

January 28, 2012

Dear Parishioners,

Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their parish. St. Laurence School has a golden opportunity to make some major improvements to the school building. There is about \$150,000 dollars lying on the table if we just come up with a 20% match.

St. Laurence School obtained a grant from the United States Department of Energy for eighty percent of the improvements (about \$247,000) to make energy efficient changes at the school. We have used part of the grant to put in new windows and doors. That much needed improvement cost around \$125,000. The grant paid for eighty percent (\$100,000) and the school paid the other twenty percent (\$25,000) of that cost for doors and windows. Now the school needs to spend the rest of the grant this summer, about \$150,000 is still left. In order to maximize that grant, we are asking you, the parishioners, to help raise the 20% or about \$37,000.

Catholic Schools Week is a great time to kick off our campaign to raise \$37,000 (the 20%) for the rest of the major renovations at the school. This new round of energy savings involves insulating the walls and ceilings in the building. Those high ceilings in the classrooms will be lowered and insulated. Much of the heat is going right through the roof. In addition, the money will be used to pay for new lighting in the classrooms. The current lighting fixtures are 60 years old! Some can only be turned on with a tap with a yard stick and others do not work at all. Also there are also some areas in the hallway where there is absolutely no insulation. Finally, we would like to replace the 30 year-old boiler with a newer more efficient boilers that help reduce energy use. Remember that the grant money has to be spent on energy saving for the building. These are the first major modifications we have made to the building since the 1980's.

What a great way to bring the school into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by making the classrooms more energy efficient and by improving the existing lighting. Now you can do your part. **Take the St. Laurence School envelope from the pew and prayerfully consider the amount you can contribute toward these improvements.** Just remember that by contributing or pledging a \$100, the school will receive an additional \$400 from the grant. The time to act is now. The grant expires on July of 2012. Consider this a golden opportunity to provide this 60 year old building with classrooms that are attractive and energy efficient. Every dollar that is saved in energy can be put toward providing a better education for the students at the school and in the religious education programs that use the school. So you see, now **IS** the time to come to aid of your school and parish.

St. Laurence School thanks you in advance for your financial support of this very important and necessary project.

With God's Blessings,

Tom Wilhelm, St. Laurence School Principal