



Cougar Call Weekly News

Newsletter 12, November 6, 2014

Tomorrow, November 7, the school and parishioners at the 8:00 A.M. Mass will celebrate Benediction, a Catholic devotion that has the exposition of the Body of Christ in the form of the Eucharistic Host in the monstrance and a blessing for all there. This will take place immediately following Mass in the church and will last about 5-8 minutes. All are invited.

We look forward to our Veterans' Day all-school celebration that will be held during the PTC meeting on Monday, November 10, at 6:00. We hope you can attend this very special event that honors our families' veterans, past and present. The entire school will participate.

Basketball practices begin next Tuesday, November 11. *Go, Cougars!*

Blessings,

Dr. Cindy Cummins, Principal

Service Credit Opportunities!

- **Coaches are still needed for PSIA!** Any parent interested in helping to coach an event should contact Dr. Hermes: call or text (830)534-1414, or email dhermes@sjcstx.org. You may also contact Ron Hermes: call or text (830)534-5544 or email dhermes@satx.rr.com.
- **The next PTC meeting will be held on November 10 in the gym.**
- **PTC Campus Workday, November 15, 2014, beginning at 8:00am.** PTC will be making improvements to the playground and need your assistance. Please bring rakes and shovels.
- **Help Needed with the Thanksgiving Luncheon:** If you are available to assist Mrs. Virginia and Mr. Ruben with preparations on Thursday, November 20, 2014 or during the luncheon on Friday, November 21, 2014, please contact Lynda Ploetz at 830-305-1525.

Catholic Life Raffle Ticket Fundraiser

October 16 – December 10

Calling all St. James School families! We need your help!

Last year St. James Families reached 76% of the CLR goal, raising over \$11,000.00 for the school and making this fundraiser three times more successful than last the year before. This year our goal is to raise \$13,200.00 with 100% of SJS families participation. To participate in the fundraiser, please sell the 20 tickets sent home and return the money and ticket stubs to the school office. Thank you to all who have participated so far!

Currently, SJS families have raised 12% of the school goal and Grade 8 is the Top Selling Class. Graciela Sayen in Eighth Grade is the Top Seller this week. Congratulations to the Schaefer Family, for winning the third of eight weekly drawings for a \$20.00 King Ranger gift card for their family. **Each family that sells \$100.00 in raffle tickets will get their name entered in the weekly drawing.**

Other School News

- **The school Veteran's Day program is Monday, November 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym.** Please have your child in the gym by 5:45pm. All classes will have part in the program. An information sheet of student attire for the program went home last week via email. If you are in need of this information again, please contact the school office as soon as possible and we will be able to assist you.
- **We still have many yearbooks for last school year available for purchase.** Yearbooks are available for purchase in the school office for \$30.00 each. **Please stop by and pick yours up today!**

Other School News

- Please welcome Lillian Rodriguez and Rosario Castillo! They are the new teachers' aides in 2K and Grade 1 respectively. We are happy to have them!
- **Empty Bowls Project:** Please see the attached information regarding the Empty Bowls Project at TLU this weekend.
- **GEOGRAPHY CONTEST NEWS.** Hooray, it's November, and we've begun our 21st Geography Contest at St. James. The booklets for the 4th-8th graders have been distributed and are due back before Thanksgiving. We hope the whole family will enjoy working together to learn more about our planet and its people and history.
- **The St. James Catholic School Handbook Acknowledgement form is attached. Please complete and return the form to the school office no later than November 13, 2014, including parent and student signatures. This is a "one per family" form.**

Support Our Parishes!

St. James Catholic Church:

- **Next month's Family Faith Formation topic is "I Believe: The Creed."** If you would like a closer look at the basic beliefs of the Catholic Church, consider bringing your family to our November sessions. Our gatherings are on Sunday, Nov. 9, and Sunday, Nov. 16, at 9 a.m. in the Parish Family Center. If your family would like to participate, call the parish office at 830-379-1796 to RSVP.

News from St. John Paul II Catholic High School

Congratulations to the SJP II Volleyball Team District Champs! The Lady Guardians won district for the second year in a row capturing the 3A district title to go with last year's 2A title.

