

THE PELICAN

The Monthly Newsletter of The Atonement Academy

★ A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE ★

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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Academy Parents:

Greetings from the academy! I would like to share with you some of the ways in which Our Lord continues to bless our community and to provide some practical information as well.

ARCHBISHOP GOMEZ TO BLESS THE ACADEMY

On March 16th, Archbishop Gomez will visit the academy in order to bless the school part of our new expansion and to dedicate the library to Pope John Paul II. Several students will have the honor of taking Archbishop Gomez on a tour of the new facilities. All of the students will participate in Solemn Evensong and attend an all school assembly where the Archbishop will address the student body. The entire program will take place in the afternoon, between 1:00 and 3:00. You are cordially invited to attend the assembly, which will be held in the gymnasium starting at 2:30 pm.

LENTEN STUDENT FUNDRAISER FOR AIN ARIK

Traditionally, our students practice the virtue of almsgiving during the season of Lent by raising money for the Catholic school in Ain Arik, which is located in the West Bank. Our students also correspond with the students there as pen pals.

Ain Arik is a small village of about 900 people. They are without many of the benefits to which we all are accustomed. For example, they have no running water. Life in the Holy Land is very difficult for Christians, and they face many forms of persecution. An education is one of the only ways that they can improve their situations.

Sister Mary Margaret has organized a “penny war” as a fun way to raise money. Each class has a jar for collecting donations. The class receives one point for every penny collected. However, the value of any larger donation (dimes, quarters, bills, etc.) is

deducted from their point total. Perhaps now is a great time to get rid of all those pennies that tend to accumulate. Helping your students “sabotage” the other classrooms by giving them larger donations to put in their donation jar would be wonderful too. Whatever you can do will be put to very good use by our Catholic brothers and sisters in Ain Arik.

ENROLLMENT FOR NEXT YEAR

Enrollment continues at an amazing pace. We already have more students enrolled for next year than our current enrollment, and it is only March. Although I did not think it possible, it seems that I’m giving more tours now than in January. We have even had requests to start a waiting list for the 2007-2008 school year. It is humbling to see how God continues to bless the efforts of our growing community. Thank you for your help in spreading the word about the academy.

ELECTIONS AND SCHOOL CHOICE

Although the Archdiocese of San Antonio does not endorse any specific candidate or party, we have been asked to make ourselves aware of how the candidates for state office stand on the issue of school choice. It has become apparent to many that passing the school choice initiative (which failed by only three votes this year) is critical to keeping Catholic schools open in neighborhoods where the cost of tuition is the main obstacle for Catholic families. The Archbishop urges us to remember the Church’s mission, in which we all share, to be of service to all members of society when voting.

PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS BOOST SAT MATH SCORES

Sr. Carla Marie Lusch, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools in San Antonio, recently shared the following information, and asked that I share it with you.

The College Board announced that the SAT math score average hit an all-time high last year at 520.

Since the public school average remained unchanged from last year, the increase in math scores was thanks exclusively to significant increases in the scores of private school students.

Private schools educate only 17% of all students who take the SAT. The average religious school student scores 20 points higher than the average public school student in math and 35 points higher on the verbal section. This is a testimony to the excellent work that private schools are doing around the country. Since the Stanford Achievement Test tracks very well with the college PSAT and SAT exams (and our students have scored in the top 10% in the nation on the Stanford for the past seven years), we look forward to making our own contribution to this positive trend as our Blue Ribbon class prepares to take the PSAT and SAT exams over the next two years.



pay tuition online for the current 2005-2006 year. There already is an automated credit card withdrawal option in place for most families for 2005-2006. We will continue to make auto-withdrawals on your card. If you begin paying online, you will be paying double! Because we have to report all our accounting to the Catholic Schools Office, we have to keep our years separated. The online payment program can't figure that out just yet – so we have to keep the online option available *only* for 2006-2007.

The business office is in the midst of planning the budget for 2006-2007, and again it looks as though salaries and employee benefits will be more than 80% of the expenses. Your timely tuition payments (especially during June, July, and August) are greatly appreciated since we pay our teachers through the summer.

Deacon Orr

AN HONOR

It is an honor to serve as headmaster for such a fine institution. As we continue to strive to improve in all areas, I welcome your feedback, comments, compliments, and suggestions. With your continued support, I am confident that we will continue down the path toward making the academy one of the finest academic institutions anywhere. If you have anything that you would like to discuss, please schedule an appointment by calling Mrs. Adame or feel free to e-mail me at RArndt@AtonementOnline.com (voicemail is not an effective means of communicating with me).

Very best regards,

Richard S. Arndt

News from the Business Office

As Mr. Arndt pointed out in his article, registration has been almost overwhelming. If it were not for the continued improvements made to the online web registration by Thomas Otten, and the long hours put in by Kathleen Benzaquen, JoAnn Phillips, and Theresa Dolan, we would not have been able to accommodate so many people in such a short time. The new online payment option is working well, and saving us critical time in the business office, not to mention parents' time saved by not waiting in line! As of March 1st, there are 471 students registered at the academy, and more students register each day. There is no doubt that we will be a school of 500 students before the new school year begins in August.

