

# Saint Casimir School

*Sacraments of Initiation - Reconciliation - Eucharist - Confirmation - Marriage*

OCTOBER 2014

Dear Parents,

We have many new students and families that have joined our Saint Casimir Family. I want to take this opportunity to invite all of you to Sunday Mass. In our daily lives it is easy to get busy with homework, family parties, taking children to practice, running to grandma's; all these activities are important but remember, none of them are more important than saying thank you to Christ. Every Sunday Our Saint Casimir Family praises Christ. If you have not been at Mass in a long time or want to reconnect and are having difficulty, or maybe the Catholic Faith is new to you and you want to learn more about it, call the office a call and set up an appointment to speak to me. Perhaps your children have expressed a desire to receive the Sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion) or are not Catholic and would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith, please take this brief note as a personal invite to come speak to me whenever you feel the need. Just call the school office at 219-931-2589 to set up an appointment.

God Bless,

Father Bill O'Toole

Pastor

Dear Parents,

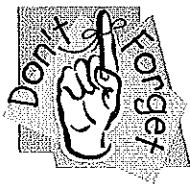
September was busy ironing out many beginning of the year kinks, and I'm thankful to say our school is running smoothly. Students are dressed for success, and working hard. I encourage you to read at least 20 minutes a night with your child! Reading children's books, novels, even comic books will benefit your child in the long run, so please read when you can!

I also wanted to thank you for all your efforts with the morning commute. The traffic has been much better than last year. However, there is always room for improvement and the area that I ask everyone to be more mindful of is in the parking lot when dropping off K-4<sup>th</sup> graders. PLEASE leave the first lane closest to the door for "drive thru" only, NOT PARKING! In addition, please only travel south on Johnson Street. If we ALL work together we can make the traffic situation around our school much safer.

Thank you and God Bless,

Lorenza Jara Pastrick

Principal



1. It is your responsibility to see that your child/children get to school on time. The "First Bell" rings at 7:50 am and the "Second Bell" rings at 8:00 am, at which time everyone must be in their respective seat. Remember that after 10 tardies, you will have to walk them into school and sign them in for the remainder of the semester.
2. It is your responsibility to call school by 9:00 am and report your child/children absent from school. If we do not hear from you, your child/children will receive an "unexcused" absence for that day. This is reported to the State of Indiana on a daily basis.

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Karen S. Mis

Dean of Students

### Important Information

#### VIRTUS

The school year is now in full swing and opportunities to come help at school events, in the classroom and on field trips will be around the corner. In order to volunteer and fulfill your service hour requirement at school you need to be VIRTUS compliant.

What is VIRTUS? VIRTUS is the brand name that identifies best practices programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "right doing" within religious organizations. The VIRTUS programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church. You can visit their website [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) to get more information.

Ideally at least one parent from each school family should be VIRTUS compliant, meaning they have attended a training session and are keeping current on their monthly readings (not more than 2 readings behind) or have already finished the program over a 24-month period and have their certificate of completion. As many people from your family, that are over the age of 18, as you would like that are interested in volunteering at school can sign up for VIRTUS (Grandparents, Godparents, older siblings are all welcome).

Upcoming training sessions at St. Casimir are scheduled for 6 PM in the school Blue Room on:

- Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in English
- Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> in Spanish

This will be your only opportunity to complete the course at our school until February 2015, so if you want to volunteer it is highly encouraged that you register and attend.

Please enter through Door A. Children are not allowed at these training sessions and no child care will be provided.

All sessions are free but you must register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Click the yellow "Registration" button on the far left side within the green border of the page and then from the drop-down box provided choose Gary, IN (Diocese). You will be prompted to create a user name and password. All materials needed will be provided at your training session. You can also view other training dates available throughout the Diocese of Gary.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ursula Cordova-Guerra via Fast Direct or call her at 219.932.2686 ext. 7015.

#### FACEBOOK

Are you a FACEBOOK user? If so...Like. BEGINNING JANUARY 2015, we will be posting information daily Monday-Friday. Please join us so you can be informed of all the exciting things happening at Saint Casimir!

#### Free and Reduced Lunch Forms

If you have not turned in your Free and Reduced lunch form for the 2014-2015 school year please do so as soon as possible. If you fail to fill out an application and qualify you will be charged full price for meals.

#### AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Many of our extracurricular activities are now in full swing and more are coming soon. Please be on the lookout for information on new LEGO based programs for Pre-4, K-5<sup>th</sup> and LEGO robotics geared to our middle school students.

BAND PRACTICE – Every Monday and Wednesday from 3-3:40 PM in the Blue Room

CHESS CLUB – Every Tuesday in Café B for Grades 1-8

GIRL SCOUTS – Every other Tuesday in the Blue Room. Must be a registered Girl Scout.

