

Weekly Newsletter

December 11, 2014

In this issue

- Principal's Corner
- Gospel Reflection
- Welcome Archbishop Cupich
- Special Gift Collection
- Fiona Fleming Wins
- Scholarship
- Southside Catholic Allstars
- Manna News
- Lunch Volunteer Schedule
- Amazon.com
- Opening Night Arts Group



Upcoming Events:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| December 11 | Christmas Band Concert |
| December 12 | Christmas Pageant |
| December 16 | Preschool Christmas Pageant |
| December 18 | 2 nd Grade Field Trip |
| December 19 | Christmas Assembly |

Grade Spotlight

Christmas Around the World...

The fourth grade students have been researching how they celebrate Christmas in other countries of the world. Some countries include Ireland, France, Germany and Mexico. Students will be writing a five-paragraph research paper on their findings. They will also be creating a poster and presenting their findings to the class.



Principal's Corner

Dear School Parents,

During this holiday season our students are truly learning and living what it means to be a person of faith and service. At our Thanksgiving mass, students donated over \$558 for Holy Family Parish, our sharing parish.

This week our students have carried forth the theme of service and reflection in many ways. We began the week with our All School Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in which, thanks to the inspiration of two seventh graders, our students donated over \$1,700 for the Sheahan family, who suffered the loss of their home and pet in a gas explosion.

On Tuesday evening our second graders made their first reconciliation. The students were beaming with excitement and anticipation to share their reflections with our priests. It was obvious that they had taken time to thoughtfully reflect on their sins.

This Wednesday our eighth graders and their parents hosted the annual senior luncheon. The Class of 2015 was eager to help serve food and welcome their special guests to our school. Our students and guests had a wonderful time; special thanks to the eighth grade parents and teachers for all of their hard work. (See pictures to the right.)

Tonight our band students will share their musical talents with our community at 7:00pm. I hope you'll join us.

Tomorrow grades 1, 5, and 7 will perform in the annual Christmas Pageant at 2:00pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

Thanks to two of our wonderful fifth graders, beginning today our fifth grade classes will collect monetary donations in order provide Christmas dinner and gifts for a family in need. Please consider donating to the fifth grade project.

I continue to be proud of our students for the difference they are making in our community. They are modeling for all of us the true meaning of this season.



Principal's Corner Continued



(Pictured above: Second grader, Christian Joyce with Father Hetland at First Reconciliation.)

A few notes for this week:

Christmas Pageant This Friday we will host our annual Christmas Pageant at 2:00pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend. Due to this event, we ask that all students wear their school uniform. If a student has gym on this day, they should not wear their gym uniform, rather just their gym shoes.

Wellness If your child has a fever or an extended illness, please keep them home from school. We are making every effort to keep all of our students healthy this winter.

Pre-registration forms for the 2015-2016 school year were sent home last week. Please complete and return the forms to school by December 12.

Christmas Shopping? If you're doing your Christmas shopping through Amazon, please consider shopping through Amazon Smiles in which proceeds can benefit St. Barnabas – see the ad below in this week's newsletter.

Gospel Reflection

DECEMBER 14, 2014
**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**



ISAIAH 61:1-2A, 10-11

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

REFLECTION

Gaudete Sunday — that's today — means rejoice. We're almost there. One more Sunday of Advent and then comes Christmas. Advent itself is also season of joy, of looking forward with happy expectation. Last week there were questions about "what." This week the questions are all about "who." The Jewish leaders need to know who John the Baptist is so they send messengers to ask. Is he the Messiah? No. Elijah? No. The prophet? No. "Well we have to tell them something," the messengers (basically) say to John. John quotes the prophet Isaiah to let them know that although he is *not* the messiah, John *is* the one preparing the way for the Messiah to come. Our First Reading is also from Isaiah and gives more signs about who the Messiah will be. He will bring good news to the poor and heal the broken-hearted. He will proclaim liberty and release to captives and prisoners.

