

# Virtue of the Month: CHARITY

November 6, 2008

15643 SW Oregon St.  
Sherwood, OR 97140  
Phone: 503-625-0497  
Fax: 503-625-0564

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 8th & 9th, Parish Holiday Bake Sale
- Monday, Nov. 10th, Noon Dismissal
- Tuesday, Nov. 11th, No School
- Wednesday, Nov. 12th, School Mass, 8:30am
- Wednesday, Nov. 19th, School Mass, 8:30am
- Friday, Nov. 21st, End of First Trimester, Noon Dismissal
- Wednesday, Nov. 26th, School Mass, 8:30am
- Wednesday, Nov. 26th, Noon Dismissal
- Nov. 27-28, No School, Thanksgiving
- December 18th, Christmas Program, 7pm

## Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

What makes a great school? How can we grow as a school community to better serve the students and families? As principal, these questions are never far from my mind in an ongoing effort at self-improvement and excellence here at St. Francis School. I would like to share some of my thoughts today on these very questions.

From my chair the following characteristics are indicators that we have an effective school:

That the environment is safe and orderly

That we set high expectations for ourselves and the students

That we are clearly focused on our primary purpose- the education of the students/student centered

That there is frequent monitoring of the students progress

That the relationship between the school and our families is open and cordial

That I see effective teaching in the classroom and that the students are mastering their lessons

What are the signs of excellence to take it to the next level (beyond effective):

That the students demonstrate curiosity and creativity

That the students utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills

That they develop an aesthetic appreciation for the beautiful aspects of life

That they develop and hold a love of learning

That they are happy in school

That their Faith life is evident in their actions and attitudes

This summarizes what I hold us to, what I measure our progress by and I confirm that these are the gen-

erally held concepts of researchers that study these things. I hope that my letter furnishes you with some insights into the process at work here. Have a wonderful week.

Sincerely,

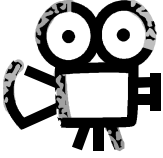
Michael Cantu,

Principal



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## PSO News



PSO Family Fun Night - Please save the date: Friday December 5th from 6 - 9 p.m. for our first Family Fun Night of the school year. Join us for pizza, movies and more! Watch for more details coming soon!

## News from the School Office

In celebration of successful conferences, the end of standardized testing and a magnificent auction there will be a hotdog lunch served Friday, November 7th. It will be 1 hotdog, chips and ice cream per student. Be sure to pack snacks and other lunch items according to your student's taste.

The School Office will be closed at 3:30pm Friday (tomorrow).

Call the office with any questions.

## Jump Rope Team



Practice is on Wednesdays from 3:15-4:15 on November 12th and 19th and December 3rd and 10th and then again in January and February. No food allowed. Bring your own water bottle (no other beverages). Non participating siblings are not allowed unless supervised by a parent. Pick up your students promptly in the back.

## St. Francis Parish News

Preschool Volunteer for the 8:30am Sunday class needed. Contact Violet Warner (503.625.6188) if you can help.

Please join the entire Catholic community of western Oregon in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Episcopal ordination of Archbishop John G. Vlazny. You are invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Vlazny on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 2:30pm at the University of Portland's Chiles Center. A reception also in the Chiles Center will follow.

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## Out of Parish News

### ***PGE Foundation Free Admission Day at Portland Japanese Gardento Benefit Oregon Food Bank***

The Portland Japanese Garden will be hosting their fall Free Admission Day on Veteran's Day, November 11, Tuesday from 10am–4pm. In addition to sharing the lovely fall Garden with the community, the event will also benefit the Oregon Food Bank through the collection of food donations at the gate.

All members of the community are invited to come and visit the Garden on this Free Admission Day and visitors are encouraged to bring non-perishable items for the Oregon Food Bank including canned meats, canned and boxed meals, peanut butter, canned or dried beans and peas, pasta, rice, and cereal, canned fruits, and 100% fruit juice (canned, plastic, or boxed).

The Portland Japanese Garden has been proclaimed by his Excellency Nobuo Matsunaga, former Ambassador of Japan, to be “the most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden in the world outside of Japan.” The Garden is above Washington Park at 611 SW Kingston Drive in SW Portland, Oregon. The Garden is open daily except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Hours are 10am-4pm October 1-March 31, and 10am-7pm April 1-September 30.

**Central Catholic High School** presents Agatha Christie's “And Then There Were None” November 7, 8, 13, 14 15 at 7:30pm and November 16 at 2pm. Adults \$10, Students \$6. Reserve your tickets today at 503.235.3138 ext. 107

**Valley Catholic High School** presents William Shakespeare's “A Midsummer Night's Dream” November 13, 14 15 at 7pm and November 16 at 2pm. Adults \$10, Students \$6, Seniors \$6 and Children under 6 \$3. For tickets and information call 503.644.3745

**St. Mary's Academy** is offering a basketball clinic for all girls grades 1-8 starting Sunday Nov. 16th and continuing on Sundays until Jan. 25th. Contact Art Rojas, head basketball coach, at 503.228.8306 to register or for more information.

12th Annual The Red Sled Christmas Bazaar, Nov. 7th-Dec. 24th next to Papa Murphy's. Bring your donation of non-perishable food and help us fill the Red Sled to benefit the Oregon Food Bank.

## St. Francis School

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We're on the Web!

example.com

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

## Inside Story Headline



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list

the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.