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∞ S M S J WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ∞

SAINT MARY – SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL - WILLIMANTIC, CT  
A MAGNET SCHOOL FOR VALUES!

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September 28, 2011

Ss. Wenceslaus, Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

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**Dear Boys and Girls:** Today in the Church's Year of Grace, we celebrate the feast of 17 martyrs. These are persons who gave up their life because they followed the Lord's way and not the way of unbelievers. St. Wenceslaus was actually murdered by his brother and some other rogues who had it in for him, just because he was a believer and did so much good for others. Lawrence Ruiz was the father of a Filipino family. He, along with 15 others, priests and laypersons, was put to death in Japan. It was a high price to pay, but Japan now has a very high population of Catholics and other Christians after Christianity was wiped out of that country for 100 years. This is a testimony, not only of how much these martyrs loved and believed in Christ, but also, how *truth*, like Jesus Christ, can be mocked, beaten and crucified. But also like Christ, this *truth* will rise again. No one can kill truth—the truths of faith and the truths of natural knowledge. Keep in mind, on the feast of these brave martyrs, what the word *martyr* means—witness. How much do we witness to Christ and to His teachings by the way we live—by the way we think, speak, act? In our homes? In school? Everywhere we go and with everyone we meet? It's a tall order, but Christ and His heavenly court of angels and saints are here for us to help us think the Christ thought, say the Christ word, do the Christ thing. Ask Him, ask them!

**Thank you for attending to the traffic problem** at the end of the day. Everyone who picks up a child appreciates the care and concern of not parking on the grass and making sure you are parked in a parking space to make the in and out flow go smoothly. Cooperation! What a gift to all of us! Thanks!

**Standardized Testing Program** is half way done in the lower grades and near completion in the middle school. If your child has missed any subtests, we will work with them to complete the battery in a timely manner, but that may mean pulling them from a class.

**Congratulations to—**

- Rylan Colburne and family. Mom gave birth to twin girls this past week! Two for one!!! BOGO?

**Governor's Prevention Partnership Team—**SMSJ has sent a team of three staff members to a 3-part workshop that deals with Capacity-building for School Climate Improvement and Bullying Prevention. We are proud of our school climate, but we know we can always improve. We are most grateful to our team, Mrs. Ternullo, Mrs. Morell and Mrs. Abitz, RN, who will be working very hard with our school families to keep a positive climate at school and work to have a bully-free school. And each staff member and student knows, "To be bully-free is up to me!" We will keep families posted as to how the work being done to meet our school climate goals is progressing, for it is definitely a work in progress—every day, every way, with every person. Isn't it wonderful that, in our school, we can invite Jesus to be part of the team. What a difference it makes!

**Wine Tasting Committee—**We have begun planning for our wine tasting fundraiser in November. We look to our school community as a resource to obtain "free" items for the raffle. Do you know a family member or friend that has a good or service that they would be willing to donate? Or, maybe you have a business connection that you would be willing to ask for a donation? If so, please contact Tom Holton at 860-450-0893. Cash donations are always welcome. This year our efforts will benefit our school athletics program!

**Cross Country Challenge (gr. K-4)—**Next meet is Oct. 4th at Lauter Park. See last week's flyer.

**Spirit Jackets-- Deadline for orders is Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Yikes!!!!** That's tomorrow!

If you are interested and would like to see these jackets, we have several of the styles hanging up in the office. If you need a new jacket for the fall or winter months, consider one with the school's logo.

**Cristoline and Food Court Brochures**—Orders will be coming in next Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. We need several persons who are free during the school day to help sort the food court orders. Call the school office or get in touch with Christopher Bennett (860-423-4717) to let him know you will help. Many hands make light work.

**Speaking of lights**—As this newsletter is being typed, Paquette Electric is putting in energy saving bright lights in the gym, giving us a saving of over \$2000 each year and the effects will be most enlightening for all.

**50/50 Club**—First drawing in October. Don't miss the chance to win. Join now.

**Clothes hangers needed** for our uniform exchange closet. Child size hangers would be appreciated. Thank you to all who have donated used uniforms since the beginning of the year. We appreciate your contributions.

**Attention Parents of Students in Grades 5,6,7, & 8**—On October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 7 – 8 p.m. SMSJ will be hosting a high school night in the gym. Between 10-12 surrounding high school will be here to show you what they have to offer. **THIS IS NOT JUST FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS.** It is important that you start to look ahead and see all of the options available. Just because some of these high schools are private, does not necessarily mean they are beyond your financial means. Most of the Catholic schools offer large amounts of scholarships, so come and see what it's like.

**REPEATS—LAST TIME!**

**Stopandshop.com/aplus**—It's time again to register your Stop and Shop card. Even if you registered your card last year, you must register again. All you have to do is register your card and SMSJ will get money back at the end of the year. It's real easy—just go to **stopandshop.com/aplus**. Click on A+ School Rewards. Click on "register your card". Fill in the first three letters of your last name and enter your stop and shop card number. It is a 13 digit number on the back of your card or key tag. Click "Submit school and continue". Click "complete registration. Click "confirm my registration" and you are done. If you don't have time, just send in your card number and Nancy will register it for you. Remember, every little bit helps our school!

**Sunshine Photos** will be at the school October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>—class pictures in full dress uniform; 19<sup>th</sup>, individual photos in appropriate clothes of your choice.

**Important forms to fill out and return--** emergency paperwork from the nurse, emergency paperwork for the office, free & reduced lunch applications, internet usage contract, permission to use your child's image in publications—please get all of this paperwork in ASAP.

**Volunteers needed and wanted!** Playground duty to partner with a teacher in morning and/or afternoon recess. Library help—we are turning our library into an electronic scan program. We need folks to come in and put the bar codes on the books--little or no training necessary.

**We save everything:** empty ink cartridges, Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Labels, etc. Bring 'em on as we actually get money for them and are able to purchase supplies from Staples with the ink cartridges recycled.

**Communication with teachers**—Beginning now, please communicate with the teachers, using the e-mail address on our Website. This does not preclude the use of Alexander G. Bell's invention. Keep in mind that your child's teacher may not interact with your child through the use of social media.

**Clean fill needed?** There are three piles of dirt (of various compositions—all clean) on the East side of the building next to the blue dumpster. If anyone needs clean fill or just-out-of-the-goodness-of-your-heart has a truck to remove these piles, Mr. Borgos and Sr. Mark will be delighted.

**(5) ENCLOSURES:** 50/50 Club Notice, October Calendar, October Lunch Menu, Spirit Jacket Reminder, SFA volunteer form (pink)

*Thought for the Week*

*(From the Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin)*

**On Christianity:** "He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity shall revolutionize the world."