ACTION

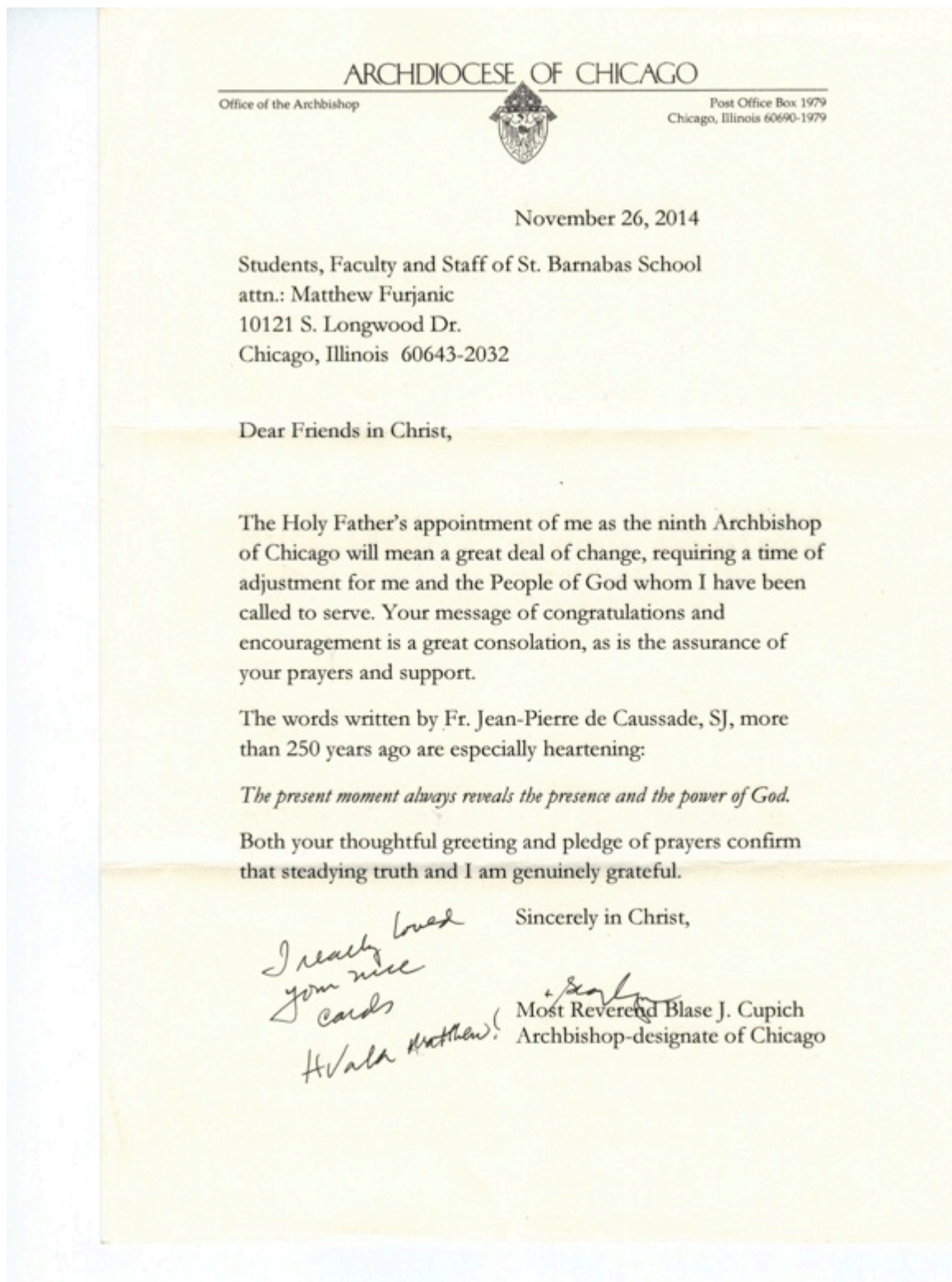
Listen to the song "Ready the Way" by Curtis Stephan a few times this week (www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxyKS7fW8ug) and take a few minutes in a quiet place each day to prepare a place in your heart for Jesus to enter on Christmas.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What brings you joy?
- Imagine that you are John and the messengers have come to ask about the Messiah. What would you tell them?