YOUNG REMBRANDTS ART CLASSES – Every Thursday in the Blue Room. Enrollment for sessions take place about every 4 weeks. Watch for registration flyers to go home for Grades K-6.

GUITAR CLUB – Coming back later this fall!

### **SCHOOL PICTURES**

Get your smiles ready! School pictures will be taken on Friday, October 10th. All students must wear their school uniform.

### **Fall Break**

Our Fall Break will be on October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the season and have fun with your family!

### **Popcorn Sale**

St. Casimir's Girl Scouts troop 10080 would like to thank everyone who helped make our fundraiser a success. Special thanks for all those who volunteered to make this event a success.

### **Market Day**

Market Day is a pre-order grocery company that helps support St. Casimir School. A portion of every order placed goes back to the school to help fund various programs. Please place a monthly order to help raise money for our school. Market Day pick up will be on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3–4PM in the Blue Room. Please have your orders into the school by October 15<sup>th</sup>, or order online by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Jeans Day**

Every ~~Tuesday~~ (for 6-8<sup>th</sup>) and Thursday (for K-5) our students have the opportunity to dress in down in jeans, t-shirts and spirit wear by paying \$1 that morning to their teacher. The money collected goes towards our technology fund, science lab or other worthy organizations seeking donations. This month we are collecting for two very special causes. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> we are collecting for Toys for Tots and on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer awareness campaign. We are asking for school-wide participation in these jeans days and hope that you can be generous. Please watch for flyers coming home with more details. In appreciation for your enthusiasm we are giving our students a FREE jeans day on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> if you wear black, orange or a "Halloween" inspired shirt.

### **Hammond Public Library Summer Reading Program**

Several St. Casimir School students participated in the annual Hammond Public Library summer reading program this year. The "Fizz, Boom, Read" program concluded on August 31<sup>st</sup> was open to students of all ages with reading requirements geared toward their grade level. Students earned prizes, medals and other rewards donated by several local area businesses. Congratulations to the following students for their reading achievements this summer:

Jackie Garcia	Grade 5B
Esmeralda Lopez	Grade 6B
Gabriella Magallon	Grade 3B
Isabella Magallon	Grade 3B
Lucia Magallon	Grade 1A
Emiliano Soto	Grade 3A
Lusiana Soto	Grade KA
Nester Soto	Grade 5B
Abigail Wojtaszek	Grade 5A
Hailey Wojtaszek	Grade 2A

### **Events and Activities**

#### **County Line Orchard**

Pre-K 3 & 4 along with both Kindergarten classes are heading out the pumpkin patch on ~~Sept. 30~~. The students will see how bees make honey and apples are harvested, and will also take a wagon ride to pick out their very own pumpkins!

#### **Pet Blessing**

A pet blessing will take place outside the front of the school on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please don't bring your furry friends to school that morning. Parents are encouraged to join us at 2 PM for the event. All pets must be on a leash or in a cage (hamsters, birds, etc.)

#### **Skating Party**

Our first Skating Party for this school year will be held on Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30pm - 8:00 pm at Lynwood Roller Dome. Tickets are being sold in the school office or you can send money in an envelope with your child to school and put to the attention on Mrs. Heintz for \$5.00 each up until Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:15pm. Otherwise tickets will be sold at the door but the price raises to \$6.00. They have roller skates and roller blades to rent at the

skating rink. The party is CLOSED to the public. So come out for some fun with your St. Casimir family~ Class with highest attendance will receive a Pizza party.

#### **Respect Life Rally**

Grade 8 will be attending the Respect Life rally at St. Margaret Mercy's Dyer campus on October 9<sup>th</sup>

#### **FALL BREAK**

Our Fall Break will be on October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the season and have fun with your family!

#### **Red Ribbon Week & Bully Prevention Month**

Red Ribbon Week, which runs between October 23- October 31, is a very important because it reminds us that drugs destroy dreams.

For one week our school will focus on the bad effects of drugs AND of bullying. We as the student council of St. Casimir School, will be helping to remind everyone that not only do drugs destroy your health, but also your life. Bullying can do the same types of things. To be drug free is awesome! Drugs do destroy dreams! We shouldn't ruin our bodies. We are temples of God and we shouldn't destroy them with drugs. Drugs AND bullying can make you act in ways that can cause you to lose friends. We want to encourage students at our school to stand up for themselves! Stay away from drugs and stay away from bullies! If you see someone involved in either activity, you should tell a teacher or an adult. It doesn't matter if you are snitching on people. You are stopping people from getting hurt emotionally AND physically. Drug and bully free....that is what we want for St. Casimir School!!!

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Haunted House**

The 8th grade classes will be presenting the annual HAUNTED HOUSE on Friday, October 31 to the classes at St. Casimir School. The Haunted House has been an 8th grade tradition for over 15 years. It is free of charge for all grades K-7. For grades K & 1, the lights will be on as they walk through with the 8th grade guides and the 8th graders wave hi to them. This event is totally optional. No one has to go through the Haunted House. SO....if you dare, students and teachers, please join us as we haunt, scare and creep....be prepared to be spooked!!!!

