

OCTOBER

October 5, 2011

Dear Parents,

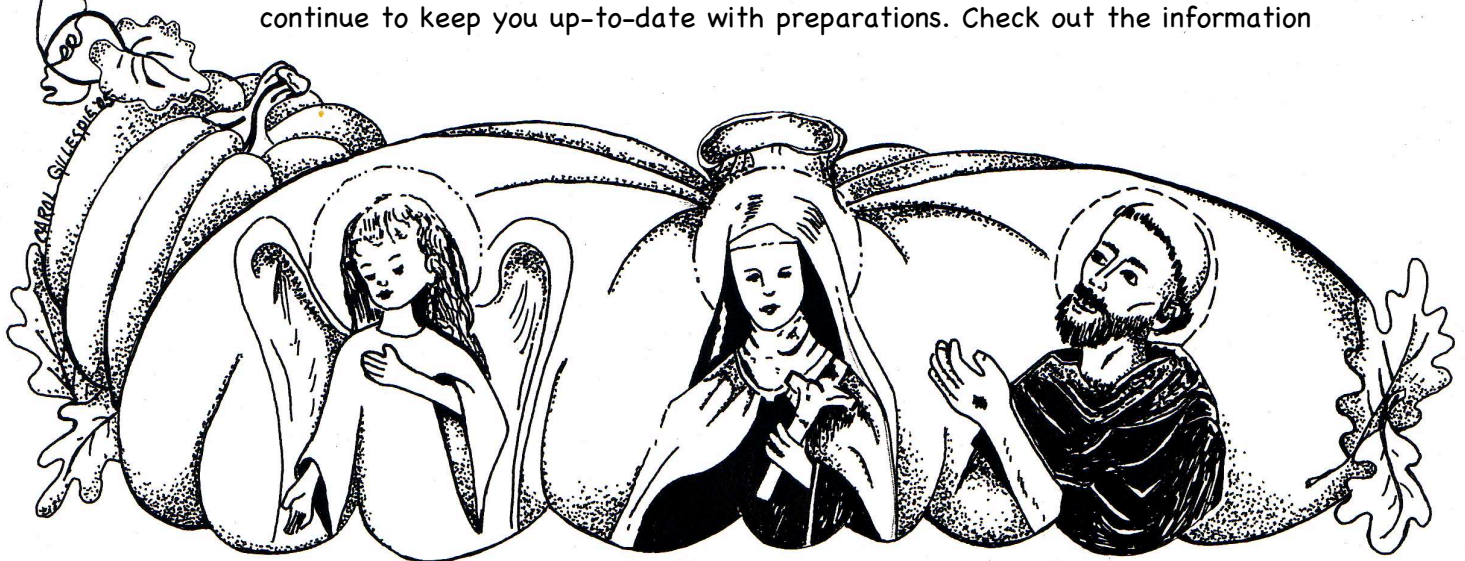
The month of October each year is dedicated to the Holy Rosary because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October the 7th. Praying the rosary is a way to help us get in touch with God and to develop a relationship with him. In prayer we not only talk with God, but God communicates with us. As we continue to pray, our relationship with God grows, and we are transformed more into the people we are meant to be.

Each Wednesday throughout the month of October at morning assembly, the student body will say a decade of the rosary. Please join us at the gate as we announce the Mystery and say an Our Father followed by ten Hail Mary's. We will end the decade by saying the Glory Be to the Father. Consider saying a decade of the Rosary as a family during this month as a sign of dedication to Mary our Mother.

Our sincere thanks to Monsignor Labib for leading us in the blessing of the animals yesterday on the Feast of St. Francis. Some of our dogs, cats, birds and other pets joined us on this annual occasion. St. Francis, pray for us.

Thank you to all who attended 'Off to the Races' last Saturday night. We raised almost \$4,000 from this event that will benefit our technology program. A special thank you to the following school parents for helping with the event: Antonio Bustos Jr., Myrna Bustos, Tom Culo, Angel Lozano, Amado Quesada, Karen Quesada, Mike Santos, Judy Silva, and Norma Sotomayor.