Welcome Archbishop Cupich

St. Barnabas students were asked by their teachers to create Welcome Letters to our new Archbishop Cupich pledging prayers and support. Hundreds of letters were forwarded to the Archbishop from our school, and St. Barnabas students received the following personal response:



Special Gift Collection



Give to the Christmas 2014 Faculty & Staff Special Gift

Each year during the Christmas season, St. Barnabas FSA sponsors the Special Gift program for our amazing faculty and staff as a way of saying thank you for their whole-hearted commitment to our children.

We invite your generous participation in this program by sending a monetary gift as you are able. Combined with the proceeds from the Men's Club Progressive Mixer, these gifts will be pooled and distributed to all teachers, Pre-K through eighth, specials teachers, resource teachers, administration, office and maintenance staff as cash gifts before the Christmas holidays.

*This is the **sole-source** of any kind of additional "bonus" for our faculty and staff. Thank you so much for your generosity!*

Please return checks payable to St. Barnabas FSA to the school office in care of Angie Sheehan, Special Gift program, by Thursday, Dec 11th.

A card will be included listing all who contributed to the program, please return your gift with the attached form so we are sure your name is included.

Attached is our contribution to the Special Gift Program, please list our name on the card as follows:

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Please contact Angie Sheehan at 630.408.2834 or basheehan@sbcglobal.net with questions or concerns about this collection

Fiona Fleming Wins Martin McGarry Scholarship



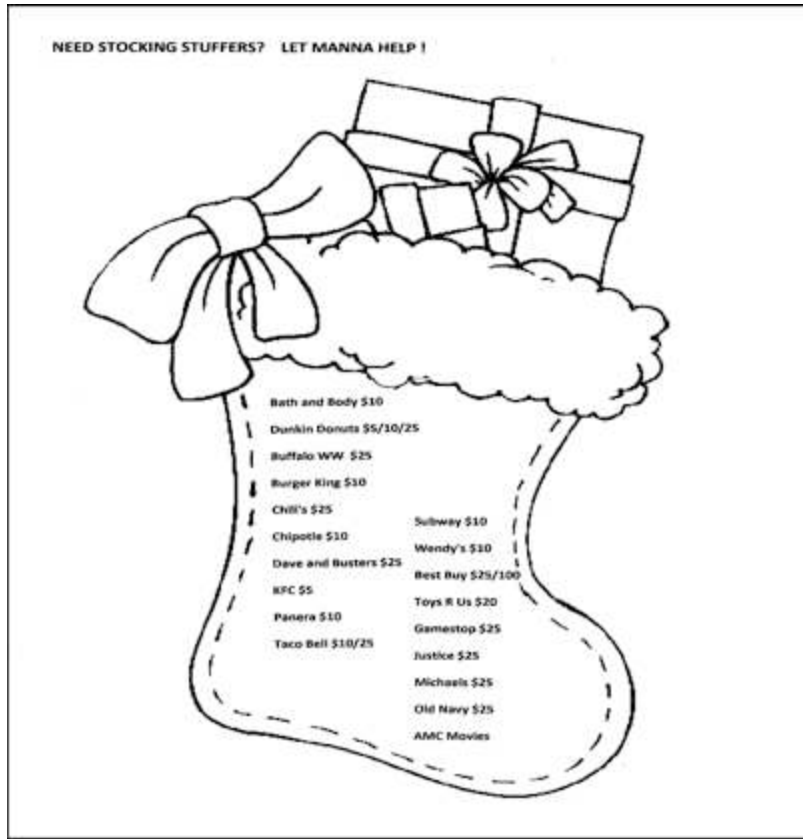
Congratulations to Fiona Fleming, St. Barnabas Class of 2015, for writing the winning essay for the Coach Martin McGarry *Service to Others* Scholarship. The scholarship award is a full year of St. Barnabas tuition for her 8th grade year. Fiona's essay was selected as the most deserving 8th grade student who has displayed the quality of service to others. Way to go, Fiona!

2014 Southside Catholic All-stars



Congratulations to Michael McKenna, Ned Hall, and Kyle Somrek

2014 Southside Catholic All-stars



MANNA NEWS

AVAILABLE TEMPORARILY

VICTORIA SECRET \$50 GIFT CARDS @ 10%!!!

