

**SAINT PHILIP NERI RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**PARENT NEWSLETTER**                      **WINTER 2009**  
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Dear Families,

Thank you for your donations of infant formula for the Advent outreach. Nutritional Services in the Archdiocese is most grateful.

Lisa O'Brien has received many wonderful care packages and cards. She thanks all of our families for their prayers and kind support.

**Report cards will be sent home January 26.** They do not need to be signed and returned. Please take time each week to review what your child is learning and follow the directives from your child's catechist.

If we need to cancel a class because of weather, it is your responsibility to learn about it from one of the KYW sources. If Colonial School District is closed, then we are closed as well. I will try to put a message on the answering machine to confirm whatever action is taken. Please make sure any number changes are reported, and that your child has clear directions for what to do in an emergency closure. As a parent, you always can change the directive for your child if you disagree with my decision.

If you need to pick up your child early from class, you should send that information by note or email to your child's catechist, and then your child's catechist will send your child to the office at the time indicated. No one should be in our hallways so as to keep our children as safe as possible.

Ash Wednesday is February 17. We will have a collection for the Holy Childhood Association at the end of Lent. Boxes will be distributed at the beginning of Lent. There was a presentation to our students from Holy Childhood last Tuesday given by Mrs. Maureen Rilling, and she "was impressed by their attentiveness and sincere concern for their peers in the Missions."

The **cones and dismissal** issues remain a high priority for the safety of the children in the small building. Despite repeated directives, parents are still moving the cones because they feel inconvenienced. The safety of our children is more important than the extra minutes to drive around the building. People who park by the curb are a hindrance to those parked in legitimate marked spaces. There are plenty of spots on both sides of the main building to accommodate us. There would be no need for all those cars near the cones if families could take the extra minutes to park in designated areas and not in front of the door. It doesn't show the integrity we should have for the common good of our Program community and shows a poor example to our children. Walking is good.

**Program 2010-2011**

The Whitemarsh Elementary bus and the growth of the Program have forced me to consider adding another session next year. In discussions with Monsignor who would be affected, and with Mrs. Annechini, the school principal, I was hoping to offer you a few choices so you could give some input into selecting which session would benefit most families. As it turns out, Monday afternoon from 4 to 5:30 would be the best for Monsignor and the school. Tuesday would remain in place for the bulk of the program, and Monday, at least for next year would serve those who register after the Whitemarsh and Colonial Elementary buses reach 50 paid students. If Monday is your preference, that would be honored as well. Monday would not include grades 5 and 6 next year unless enrollment demands it. Registration will have the same deadline as in previous years, May 31. Registration and bus fees will be announced at a later date.

## Reminders

January 30	Confirmation Retreat – Room 19	8:30 AM	Mass Church
	Dismissal at 12:30 from School Hall		
31	No Kindergarten class ~ Catholic Schools Week Open House		
February 1	First Penance	7:30 PM	Church
6	Confirmation Retreat – Room 20	8:30 AM	Mass Church
	Dismissal at 12:30 from School Hall		
7	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Family Liturgy	10AM	
14	No Kindergarten class ~ Presidents' Day Weekend		
17	Ash Wednesday		
22	First Communion Parent Night	7:30 PM	Church
22	Grade 2 Communion Retreat	9:30 AM -12:30 PM	School Hall

In Scripture we read of the tenderness of God for the world, and we read that God loved the world so much that he gave his Son Jesus to come to be like us and to bring the good news that God is love, that God loves you and loves me. God wants us to love each other as he loves each one of us. We all know, when we look at the cross, how Jesus loved us. When we look at the Eucharist we know how much he loves us now. That's why he made himself the bread of life to satisfy our hunger for his love, and then, as if this was not enough for him, he made himself the hungry one, the homeless one, the naked one, so that you and I can satisfy his hunger for our human love. For we have been created for that. We have been created to love and be loved.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

*Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (+1997) won the Nobel Peace Prize and founded the Missionaries of Charity.*

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