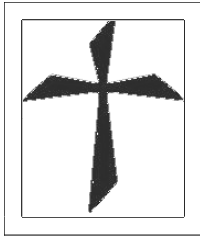


St. Francis Xavier School News



Peek at the Week

May 17—21

Wednesday, May 19

All School Liturgy
9:00am Trinity Hall

Thursday, May 20

7th Grade Field Trip to
Stages Theatre in Hopkins

Forever Motown
K—8 Spring Program
Trinity Hall

Final Rehearsal:
12:45pm (guests are in-
vited)

Evening Performance:
7:00pm

Growing Our Seeds Of Faith



In my never ending quest to become a better parent, I am always reading books and articles on the subject. Recently I read an article written by a Superintendent of Catholic Schools regarding our calling to Preach, Pray and Parent.

PREACH: As parents, we need to be spiritual leaders in our homes. Sometimes that means “preaching” to our children. At young ages, this consists largely of telling them things they need to know. As our children grow older, we need to have more and more meaningful conversations with them. It becomes more of a dialogue. Christian philosopher Nick Wolterstorff once said, “Our children may not always preach what we preach, but most likely they will practice what we practice.” If that’s a scary thought to us, perhaps we need to watch our “walk” a little more closely. It is always important to practice what we preach. St. Francis of Assisi once said, “Preach the gospel. If necessary, use words.” Wow....what a powerful statement!

PRAY: We need to pray together with our children from the first time they become aware and can speak. Do we provide opportunity for our children to learn how to pray? Do we model prayer? Do we **pray for them** and do we **pray with them**? Life can get busy and there are many nights that I come home late after a meeting, program or event. The only thing I want to do is get to sleep....but quite often these are the times that I lay awake even later...unable to fall asleep right away. During these lay-awake nights I pray for Jacob and Karsyn and who they will someday become. I pray that they grow up to be happy, productive citizens that love God and embrace their Catholic faith with all their hearts. Do we pray for our children privately? What could possibly be more important? Do we pray with our children, joining together in relating to God? Families used to pray together at the dinner table nightly. In today’s busy world do we even eat together anymore, let alone pray together? Do we take the opportunity to pray with our children before they go to bed? One of my favorite childhood

memories is kneeling down to pray before bed each night. It was the last thing that we kids did before our parents tucked us in. We would say our routine prayer and then specify individuals to pray for. I remember going through a time of “I want to stay up later” rebellion when I was 8 or 9 years old. My parents weren’t ones to budge on bed times. The only thing I could think of, was to add names to my prayer list....buying at least 2 or 3 extra minutes. My mom quickly came up with a rule that we could pray for 6 or 8 people and then add the tag line, “and all others we hold in our hearts.”

PARENT: As in the verb form of the word “parent”, as opposed to the passive, noun form. Technically, anyone with children is a parent, but not everyone who has children actively **parents**. We must **parent**—verb, active, as in actually doing something. It takes work. No one said the job of a parent was going to be an easy one. Part of parenting is leading them in the right direction. Our children need us to actually **be** fathers and mothers beyond having physically brought them into the world. We need to lead with Biblical principles. Do our family values match up? Do we preach **and** practice them? This is why prayer is such an important part of the whole business of parenting. We can’t possibly fill such tall orders without prayer. With prayer, we can do anything that pleases God. Preaching, praying, and parenting—it all goes and comes together.

It all comes down to having a purpose—most of us chose to be parents. At the very least, we all have the responsibilities (and the joys) that come with being parents. Our purpose must be to raise our children in the way of service to God. We are parents—noun form. We need to parent—verb form. May God help us to parent positively. We have a great example to follow—our Heavenly Father himself. Let’s try to imitate His example as the ultimate parent!

In Peace and Truth,

Kim

Be it known to all who enter that Christ is the reason for this school.
He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classrooms.
He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.

*St. Francis Xavier School
Mission Statement*

*As a faith-filled
community, we foster
spiritual growth,
academic excellence
and a commitment to
Christ-centered
values in the
education of our
students.*

*I do not cease to
give thanks for
you, as I
remember you
in my prayers.*

Ephesians 1:16



Forever Grateful for Volunteers

Yesterday we had the opportunity to honor and celebrate our volunteers. If it weren't for the volunteerism of parents, parishioners and other members of the community, the list of things we could not do at St. Francis Xavier School would be very, very long.

Volunteers are fully involved in the life of the school. There are few corners of our school program that do not benefit from the assistance of volunteers. They can be found working with individual and/or small groups of students, helping to serve in the lunchroom, assisting in the classrooms and on the playground, accompanying our weekly liturgies, shelving books in the library, weeding flower beds in the Mary garden and around our entire building, serving on our Educational Advisory Committee and as officers of the Home and School Association, staffing our receptionist desk, etc.

On behalf of all of the students who benefit daily from the generous and giving spirit of St. Francis Xavier School's volunteer corps, I thank you. On behalf of the faculty and staff of St. Francis Xavier School—who only can begin to fully appreciate how great we have it here if they've known other schools where the same level of organization and spirit isn't always present—I thank you. To every parent, parish and community volunteer who has given an hour or a hundred hours, who has led or who has followed in some school activity this year, I thank you.

Ours is a partnership in this adventure of guiding these children along the path before them. Thank you for all that you have contributed to at St. Francis Xavier School. We're forever grateful!



Reminder

**Home and School
Association
Meeting Tonight!**

7:00pm

**St. Francis Xavier School
Cafeteria**

Good Luck to the St. Francis Xavier School B.E.S.T. Club! They will participate in a Race Day competition at the Becker High School fieldhouse from 8:30am—1:00pm this Saturday, May 15th. The electric car built by the club will try to out perform eleven other cars in drag, endurance and slalom races. All are invited to come watch and cheer them on to victory!

