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# ∞ SMSJ WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ∞

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

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October 26, 2011

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

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**Dear Boys and Girls:** Just want to tell you that Hallowe'en is not a liturgical feast; in fact, it's not even a Christian feast. Some families won't even let their children take part in this holiday, since its origins are very pagan. Because there is a great deal of fun involved in dressing up with a costume and of course, lots of candy, we celebrate it as a carnival in our school. We want to caution you about the directives that went home with the Hallowe'en Carnival flyer—no facsimiles of weapons should be part of your costume and no overly ghoulish costumes. And now to talk about what Hallowe'en really means. You noticed that it is spelled with an apostrophe between the two "e's". Even though Microsoft Word does not recognize that spelling, it is closer to what Hallowe'en really means. It is the evening before All Saints Day, in other words, the evening before All Hallows Day. We use the word "hallowed" in the Lord's Prayer when we pray "...hallowed be Thy name." We are asking that God's name be looked upon as holy, for *hallow* means *holy*. Pagans tried to find a feast to discourage us from celebrating our saints, but we have turned the feast into a time to go trick or treating and still honor our saints the next day. As is traditional at SMSJ, the third graders are preparing for their annual "All Saints' Mass next week. We wish them well and we wish all of you well as you prepare for SAINTHOOD itself. On All Saints Day, we honor all those in heaven, whether we know their names or not. When our life on Earth is finished, if we tried our best to do what God has asked of us, we, too, will be honored on November 1<sup>st</sup>. So, Happy Preparing for Sainthood and have a safe hallowe'en.

We ask that you remember Sr. John Baptist Donovan, SCMC in your prayers. Sister passed peacefully into eternity this morning. Please keep her family in your prayers as well.

**THERE ARE 13 ENCLOSURES TODAY—DON'T MISS A ONE!**

**Coming Events:** **Progress Reports will be distributed this week.** Look for them in the mail! **Spaghetti Supper** at St. Joseph Church Hall on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, **All Saints Day Mass** at St. Mary Church on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m., **Wine Tasting Event** on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Home on Pleasant Street; **Holiday Craft Fair** on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

<p><b>We still need volunteers</b> to help make the Hallowe'en Carnival a fun event. Please see enclosed flyers and come through to help where you can.</p>
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**Annual Mother Seton Scholarship Dinner**, sponsored by the Office of Development of the Diocese of Norwich, will take place this year on November 18<sup>th</sup> 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 it begins and ends at St. Joseph Church on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Read the enclosed flyers and let's try to be there for the less fortunate. It's what Christianity is all about---OTHERS!

**Sister Mary Mark** will be on medical leave from October 27<sup>th</sup> until ?????? Please keep her in your prayers at this time. There is nothing catastrophic to worry about, just some repair work that needs to be taken care of at this time, and Sister asks that you respect her privacy in this matter. Please address any school concerns first with your child's homeroom teachers, Mrs. Brennan and Mr. Huard. If need be administrative concerns will be dealt with by the School's assistant principals, Mrs. Ellis, grades K-4 and Mrs. Messier, grades 5-8. Sister Mary Mark wants to assure all students and their families that all has been put in order for her absence and that the School is in good hands with the wonderful supportive staff we have. She's not sure who is going to reign in Chef Ed, so pray that he behaves himself. ☺

**Altar servers for St. Joseph Parish**—boys and girls, grades 4 and up, contact Father at the rectory, 860-423-8439.

**Regional Band Concert** was this past Saturday at St. James in Manchester. A 94-piece band entertained us with some very advanced compositions. Congratulations to: Kienan Giller, Caleb Nuhn, Alyssa Te.

**Basketball programs:** There was a very good response to our survey regarding your interest in playing basketball at SMSJ. Only if your parents permit you to be on a Windham Rec team and the school team, we will honor that decision. For those who are interested, we are working with coaches and assistant coaches to build up our sports program. We will keep you and your parents informed as things develop.

**Wine Tasting Committee**—last meeting is tomorrow evening, October 27<sup>th</sup>, in the school library at 6:30 p.m. (David has the key!)

**Take your family out to supper to support SMSJ—this Saturday, October 29<sup>TH</sup>**—Spaghetti Supper sponsored by the St. Joseph Men's Club (flyer enclosed once again this week). Come and support, come and enjoy! Basement of St. Joseph Church—plenty of parking!

**Scrip Program** – Our Scrip program is starting again and will be run by Holly Holland. This is a good way to stock up on those gift cards for Christmas and birthdays. There are two enclosures this week that explain the Scrip program in more detail and the dates that your orders are due into the office.

**50/50 Club**—It's not too late to join the 50/50 Club. The next drawings will be held in November. For only \$30.00 your name will be entered into drawings totaling \$2,075 and you would be supporting SMSJ at the same time. For more information, please call Roland Huard at 423-8479.

**(13) ENCLOSURES:** Spaghetti Supper at St. Joseph Church Hall, Hallowe'en Carnival (2), Scrip (2), Wine Tasting, Holiday Craft Fair (2), Asbestos Management Letter, November Calendar and Menu, Walk for Warmth (2).

**COMMERCIAL!** New Release by the Sisters of Charity *Schola Cantorum*—Christmas CD with 13 songs in beautiful arrangements, featuring the voices of 10 SCMC's including our own Sister M. Gabriela (and Sr. John Baptist). The CD's are yours for just \$15. Proceeds will go to the Sisters of Charity to help pay for our young Sisters' education and our aging Sisters' health care. On sale now in the school office. Think! Christmas presents! Think! Beautiful Music!

*Thought for the Week*

**On diligence:** "He who rises late must trot all day."

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