

# Holy Rosary Catholic School

## Good News For Parents



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email: holyroselm@htdiocese.org

### Pastor's Message: By Fr. Francis Bui

We started our new school year on 8/8/08. Wow! What a beautiful date. Even though it was raining, we were able to have a prayer service in the school cafeteria and the blessing of our school bus. I was very excited when I saw a school bus parked on our facilities. I am planning to get a CDL just in case I have to drive the school bus to pick up and drop off our students. Fun, fun, fun!!!

One of my great joys as pastor is to welcome our students into our school family and to help them find a Catholic school where they belong. Our Philosophy is to provide the best Catholic Education to those who seek it. Our school is a community rooted in strong Catholic tradition and a rich history that fosters a living witness of Jesus Christ to all people. We strive to form, in the midst of diversity, one Christian family gathered together in faith and worship, nourished by God's Words and Sacraments and dedicated in service to one another.

As one faith family, I encourage all of you to pursue this dream. Let us develop a spirit of ownership of our school and make it a vital part of our lives. Join us in building God's kingdom, the "Body of Christ" in our school community. Thank you so much for your help these beginning days. We praise and thank God for you! †

### Renovations—Sincerely Appreciated



This summer brought several renovations to HRCS. The most expansive project involved the refurbishing of an annexed classroom. The room was cleared, flooring was removed, then it was remodeled with new flooring, doors, moldings and paint. Ceiling-mounted projectors were added

to K—8 classrooms, the library and the computer lab. Another transformation was the cafeteria. A much needed storage pantry was built for our cafeteria kitchen, then shelving units were added. The exterior kitchen storage unit was cleared for better utilization. Another annex storage building was cleared and removed. Sidewalks were painted for safety precautions, then Lafourche Parish black-topped the road. Classroom carpets were shampooed and the entire facilities were power washed!

### Principal's Message: By Joan LeBouef

Welcome to the beginning of the 45<sup>th</sup> year of celebrating Catholic education at Holy Rosary School. Our summer was full of activity as we focused on several curriculum and facility projects. Hopefully, your summer was equally filled with wholesome family time and fun!

Our staff is grateful for your attendance at our Parent Orientation held on the evening of August 25<sup>th</sup>. Your willingness to be involved in your child's education is such an uplifting force for our teachers. Statistically, students achieve more when parents are actively involved!

There are many things that parents can do at home to set the stage for learning. Consider sharing these **three R's** with your children: readiness, routines, and responsibility.

#### Readiness

- Ensure that your children go to school ready to learn every day.
- Speak positively to your child about school and their teachers. Your attitude toward learning will send a powerful message to your children.
- See to it that your children get at least eight hours of sleep so they will feel rested and alert.

#### Routines

- Develop simple routines for smooth, stress-free mornings:
- Help your children select their uniform. Have them pack everything they need in a special "grab'n'go corner."
- Together, create a regular morning routine. For example, you might make your bed while the children are getting dressed. Then, everyone could eat breakfast together.

#### Responsibility

- Teach your children responsibility by helping them to get organized:
- Make sure your children have all school materials, especially agendas or assignment pads. Teach them how to use a calendar to keep track of assignments.
- Use envelopes or folders to teach where to place special notes and home-school communication.

Remember that calm and happy school mornings begin the night before. A few minutes of planning can avoid hours of frustration and unhappiness.

The best of luck to each of you as we begin another school year!! †

Antiquated computers were removed. Our grounds were spruced up with weeding and landscaping.

These renovations & repairs were completed & financed by our HRCS families and staff!

Our school renovations are a great asset to our school and Our Lady of the Rosary Church!

