

Dear Parents,

St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga

Autumn leaves turn gold, orange and red, and then fall to the ground, as nature prepares for Winter's sleep. During this season, our thoughts turn to life's fragile and finite side. Fall carries reminders that the bodily life we now enjoy is temporary; it will not last forever. The Church calls to mind this reality by setting aside two special days to remember those who have died. On the first of November, we celebrate the saints, and the second of November we remember the souls of those who have died. While few of us look forward to that moment when the bodily life we now enjoy comes to an end, these special feasts - ALL SAINTS DAY AND ALL SOULS DAY remind us that in God's love the best is yet to come. There will be special Masses said for all those who have died, especially during this past year.

Basketball – Coaches needed! Sign- ups show student interest, but we need coaches for all teams. Please let us know if you are interested.

Nov. 1 **All Saints Day, First Friday Mass** at 9am. Parade of the Saints, please join us.
Operation Christmas Child Kickoff

Nov.2 **All Souls Day**

Nov. 2 & 3 **30th Annual Craft Fair** at St. Mary's School. We have 59 tables rented. We hope
Sat. 10-4 you have signed up to help or bake something, and are planning to bring your friends to
Sun. 9-2 shop and have a delicious lunch of homemade goodies. We have home-made soups,
chili, Michigan hot dogs, dinner rolls, cinnamon rolls, pies and more.
We are again having a **Christmas Raffle** with a Homemade Quilt, \$100, \$50 Stewart's Gas
Gift Card and \$50 Gift Cert. from Country Florist. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5. We are
also drawing a **\$100 Winners' Card** on Saturday and Sunday. If you signed up to help at
the craft fair please show up at the time you indicated. We will not call you to confirm.

Basket Raffle **The 16th Annual Basket Raffle** begins Saturday, Nov. 2. Extra tickets are available at
school. Tickets will be on sale until 6:00 P.M. Dec. 7th at the Spaghetti Dinner. More info
to follow about the dinner and raffle. We always have at least 100 baskets. Please get yours
in ASAP.
Christmas Raffle starts today. Tickets are attached.

Nov. 3 **Fall Back!** Remember to turn your clocks back one hour today.

Nov. 5 **Election Day Turkey Dinner** at FUMC. Take outs are at 4:00 and sit-down is at 5:00.
Adults are \$12 and children are \$6.

Nov. 11 **Veteran's Day - No school-Monday**

Nov. 15 **Report Cards issued.**
Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and/or supplies due.
RADA Knife orders are due. Please send in orders with payment.

Nov. 17 **First Reconciliation Class** – 9 A.M. Mass followed by class downstairs in church. Parents
and students preparing for 1st Communion must attend Mass and class.

Nov.17 & 24 **Confirmation Prep** 6:30-8:00pm in the Church.

Nov. 21

Thanksgiving Dinner - Today we celebrate as a school family *The Great Feast of Thanksgiving*. All students, faculty, staff, education council and special guests will eat family style in the school gym. We will begin with a prayer service at 11:15 a.m. Room Mothers and volunteers will be invited to eat with the different grades so that the teachers may eat together. We are sorry that we cannot invite all parents but there would not be room in the gym. We ask that all students take the main meal today.

Nov. 25-29

NO SCHOOL Monday - Friday, Thanksgiving Break. School resumes on **December 2.**

Nov. 28

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Let us give thanks for our many blessings and pray for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Dec. 1

1st Sunday of Advent.

Dec.2

Lions Club Eye Screening for Pre-k and Kindergarten students. More information will be sent home.

Again this year, St. Mary's will be participating in **Operation Christmas Child**. In past years we have had a tremendous response, and we would like to do more this year! If you would like, we can provide the boxes for your child or family to fill. Please let us know if you would like one! If you would like to send in small toys, art supplies, toothbrushes, or any needs for a young child...we will pack the box for you. Our 8th graders have offered to have a packing party for the shoeboxes after school. Supplies are due to the school at any time before the 15th. **Filled boxes are due Nov. 15th.** Thank you for your support and for showing your children how to share God's gifts with other children throughout the world.

Thank You to all who have paid their supply fee and tuition. I will be contacting families who applied and qualified for tuition assistance. Notes will be sent with your tuition balance. No one can be free. There is only so much money to go around. Everyone has to pay something. Some supply fees are overdue. They were due in September by everyone. We continue to collect box tops, pennies for the playground and returnable bottles and cans.

If anyone needs Virtus training, please let us know. We can arrange training. We would like to thank all of our many volunteers. We are very grateful for their help.

Let this season of giving become our way of life. Let us become more aware of those who need our prayers or our help. There may be elderly neighbors who need help with errands, or people in nursing homes who would be grateful for a visitor. A respite for one who is a caregiver for a sick person would be a wonderful gift. Even when our country's economy is good, there are many who feel the pinch of poverty. How can your family help? Caring and compassion are the qualities that help us see the needs that have not yet been met. We recognize those who need comfort and encouragement. We respond to those who need a friend. We feel the power of God's love and know that we who can give to others are truly blessed.

Yours in Christ,

Have A Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving