



The Light

St. Luke Catholic School



Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

1 COR 10:31

Lunch Time No fast Food-No Eating Outside

It appears that over the last few months there has been an increase in parents bringing fast food lunches to their children only to be told that it cannot be eaten in the cafeteria as we are under federal guidelines for lunch. In response to this, parents have taken the food outside with their child to eat. Food is not permitted outside during lunch periods.

These rules are not new to St. Luke, however, it may be that they have not been enforced uniformly. Therefore, we are now asking parents not to bring fast food to their child for lunch and not to take food outside to eat. If a parent wants to eat with his/her child and does not wish to eat the St. Luke lunch, the child may be signed out at the school office to leave the campus for lunch but must be signed in again upon returning to school, of course, before the lunch recess period is over.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Excessive Absences

Daily attendance in school is important for continuity in instruction. Fifteen absences in one school year is considered excessive. Any child who is absent 15 days or more may be required to attend tutoring outside of school at the expense of the parent, summer school, or retention in the current grade. Excessive absences of 18 or more will likely result in the student being retained at the current grade level. These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. See *Parent-Student Handbook*, page 17.

Please remember, upon returning to school after an absence, students are required to bring a note from a parent or physician. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

School Policy Reminders: Being on Time to School

As I observe classes in the morning, it is evident that a significant number of students are arriving late to school. It is so important that students arrive on time to school for many reasons:

- Entering the classroom late interrupts and distracts the teacher **and** students from the flow of instruction.
- When the parent makes a point of making sure that the child arrives on time, it sends a message to the child that being prompt in fulfilling one's responsibilities is important; if late, it is not important.
- The student misses initial instructions for the class or for the entire day; the teacher must repeat instructions to the class or one-on-one to the student.
- A student running late in the a.m. often tends to be a bit harried during the morning hours.
- For many students, walking in late can be embarrassing, particularly if it is a frequent occurrence.

All these things are exacerbated when the class is interrupted 3-4 times by students entering the class late. Our records indicate that this school year to date, there have been 2,466 tardies. We have been in school for 114 days. Surely all will agree, this is a remarkable and astonishing number. Interestingly, enough, there are many families who are always on time; some are consistently late.

Please, make every effort to be on time for school; 7:45 is a good time to arrive. When arriving early, students are not rushed to prepare for school, they have time to greet their friends, and they will not be interrupting instruction. During inclement weather, it is a challenge to arrive on time, but still important to do so. Safety is of utmost importance, so leaving home earlier than usual during inclement weather is always recommended. Thank you for your support and your efforts.

M. Salazar
Principal

		18	19	20	21	
			AS Mass, led by 8B <i>First Reconciliation, 3rd grade, 6:00 p.m.</i>	Middle School Youth Night with Father Edwin, 7-10 p.m., gym & café		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Baseball/Softball @ home vs. Blessed Sac.	Ash Wednesday, Mass at 8:15 a.m., led by Beta Club LENT BEGINS	MS Service hours due for 3rd Q. <i>Baseball/softball @ Mt. Sac. Heart</i>	Noon Dismissal	
					St. Gregory Tournament	



2009-2010 Cheerleader Try Outs

Cheerleader try outs will take place on Thurs., March 5 for the next school year. All incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls are welcome to try out; current cheerleaders must try out as well. All participants must be in good academic standing. Cheer clinics will be held March 2-4 from 3:30-5:00 p.m.. All girls trying out must be present for the entire clinic. Try outs will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. on March 5, and will be closed to the public. Results will be hand delivered on Fri., March 6. Clinic and try out attire: yellow Sofee shorts and a white top, tennis shoes and socks, hair in a ponytail. Please contact Ms. Geneva Garza @ 434.2011, ext. 160 or geneva.garza@stlukecatholic.org with any questions.

Ash Wednesday Soup and Bread

As in the past, we will have a special meal on Ash Wednesday, February 25, in which all proceeds go towards our Lenten Service drive (Habitat for Humanity). **Lunch cards will not be used;** we ask families to donate the regular price of their child's cafeteria meal (cash or check only). PK, K, and 1st grades will be asked to bring a sack lunch to be eaten in their classroom. All other grades are asked to participate in the special meal at their regular lunch time in the cafeteria. The regular price of a cafeteria meal: \$1.75 for 2nd-4th; \$2.00 for 5th-8th; adult meals \$3.00. Meal includes milk, bread and soup. The cafeteria donates all items for the meal; all cafeteria staff donate their pay for that day's work.

We ask all students to participate. This, along with silent lunch Fridays, Stations of the Cross, and Reconciliation, are among the ways we, as a school community, observe Lent.

The remaining balance of the registration fee is due by Friday, March 20.



PTC

Casino Royale/Scholarship Fundraiser a Great Success!

Thank you to all of the volunteers, parents, sponsors, and the entire St. Luke community for supporting our school.

Men's Club Wild Game Dinner Desserts

Please support the Men's Club by baking a dessert for their Wild Game dinner on Sat., March 7. Over the years, the Men's Club has supported St. Luke School through funds for 8th Grade scholarships and improvements to our facilities. Please plan on providing a dessert for this very worthy fundraiser. Desserts can be dropped off at the St. Luke Cafeteria or the St. Paul Community Center on Sat., March 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Benziger Family Life Program

"The Benziger Family Life Program reflects and reinforces a major priority in the Church today: the preservation of the fundamental importance and sacredness of the family. Through this program, the children have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy attitudes, moral values, and virtues of Christian family life." This program supplements the St. Luke School Sadlier religion program.

At the fifth grade level, the Benziger Family Life Program includes God's gift of human reproduction. This topic has always been covered in a supplemental booklet; a booklet that is an addition to the regular classroom edition of Family Life. This year, the booklets have been mailed home to the parents with a letter asking them to take the lead in the education and formation of their own child in this sensitive topic within the loving and comfortable environment of the home. The booklet is an excellent guide to explaining reproduction within the context of our Catholic faith, values and morals.

Any parent who has questions or wishes to be guided through this process, do not hesitate to call Ms. Lomas, or Mrs. Eisenhauer, our fifth grade teachers; Mrs. Hinojosa, our school counselor; Mrs. Salazar or Ms. Lagle, one of the administrators.

FROM THE COUNSELOR

STEPS TO MORE EFFECTIVE PARENTING

STEP 5 – BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

Young kids learn a lot about how to act by watching their parents. The younger they are, the more cues they take from you. Before you lash out or blow your top in front of your child, think about this: is that how you want your child to behave when angry? Be constantly aware that you're being observed by your kids. Studies have shown that children who hit usually have a role model for aggression at home.

Model the traits you wish to cultivate in your kids: respect, friendliness, honesty, kindness, tolerance. Exhibit unselfish behavior. Do things for other people without expecting a reward. Express thanks and offer compliments. Above all, treat your kids the way you expect other people to treat you.

(www.kidshealth.org)

Middle School Youth Night

Calling all 6th – 8th Grade students! Come join your fellow classmates and Father Edvin for a fun filled night together to celebrate our St. Luke Youth Night. We will gather in the Gym from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. to enjoy games, snacks and just being together here at St. Luke. If you would like to participate in making a prayer blanket that evening don't forget to bring 1 yard of fleece any pattern or color you like!! Just plan to come and have a great time!

Position Available Parish Office

St. Luke Catholic Community is seeking a qualified candidate for the full-time position of "Parish Communication & Data Base Coordinator". Applicant must be bilingual and work effectively in a fast-paced collaborative ministry setting.

Please call Marty Vermales @ 433-2777, ext. 115 for an application and to submit a resume.