**MANY THANKS!!! †**

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS:

- ☺ Labor Day Holiday-1st—No School
- ☺ Diocesan Educator's Conference—2nd—No School
- ☺ Mass — 5th @ 8:45 Faculty
- ☺ Adoration— 8th @ 9:30 & Faculty Mtg @ 4:00 pm
- ☺ Progress Reports & Mass [3rd @ LeBlanc]—12th @ 8:45
- ☺ Constitution Week Begins—15th
- ☺ Adv. Council Mtg- 16th @ 5:30 PM-Library
- ☺ Red-White-Blue Dress Day-17th
- ☺ Mass-Constitution-[3rd A Reed]-19th @ 8:45
- ☺ Faculty Mtg & Autumn Begins- 22nd @ 4:00 pm
- ☺ Grandparents Day & Professional Development Day—Half Day for Students-24th
- ☺ 7th Grade Parents Lunch- 25th @ 12:00—12:45 PM
- ☺ Mass Grandparents-26th @ 8:45
- ☺ Blood Drive-29th from 3-8pm
- ☺ Book It! Starts—Oct. 1 †

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## Avenues that Support HRCS:

**ANNUAL FUND DRIVE:** This drive is a year-long effort to help fund the school budget. Currently it provides approximately 11% of unrestricted funding from our various publics such as: parents, grandparents, faculty, alumni, OLR Parish, Advisory Council, and major donors. This year's Annual Fund Campaign Committee Chairpersons are Mona Vegas - **Major Donors**, Mike Plaisance-**Advisory Council**, Laura Champagne-**Staff**, Jennifer Martin-**Parents**, Monica Callais-**Grandparents**, Lavelle Chiasson, Kay Lefort & Bonnie Babin-**Alumni & Friends**, Jane Birdsall - **Parishioners** and Joe Orgeron-**Businesses**.

This past year our campaign received over \$121,000 from the 2007 -2008 Campaign!! This helps to offer a teacher pay raise, to provide repairs and renovations to our facilities, which are about 45 years old, and to improve the academic and religious dimensions of HRCS for each student.

As HRCS begins its 2008-2009 Annual Fund Campaign, please prayerfully consider how abundantly blessed you are. When asked to make your commitment to the AFC, please do so with a grateful heart

to help us reach and surpass our goal of \$100,000.

### OTHER AREAS OF SUPPORT INCLUDE:

**ENDOWMENT FUND:** This fund includes gifts to a designated fund necessary for guaranteed perpetuation of the school.

**PLANNED GIVING:** A planned gift, legally established during the donor's lifetime, entitles benefits to the Catholic school at some future date. These gifts include bequest, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, pooled income funds, property charitable trusts.

**MATCHING GIFTS:** Donations of employees or retirees of a company or corporation with a matching gift program may qualify to be matched by the company. Check with the employer to find out if HRCS qualifies as a benefactor.

**UNITED WAY:** HRCS is listed in the Donor Option Program from United Way for South Louisiana. Questions regarding United Way donations may be addressed through our Diocese.

**BUSINESS GIFTS:** Businesses, which make gifts, may receive tax deductions for donating inventory, equipment, materials & service as well as cash.

**LIFE INSURANCE:** A legacy in a donor's name can be made by designating HRCS as owner and beneficiary of the life insurance policy. Check with insurance agent and tax advisor about this.

**WILLS & BEQUESTS:** Including HRCS in one's will is an excellent manner of providing a lasting testimony to generosity of spirit and dedication of the Catholic education HRCS offers.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS:** Following the death of loved ones, families may offer their friends and families the opportunity to name HRCS as a benefactor in memory of their deceased loved one. Families of the deceased member are reassured of our prayers and appreciation. Annually, memorial intentions are included in the Spring Memorial Mass as our expression of gratitude. †

### Welcome New Staff

We are very fortunate to WELCOME three additions to our faculty and are highlighted below.

•**Mr. Jason Daigle**, who was educated in Catholic schools in Houma, comes with a B. A. in Liberal Arts and will be teaching a variety of subjects to the upper grade students. Mr. Daigle is also continuing his education and pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts with a concentration in creative writing at UNO, while continuing to teach at HRCS. Mr. Daigle said he feels blessed to have been hired to teach at HRCS for his initial teaching experience. During their recent retreat, Fr. Francis made a comment to the staff that his prayer for HRCS to have a male teacher on the faculty was answered.

•**Mrs. Patti Comeaux** has 21 years of experience teaching within the lower elementary grades. She has a BA in Education and will be teaching first grade with the assistance of a full-time aide. Mrs. Patti said that life sometimes makes a full-circle as she is returning to HRCS after beginning her first full year of teaching at HRCS. Patti said, "I am so glad God has guided me back to this faith-filled environment to teach at HRCS again."

