

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
March 2016

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 last month. During this special season, our school theme, "The Joy of The Lord is My Strength" 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, was 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, the



Akron Canton Regional Food Bank, and Open M. Tying in with these efforts have been our Year of Mercy projects, in which each grade level is sponsoring one of the seven corporal works of mercy. Since December, students have already been actively involved in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and giving drink to the thirsty, with more projects to come this spring. 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 10 at 2:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross, on March 21 at 10:30 a.m. as our eighth graders present their moving portrayal of the Mime of the Passion, and on March 24 at 2:00 p.m. for our Holy Thursday Prayer Service. All three 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 February 16 date was cancelled due to a school snow day, but the series continues on March 1, 15 and 22. 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 four St. Hilary School eighth graders who competed in the MATHCOUNTS competition on February 6. Of 109 students competing, Christian Lewandowski placed 28th, Olivia Sucato finished 41st, Joseph Onderko placed 49th, and Braden Ost earned 57th place. Overall, the team placed 9th among 14 teams competing. Christian, Olivia, Joseph, and Braden are students in Mrs. Heuer's eighth grade advanced math class. Mrs. Hamby will be taking a team of students to the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCCTM) competition on March 5. We wish them luck! Check the April newsletter to see their results.

Also deserving of congratulations are seventh grader Annie Hart, who placed fifth, and eighth grader Sierra Spoerndle, who placed eleventh in the Power of the Pen Regional Tournament at Kent State University on February 27. Congratulations to our entire seventh grade team, consisting of Gia Abucejo, Isabelle Hahn, Annie Hart, Eva Janigian, Meg Resweber, and Gina Roman, which earned a second place finish in the competition. The team is awaiting word as to who will advance to the state competition in May.

Our students have been busy competing not only academically, but athletically. Congratulations to all of our St. Hilary basketball teams on an outstanding season and tournament run. Our fifth grade girls team coached by Coach Kennedy Team won first place in the Gold Division, our fifth grade boys team coached by Coach Zimmerman won second place in the Diamond Division, and our fifth grade boys team coached by Coach Goske won first place in the Bronze Division! And thank you to Tournament Coordinator, Mr. Dudek, the coaches, and families who volunteered to help make this another tremendous fundraising event for the entire St. Hilary Athletic Association. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!

Standardized testing took place during the last two weeks of February in grades 1-7. In addition to the Iowa Test of Basic Skills administered in all these grades, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) was administered to students in grades 3, 5, and 7. Also, our students in grades 3, 5, and 7 will take the Writing Proficiency Test on April 6. All 8th graders will take the ACT Aspire test.

Third quarter interim reports were issued on February 4, and the quarter ends on March 4. 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 10. When the fourth quarter begins on March 7, students will again be permitted to wear uniform shorts but turtlenecks will no longer be permitted.

Planning is in progress for the 2016-2017 school year, and re-registration is a critical part of that process. We appreciate that so many of you have promptly returned your re-registration forms for next year. *If you have not yet done so, please help us plan appropriately for next year's classes and staffing by returning your blue re-registration form 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 19, and enjoying the fun memories Co-Chairs Jillian Pelland and Sandy Winkelmann and their team of volunteers will rekindle with this year's School Days-themed 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 a makeover of our Multi-Purpose Room and replacement of another set of our 1:1 iPads. Please watch for your Parents' Association funding ballot later this spring! See you at Celebration!



If you have time, come check out the talents of some of our sixth, seventh and eighth grade students as they perform in the school Talent Show on March 24 at 9:30 a.m. in Horning Hall!

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

Mrs. Arnone and Mrs. Deemer

