

Dear Boys and Girls: Yesterday we celebrated *All Saints Day* and we saw our third grade saints all dressed up and well rehearsed to tell us about the lives of the saints they chose for their reports. Well, today the Universal Church celebrates *All Souls Day*. It is the day that we pray in a special way for all those persons who have died and passed into eternal life. When we leave this world to be with God, He gives us a chance to be totally purified from all sin and the effects of sin in our lives. We want to believe that every person who dies goes straight to heaven, but we do not know that for sure. If the persons we know who died have tried their best to live a good life, even failing some times to do the right thing or to say the right words or, perhaps, as in most cases, saying the wrong words (gossip—it's one of the ugliest things we do as human beings), God, in His mercy will eventually bring them to heaven, but He wants us to pray for their souls so that when they appear before God, our prayers will help them to appear with a clear soul, magnificent in beauty as God intends for all of us to be. The Church sets aside this day and the whole month of November to pray for these saints who are suffering to be cleansed of their sins in order to be presented to God, the almighty one. Because God wants everyone to be saved, He gives us the opportunity to pray for our beloved deceased. Two very short prayers can be said for all souls waiting for their journey into heaven: *1) Merciful Jesus, grant them eternal rest or Eternal rest grant unto their souls, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace.* You are invited to say these prayers all during the month of November. In fact these prayers are so short you can say them any day, every day for the rest of your life. You will only know at the end of your life, when you, yourself, enter the throne room of our merciful Lord, how many persons are in heaven because you prayed for them so frequently, asking God to grant them eternal peace.

8 Enclosures: Wine Tasting, Craft Fair (2), Scrip (2), Walk for Warmth (2), 8th Grade Spaghetti Dinner

Annual Mother Seton Scholarship Dinner, sponsored by the Office of Development of the Diocese of Norwich, will take place this year on November 18th at the Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddam, across the bridge from the Goodspeed Opera House. Last year many families were able to send their children to a Catholic school in the Diocese because there was \$40,000 more of scholarship monies available, raised from this event. If you are a family that received one of these scholarships, you know how grateful you are. If you are a family that can contribute to this event or you have relatives, business partners, etc. who might want to attend this “classy” dinner, do consider purchasing tickets for it. The price is \$150 per person and the proceeds will go directly to scholarships for our Catholic school families. If you own a business and want to advertise in the dinner program, prices range from \$75 - \$250. Contact the DSO at 860-887-4086 and ask for Ann Crooks for tickets and an opportunity to advertise. Last year's event was very successful, not only financially, but socially as well.

Walk for Warmth – This year the opening service will be held at St. Joseph Church on November 20th at 2:15 p.m. Get your friends together and try to raise as much money as you can for this very worthy cause. Registration forms are available in the office. Come and join our SMSJ team and help us raise money for WAIM's Energy Assistance Program.

Sister Mary Mark – is recuperating just fine. She keeps in touch by phone and sounds great! Please continue to keep her in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Wine Tasting – It's this Saturday, November 5th from 7-10 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and are available in the office or at the door. Come for an enjoyable evening out with your friends and support SMSJ at the same time!

St. Joseph Parish is looking for boys and girls, grades 4 and up who are interesting in becoming altar servers. Please call the rectory at 860-423-8439 if your child is interested.

Basketball Programs – The first practice for all boys interested in playing basketball will be on Wednesday, November 9th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. The first practice for all girls that are interested in playing basketball will be on Thursday, November 10th from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Please remember that commitment is a must!!!!

Scrip Program – Our Scrip program is underway. Please review the new Scrip order forms that are enclosed. This is a great way to stock up on those gift cards for Christmas and birthdays. The next orders are due by November 10th.

50/50 Club – Congratulations to our November winners! They are Steven Puleo #53 and Doris Lacasse #99. There are still many chances to win – it's not too late to join the Club. For more information, please call Roland Huard at 423-8479.

Christmas CD – The Sisters of Charity have just released their Christmas CD. The CD contains 13 beautiful arrangements, featuring our own Sister M. Gabriela. The CD's are yours for just \$15.00 and are available in the school office.

8th Grade Spaghetti Dinner – The 8th grade will sponsor a Spaghetti/Meatball dinner on Saturday, November 12th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Please see enclosure if you would like to purchase tickets in advance.

Thank you to Jenn Bennett and all who volunteered for the **Hallowe'en Carnival**. It was a great success, and a fun time was had by all.

Holiday Craft Fair – Mark your calendars! Our Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. What a great way to get all your Christmas shopping done.

Thought for the Week

(From the Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin)

On courtesy: "To be humble to superiors is duty; to equals, is courtesy; to inferiors, nobleness."