NOW UNDER THE REGULAR MANNA TAB

MANNA hours TONIGHT will be 5:30-7 due to band concert

MANNA ORDERS WILL GO HOME TODAY WITH YOUR STUDENT; PLEASE CHECK YOUR STUDENT'S BACKPACK FOR MANNA ORDERS TODAY, THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 2014.

THE NEXT and FINAL MANNA ORDER UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAK WILL BE MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014. PLEASE HAVE ORDERS/PAYMENTS IN ONLINE OR TURNED IN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY 9:00 AM. THE FIRST MANNA ORDER AFTER THE BREAK WILL BE JANUARY 5, 2015.

MANNA USERS PLEASE NOTE: Online ordering is the way to go. Contact Sheri Jendra for a step-by-step and you will be a believer. Use the Manna program for all your shopping to receive credits on your tuition. Get your giftcards now and stay on budget. Place orders online or on paper, submit by Monday morning 9:00 am, get your order on Thursdays in your child's backpack...and get a tuition credit in July and January! It's that easy. Any questions, contact Sheri Jendra @ stbmanna@yahoo.com.

St. Barnabas Lunch Volunteers Week of December 15-19

Monday 1st: Kelly Wright; Katie Hayes

2nd: Karla Dargan; Natalie Williams; Katie Hayes

Tuesday 1st: Jennifer Coakley; Mary Callaghan; Pam Vogel

2nd: Pearl Doody; Jennifer Coakley; Griselda Garibay

Wednesday 1st: Jeanne Byrne; Cara Grant; Kevin Barry; Lisa Daigler;
Nicole O'Brien

2nd: Jeanne Byrne; Felicia Baldwin

Thursday 1st: Sally Courtney; Kerry Esselman; Kathy Malloy; Kristen Lake

2nd: Kristen Lake; Colleen Cooney; Kerry Esselman

Friday - 1st: Gina McGuire; Nancy Jones 2nd: Gina McGuire; Jackie
Check-Weeden

Amazon.com

Amazon.com donates .5% of eligible purchases to charitable organizations. Parents are encouraged to sign up for Amazon Smiles and to select St. Barnabas School as their charitable organization of choice. Please follow the directions below to sign up today:

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> If you are an existing Amazon customer, sign in as you would at Amazon.com. Otherwise, create an account. Once you sign in it will ask you to pick a charitable organization. Scroll down a little and there will be a search bar. Type in St. Barnabas Parish and click search. Choose St. Barnabas Parish, Chicago, IL (there is another St. Barnabas Parish listed).

In order for STB to benefit, all orders have to be placed through <https://smile.amazon.com/> and not www.amazon.com.

Scrooge and Marley: A Christmas Carol/It's A Wonderful Life

To get you in the holiday spirit, come see these St. Barnabas students perform in these holiday shows tonight, tomorrow, or on Saturday!

Rhiannon O'Keefe – 7th grade; Kate McDonald – 5th grade; Nora McDonald – 4th grade;
Kennedy Drayton – 1st grade; Kenneth Drayton – 1st grade



OPENING NIGHT ARTS GROUP

PRESENTS

ONAG's 6th Annual Production of **"Scrooge and Marley: A Christmas Carol"**

Adapted by Israel Horovitz, from Charles Dickens
Directed by Cassie Dawe

Performances

Thursday, December 11 at 8:30 PM
Friday, December 12 at 8:30 PM
Saturday, December 13 at 8:30 PM
All tickets are \$16

"It's a Wonderful Life"

Directed and adapted by Catherine Smitko
As performed by ONAG's Young Actors Studio

Performances

Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 PM
Friday, December 12 at 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 13 at 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM
All tickets are \$10

*****Or buy the HOLIDAY PASS to see both shows for only \$20!*****
\$1 discount for members, seniors and military personnel (with ID) can be redeemed at the box office

All performed at Kallemeyn Theatre at Trinity Christian College
6601 West College Drive in Palos Heights

Tickets may be purchased at the box office or over the phone
(708) 232-ONAG or visit our website at ONAG.org