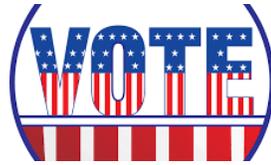


Important Dates

GO TO
[STBENILDE.COM/
EVENTS](http://STBENILDE.COM/EVENTS) FOR MORE



ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 8



TRUNK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 21



#IGIVECATHOLIC DAY
OF GIVING
NOVEMBER 29

FAMILY BULLETIN



Thank You for a Great Weekend!

When I took the position as Principal of St. Benilde School, I knew that the community I was going to begin to serve was special. I have lost count of the number of times that the community has reminded me of that.

Yet this past weekends festivities reminded me of this. It started during the Grandparent's Day Liturgy on Friday, October 28. The Grandparent's Day Liturgy is second to only the Christmas Eve Liturgy in terms of attendance each year. This year was no different. As I knelt after receiving Communion, I was able to observe our diverse community come forward, with grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, and more standing with the next generation at the Altar of the Lord. I experienced a deep sense of humility recognizing the immensity of the family support that goes into each child's formation at home and that supports our efforts here at school.

And then I got to experience the joy and playful nature of this community at this year's reimagined Foodie Fest. I do not have nearly enough space to thank everyone who volunteered their time and talents this year. I do want to give a special thanks to Mr. Dax Barrett and the Foodie Fest committee for their tireless (literally) work this year. I worked closely with the committee, and they constantly impressed me with their work effort, care for the school, and vision for an improved Foodie Fest. They delivered.

And so did all of you who came and spent time at this year's Foodie Fest. I hope that the food, rides, and fun met and exceeded your expectations. Attendance was strong throughout this year's Foodie Fest, and I was pleased to see so many faces, including plenty of new ones. So once again, thank you!

Sincerely,

Matt Downey

The School Board Challenge

Also at the Foodie Fest this year was the first year of the \$15,000 Reverse Raffle and the School Board Challenge. The School Board Challenge was simple, if we met our goal of selling 300 tickets for this year's raffle, we would have November 28 off, giving everyone an additional day of Thanksgiving Vacation. We are pleased to say that 300 tickets were indeed sold for this year's raffle. So enjoy your extra day of Thanksgiving Vacation on November 28, 2016. The campus will be closed and no holiday care will be available on this day.

Saints Gatorade Day

Just a heads up! 2016 Saints / Gatorade Day is right around the corner. On Tuesday, November 15th, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., our elementary students will participate in fun physical fitness activities! This is part of the NFL's "Play 60" campaign to promote physical fitness and healthy living among young people.

Schedules / letters to go home & waivers will be distributed by the middle of next week! Please return them so that your child can fully participate in all the days activities.



Announcing #iGiveCatholic 2016

The St. Benilde Parish & School community gave big on December 2, 2015 during the first ever #iGiveCatholic Day of Giving in the

Archdiocese of New Orleans. In fact, we received more individual donations in a 24 hour period than ANY Archdiocese of New Orleans school or ministry, ultimately raising over \$60,000 to benefit our students.

With these gifts, St. Benilde School was able to purchase updated classroom furnishings for the math classroom in the Upper Elementary, replace the chain link fence that was in disrepair in front of the school, and expand our early childhood services with the addition of a second fully furnished Pre 2 classroom.

On **November 29, 2016**, we want to go even farther to improve

Upcoming Calendar

November 6:
Reconciliation & First
Communion Parent/
Student Workshop, 1:00
PM, Church

Tuesday November 8: **No
Classes, Prek 2 - Grade 7,
Teacher Inservices.
Loreto Building Open.**

November 9: School
Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Church

November 9: Workout
Wednesday Club, 3:30 -
4:30 PM.

November 9:
Grandparent's Club
Meeting, 7:00 PM,
Cafeteria

November 10: Jazzy
Jumpers, K-7, 3:30 - 4:15
PM.

November 10: Soccer at
HOME vs. St. Charles
Borromeo, 4:00 PM

November 14: Mission
Club Meeting, 3:15 - 3:40
PM

November 15: Saints
Junior Training Camp,
10:00 - 11:30 AM.

our school by again beating out all other challengers by having the most individual gifts in 24 hours in this year's **#iGiveCatholic** Day of Giving.

Why Should #iGiveCatholic?

We want to make sure that St. Benilde School provides the highest quality academic, early childhood, spiritual, and human formation programs we possibly can while doing everything in our power to keep tuition affordable. We count on tuition and fees from our core programs, extended day programs, and summer programs to cover the basic annual operating costs of the school. We do not budget capital expenditures as part of these costs. Therefore, improvements to our facilities and classrooms must come from grants and gifts to the school.

So why not just sell candy bars?

We do not use more traditional fundraising programs found in other parochial schools, such as candy bar and wrapping paper sales. They nickel and dime parents and do not give the school an adequate level of return on what you pay to purchase overpriced chocolate and wrapping paper. Instead, we have three components to our annual giving programs. The first is the recently completed Foodie Fest and its \$15,000 Reverse Raffle. The Reverse Raffle alone will bring over \$18,000 in needed capital improvement funds to the school for this year. In the spring, the Luck of the Irish Spring Gala will give us not only a great party and opportunity to recognize the winners of this year's Benilde Medals for Alumni Achievement and Service to Parish and School; it will help us continue our efforts at school improvements and new classrooms.

The final and most important component is this year's **#iGiveCatholic** Day of Giving. You do not need to have hundreds of dollars to make a difference. Why? **#iGiveCatholic** does not cost the school much to participate in. Therefore, nearly all of the money you donate can go directly to improving the learning environments of our students. And you do not need hundreds or thousands of dollars to participate. Last year, the average gift we received was less than \$50. Yet those small gifts added up and inspired others to give. The end result was \$60,000 to improve our school.

So how can I help?

You can give starting with advanced giving for **#iGiveCatholic** on **November 18**. That runs until the official **#iGiveCatholic** Day of Giving on **November 29, 2016**. You can give online starting on November 18 at <https://igivecatholic.org/designee/st-benilde-school>. We will also place a link on our home page starting on November 18 to our giving page at igivecatholic.org. If you do not like to do online giving, you can also send to school a check or money order payable to St. Benilde School with **#iGiveCatholic** in the memo line. The check or money order must be received no later than November 29 in order to be credited as part of the Day of Giving competition (last year, St. Benilde School received \$5,000 from the Catholic Foundation for getting the most individual donations of any school or Archdiocese of New Orleans entity). We will continue our tradition from last year where *the first 20 donors to #iGiveCatholic will receive a SBS Magnet personally given to them from Mrs. Betty Adams!!!*

After you have given, you can continue helping us by calling, emailing, texting, snapping, messaging, and whatever else you do to your friends and family. On November 29, **#GiveBenilde** during **#iGiveCatholic!**