight week, mathematics-based, academic enrichment program. It emphasizes the development of abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills, and helps students prepare for careers in the fields of math, science, technology, and engineering. The program includes course work, team projects, class presentations, exams, career awareness speakers, field trips, and special events.

The PREP program is presented over the course of three summers and students must reapply each year. The cost is \$300.00 per student. (Funding will not be provided by St. Luke School.) Students accepted for PREP will meet Monday – Friday from June 15 through July 31, 2009 at one of the hosting college or university campuses here in San Antonio. Schedules vary by campus, but average 5-6 hours of coursework daily, plus homework. A maximum of 3 excused absences is allowed, for illness or bereavement only.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Middle school students are eligible if they have the interest and potential for careers in math, science, technology, or engineering. Year 1 applicants in grades 6 or 7 must have an average of 90 or better in math, science and English (85 or better if in honors), be in good standing in all courses, and have satisfactory conduct grades. Year 1 applicants in grade 8 must have an average of 85 or better in math, science, and English (80 or better if in honors), be in good standing in all courses, and have satisfactory conduct grades. Students wishing to apply must also obtain satisfactory nominations from two teachers, and must write an essay explaining why they want to participate in PREP.

Additional information and applications may be obtained by contacting your child's math teacher, science teacher, the school counseling office, or by visiting the PREP website, [www.prep-usa.org](http://www.prep-usa.org). Interested parents are also invited to attend a PREP presentation at 8:00 a.m. Friday, January 9 in the Garza computer lab. See the PREP 2009 flyer in today's Wednesday envelope. The application deadline for year 1 students is January 31, 2009. Since sites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, early applications are encouraged.

**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

### **Drawing Contest for Parish Christmas Announcement**

Father Jim is having a contest for students in grades 3 through 8 to design a drawing that will be used in the Parish Christmas announcement.

In order for your drawing to be considered, the following directions must be followed:

- Draw an illustration of Christmas on plain white (unlined) 8.5 X 11 paper.
  - Drawing must be done with a black felt tip pen; no colors.
  - Name and grade must be on the back of the illustration
  - Submit to the school office by Noon, Tuesday, December 9.
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### **Parish Bilingual Celebration Our Lady of Guadalupe, Friday, December 12**

The apparitions at Lourdes, Fatima and Medjugorje had proclamations to the entire world not limited to the French, people of Portugal and former Yugoslavia. While the Guadalupe apparition took place in Mexico, the event is a blessing to all of the Americas. Festivities for Our Lady of Guadalupe will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a half hour serenade to Mary at the St. Luke Plaza followed by mass at 7:00 p.m. in the church. At the conclusion of the mass, there will be a reenactment of Mary's appearance to Juan Diego. The evening will close with a tamalada/refreshments.

Our Lady of Guadalupe has been designated as Patroness of the Americas. Mary appeared to Juan Diego, an Indian, as a rebuke of the rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards. The apparition is a reminder that we are to accept all people. It is an event of vast significance for Native Americans. Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Hebrew Testament and the Gospels.

As we await the second coming of our Lord in Advent, let us celebrate this feast by turning to God in giving thanks in the Eucharist and in seeking the grace to accept all peoples as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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### **Women of the Well December Gathering**

The Women of the Well ministry is happy to announce that our featured speaker for the December gathering will be Sr. Mary Ann Fagan. She will guide us as we walk this advent journey together and discover the true gift waiting for us all. Please share your time with us as we remember how God's Beloved came to restore harmony to a fractured world, to dispel whatever keeps love from shining through all beings. The Christ-Star, this Irresistible Love in us, this Radiant Goodness, is at the core of our souls. Advent reminds us that each of us has the light of this Shining Star within us. This special season assures us that we can radiate love and goodness to others.

For more information about the meeting and to RSVP please contact Theresa Galan-Bruce [tbruce@satx.rr.com](mailto:tbruce@satx.rr.com) or 842.7843. Please RSVP so that we have adequate seating for all those attending the mediation.

Date: December 6, 2008

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Location: St. Joseph Room, St. Luke Catholic Church