#### **Report Cards and Parent Teacher Conferences**

Report cards are scheduled to go home on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students will receive his/her report card and take it home. On Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> school will dismiss at 1pm from 1pm-6pm you can come meet with your teacher to pick up and speak to them about your child's progress, please bring a copy of the report card as reference. Please be aware it will be a first come first serve basis. If you are unable to come on this day you will have to make an appointment to meet with your teacher to receive your child's report card.

#### **RECENT DONATIONS**

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generosity to our school:

- Mayor Thomas McDermott and the City of Hammond Gaming Advisory Committee for a \$10,000 grant we received to install Smart boards and equipment in 5 classrooms, now making that phase of our technology upgrades in the building complete.
- Rogers Roofing, American Savings FSB, Dr. Jeffrey Stolarz, L&S Sewer and Plumbing and George A. Smith for their donation of back to school folders for all our families.
- St. Maria Goretti Parish for the donation of 25 backpacks filled with school supplies.
- Target and its shoppers who have designated St. Casimir School to receive the 1% back on your Target REDcard purchases. We just earned \$280.09! If you have a REDcard please consider making our school your choice for receiving their Take Charge of Education funds. To date, we have earned \$3,870.23 from just 31 REDcard holders who have designated our school.
- Anonymous ArcelorMittal employee that has donated \$480 over the summer toward the school's wish list through the ArcelorMittal Give Boldly Program.
- Respect Life organization for their donation of bus transportation for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders to attend their rally event at St. Margaret Mercy's Dyer campus next month.
- Joyce Szumlas for a donation of a beautiful statue of Mary now on display in the Administration Office.

## **COLLECTION NEWS**

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

A collection box has been placed outside of the Administrative Office for any non-perishable food items and other household necessities (soap, shampoo, etc.) you can donate to the St. Vincent de Paul pantry at our church. In November we will be conducting a special food drive to help stock the pantry before the upcoming holidays.

### **Box Tops for Education**



Please look for this label on the everyday items you purchase for your family and cut them out for our school. You can visit [BoxTopsForEducation.com](http://BoxTopsForEducation.com) to sign up to receive their emails with special offers and ways to earn bonus points for our school. You can also track our progress, help us achieve our goals and find out what new products have the Box Top points. Ask your family and friends to cut them out for St. Casimir School because every little bit adds up!

#### **Campbell's Labels for Education**

From soup and gravy cans to Goldfish crackers and Prepperidge Farm cookies, these labels have helped the school earn free merchandise. The labels have enabled us to order items for gym class such as footballs, soccer balls, and the roller racer scooters. Years ago we received playground equipment for recess for grades K-4. At this time we are collecting labels to purchase a 6 pack lab set of digital cameras.

#### **Other items**

Empty computer ink cartridges and old cell phone collections send us money for our items that we use to purchase software and other items for the computer lab. We also collect Coca-Cola bottle caps and continue to store our points for the future merchandise options.

Each classroom has a black bucket for the collection of pop can tabs which is weighed on a monthly basis. These tabs are collected for the Ronald McDonald house. The class that collects the most tabs will win a pizza party at the end of the school year.

All of these collection drives are coordinated by several faculty members and take many extra hours to organize. If you know about another opportunity and can volunteer to coordinate it for our school please let Mrs. Pastrick know about it.

## **OTHER NEWS & INFO**

- Yearbooks from the 2013.14 school year are still available for \$20. Please see Ms. Jen to purchase yours.
- You can sign up for email notification regarding school closing and other emergency information at the [EmergencyClosingCenter.com](http://EmergencyClosingCenter.com) website.
- If you haven't activated your fast direct to notify you through email or text about messages posted to your account please contact the school office to set up this feature for you.

### **Home and School Association News**

#### **Home School Association (H.S.A.)**

Our First H.S.A will be Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm in the Blue Room. On our agenda, American Red Cross, Bricks 4 Kidz (new program option for students), Secret Santa, and Open Forum, please join us. Remember, new this year 1 service hour if you come to the meeting!!!

September Student of the Month	
Pre-K4A	Eric Guzman
Pre-K4B	Tatiana Proctor
Kindergarten A	Sofia Herrarte
Kindergarten B	Elianna Maldonado
1A	Lucia Magallon
1B	Aaron Lopez
2A	Megan Virosztko
2B	Olivia Maya
3A	Brian Amaya
3B	Laura Bautista
4A	Naomi Quiroz
4B	Viviana Rosas
5A	Nohemy Pimentel
5B	Angel Omar Lopez
6A	Jonathan Orozco
6B	Tania Tamayo
7A	Angel Trevino
7B	Leslie Munoz
8A	Jeremy Garcia-Leibas
8B	Eduardo Jimenez

### Student of the Month

Student of the Month is a student that a teacher believes is an exemplary student not only through his/her academic effort but also in his/her daily character. We will have a small award presentation for these students before 8:15am Mass on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> grades 5-8 at 8:15am and grades K-4 at 9:30am in the Chapel.