The next big event is the **Fall Festival**. That fun and popular event is set for Saturday, October 22nd. Everyone will be there! The Parents' Club will continue to keep you up-to-date with preparations. Check out the information





that you are receiving in your envelope today. Also in your envelope today is a flyer outlining how to use sign-up genius to complete your Parent Participation hours for this and future events. To sign up for events, please go to the STM website and click on the 'SIGN UP NOW!' button on the homepage. If you have any questions, please contact the Parents' Club at parentsclub@stthomasmoreschool.org.

Tomorrow evening, in Carroll Hall, the **Parents' Club** will have their first-Thursday-of-the-month meeting at 7pm. This meeting is open to all parents to come and share thoughts, ideas and suggestions. See you there!

Don't forget that this coming Monday is the school's observation of **Columbus Day**. It is a **school holiday**. Enjoy the three-day weekend!

PROGRESS REPORTS: Progress reports are going home today. Any student, third grade and up, in danger of, or currently receiving a grade lower than a C in any subject area is receiving such a notice. There are two copies of each notice. Please sign and return the pink copy in order that we know you have received the notice. The top white parents copy is for your records.



HIGH SCHOOL VISITS: It's that time of year again when the seventh and eighth graders will be **visited from representatives** from several of the local Catholic high schools. Last week, St. Ignatius met with the students and tomorrow they will hear from Sacred Heart Preparatory representatives. Mercy San Francisco and Archbishop Riordan will also make presentations later this month.



FIELD TRIPS: In today's Envelope, the first and eighth graders are receiving permission slips for their upcoming field trip to the **Lemos Farm Pumpkin Patch**. Please return the permission slip along with the fee by the due date. Fourth graders are also receiving a permission slip today for their field trip on October 20th to the Garden for the Environment.

FUNDRAISING: Noelle Martinez, mother of Matthew (8th grade), has been busy tallying all the **fundraising orders**. We presume all orders have been turned in. She will be submitting the order shortly and we'll let you know when to expect delivery of the items you ordered.

ID CARDS: Student **ID cards** have arrived. They may be purchased, starting tomorrow. Please put \$2 in an envelope, write your child's name and grade and send to your child's teacher. **They are not available in the office.**

TUITION and EXTENDED CARE BILLING: Families who pay tuition on a monthly basis are reminded that the October payment is due to the school office now. Thank you to those who have already made a payment. Those of you who use our Extended Care Program will be receiving bills today for August 25 through September 30. Please be sure to pay them on time to avoid any late charges.

STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE: We are very blessed in our school to be surrounded by such loving and deserving people. One of our most beloved staff members is Mrs. Maria Flamenco. She is a kind and gentle person who always has a happy smile and a special hug for everyone. Sadly, Maria's family was devastated by a very serious auto accident that nearly claimed the life of her son, Joel. But Maria's faith in God was unshakable, and with the intervention of the Blessed Mother, Maria's prayers were answered and her son survived his ordeal. His recovery has been slow and painful, and since his recent release from the hospital after a three-month stay, the burden has fallen on Maria to provide continuous care for his health. Unfortunately, at the end of the last school year Maria was involved in an accident that irreparably damaged her own car. Maria works full time at our school and spends a minimum of 90 minutes commuting via public transportation, both in the morning and at night.



As Maria is such a special member of our school family, we want to help to ease her hardship. We have determined that the best way to help her, besides through our on-going prayers and support, is to assist her in purchasing a modest, but serviceable car to allow her the peace of mind and flexibility to travel safely between home and school, to grocery shop and to take her son to medical appointments for follow up care. Our Student Council members have expressed a desire to help Maria by sponsoring an activity that will raise funds that will be applied towards the purchase of a car.

Beginning Monday, October 17th the student council have organized a school-wide, week-long bake sale, to raise funds for "Maria's Awesome Ride!". Just as we successfully raised funds to aid the victims of last year's devastating San Bruno pipeline fire, our students are very excited to know that they can "make a difference" in the life of someone whom they both know and dearly love.

Please look for more details in next week's Wednesday envelope. Anything you wish to do to help us help Maria and her family, is greatly appreciated. Together, we can all make a difference!

Thank you also to the many parents who do so much for our school over and beyond the six hours minimum required by the Parents' Club.

Sincerely,

Marie Fitzpatrick
Principal