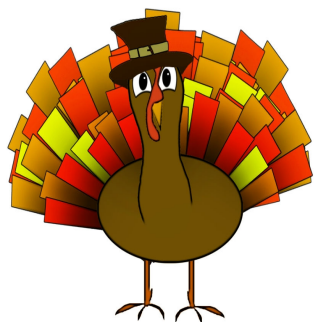


FROM THE DESK OF  
MRS KATHY LEAHY, PRINCIPAL

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN  
OUR FAITH



**Dates to Remember:**

<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<b>11/23 -27</b>
<i>Advent Prayer Service- 8:30 am</i>	<b>11/28</b>
<i>PSA Meeting - 7:00 pm</i>	<b>12/1</b>
<i>Intramural Hockey Begins</i>	<b>12/1</b>
<i>Celebration of the Eucharist- Gr. 7 Pre- paring- 9:00 am</i>	<b>12/2</b>
<i>Barnes &amp; Noble Book Fair</i>	<b>12/8</b>

Did you know there is a special change coming this weekend? On November 27, 2011, the First Sunday of Advent, Catholics in the United States will begin to use a revised translation of Mass prayers and responses. These changes are the result of what began nearly ten years ago, a revision of the *Missale Romanum* (Roman Missal), which is the ritual text for the celebration of the Mass around the world.

Although the core elements at the heart of our faith never change, these new changes in the prayers and responses of the Mass are a challenge and an opportunity for you and your children to grow in faith and deepen your mutual understanding and participation in the Mass. Together, as you and your children reflect on the Mass and what you are saying, you will find that certain prayers which you used to say almost automatically will take on new meaning.

Change is always an opportunity. As parents, our attitudes toward the revision and our ability to encourage our children to have a positive attitude about these changes in the Mass

are very important. If we look at the changes as an opportunity to grow in our faith and deepen our understanding and participation in the Mass, we will be able to embrace this opportunity and allow it to renew our family's experience of worship. It will provide us with a unique opportunity to grow together in faith and spirituality.

Change is always a challenge. The changes in the Mass will be a challenge because we are used to what we are used to. For many, the more familiar responses of the Mass will come automatically and the new responses may be difficult to remember. For this reason, I am enclosing in this blue folder a Mass Prayers and Responses card for you to review the responses you and your children will be saying during the Mass beginning this Sunday. Please also use this card to reflect on the new words and how they relate to our faith. Each of your children have one of these cards in school which they are using with their teachers as they review and develop a deeper understanding of the changes in the Mass and continue to welcome the many blessings of our Catholic faith.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our parents for supporting our fall fundraisers as well as our school events. I sincerely appreciate all of you, our dedicated parents, for ALL you do for our

school. We are truly blessed to have each of you as part of our school community.



May God bless you at Thanksgiving and may our Lord's goodness fill you with many blessings of love and happiness on Thanksgiving and always.

## SAINT MARTIN'S SALUTES VETERANS

On Thursday, November 10, at 10:00 AM, our school gymnasium was filled with more than ninety guests who joined our students and staff to reflect, remember, and honor those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. With honored guests in attendance, our school gymnasium was decorated with writings and art projects in the colors of red, white, and blue, while our students presented poetry, songs, power-point presentations, prayers, and cheers to honor our guests. This celebration allowed our school community to come together to honor our Veterans and show our gratitude and respect for those who put service

before self.

This memorable program began with members of Saint Martin de Porres School saying our Pledge of Allegiance followed by other patriotic songs. The program lasted for about one hour and was followed by a delicious luncheon prepared and donated by Rossi's Deli and served by students representing our upper house.

As a school community, our Veterans Day Celebration was a wonderful learning experience about liberty, patriotism, and democracy. It was an opportunity for our students to spend time with men and women who have kept America strong and have protected

our way of life for more than two centuries. It was an opportunity for our students to show their deepest gratitude and appreciation to Veterans and their families from our parish and school community. Our tribute on this day honored these Veterans and the memory of those comrades who gave their lives in service to our Nation.

Please feel free to view some photos of this event on my school web page under the title of 2011 Veterans Day Celebration .



### STUDENTS LIVE OUR FAITH BY HELPING OTHERS

Our very enthusiastic fifth grade students, under the guidance of their teacher, Miss Lauren Vaczi rallied our student body together to raise \$915.00 for Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital by way of a fun and relaxing jeans and sneakers day on November 15. This collection was a new high goal for our school and we are grateful to all who participated in this very worthy cause.

Saint Martin de Porres School Student Government, under the guidance of Mrs. Kim Papineau, also have raised funds in the amount of \$658.00 for our annual parish Respect Life Baby Bottle Collection. With a few coins a day, each class filled numerous baby bottles to help reach and exceed our school goal of \$600.00.

The student government is also still collecting canned food items for those in need in our community. They have extended this collection based on the needs of others and wanting to help those in need. Please send in all donated food to school and place it outside the main office.

May God bless our precious students for their desire and willingness to live their faith daily by helping others.

### CELEBRATING SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

On Thursday, November 3, our entire student body joined together in the Celebration of the Feast of Saint Martin. As always, the Eucharist is the center of who and what we are and so appropriately this was the best way for us to celebrate his feast day. Alwin Joseph, grade 8, began the mass by telling us about the life of Saint Martin and the many good deeds he did for others. He encouraged our students to live their lives as Saint Martin did and he gave us examples of ways that we could help others, especially the poor as Saint Martin did.

Later that same day, as a school community, we gathered in the school gymnasium for an ice cream social in honor of Saint Martin. Here in our school gymnasium, with music provided by our energetic Mr. Timm, the children had the opportunity to make their own sundaes with many various dressings. The children also shared in good company with their classmates and friends, sang many popular songs together and even danced around the room as we celebrated how blessed we are to be part of such a wonderful school and how grateful we are to have the opportunity to spend our days together here at Saint Martin's as we celebrated our patron saint. (Enjoy the pictures on my web site.)