

St. Francis Church
January 27, 2008



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 27-February 2, 2008

Each year we take the last week of January to focus on the identity of and the importance of Catholic schools for the church, for the parish and for the community. Many of us have believed in Catholic education for many years and have sacrificed not only to send our own children to a Catholic school (sometimes pre-school through graduation from college) but also to support Catholic education long after our own children have grown.

This year the theme of Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools Light the Way." The theme emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and that Light has been passed on to us in the sacrament of baptism. Parents are reminded at that time that they are to help their children keep this light burning brightly throughout their lives by the example they give and by the formation in faith they furnish to them. The Catholic school assists in that responsibility by offering religious education in the faith on a daily basis in the classroom setting, by the school Masses they children plan and attend, and by the Christian atmosphere that permeates the school in every aspect of the school day.

This year the teachers will be offering a variety of enrichment options from which students may choose. The choices are these: Sign Language Basics, Tea for You, Origami, Build a Better Egg Carton, Basic Spanish, Chess, Stunts and Tumbling, Calligraphy, Computer Graphics, and Pinata Making.

The schedule for Catholic Schools Week is as follows:

Monday: Opening Mass at 8:35 a.m. with Mayor John Spring offering a proclamation and comments at the end of Mass. Dress up day.

Tuesday: Enrichment Class 12:50-1:30.

Wednesday: Enrichment Class 8:25-9:05. Students are encouraged to wear bright or neon colors to go with the theme of "Lighting the Way."

Thursday: Enrichment Class 1:30-2:10. Treat for students. DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read).

Friday: Closing Mass at 8:35 a.m. Parents and grandparents are invited to an open house at school at 1:00 p.m. and to the Showcase Assembly at 2:00 p.m. at which the students will demonstrate what they have learned in their enrichment classes all week. This is also a jean day to be worn with an appropriate nice shirt.

All parishioners are invited to the opening and closing liturgies of Catholic Schools Week on Monday and Friday.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We need committee help for our Church Picnic. Please call Maureen Kamphaus, 224-5267.

+MRS. MARILYN PRATER

We have been saddened by the death of one of our teachers at St. Francis School, Mrs. Marilyn Prater, on January 17. Marilyn had been diagnosed with cancer several years ago, had undergone treatment and was in a period of remission, and then for the past months was dealing with its return. Her funeral service was held this past Tuesday, January 22, at the Hansen-Spear Funeral Home.

Marilyn had taught at St. Francis for a total of twenty-two years: 1984-98 and again from 2000 to the present. At various times she taught fourth, fifth and sixth grades. More recently she taught half-time in fourth grade and half-time as a Title 1 teacher. She was super organized, loved the children, and tried to bring out the best in each of her students. There were times when they did not appreciate the excellence she expected of them, but they knew she was always there for them. Marilyn had been a teacher of choice from just after receiving her degree. She taught initially in Texas, then in the Quincy public school system, and finally at St. Francis until this past December when she was forced to retire due to illness. She always said that it took three major qualities to become a good teacher: passion, patience and perseverance. She truly exemplified all three in her professional career.

There were two things in particular I admired about Marilyn. For a number of summers she worked with students to develop their reading skills down in the Br. Martin Room. While many other teachers were enjoying their much deserved vacation, Marilyn was there helping youngsters to improve so that they could advance academically and get a better concept of their self-worth.

The other thing was to see how she approached her illness. As her energy was waning, she insisted on climbing the steps up to her room on the top floor of school rather than taking the elevator. It was her way of saying she was going to keep going and to persevere to the very end. Even in the final days of her earthly life she made lists of things she wanted finished so that she could die in peace. As it happened, she died just a few days after the final list was completed.

Marilyn helped so many students throughout her life. We are thankful to her for her dedication and example of discipleship. We promise continued remembrance in prayer. May she rest in peace. AMEN.

FIRST FRIDAY — FIRST SATURDAY

February 1-2: Begins at 8:00 p.m. with confessions, 9:00 Mass, then Adoration of Blessed Sacrament. 12:00 Rosary and Benediction, 1:00 Mass. Devotion at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Quincy.

QND ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The club will be selling sub sandwiches and Costigan's famous cheese soup all day at the QND-Subway Superfan Shootout Games on Saturday, February 2, from 9:30 a.m. until around 7:30 p.m. Basketball games will be played all day. Proceeds benefit all boys and girls sports organizations.