



Saint Denis – Saint Columba School

... A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

TO: PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
FROM: SR. KATHLEEN MARIE, CR
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HAPPENINGS
DATE: MARCH 6-10, 2017



*Jesus, I Trust in You
Make our Hearts like Yours!*

ST. DENIS - ST. COLUMBA SCHOOL
ANNIVERSARY *Gala* celebrating **50** 1966-2016

April 22nd ₂₀₁₇ **DUTCHESS MANOR**
at seven in the evening 263 ROUTE 9D | BEACON | NEW YORK

\$75/PER PERSON | \$700 FOR A TABLE OF 10 {PRICE INCLUDES OPEN BAR, 21+ PLEASE}
ORDER TICKETS BY VISITING: WWW.STCOLUMBA.NET OR MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
ST. DENIS-ST. COLUMBA, PO BOX 368, HOPEWELL JCT, NEW YORK 12533

Please join us for an elegant evening of dinner, dancing, raffles and auctions as we celebrate 50 years of friendship and memories!

Contact 845.227.7777 or GALA@STCOLUMBA.NET for more information

PLEASE ALSO JOIN US FOR A... *Mass of Thanksgiving* SUNDAY, APRIL 23, AT NOON ST. COLUMBA CHURCH

NO SCHOOL for Students on Friday, March 10th

Because this Friday, March 10th is a Teacher Professional Development Day, there will be no school for students.

Transportation Forms for 2017-2018 School Year DUE NOW

Have you returned your Transportation forms? If not, please do so ASAP! We need to prepare them for submission to the school districts to ensure that your children have busing available to them next year.

Save the Date: Lenten Parish Mission at St. Columba Tuesday, March 14th - Thursday, March 16th

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**"Be kind to one another,
tender-hearted, forgiving each other,
just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
(Ephesians 4:32)**



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First Communion Parent Meetings

There will be a St. Columba First Communion Parent meeting on Sunday, March 12th at 9:15 a.m. and on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria for parents of children making their First Communion this year. Parents are invited to attend only one of these meetings.

TICKETS AVAILABLE for our SDSC Drama Production of "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL"



St. Denis-St. Columba School Drama Club will proudly present "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" on Friday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are available online at <https://search.seatyourself.biz/webstore/webstore.html?d=1&domain=stcolumba>. Tickets are \$10 per person. It's a show you do not want to miss and it's great for young children! The students have been working very hard to prepare for it. Get your tickets now!



We are excited to launch our beautiful new School and Church Garden in 2017! We are looking for people interested in planning, planting, weeding, harvesting or donating materials and supplies. Our garden will be used as an educational resource for our students and as a source of fresh produce for the parish St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. If you are interested in helping, please contact the school at 845-227-7777 or rtkrebs@stcolumba.net.

Upcoming NYS ELA and Math Tests

As it is stated in our school handbook, our students *"take part in the Archdiocesan testing program, which includes the Archdiocesan Religion test, Annual Standardized Tests, and New York State Education Department assessments. These tests measure academic growth over a period of time."* Our Archdiocesan Catholic Schools have always aligned our curriculum with *national standards*, rather than just a recent transition to *Common Core*.

On Tuesday, March 28 to Thursday, March 30th our students in Grades 3-8 will be taking the NYS ELA Tests. These assessments provide us with valuable information to help us to continue to meet the learning needs of our students. *Please be sure that your children are in school on time on these days.* The tests will take place in the morning. PLEASE NOTE that the Archdiocese and SDSC will not be honoring an OPT OUT option for these tests this year. Included below are some important points about test-taking:

- Test-taking helps build mental stamina in children, preparing them for higher education.
- Data gleaned from state exams helps teachers create individualized instruction and provide support in specific areas as needed.
- State exam scores do not determine promotion or retention.
- Elementary-level state exams prepare students for future "standardized testing" such as the high school TACHS exam, SATs, ACTs, driver's licenses, GREs, Bar exams and more.
- To ensure exams contain relevant and constructive content, teachers have vetted and edited this year's questions.
- Performance and personal data is carefully protected by the school and state, and is not shared with outside vendors or organizations.