•Lastly, **Mrs. Barbara Hollier**, the new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, holds a Masters in Education in Administration & Supervision. She brings with her 33 years of experience in the Catholic school system which includes 23 years as a teacher and 10 years as a principal of a local Catholic elementary school. Mrs. Hollier was also on the recent SACS Evaluation Team when she became acquainted with HRCS and felt a special calling to join the faculty as the fifth grade position became available. **We are happy that you have joined the HRCS FAMILY! †**

### Thanks! Choir Leaders Needed

Many thanks are extended to the dedicated efforts of three ladies who led our choir for several years. Mrs. Jenny Rodrigue- choir director, Mrs. Carolyn Guidry- guitarist, and Mrs. Ann Picciola - organist, gave countless hours to our students and community to *liven up* our weekly liturgies. We truly appreciate their commitment to HRCS!

This year we are looking to replace Mrs. Jenny and also need additional musicians to assist. If you know of someone or if you are willing to help, please contact the school. †



### Federal Monies Provide Services to HRCS

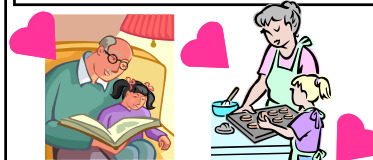
HRCS receives Federal Funds that provide funds for the following:

**Title I provides funds for:** Before/After school tutoring program—Parental Involvement activities & materials in collaboration with other schools-Materials of instruction and education equipment

**Title II provides funds for:** Staff Development activities for teachers - Materials needed for successful completion of staff development activities

**Title IV provides funds for:** In services - Materials of instruction, resources & activities for successful implementation of Safe & Drug Free Schools & Communities Programs

**Title IV provides funds for:** Purchase of supplementary instructional materials for classrooms and school library. †



**CELEBRATE NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY— SUNDAY, SEPT. 7, '08. GIVE YOUR GRANDPARENTS A HUG OR A CALL!!**

### Celebrating Grandparents

Again, this year HRCS will **Celebrate Grandparents** beginning with an invitation to all grandparents to visit their grandchildren on **Wednesday, September 24, '08**. Tentative Schedule:

- 10:15 -10:30 Blessing in School Cafeteria
- 10:30—11:30 Visit Classrooms & Grandchildren
- 11:30—12:30 Reception in Cafeteria
- Student Dismissal 12:45

On **Friday, September 26, '08**, beginning at 8:45 AM, the regular school liturgy will **honor grandparents**. Children will remain with their classes as usual.

We ask parents to inform grandparents ahead of time for this event. Invitations will be sent in the near future, but we certainly do not want to overlook anyone. †

## Know your Advisory Council

Since 1994, Catholic School Management [CSM] provided Diocesan schools with tools to form their mission statement, goals and objectives. HRCS followed the guidelines and has continued to implement goals and objectives for each school year. Your current Advisory Council and Administration are the driving forces that will set new objectives to help ensure the education and spiritual well being of your children.

The 2008–2009 Council includes:

President–Mike Plaisance, Vice President, Mark Bourg, Secretary/Reporter–Joseph Orgeron, Rodney Whitney, LaVelle Chiasson. New Council members are Jennifer Martin and Kay Lefort. Non-voting members include: Fr. Francis Bui, Pastor of OLR; Joan LeBouef, Principal; Debbie Cheramie, Assistant Principal; Mona Vegas, Advancement Director; and Donna Darda, Bookkeeper.

The Council's function is to serve the school in a consultative manner and support the School's Mission as school ambassadors. Their main function is to keep the school's finances sound. It is not a communicative tool to solve an individual's concerns or problems. Areas of concern are to be brought directly to the individual involved. The Diocesan policy states that all Council meetings are normally CLOSED. Meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month.

