

**To the Parents of St. Paul Catholic School**  
**Memo #15- December 17, 2009**

The spirit of the Christmas season is truly in the air. The students are giddy with excitement in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. They have all enjoyed many activities throughout the week as well as exams. We would like to thank Dr. Adamenko for her hard work in creating a beautiful Middle School Cantata. The students shined in their unique abilities. The fifth graders displayed a live nativity prior to the cantata which was a lovely addition to the evening. Thank you to all of our volunteers who have worked so hard to make these events so memorable.

**Christmas program tomorrow:** Tomorrow, Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> will begin with school Mass at 8:30am. The Christmas program will follow in the cafetorium. Grades PreK through 5 will wear Christmas dress up clothes; middle school will wear their uniforms. Students will be dismissed to their classrooms after the program and then to car line for dismissal. Parents are **not** to take their children from the cafetorium after the program. Please plan for an early 11am dismissal.

**Aftercare:** Remember there is *no aftercare* tomorrow, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Be sure you have arrangements for your children once school is out tomorrow.

**Powerschool:** The parent portal will close today and will reopen after our next PTA meeting in January where we will distribute the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report cards.

**Dominos Pizza:** Tonight is spirit night at Domino's. Be sure to use the order form that went home this week. We will receive a percentage of total sales.

**Box tops:** During this holiday season remember St. Paul School by collecting box tops and pop tabs.

**Science Fair:** The middle school students did a marvelous job presenting their projects to the judges on Monday and Tuesday. We are so proud of their hard work this year. We would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Ms. Caroline Lindemann for her dedication to our students and for providing this wonderful opportunity for them.

**Career Day:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Middle School Career Day will be held during Catholic Schools Week the first week of February. Presenters will rotate through the three classrooms, speaking for 20 minutes to each class. If you are interested in spending about an hour of your time to introduce students to your career please email Lorenda Ortega at [ortegal@stapaulcatholic.net](mailto:ortegal@stapaulcatholic.net) with your name, best phone number, and career you hold. At this time we are simply determining interest, and Mrs. Ortega will contact you to answer questions and to confirm your participation.

**Early dismissal:** Remember that students will be dismissed from their classrooms to car line after the Christmas program tomorrow. Dismissal will be 11am.

*Thank you parents for your thoughtful Christmas gifts. We have enjoyed many tasty treats and lovely goodies. We wish you all a beautiful, safe and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## Christmas Blessings



When Christmas season rolls around, St. Paul Catholic School and Parish are blessed by the efforts of one incredible woman who, with a lot of help, arranges gifts of clothing and toys for 50 low-income families who might otherwise not have Christmas gifts under their trees. We are, of course, referring to our own Diane Wilkinson (pictured at left with her group of elves) who for years has been coordinating the St. Paul Angel Tree program in conjunction with Catholic Charities. It is an enormous task which involves soliciting donors, collecting gifts, sorting numerous packages, loading up the trailer and finally distributing the packages to the families. As with everything else, Diane handles it all with grace. This year, Diane invited St. Paul Catholic School students to help distribute the gifts. The children loved it! Many of them spent the better part of this past Saturday loading up the cars of the families who came to receive their gifts. They were not unlike the three kings of old, bringing gifts to Christ who lives in all of us. Diane, thank you for making this opportunity available to our children.



## Christ in the Manger

This past Monday, we were doubly blessed by the live nativity presented by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and the beautiful Christmas Cantata performed by the middle school. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders highlighted the Eucharistic mystery of Christ's birth: He transformed his manger, which served as a feeding trough for animals, into a paten upon which the most precious body of Christ lay. As the 5<sup>th</sup> graders knelt at the manger, they reminded us that Christ makes all things new. In the words of St. John Chrysostom: "Behold, you see Him, you touch Him, and You eat Him. He gives Himself to you not just to be seen, but to be touched, eaten and received within." The middle school, singing beautifully in front of Christ's tabernacle, reminded us too. He is there... waiting with love. Special thanks to Ms. Koch and Mrs. Houston for all of their hard work and dedication in making the live nativity a reality. Special thanks, too, to Jamie Clarke and Paul Jansen for building the lovely stable that causes us to recollect the true meaning of Christmas. Finally, we are very grateful to Dr. Adamenko for all of her hard work on the Cantata. It was a grand night!

## One More Gift... The Great Kapok Tree

Walking down the halls several weeks ago, did you hear the terrible "thud" of an axe? Fear, not! The rain forest animals in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade convinced the fearless lumberjack to put down his weapon and spare the great Kapok tree. Peace then reigned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade rain forest (just in time for Christmas)! Thanks to Mrs. Struck and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class for the wonderful performance of this classical story. What a wonderful Christmas gift to the parents!