SAVE THE DATE: Home Run for Catholic Schools - Renegades Game on June 22nd

Home Run for Catholic Schools is a partnership between the Hudson Valley Renegades, a Minor League Baseball affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, and Catholic Schools. Now in our 7th year, this is an opportunity for Catholic school students and their families to come together for a night of baseball and fun! Last year we sold close to 1,000 tickets! The date is Tuesday, June 22, 2015 at 6:35 p.m. The Renegades will play the Staten Island Yankees, an affiliate of the New York Yankees. The Renegades play Minor League Class A Baseball in the New York-Penn League. Students and families can begin purchasing tickets on line soon. For Saint Denis-Saint Columba School – go to <http://www.gadesgroups.com/> and enter "deniscolumba" as the password. Each school will receive \$3.00 per ticket sold. Each ticket holder will receive a free Renegades cap. The school that sells the most tickets (*remember, use the code*) will be invited to have a pre-game catch on the field and will receive a visit at their school from Rascal, the team mascot. Rascal loves to visit Field Day!

ESSAY CONTEST - An Essay Contest will determine who will throw out the First Pitch. Many baseball players tell us that their Christian Faith is important to them:

Albert Pujols: *“My life is not mostly dedicated to the Lord, it is 100% committed to Jesus Christ and His will.”*

Mariano Rivera: *“I know that following Christ is the most important thing in my life.”*

Mike Piazza: *“I truly believe my whole professional career has been a blessing from God.”*

Clayton Kershaw: *“You’re not doing it for yourself, you’re not doing it for your coach, you’re not doing it for your teammates – you’re doing it to glorify God.”*

Matt Holliday: *“When we have our priorities in order, we feel the love God intended us to feel, for Him and for our families.”*

Essay Contest is: ***“Why Is Your Catholic Faith Important To You?”*** and ***“Does Your Faith Make A Difference When You Play Sports?”*** Essays should be one page typed. Each school must have their own contest then submit one essay for consideration to the Office of Regional Superintendent – Mary Jane Daley. Deadline for submission is May 1st. The winner each of the last six years had their essay published in *Catholic New York*.

THREE SINGING CONTESTS:

1. *The National Anthem* – groups of five voices (minimum) or more are invited to compete to sing the National Anthem at the beginning of the game
2. *God Bless America* – soloists ONLY are invited to compete to sing God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch.
3. *Take Me Out To The Ball Game* - groups of five voices (minimum) or more are invited to compete to sing right after "God Bless America."

Each school will have its own contest and then may enter ONE group and/or ONE soloist in EACH contest.

FIFTH ANNUAL ALTAR SERVER NIGHT

In conjunction with Home Run for Catholic Schools, we will also host our fifth “Altar Server Night!” Servers can participate in the parade under their own banner and run the bases after the game. See the Renegades for group sales. For example, each year I ask the local Funeral Director to cover the cost of food vouchers for all the servers. It is a great way to say Thank You!!!

To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL

Anne Culklin (*mother of Cathy Martin and great grandmother of Michael O’Hearn*), Geri DiNoti (*parishioner*), Janice Prostack (*sister of Sr. Kathleen*), Kelsey Berger (*cousin of Winogradoff children*), Loretta DelliCarpini, Louis Pissani, Chelsea Grace (*daughter of Spanish teacher, Mrs. Lyons*), Paulo Ampil (*Kyle Silverio’s grandfather*), Carmella Ficaro, (*great grandmother to Isabella and Ava Breining*), and the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit at this time

A TIME TO DIE

Carmella Ficaro, (*great grandmother to Isabella and Ava Breining*)

Saint Edith Stein



Virtue of HUMILITY: Accepting our Limitations and God-given talents

“I am grateful to him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry.” 1Timothy 1:12

How do other Virtues help you to understand Humility?