Your Council is a dedicated group of parents who devote a multitude of hours to best serve the entire school. If you are asked to work with the Council on a committee, please prayerfully consider accepting the job. †

## ADORATION



On the first Monday of each month HRCS students will attend Adoration at OLR Church. Adoration begins at 9:30 AM and usually last about 30 minutes. This is a great way to begin each month. We encourage our parents and friends to attend these services with us. †

## Red, White, Blue DRESS DAY

Constitution week will be held September 15–19. Wednesday, 9/17 will be Red, White & Blue Dress Day. Students may wear a red-white & blue shirt with uniform bottom. †



## Parenting Tip

Several text book companies are now offering web sites which



reinforce academic skills associated with their particular books. You may want to check out your child's text books' site for homework practice and references. Our math series can be found at [www.sadlier-oxford.com](http://www.sadlier-oxford.com) while our 6th– 8th graders' site is [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com). †

## Parent Workshop

Attention !! HRCS Parents: Title 1 Parent Involvement will hold a presentation for parents on



### Homework and Organizational Skills

It will be held as follows:

**When:** Tuesday,

September 9

**Where:** Saltillo Rm

**Time:** 11:30—



## A HERO AMONG US



This summer, while visiting relatives out of state, 3rd grader Jessie Plaisance and her family were at the beach. Jessie spotted a 3' stingray. Jessie remembered the tragic event of Steve Irwin and quickly responded. She called to her family to get out of the water. Thinking Jessie was kidding, they remained. But Jessie, undaunted, ran to the lifeguard and told him to get beachgoers to safety because of the stingray. When the lifeguard saw the stingray, he, authoritatively, got everyone to safety. Quick thinking and quick action are always the key to SAFETY! Thanks to Jessie, no one was harmed!

## Blood Drive Scheduled

Due to a severe blood shortage, HRCS will participate in a blood drive this month through **United Blood Services** on Monday, September 29 from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Look for more details in the near future and save that date on your calendar. Your participation is greatly needed & appreciated. †

## 2008 –2009 Holidays

Sept 1	Labor Day
Sept 2	Diocesan Ed.'s Conference
Oct 9-13	Fall Break
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec 22—Jan 2	Christmas Holidays
Jan 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 23-27	Mardi Gras Holidays
April 10-17	Easter Holidays
May 29	Students' last day for 2008-09 session

### Half Days / Professional Development Days:

August 27,	September 24,
October 29,	November 19,
January 28, &	February 18. †

## Parents Lunch Schedule Listed:

**LUNCH INVITATIONS—Parents** will be invited to **share lunch** with their child/children on the scheduled day listed below. Each class lunch will begin at noon and continue for approximately 45 minutes. Classes will send invitations to remind parents about their scheduled lunch date. Parents are encouraged to promptly reply to Mrs. Stacy for preparations. †



Grade:	Date:	Teacher/s:
3 year olds	1/28/09	J Galjour / K Ledet
4 year olds	2/18/09	Plaisance /Angelette
Kindergarten	2/5/09	S Douget
1st Grade	1/22/09	Patti Comeaux
2nd Grades	1/08/09	M Chiasson
3rd Grade	12/04/08	LeBlanc/Reed
4th Grade	11/20/08	Mary Thibodaux
5th Grade	11/06/08	Barbara Hollier
6th Grade	10/23/08	Jason Daigle
7th Grade	9/25/08	Rochelle Boulet
8th Grade	8/28/08	Laura Champagne †

**HRCS—Revised—Mission and Philosophy Statements**

**Mission:** Holy Rosary Catholic School provides spiritual, academic and social development for its students in a safe, Catholic environment so that they will become witnesses of Christ's presence in the world. †



**NEW BABIES**

• **Dean & Rachael Guidry**—had their third girl, **Caroline**, born on 4/33/08, weighing 8lbs, 2.5 oz. Baby Caroline is the sister of Alumna **Christie** and 3rd grader **Carlie**, who said, "She is wonderful!"

• **Joe & Jolie Brady** are the new parents of a baby girl, **Joey Belle**, born 6/27/08, weighing 7lb, 8oz and was 19" at birth. Joey Belle is as cute as sister **Morgan Vizier** in 3rd grade.

• **Ben & former teacher Angela Cheramie**, have a baby boy, **Elliot John**, born on 8/12/08, weighing 8lb, 10oz and was 20.75" at birth. The baby looks like his dad, but has a smile like his mom!

