



Now more than ever, Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate the enduring **VALUE** of Catholic education. Each year at this time, we focus on the gift that Catholic education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. We build community awareness of and involvement in Catholic schools throughout the country. Also, we honor those who contribute to the success of Catholic schools – students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, and community supporters. Particularly during times of change and challenge, Catholic schools provide long-term benefits to the nation's youth: a high-quality, faith-based education that will continue to pay dividends for years to come. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life," underscores the commitment of Catholic schools to continue that tradition. Families and communities can count on Catholic schools to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles as committed citizens, productive employees, and effective leaders.

### **Saturday, January 30, 2010 –Dividends for Life: In Our Parish**

The Catholic Schools Week Mass offers a time to reflect on the lasting value of Catholic education and its role in fostering the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will prepare our youth for a life of service to their families, their communities and the church. The Open House that follows provides parish and community members with an opportunity to learn what students have accomplished and how the school makes the community a better place.

**Activities: Mass at St. Michael's Church at 5:00 p.m.; students will serve as lectors, cantors, greeters, etc. An Open House at the school follows mass. Each family is asked to bring either one dozen cookies or one dozen sandwiches for the reception.**

**Scholastic Book Fair will be held from January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup> in the school library.**

**Family Project: DUE JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>.** Each year for Catholic Schools Week we ask each family to work together on a project that will be displayed in either the classrooms or the hallway. This year's project is "Top 5 Reasons To Send Your Child to St. Michael's School." Use art or writing for your project. You might want to use the Catholic Schools Week logo of the hand with the cross on the palm, poster board, or whatever you choose. You may draw or use pictures. There's no wrong way to do this. Just be creative.

### **Monday, February 1, 2010 – Dividends for Life: In Our Community**

We celebrate the school's bond with the community. The school and community work hand-in-hand to educate the next generation of citizens. The community benefits from the school's contribution to excellence and choice in education, and the school benefits from the support and resources the community provides.

**Activities: Community leaders and supporters of the school will be invited to a special reception at the school to thank them for their help and support throughout the year.**

**We will hold a "Baby Shower" throughout the week to benefit the Gabriel Project. The Gabriel Project helps unwed mothers and their babies. Donations of diapers and other baby items will be accepted. These do not need to be wrapped but you may do so if you wish. Specific items may include clothing sized 0-3 months, newborn diapers, toiletries including baby shampoo and bath wash. Items not accepted include baby food or formula and baby oil is not needed at this time.**

### **Tuesday, February 2, 2010 – Dividends for Life: In Our Students**

When we provide students with a Catholic education, we make an investment in their future. We equip them with the essential elements they need to lead fulfilling lives of love and service: faith, knowledge, morals and discipline.

**Activities: Parents will give presentations to students regarding their favorite hobby or craft.  
The Jump Rope for Heart will take place to benefit the American Heart Association.  
School uniforms do not need to be worn.**

### **Wednesday, February 3, 2010 – Dividends for Life: In Our Nation**

National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools is a day to remember the vital role that Catholic schools have played in American civic life during the over 400-year history. There are 6,028 Catholic elementary schools and 1,220 Catholic High Schools throughout the United States. There are 2,192,531 students currently enrolled in Catholic schools.

**Activities: A Prayer Service for Peace will be held.  
Students will make valentines for the military.**

### **Thursday, February 4, 2010 – Dividends for Life: In Our Vocations**

We explore the many ways people can serve God. We also take time to recognize and thank those who have made service to God their life's work, particularly in our schools and parishes. This year is also "The Year of the Priest." Our priests provide vital support and encouragement for our schools. Today is an opportunity to recognize them for their great leadership and contributions.

**Activities: Activities are being planned to celebrate "The Year of the Priest."  
Our annual Covered Dish Supper and Variety Show will be held at St. Michael's Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Each family is asked to bring one meat dish and one vegetable dish or dessert. Students will perform as a class following the meal.**

### **Friday, February 5, 2010 – Dividends for Life: In Our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers**

On this day, we honor those who devote their careers to teaching students and infusing them with the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that are the hallmarks of Catholic education. The work they do today is an investment in the future of our church and communities.

**Activities: Faculty and Staff will be treated to a special luncheon provided by the H.S.A.**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**

- \_\_\_\_\_ My child will participate in the 5:00 p.m. mass
- \_\_\_\_\_ My child will not attend the 5:00 p.m. mass
- \_\_\_\_\_ My family will bring one dozen sandwiches for the Open House.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My family will bring one dozen cookies for the Open House.

\*\*\*Sign-up sheets for book fair volunteers are located on the library doors.

**Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will donate food for the breakfast reception for community supporters.

**Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will donate fruit for the students' afternoon snacks.

**Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

- \_\_\_\_\_ My child/children \_\_\_\_\_ will participate in the Variety Show with his/her class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My child/children \_\_\_\_\_ will not participate in the Variety Show with his/her class.

**Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to provide food for the faculty and staff lunch. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_