



January 23 – 27, 2017

*“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” ~John 15:13*

**TUESDAY**

There will be Cap and Gown photo retakes for 8th grade students today.

**THURSDAY**

Please join us for this month’s Dining-2-Donate at Panera Bread in Howell. A [voucher](#) can be found on our school website.

**FRIDAY**

Progress Reports will be sent home today. Just a reminder, our school policy states if your Tuition, Before/After Care, Lunch accounts are not up-to-date, progress reports will not be sent home and access to PowerSchool will be denied. If you have any questions regarding your account, please call Mrs. Oliveira, school bookkeeper in the main office ext. 317.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2017 is January 29 - February 4. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” During the week we will focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

We have two Open House dates; Sunday, January 29 from 9 AM until 12 PM and Friday, February 3 from 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM. For our Sunday Open House we hope that our students will be a shining presence during all masses and ask that all students please wear their school uniform and sit together. We are in need of student tour guides. Please sign up on our [online sign up](#) sheet. All students are welcome and we will buddy our younger students up with our older students. Spread the word for our Open Houses .... all are welcome!

**TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Applicants can apply online by going to <https://online.factsmgt.com>. Online applications are available in English and Spanish. In order to be considered for tuition assistance for Round 1, applications and all required supporting documentation must be submitted to FACTS by **March 3, 2017**. The deadline for Round 2 is May 15, 2017. The application fee is \$30 and must be paid online at the time you submit your application. Forms of payment include debit cards, most major credit cards or an electronic check.

In order to help families that may be unfamiliar with online applications or families that may not have easy access to the technology needed to complete the online application, the Diocese has partnered with several schools to offer Online FACTS Application Workshops during February and March. Staff and FACTS representatives will be on-hand to walk families through the application process. A list of workshops can be found on our school website.

**ACTION ALERT**

ISSUE: Nonpublic school transportation continues to be hampered by a number of problems which emphasize the major difficulties that nonpublic school parents face in attempting to get safe rides to school for their children. The major problem has been the failure of the state to increase the ceiling for nonpublic school transportation funding the 2017-2018 school year. An enclosed Fact Sheet explains the problem in greater detail.

[FACT SHEET NonPublic School Transportation](#)

OUR POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families support every attempt to provide equitable transportation services for nonpublic school pupils. The focus of this alert (and in this phase of the budget cycle) is to ask Governor Christie to increase the \$884.00 ceiling for nonpublic school transportation. If the increases required by statute and tied to the annual changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) had been followed, the ceiling would now be \$1,047.00.

ACTION: Call, write, or email the office of Governor Chris Christie at the address listed below. Parents should be strongly encouraged to tell their stories in great detail with regard to how their children face greater challenges in getting to school than their neighbors' children who go to public school. We encourage group letter writing sessions in schools and efforts to contact members of the Governor's staff that you may know personally with regard to this concern. Please note that this initiative is focused strictly on the Governor at this time because the Legislature will not begin developing a budget until the Governor's budget has been presented in February.

Address: The Honorable Chris Christie  
Governor of the State of New Jersey  
The State House  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Phone: (609) 292-6000

Email: <http://www.nj.gov/governor/contact/>

You can also contact Governor Christie through the NJCC Voter Voice System at:  
<http://njcatholic.org/faith-in-action?vsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f48691%2fRespond>

### **P.T.A. NEWS**

#### **Gift Auction News:**

*Solicitors needed!* If you are willing and able to solicit local businesses please sign-up online OR send an email to:  
[stalspta@staloyssiusschool.com](mailto:stalspta@staloyssiusschool.com)

This is an easy way to help and remember all proceeds benefit our students!

*Donations needed* - Have gifts from Christmas you don't need or want? Donate them to the Gift Auction! Send in any item to school, labeled "Gift Auction" or drop off to the front office.

OR check our "Wish List" on the website and/or feel free to drop off any item you wish to donate.

And we will take any ***donations of ribbon or baskets***, just drop them off to the front office.

Tickets/Pre-Paid Raffle Discounted Raffle Tickets are **on sale NOW!** Please check your mail and/or our website for details.

**\*\*Please note, if you did NOT receive a Gift Auction Letter in the mail please let the PTA know so we can ensure that does not happen again.\*\***

#### **Catholic Schools Week:**

Mega Party Wednesday February 1st- volunteers needed to help at this fun annual event - Sign-up online on the school website.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

[Dining to Donate](#) - Panera Bread Thursday January 26, 2017 4-8pm

[Winter Social](#) - Friday February 10, 2017 (Grades K-5) Flyers on website

[Gift Auction](#) - Friday March 3, 2017

Have a great GATOR week!

Peace,  
Ms. O'Connor