• **Scott & Erin Plaisance** are the proud parents of baby **Matthew James**, born on 8/14/08 weighing 9lbs 1 oz and was 20.5". Matthew is the brother of **Alec** in 3rd grade and first cousin of **Elise Callais** in Kindergarten.

**CLASS REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED**

At our recent Parent Orientation, the following parents were elected as class representatives for the 2008-2009 school year. PK 3-**Anna Marie Cabirac**, PK4C-**Courtney Dardar**, PK4-D-**Donna Collins**, K-**Julie Callais**, 1st -**Simone Robichaux**, 2nd-**Sondra Trosclair**, 3rd [CL]- **Bonnie Babin**, 3rd [AR]-**Angie Loupe**, 4th-**Tracy Robert**, 5th-**Janie Brady**, 6th-**Selma Malcomb**, 7th-**Monica Callais**, and 8th-**Laura Champagne**. We are very grateful to everyone who offered to accept this responsibility and we'd like to thank all class representatives for your **much appreciated** help. †

**SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS - Please remember in your prayers**

• The family of **Dr. & Mrs. Walt Birdsall, Jr.** who lost their possessions in a house/garage fire on Friday, August 22. Thankfully, no one was harmed.

• For those within our school family who are ill.

• **Dr. Gene Fortier**—Mrs. Cle'ta's father- underwent surgery

• **Pam Gravois**-Alli Dugel's great aunt- recently diagnosed with a serious illness.

• **Aubrey Bitter's** little cousin who needs a liver-transplant.

• For the special intentions of our school family. †

**Please prayers for our deceased loved ones & their families:**

**Mrs. Bertha Pitre**, 98-year-old grandmother of Mrs. Debbie Cheramie, died in early June, 2008. Before her death, Mrs. Pitre requested that in her memory, donations be made to HRCS, in lieu of flowers. She was a devoted member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and dearly loved by her family and friends.

**Paul Callais**, 39-year-old HRCS alumnus and uncle of 7th grader **Justin** and 1st graders **Isaac and Noah Callais** was lost at sea on June 25. He was the son of Gloria and the late Harold Callais, brother of Peter, Charles [Mike] & Cory; uncle & cousin of several HRCS alumnus and cousin to several current students. Paul, husband and father of three young children, was an outstanding community leader in his home in Gonzales and was well-respected by all who knew him and within the Catholic church he attended and supported.

**Mr. John Brady, Jr.**, 70-year-old husband of Clarabell Callais Brady, father of Bonnie B. Babin, John, III, Tommy and Joseph Brady, brother of Tanya B Ditto and James Patrick Brady, uncle of many HRCS alumnus and great uncle of current students **Alexandra, Aishia, Sarah & James, Brady II**. He had 9 grandchildren of which several attend or have attended HRCS. Grandchildren of current HRCS families include **Luke & Claire Babin, Thomas, Jr., Bailey & Elli Brady, and Baby Joey Belle Brady**. **Step-grandchildren included Seth Robichaux & Morgan Vizier**.

Alongside his parents, John managed La-fourche Telephone Company. He was instrumental in launching MobileTel, Inc, SJI & Sola Communications.

In recent years, John enthusiastically supported and worked with many civic organizations. He was a constant worshiper and sup-

porter of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church and Holy Rosary Catholic School. In 1986, John established "**Friends of the Rosary**," the organization that raises money to provide scholarship assistance for needy children who wish to attend HRCS.

After his retirement in 2001, one of his last creations was the golf and country club community, The Club at LaTour in Mathews. At his death, his family continued their support of our school, as they noted that donations be made to HRCS, in lieu of flowers. Mr. John Brady will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and our community.

**Ruby G. Guidry**, 76-year-old great-grandmother of Nick Falgout in PK3, died on August 24, 2008.

**Pauline Chabert**, 97-year-old great-grandmother of Angelle Legendre in third grade and Ivy Robichaux in first grade, died on August 26, 2008. †

**Holy Rosary Catholic School**



12925 East Main Street  
Larose, Louisiana 70373

Phone: 985-693-3342

Fax: 985-693-3348

Email : [holyroselm@hdiocese.org](mailto:holyroselm@hdiocese.org)

Website: [www.holyrosary.org](http://www.holyrosary.org)

