



St. Maurice Parochial School

Newsletter

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November 2020

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Campus Ministry News

Masses with the school

In October we had the opportunity to virtually attend Mass together. Fr. Mark, Fr. Moise and several teachers distributed Holy Communion throughout the school (including for the kindergarten teachers and EA's) in socially distanced/cohort adhered ways. While being streamed, the words to the responses and instructions for when to sit or stand were provided, which made being able to more fully participate easier for students and staff. We will continue to do this each month until we can gather together again as a whole community in the church. Our next Mass will be Thursday, November 12th at 9:15AM. Please join us through the St. Vital Parish YouTube channel.

We have recently begun Masses with individual classes, in the church. To date, the grade 11 & 12 classes have been to Mass, one class at a time (students sitting well dispersed in the church), on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:15AM. Fr. Mark would like to do this throughout the year so that each class has the opportunity to attend Mass, in the church, 2 times. Given the recent shift of metro Winnipeg to Critical/Red level of the province's pandemic response plan, we have put the Masses on hold for the time being. The school continues to be at the Restricted/Orange level.

Liturgical Season Activities

October is one of the two 'Months of Mary' (the other is May) that the Church dedicates to Mary. Several of the K-6 classes did activities centered around Mary, including:

- Grade 1A made rosaries, and then had their rosaries blessed by Fr. Moise in the church. Following the blessing, the children prayed an Our Father, a decade of Hail Mary's and the Glory Be.

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Campus Ministry News cont'd

- Grades 2A & 2B read the Gospel of Mary visiting Elizabeth (The Visitation) and talked about Mary's example of service, and recognizing that many of the words of the Hail Mary prayer are the words that Elizabeth said to Mary

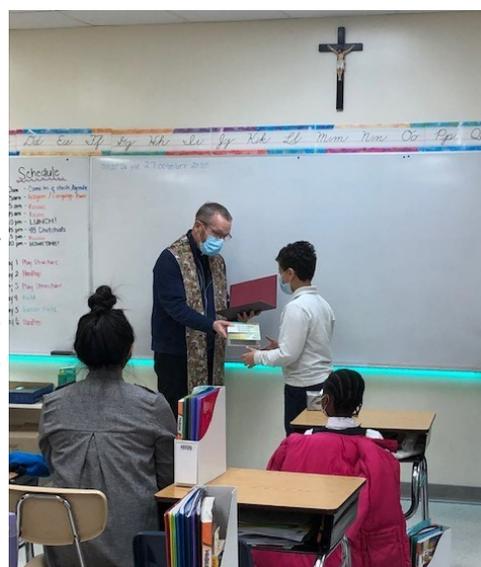


On October 4th, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. To mark his feast day, many parishes organize a blessing of the pets (which is exactly what it sounds like!). This year, the students in KA were invited to bring a picture of their pet to school, and for those who don't have pets, a picture or a book of their favourite animal, and on October 7th Fr. Moise visited the classroom to do a blessing of the pets/animals! *St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals*

Students in 1B begin their day at school by reading the *readings of the day*, as outlined on the Church liturgical calendar. What a special way to begin the day!

Bible Ceremony

During the week of October 26th, both of the grade 4 classes participated in a special ceremony during which the students were each presented with their own bibles. Fr. Moise presented 4A with their bibles, and Fr. Mark presented 4B with theirs. Students will learn more about the bible (including how to use it) throughout the year. *Sacred scripture is set up as a kind of lantern for us in the night of this life. –St. Gregory the Great*



Socktober



Thank you to everyone who was able to donate socks for our first year participating in Main Street Project's annual Socktober campaign! We collected a whopping 1054 pairs of socks!!! A special thank you to a team of students from 7B who helped Ms. Savard count all of them. *Charity isn't about pity, it is about love. ~St. Teresa of Calcutta*



Campus Ministry News cont'd

Social Media & Contests!

Students, parents, families...be sure to follow us on Instagram @smscampusministry! We post all kinds of things...information and pictures of events, prayers, words/quotes of encouragement, the feast days of saints, humour, CONTESTS & GIVEAWAYS and so much more. We never follow the accounts of students, staff or families, and the accounts we do follow are all ones that are in keeping with the work that we do.

Beginning in November, students in grades 4-6 will have the opportunity to participate in contests & giveaways through SeeSaw! Be sure to keep an eye out for them!

We Bring Your Love

*Loving God,
Help us
to focus on what we have
not on what is removed or changed.*

*Strengthen us
when we feel discouraged
or overwhelmed.*

*Embrace us
so that us we know your loving presence
within us and among us.*

*Walk with us
as we bring your love,
and carry your light,
into our world.
Amen.*

*Please keep the staff and students
of our school in your prayers!*



Nicole Savard (Campus Ministry K-6)

School News

In October, the 6B class found COVID safe ways to learn, have fun, and grow as a child of God. Some examples include making Thanksgiving cards for our Rotary Villa neighbours, conducting gravity, mass, and weight science experiments (see photo below, left), participating in a Six Directions prayer and smudging activity (see photo below, right) and attending mass virtually.—Judi Pacheco, Grade 6 Teacher



Thank you to all students, staff and St. Maurice community for doing your part in adapting to the Covid pandemic in the many ways. It hasn't been easy, but the work is much easier when it's done together as one family! - Haben Asghedom, High School Teacher

Masks didn't hinder our learning process, but instead made our bonds with students stronger. EAs still work one on one with kids (taking all necessary safety precautions) to make sure no one is left behind. - Monika Thakur, Educational Assistant

Since returning to school, the 6A students have shared what they have enjoyed so far. They are very happy to be back reconnecting with their friends, meeting and learning with new teachers, chatting with previous teachers at recess, and having fun with the outside gym classes. They have been busy sharing ideas, writing stories, poetry, and planning for the upcoming Remembrance Day assembly. Donna Scharer, Grade 6 Teacher



K-6 Bulletin Board Art Gallery

This month has been filled with many special celebrations. The students have been learning lots about Remembrance Day, Indigenous culture, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Fall.

Our wonderful teachers and EAs have been keeping our hallways and classrooms looking like art galleries. We wish that you could come and see all of this artwork up close. Hopefully these pictures of students capture some of their creativity, as well as the pride they have for the work they've been creating.



Orange Shirt Day

The school was a flood of orange on September 30th when we participated in Orange Shirt Day for the first time. Well done, St. Maurice! You made the day a very a meaningful one. Students will continue learning more about Indigenous people, culture, traditions, etc...throughout the year. In fact, the kindergarten classes and 6B recently took part in a special outdoor prayer which included smudging (with the grade 6s) and a traditional First Nations Prayer in 6 Directions.



Remembrance Day Ceremony for K-6



This year we are planning to live-stream a ceremony for students on November 10th at 1PM. Each class is currently learning about Remembrance Day and preparing works of art, prayer, poetry and more...all of which will be included in the ceremony. If you would like to join us, you can watch the ceremony on YouTube through the St. Vital Parish channel. Students who are part of the Girl Guides of Canada or Scouts Canada are invited to wear their respective uniforms to school on November 10th.

St. Alphonsus School Centennial - 1921-2021

Our school community will be celebrating our centennial in 2021; what a momentous milestone! Our Anniversary Committee is busy planning virtual events and in-school activities to mark the year. If you are an alumni of the school, or know someone who is, we want to connect with you! We are looking for old pictures and memorabilia that could add to our celebration or for former students and staff to share a story of their time here by emailing 100th@stals.ca. As well, find information on our upcoming events and check out our online photo archive at www.stalphonsusschool.ca/100th-anniversary.