

Catholic schools celebrate 'parent's choice' this week

Thousands of Catholic-school supporters in the Rochester diocese and millions nationwide are celebrating the contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Schools Week, which began Jan. 28 and continues through Feb. 3.

The theme of this year's event is "Catholic Schools — A Parent's Choice." Nationally, Jan. 31 has been set aside as "National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools."

The month of February has been designated Catholic Schools Month in the Greater Rochester area by joint proclamation of Mohrroe County Executive Thomas Frey and Rochester Mayor Thomas P. Ryan Jr.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark said that this year's celebration "gives everyone an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the role and relationship of parents to the school, faculty and staff, and students."

Sister Catherine T. McNamee, CSJ, president of the National Catholic Educational Association, said that "parental choice in education is a leading educational issue and must be an option for all Americans."

"The week underscores the key responsibility parents have in educating their children. It also acknowledges that their support and involvement in our schools is vital to academic success," she said.

"Catholic education is not recognized by the Catholic community as it should be," said Father Thomas G. Gallagher, U.S. Catholic Conference education secretary.

U.S. Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos was scheduled to visit a Catholic elementary school — St. Camillus in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Md.

President Bush was also invited to visit a Catholic school in Washington, but his office had not yet confirmed his visit.

The following diocesan schools have informed the *Catholic Courier* of their activities in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Rochester-area schools

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Brockport: Faculty shared homemade cookies with the local public school district to say "thank you," on Jan. 29. The school hosted a book fair on Jan. 30, with proceeds going to purchase new books for the school library. In addition, K-5 classes will go skating at the SUNY College at Brockport rink on Feb. 1. On Feb. 12, a dance class from Brockport State will perform for K-5 students.

St. Thomas the Apostle, Irondequoit: The school's walls were decorated in the week's theme on Jan. 29. Future events are: a parent/child Mass on Feb. 12, celebrating Catholic Schools Week with snacks and refreshments in the school hall following the 8:30 a.m. Mass; on Feb. 13, grades 5-8 will make buttons related to the week's theme and will then pair up with younger students to help them create buttons; and from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 16, the school will host a "Moveable Museum," in which artifacts will be brought from the Genesee Country Museum and discussed with students in grades K-5.

St. Margaret Mary School, Irondequoit: A pep rally will begin Catholic Schools Week activities on Feb. 12. "Special People Day" will take place on Feb. 13, with an open house taking place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Feb. 14, day-long activities will include a 9 a.m. prayer service and a Valentine's Day dance at noon.

Christ the King School, Irondequoit: Each student will design his or her own Valentine's Day hat on Feb. 14. Grades 6, 7 and 8 will host a kangaroo court on Feb. 15. Students will be asked to bring a "special person" to Mass at 9 p.m. on

Feb. 16.

St. Rita School, Webster: Grandparents of school children in grades K-3 shared stories of their childhood on Jan. 31. A family liturgy was scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 1. The service will be followed by a reception.

Guardian Angels School, Henrietta: The school hosted a Religion Fair on Jan. 30. Students and families worked together on projects that were displayed at an open house. From Jan. 30-Feb. 1, all physical-education classes for grades K-3 performed folk dances for parents and friends.

St. Theodore's School, Gates: Among various activities, students are participating in a special project, "Kids for Kids." They are collecting books to be read to students at School #9. Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students took part in a Science Fair Wednesday, Jan. 31.

St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport: Students began the week by presenting the offertory gifts at each Mass on Jan. 28-29, including the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Jan. 29, which was celebrated by Bishop Clark. Other activities earlier this week included the Home School Association's bake sale on Jan. 31. An assembly has been scheduled for 9:15 a.m. on Feb. 1 to select the school's representative to the diocesan oratorical competition, and a children's Mass will take place at 10:30 a.m.

Schools outside Rochester:

St. Patrick's School, Owego: The school hosted its second annual VIP Day on Jan. 31, with an open house in the morning and afternoon. Parents were invited to stop in for a cup of coffee and tour the school, which is available to Christian families throughout Tioga County. Registration at the school is taking place through Feb. 2.

Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca: A pancake breakfast took place after the 9 a.m. Mass on Jan. 28. Students and teachers took part in "Switch Day" on Jan. 29. A student-faculty basketball game was held on Jan. 31. Other events this week include a Family Talent Show in the school gym at 7 p.m. on Feb. 1, and an All-School Mass at 9 a.m. on Feb. 2.

All Saints Academy, Corning: Parents' written testimonies were displayed in the school on Jan. 29. Also, grades K-8 shared their lunches that day. After report cards were issued on Jan. 30, students had lunch with their grandparents. The academy also hosted a religion fair display and open house for parents Jan. 31.

St. Michael's School, Penn Yan: A Mass for volunteers and benefactors of the school took place Jan. 28. The following night, a family roller skating party was held in the Penn Yan Elementary School gym. During the morning session on Jan. 30, students in grades 1-5 visited local businesses to become familiar with community jobs and services.

St. Mary's School, Canandaigua: The school began celebrating a week early with a "School Family Mass" on Jan. 21. The guest homilist for the Mass was Sister Carol Cimino, SSI, a former Nazareth Academy teacher who is now associate director of the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State. In addition, the school will host a "Special Persons' Lunch" on Feb. 1, beginning at 11:45 a.m. (K-4). Students in grades 5-8 will eat with their special guests at 12:45 a.m.

St. Mary's School, Waterloo: A Family Mass took place on Jan. 28. Students and their guests had lunch together on Jan. 30-31. On Feb. 1, the school will host an ice-cream social from 7-8:30 p.m. The week will close with a First Friday Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 2, and a volleyball game between eighth-graders and faculty/staff.

Contains local and wire-service information.

BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Peter W. Giullari, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Michael P. Perotto
Personalized service in the community since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue Rochester, NY 14606
conveniently located near 390

(715) 254-5400

This Valentine's Day Give Cookies instead of Candy!

Ideal for Birthdays, Get well wishes, and many other occasions too!

Valentine's Day orders being accepted until February 12th



2815 Baird Rd.
Fairport
385-6973



Confused?

Who do you believe about your chimney?

Believe this.

Some contractors, utility companies and rule-of-thumb heating contractors believe that if a chimney drafts good and looks good, it must be good. WRONG... and you might be dead wrong in believing them.

Problems To Consider:

If your chimney liner is cracked, if you have down-sized your heating system to a proper size or if you have converted from oil or coal to gas, "there's a chance of combustible products infiltrating the chimney and entering the home, which is dangerous carbon monoxide."

Source of Information: American Gas Association and RG&E

Warning Signs:

- Chimney Deteriorating inside or outside.
- Corrosion problem with gas unit or hot water flue pipe.
- Corrosion of gas furnace or hot water tank.
- Not having your heating systems and chimney professionally inspected.

A Reminder

Call RG&E immediately if you detect any odor of gas.

Prompt, Professional Service

We install B-Vent Aluminum Stainless Steel Liners, and have available, cast-in-place liners. Liners range from \$850 to \$2500. (Price will vary upon type of installation needs & job complexity.) For the inspection to be accurate and reliable, it should be done in the winter months.

Special Offer
Complete Furnace & Chimney Inspection \$29.95

We will inspect your chimney, from the roof through to your basement furnace, flue pipe and draft diverter for internal corrosion, soundness, clearance or obstructions and combustibles and proper venting.



24 Hours
Emergency Service



Senior Citizen
Discount



288-4270
946 Atlantic Avenue

