

Dear Parents,


In the last couple of weeks, we were fortunate to add a new student to Mrs. Sheehan's homeroom class (Connelly Bain McCorkle) and this week we are excited to add another new student to third grade. Eamon Shaughnessy will be joining Mrs. Smith's class on Monday.

The season of Lent is upon us. As you know, Lent is a time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. As a group, we reflected on how we can fast (give up something/or do something), incorporate prayer into our daily life and be more giving (giving of their time, talent or money for the poor). We had some interesting discussions about what fasting, prayer and almsgiving looks like for third graders and we came up with many ideas. The children then used some of those ideas or ones they already had to write their **Lenten Promise** which we put up in the hall. During morning prayer and religion classes, we will continue to discuss Lent and as it draws closer The Triduum (Holy Week).

Our next session in religion is titled "Mary is Holy". In this session, we will be learning about the mother of Jesus and the special prayer that she gave us, the **Rosary**. If your child has a rosary at home please have them bring it in beginning the first week of March. For those who do not, we will have some children's rosaries to give to your child.

The children should have finished the note taking for their **Black History Projects** today. Next week, we will be discussing what the final projects will look like and will have a little bit of time to work on them during class time. The final report can be shared on [flipgrid](#) and be turned in whenever it is finished but the due date is before March 1st.

Our IB unit (**Regions are formed based on shared characteristics**) is moving along quickly. The children are in the process of learning more about our neighbors to the north (Canada) and south (Mexico). Mrs. Sheehan's class took notes and are the experts on Mexico and Mrs. Smith's class took notes and are the experts on Canada. Monday, the children from the two classes will be getting together virtually to compare the two countries and create Venn diagrams to show the similarities and differences. After learning about those two countries, we will then look at the different regions of the United States of America to see what the shared characteristics are that make them a region. We will be playing an app in class later in the week

that is a lot of fun and maybe one for you to add at home. It is called **Stack the States**. 

**Moby Max** has been a great online tool this year to help students memorize their basic facts. They are assigned 5 minutes each day to do their fact fluency for homework. Many have passed both addition and subtraction and are working their way through multiplication and division (some students who have passed all four are moving onto Aleks). Please check to see where your child is in the process. If you see they are still on addition and subtraction, it is time to put forth more time to master these as they now need to learn their multiplication and division facts as well. It is essential that students master these facts as it will help them with increasingly difficult problems that require them to use these facts quickly. We are really seeing the benefits for those students who are consistently practicing their facts.

Please remind your child that it is their job to complete their homework nightly. We feel they really need to get outside for recess but will allow them to remain in class to finish it if not complete. Homework can be found in two locations ([classroom google site](#) and [St. Luke classroom web](#) page).

Don't forget The annual State of the School presentation is next week on Thursday, February 25th at 6:30PM via ZOOM.

The link is: <https://zoom.us/j/92111368661?pwd=VmJlOQVWVqcTJLTzhISmlJY0lrRXhGZz09>

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend.

Blessings,

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan