



## Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo September 11, 2023

**Pope Benedict's Prayer at Ground Zero:** *God of understanding, overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy, we seek your light and guidance as we confront such terrible events. Grant that those whose lives were spared may live so that the lives lost here may not have been lost in vain. Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all.* - Pope Benedict XVI ([via The Vatican](#))

**Non-Uniform Pictures** - This **Thursday, 9/14**, is non-uniform picture day for all students. Students may dress in appropriate clothing and do not need to wear their uniforms.

**Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraiser** - Information for the PTO's fall fundraiser went home last week. They are looking for 100% participation from all families. People can order on-line by going to: <http://www.pizzakit.com/>. The fundraiser ID # is 415958. Please feel free to share this information.

**MAP Testing** - Students from K-5th grade will begin MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing **next week, 9/19**. Your child's teacher will let you know the specific days their class will be testing. Parents can help their children do well by ensuring they get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive at school on time. We appreciate your support.

**Front Office** - Please do not park in front of the main entrance to the school for any reason other than picking students up from afternoon clubs, sports, and choir. When picking up from clubs and choir, please do not start the car line until **3:50 PM**. For sports, please do not start the car line until **4:20 PM**. Thank you for your cooperation.

**School website** - Please refer to the school website for all information needed. Mrs. Hines does a great job keeping it updated so families know exactly what is happening each day throughout the school year.

**Living in the Joy of Jesus and being His Witnesses; By Deacon Keith Fournier** - CHESAPEAKE, VA (Catholic Online) - Jesus said to his disciples: "*As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.*" (John 15: 9 - 11)

The older I get, the more I realize that word - **Joy** - had a special meaning when used by Jesus to address the disciples. It still does. After all, we are his contemporary disciples. He still walks with us, instructs us and leads us in the Way. Are we joyful? Difficulties, stress, and painful experiences which, at first glance, can cause us to respond with anything but joy, can be transformed in the life of a believer - when we have living faith. They can become the very source of joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

They can contribute to what I am calling Gospel Joy. That is, if we invite the Holy Spirit to enlighten us in the midst of them, opening our eyes to find their deeper purpose and lesson. Yes, pray for them to either be removed or, if they are not, trust that the Lord Jesus Christ will accompany us through them. The word translated as Gospel in English literally means *Good News*. Are we living in a way which gives testimony to the fact that living for Jesus Christ brings joy? That the Gospel is GOOD NEWS!

St. Paul, a man who was certainly well acquainted with difficulty and suffering, told the early Christians - and tells us - "*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.*" (1 Thes.5: 16 - 24) Did he mean it? Yes, he did. This was a man who understood that the Gospel really is Good news! Do we?

The pain, hurt, fear, worry - and that awful killer stress, - need not distract us from the source of true Joy. That source is Jesus Christ. He never leaves us! His Ascension was not a departure, just a new way of Him walking with us now, in His Body, the Church, of which we are all members. Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead. He is Alive.

[\*Living in the Joy of Jesus and being His Witnesses - Living Faith - Home & Family - News - Catholic Online\*](#)