



St. Rose School

CHELSEA, MA

November 10, 2010

Dear Families,

Last Sunday's readings push us to think about life after death, a topic we aren't necessarily comfortable with, because we don't like to think about death in general. However, the readings are also inspiring because we see examples in the seven brothers in the Old Testament reading of faith in life after death, and in the resurrection that awaits all of us. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that much of what we worry about in this life doesn't apply in eternal life; he says that the dead will rise because our God is the God of the living, and to him, all are alive. This echoes true for me, as I'm sure it does for you, as we think about our loved ones who have gone before us, but who are very much still alive in our hearts. We pray that they are enjoying eternal life, and hope that we might one day be reunited. We also ask them to pray for us, as we continue to go about our lives, living each day as best we can with the hope of what's to come. Hope is a force of great strength; it is what gets us through tough times, and inspires us to always work for a better world. I actually prefer the Spanish word for hope, *esperanza*. Just saying the word makes me feel hopeful. We have a lot to be hopeful about here at St. Rose, thanks to the many people who work so hard every day to make this school a great place to be!

Please read on about all that is happening this week:

Lunches: Please see attached letter to order the school lunch for your child for the week of November 22-24. With the Thanksgiving holidays, lunch will be served Monday through Wednesday. There is a mistake on November's lunch menu; please follow the November school calendar. Thank you.

NO SCHOOL TOMORROW: In honor all of the veterans who have served our country, we will have no school tomorrow. We have been talking about Veterans' Day here at school, and were blessed to have Mr. Richard Honan, an army veteran, visit our school to talk to us about the work he does sending care packages to soldiers overseas with the Town of Winthrop. St. Rose students are making cards and writing letters to send to soldiers with his care packages. I invite you to talk with your child about the sacrifices that our military service people make to protect us, and also to see if your town is having any kind of a service to honor these men and women tomorrow. It's important that we make Veterans' Day more than just a day off. Thank you!

Fundraising: Remember, the cookie dough fundraiser ends on Monday. Please do what you can to help our school! I don't know about you, but when I looked at the pictures of those cookies, it was impossible to resist! This is a great, easy way to support St. Rose School. Please share with friends and family!

Christmas Festival: This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's festival will be December 3-4. Mark your calendars! We will need everyone's help to make this a success. Coming home in the folder today you will find papers about the raffle, as well as raffle tickets, and a paper about volunteering at the festival. If you already sent in a volunteer form, hopefully you received an email from FTO Coordinator Sharon Rodriguez-Alvarez thanking you. We hope email can be a helpful form of communication in

addition to sending home papers. Please still fill out this volunteer form, so that we can plan for specific times. Thank you.

FTO: The next meeting will be TONIGHT at 6:00pm. Please come if you can! Also, FTO will be sponsoring a Fall Dance Party for all students next Friday, November 19. Please see enclosed flyer for more details. Pre-registration is encouraged. I hope you will support this first fundraiser for the FTO; they have been working very hard and hope to bring about some positive changes here at St. Rose.

"In the Know": Please see enclosed newsletter from Mr. MacNeil, our guidance counselor, about great opportunities for your family in the coming weeks!

IMPORTANT AFTER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT: There will be NO after school on Wednesday, November 24 or Wednesday, December 22. Both days are early dismissal days (11:30 am) before Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for understanding.

Mission Change: We have had a decline in missions, and think that it is probably related to the change to Mondays, as many people forget to bring it in on Monday. We are changing back to Thursday, and hope that this will help. Please encourage your children to think about sharing their money with those who really need it. We are so blessed, and often don't realize how much we take for granted; our mission money goes to help children in Haiti who don't have even the basic things, like clean water, shoes, and pencils. During Advent (starting after Thanksgiving), all of our mission money will go to Sister Ursula's school in Pakistan. We have been hearing from her occasionally and the need is very great; they do not have basic things like crayons. Please be generous. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Choir: Practice begins this Friday! If you want to participate and have not yet returned your form, you must bring it on Friday.

Mark your calendar:

Wednesday, November 10 - 7pm 1st Communion meeting for all 2nd Grade parents

Thursday, November 11 - NO SCHOOL - VETERANS' DAY

Monday, November 15 - Cookie fundraiser ends

Wednesday, November 17 - Christmas Festival Planning Meeting @ 6pm

Friday, November 19 - FTO Fall Dance Party (see enclosed flyer)

Blessings,

Caitlin Keeton, Principal