### Picture Day is:

*El Dia de fotos es:*

Friday 10 Oct 2014

To Order Online, Visit:  
*Para ordenar en línea, visita:*

[www.inter-state.com](http://www.inter-state.com)

and Use Order Code:  
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## **HALLOWEEN PARTY - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17**

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. ST. CASIMIR GYM

TICKET SALES: \$4.00 (Students & Adults)

PURCHASE TICKETS AFTER SCHOOL IN LOBBY

Monday, OCT. 6 thru Friday, OCT. 10

**Limited to 300 tickets**

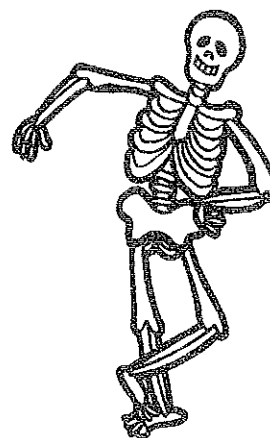
\*PIZZA \$2.00, POP \$0.50, WATER \$0.50,

and SNACKS \$0.50 WILL BE SOLD

COSTUME CONTEST PRIZES

MUSIC, DANCING, AND FUN FOR ALL!

Sponsored by grades 4 and 5 (A and B)



Don't Miss  
Picture Day!  
*No te pierdas el día de fotos!*



St. Casimir School

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR / MARQUE SU CALENDARIO

# 40 Hours of Eucharist Devotion

October 12, 13 & 14 in the Church



**ALL students** are expected participate. **Students in grades K-4** will open 40 Hours of Eucharistic Devotion on **Monday October 13, 2014** in the Divine Mercy Chapel immediately after 8:15 am Mass..

ALL families are expected to participate. **Students in grades 5th—8th** are closing our 40 Hours of Eucharist Devotion on **Tuesday October 14, 2014** at 6:00pm. **Students are to arrive by 5:40pm to their classroom.** Student drop off and pick up will be at **Door A**. **PLEASE BE ON TIME.**

**TODOS los estudiantes** se espera participen. **Los estudiantes en los grados K-4** abrirán 40 Horas de Devoción Eucarística **el lunes 13 de octubre 2014** en la Misericordia Divina Capilla inmediatamente después de las 8:15 am Misa ..

Se espera que **TODAS** las familias participen. **Los estudiantes de grados 5 al 8** están cerrando nuestras 40 Horas de Devoción Eucarística en **martes 14 octubre, 2014** a las 6:00 pm. Los estudiantes deben **llegar a las 5:40pm a su salón de clases.** Por favor usen las **puerta A** para dejar y recoger los estudiantes . **POR FAVOR SEA PUNTUAL.**

### **Grásta Dé! (Gaelic for "God's Grace") Middle School Youth Ministry October 19 • 1-7pm • Andrean HS, Merrillville**

Middle school youth from around the diocese will gather together for a day, featuring upbeat music, youth-friendly learning sessions, pizza, dancing, and meeting other youth from across the diocese who LOVE CHRIST and aren't afraid to show it! Includes Sunday mass, and this year award-winning young Catholic artists on a national tour!  
DEADLINE: MONDAY OCTOBER 6, 2014 8:15AM For more info or to register, contact: Elena Luna Magallanes

### **Grasta Dé! (Gaélico para "Gracia de Dios") Escuela Media Pastoral Juvenil :19 de octubre • 1-7pm • Andrean HS, Merrillville**

Jóvenes de secundaria de todo el diócesis juntarán para un día, con música alegre, sesiones de aprendizaje para los jóvenes, pizza, bailando, y conocer a otros jóvenes de toda la diócesis que AMAN CRISTO y no tienen miedo de mostrarlo! Incluye la misa del domingo, y este años galardonado artistas jóvenes católicos, en una gira nacional!  
ULTIMO DIA DE REGISTRACION: Lunes 06 de octubre 2014 08:15 AM-  
FOR más información o para inscribirse, comuníquese con: Elena Luna Magallanes

**Altar Server Training with Fr. Hebert:**

**Entrenamiento de Monegillo con P. Hebert:**

10/17/14 2:00pm in Chapel 6th grade—8th grade

10/30/14 10am—11am in Chapel 3rd grade—5th grade

Permission slip must be signed by parent and returned to Elena Luna Magallanes, DRE.

*Formulario de Permisso debe ser firmado por padres y entregado a Elena Luna Magallanes, DRE.*