

# The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School  
March 2018

With March underway, so is our observance of the season of Lent. It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Ash Wednesday Mass a few weeks ago. During this special season, our school theme, "Calling All Angels" continues to remind us of the many ways we can joyfully give to our community, spend time with God, and sacrifice for others. We are so proud of all of our students and their stewardship efforts over the past several weeks. We kicked off our service to the community during Catholic Schools Week, and it was refreshing that the focus during this week, and beyond, has been not on the students, but on serving others. Our students ventured into the community to give of themselves in a meaningful way by serving individuals in need of care and comfort and organizations such as Haven of Rest, Ronald McDonald House, the St. Bernard Hunger Center, the Barberton Pregnancy Center, Open M, and more. We can't think of a better way to live out the selflessness of the Lenten season.



As Lent continues, please plan to join us on March 1 and March 15 at 2:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross, on March 26 at 10:30 a.m. as our eighth graders present their moving portrayal of the Mime of the Passion, and on March 29 at 2:00 p.m. for our Holy Thursday Prayer Service. All of these events will be held in the church. Additional Lenten observances have been announced in the St. Hilary Parish bulletin and school mass emails.

Back by popular demand at St. Hilary School during Lent this year is our Breakfast of Champions series, offered for our junior high students. Seventh and eighth graders are invited to attend 7:00 a.m. Mass on a series of four dates. After Mass, the students are treated to breakfast while they hear an inspirational speaker. The series began on February 27, continuing on March 6 and 20. The Breakfast of Champions series is just one of many programs designed to help our students become future leaders and responsible world citizens.

Congratulations to our fifth and sixth grade teams who participated in the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics competition on Saturday, February 10! The students participated in four events consisting of challenging problems that reflect the expectations detailed in Ohio's New Learning Standards and by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Our sixth grade team consisting of Elle Burkhalter, Reagan Houser, Anastasia Musson, and Anna Solomon scored in the top 20% of the competition in each grade level, receiving trophies. Our fifth grade team consisting of Jacob Bolha, Owen Jackson, Sehar Mahesh, and Ryan Roman scored in the next 40% of the teams, receiving champion blue ribbons.

On Saturday, February 24, our Academic Challenge teams competed at the Copley Middle School Invitational at Copley High School. We sent four teams, full of rookies and veterans alike. Team A consisted of Jackson Alexander, Mae Isada, Lindsay Sipplen, Paul Slanina, and Kathleen Tracy; Team B was comprised of Matthew Gomez, Jacob Kim, Christian Parker, and Joe Redle; Team C's roster included Isabella Abucejo, Regan Houser, Anastasia Musson, Lily Pszonowsky, and Anna Solomon; and Team D was composed of Sophia Kim, Maria Kramer, Alexandra Musson, Elizabeth Nester, Gwen Pszonowsky, and Ryan Roman. After five grueling and exciting rounds, Team A and Team B landed in the Championship bracket. Team C and Team D competed well, and had many games they could have won, only to be separated by the points from a single question! In the end, Team A finished in 3rd place among 36 teams and was able to qualify for the NAQT National Championships, which will be held in May in Chicago!

Our students have been busy competing not only academically, but athletically. Congratulations to all of our St. Hilary basketball teams on an outstanding season. Thank you to all who volunteered to help make this another great basketball season. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated! We were excited to honor all of our youth sports volunteers, coaches and commissioners for all sports and seasons at our school Mass on February 23.

Students in grades K-8 completed MAP testing last month, which is the second round of this progress-based testing for the school year. The final MAP testing will take place in April and May. CAT testing for grades 3, 5 and 7 will begin March 6 and is slated to continue through March 20. Please be sure your child has a good night's rest each night and a wholesome breakfast each morning during testing. Students will also need to have several sharpened #2 pencils - please ask your child if his or her supplies need to be replenished. Thank you for avoiding scheduling appointments during testing.



Third quarter interim reports were issued on February 8, and the quarter ends on March 15. Students should be working on achieving goals set for the remainder of the quarter and the year. Third quarter report cards will be sent home on March 22. When the fourth quarter begins on March 16, students will again be permitted to wear uniform shorts but turtlenecks will no longer be permitted. As a reminder, there is no school on March 5 due to a teacher in-service day. Spring Break will begin on March 30 and school will resume on April 9.

Planning is in progress for the 2018-2019 school year, and re-registration is a critical part of that process. We appreciate that so many of you have promptly completed your online re-registration for next year. We have heard many positive comments about how much easier this new re-registration process is for parents. *If you have not yet done so, please help us plan appropriately for next year's classes and staffing by logging in to Gradelink and completing your child's re-registration as soon as possible. Teachers will soon begin assigning placement for students for next year, and students can be considered in this important planning only if they are registered.*

We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual St. Hilary Celebration auction fundraiser on March 10, and enjoying the fun Monopoly-themed atmosphere Co-Chairs Kirsten Bevilacqua and Dana Saporito and their team of volunteers are creating for this year's event. Celebration is our largest Parents' Association fundraiser, and we are grateful for your support of our school through this event. In addition to funding ongoing needs, we would like to apply proceeds from this year's event toward making improvements to our school playground. Please watch for your Parents' Association funding ballot later this spring! See you at Celebration!

Another event coming up this spring that you won't want to miss is our presentation by nationally recognized Internet safety speaker Jesse Weinberger. Ms. Weinberger will meet with all of our students in grades 4-8 on April 17. Not only will Ms. Weinberger be presenting information to our students, she will also be collecting information from them. This data will then be shared with parents who attend her evening presentation on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Weinberger's event for parents will be customized to address specific issues found among our students - your children. We are hopeful that this will be a great help in keeping your children safe as they navigate the digital society in which they are growing up. Please watch for more information about Ms. Weinberger's presentation in the coming weeks. In the meantime, you can learn more about Ms. Weinberger at [www.OvernightGeekUniversity.com](http://www.OvernightGeekUniversity.com).

We wish you and your families continued blessings in your Lenten journeys and during the upcoming Easter season!

*Mrs. Arnone*

*Mrs. Woodman*