To learn more about the Athletics Program at SJP II, visit their website, www.johnpaul2chs.org.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 6

- Nursing Home Mass, Middle School and Grade 2, 10:00am at GVNC

Friday, November 7

- Early Dismissal with ASC
- Cafeteria Closed

Monday, November 10

- Catholic Life Drawing (4 of 8) for \$20.00 King Ranger Gift Card at End of Day Announcements
- PTC General Meeting and Veteran's Day Program, 6:00pm in the Gym

Tuesday, November 11

- Veteran's Day
- Mrs. Soukup's Birthday!
- Rocky Creek Corn Maze Fieldtrip for 4K-Grade 1

Wednesday, November 12

- Spirit Day Dress

Saturday, November 15

- PTC Workday, 8:00am on the SJS Campus

Saturday, November 15 – Sunday, November 16

- Student Stewardship and Second Collection at all Masses

Thursday, November 20

- OOU Day: \$1.00, Fall Colors
- Early Dismissal with ASC
- Cafeteria Closed
- Progress Reports Go Home

Friday, November 21

- Thanksgiving Luncheon in the Parish Hall/Cafeteria

Tuesday, November 25

- Early Release with NO ASC
- Cafeteria Closed

Wednesday, November 26 – Friday, November 28

- Thanksgiving Break
- *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Family Name: _____

**ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
2014-2015**

Please complete and return this agreement to the school office no later than November 13, 2014, including parent and student signatures.

I have received a copy of the St. James Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook of school policies and guidelines and have read it carefully. I understand the policies, procedures, and regulations of St. James Catholic School including the following: Financial and Service Obligations, School Supplies and Uniforms, the Acceptable Use Policy of Technology as outlined in the Technology section of the handbook, Attendance, and Conduct and Discipline.

I hereby agree to abide by and adhere to the policies, procedures and regulations described herein as a condition of my child(dren)'s enrollment in St. James Catholic School.

I agree with and will follow the "Acceptable Use" policy and regulations governing Internet access as stated in this handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signatures:

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Children registered at St. James Catholic School (please print):

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Student Signature (grades 2-8) _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Student Signature (grades 2-8) _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Student Signature (grades 2-8) _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Student Signature (grades 2-8) _____

Empty Bowls Project 2014

November 09, 2014 11:00 AM - November 09, 2014 2:00 PM | Location: TLU, Jackson Park Student Activities Center



SUNDAY, NOV. 9, FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

TLU Campus – Jackson Park Student Activities Center (on Fleming Drive)

Buy a beautiful, hand-crafted ceramic bowl for \$15, receive a bowl of soup, and help bring attention to hunger in our community

Empty Bowls is an international project to fight hunger, personalized by local artists on a community level. Empty Bowls events are held in cities across the country to support local food-related charities and food banks through monetary donations raised from the sale of hand-crafted, ceramic bowls.

HUNGER FACTS

HUNGER IN GUADALUPE COUNTY

Data from Texas Food Bank Network. <http://www.endhungerintex.org/>

HOW MANY ARE HUNGRY?

Hunger results from an inability to meet nutritional needs with available resources. The USDA measures hunger by asking families whether there was a time in the previous year when they had difficulty meeting their food needs. This measurement is called "food insecurity."

- 16,280 Guadalupe County residents (15%) are food insecure.
- On average, these food insecure residents report an annual budget shortfall of \$392 needed to afford "just enough" food – \$6,383,580 in total.
- Many are eligible for federal nutrition programs like SNAP (food stamps), WIC or school meals.
- However, 63% may earn too much money to receive SNAP, and 43% may be ineligible for most federal nutrition programs.
- (Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" Project, <http://feedingamerica.org/our-network/thestudies/m...>)

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WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

Another way to measure need compares the food resources of a vulnerable population to a dietary standard. According to USDA, a moderately-priced, nutritious diet for all of Guadalupe County's low-income residents (with incomes below 185% of the poverty line) costs \$94,645,713 annually.

- Currently, low-income county residents purchase the bulk of this food with their own money (50%).
- To make ends meet, many then combine their money with a patchwork of resources, the largest of which are SNAP (18%) and School Lunch (3%).
- Even after combining their own money with assistance, these residents face a 24% gap between their resources and the USDA standard, equal to \$22,331,739 annually.
- For many, this resource gap may lead to poor nutrition or food insecurity. (Texas Food Bank Network analyses using public data.)

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

No matter how it is measured, hunger represents a disparity between income and expenses. As such, it can be permanently ended only by opportunities to earn and save enough money to meet the cost of living, and the knowledge to spend this money effectively.

In the meantime, existing nutrition programs can be used more effectively to reduce hunger. For example, Guadalupe County leaves \$10,150,883 in SNAP benefits "on the table" in Washington each year, costing the county \$18,170,080 in potential economic activity.

Volunteers, elected officials, nonprofits and the business community should work together to implement the strategies described in the attached report. These strategies will expand the resources available to hungry Guadalupe County residents, and reduce the gaps that currently exist. (Health and Human Services Commission of County statistics, http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/TANF_FS.asp)

PARTNERS

San Antonio Food Bank

<http://www.safoodbank.org/>

McQueeney Pottery by Walt Glass

<https://www.facebook.com/waltglasspottery>

Thank you to all of our partners who are donating their time, talents and soup to bring awareness to hunger in our community.