2006-2007: For those of you not taking advantage of the \$100 per family discount for full advanced payment payable before June 1st, please note that we are on a 12-month plan and tuition begins June 1st. For 2006-2007, we will have the option of paying tuition online, as you were able to do for the registration fee. Please DO NOT

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

A main focus in March will be Lenten observances. We will encourage the children to think of some sacrifice or extra good deeds that they can do to show their love for God. We will learn the Stations of the Cross and focus on the Sorrowful Mysteries as we continue to learn how to pray the rosary. We will continue to practice writing first and last names on all papers. In phonics, the students will be writing and recognizing the letters Ss, Tt, Uu, and Vv. In math, we will be learning to recognize and write number words. As our understanding of patterns increases, we will be making ABC patterns. Also, we will begin introducing some new Saxon Learning centers. Many of you have asked how you can help, and this will be a good opportunity to do so. In language arts, science and social studies the students will continue to explore their world. We will be talking about how to travel in and investigate the world around us. As always, thank you for all of your involvement in your children's education.

In Christ's Name,
Mmes. Henriquez and Reed

KINDERGARTEN

The year continues to fly by at a rapid pace. Kindergartners are mastering the AR reading program and reading lots of books each week! Wow, what a difference it makes when we read everyday! We will continue to learn more addition and subtraction facts, measure with a ruler, learn about dozens and half dozens and much more. We have learned all 26 letter names and sounds and continue to learn spelling rules and sight words to help us read more difficult books. In Social Studies, we will begin an exciting unit on Texas. We will learn the state tree, state bird, state flower and lots of other interesting things about our great state. In Religion, we will learn about St. Patrick and what he did for the Catholic Church. Please continue to read AR books every day! We will begin the month learning

about the significance of Ash Wednesday and making special sacrifices during Lent.”

Mmes. Elias and Phinizy

FIRST GRADE

Time is flying in the first grade. We now enter the season of Lent and will be working practicing small sacrifices and learning about the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We will follow Jesus into the desert as we prepare for His Passion.

Midway through the month we will take some time out for a little fun celebrating the great Saint Patrick.

In Math we will continue adding and subtracting into the hundred’s place, telling time to the quarter hour, and (are you ready for this?) ...multiplication! The first graders are progressing through phonics and reading. We will be focusing on suffixes and prefixes, and learning some of the special rules that apply when adding these to root words. AR points are being earned every day and the books are getting more challenging by the day. The children are truly excelling.

Mmes. Otten and Wiessing

SECOND GRADE

The Second Graders have been on a speedy track from addition and subtraction, and now getting well practiced in multiplication, and division. We are continuing their preparation for their First Holy Communion; we have the Holy Eucharist, sin, and confession as our main themes in Religion this month. We hope all have a wonderful and blessed Lent.

Accelerated Reader Program is a continual success for our students. It is a great way to promote reading for enjoyment! Prepositions, conjunctions and interjections will be introduced in our Grammar class this month. We will continue our writing skills and cursive penmanship, and Social Studies. We will track how produce is grown and processed for the consumer. In Science, we’ll be learning about Sound, Heat and Light. The 2nd grade parents are the best! We appreciate all you do for us and the Academy!

Mmes. Castillo and Morales

THIRD GRADE

We finished *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and the students had a wonderful time. They wrote about candy they would want to invent, along with making up characters for the story. We will be reading *Charlotte’s Web* and the students can’t wait. The students are strengthening their Grammar and Handwriting skills with many writing assignments.

Multiplication and Division are still the main focus in Math. We believe that a solid foundation will smooth the path in years to come.

St. Valentine’s Day was once again a success due to the hard work of our Room Mothers and Parents. We appreciate the effort in making this year so enjoyable for our students.

Mmes. Loerwald and Vance

FOURTH GRADE

Now that we have studied the laws of God, the fourth grade will enter a deeper study of the Holy Eucharist, “the source and summit of the Christian life” as the Catechism of the Catholic Church states. “The Goldfish” and “Beauty and the Beast” will be our main course through the month of March in the Junior Great Books.

Keep looking for the Latin prayer memorizations and the weekly AR book reports. In Saxon Math, the march is on the way with more reducing fractions, dividing by a decimal number, and multiplying mixed fractions. Please thank our fourth grade parent volunteers who did a fantastic job for the St. Valentine’s Day party.

Mr. Tomanek

FIFTH GRADE

The third quarter is moving quickly! We’ve welcomed another new student. Blake Sab joined our class on February 6th, shortly before the Stampede dinner, dance, and auction – and just in time to bring a longhorn steer for a very interesting photo opportunity.

The students are steadily working through the Math text. We are beginning to use exponents and square roots while we continue to calculate the area of trapezoids, triangles, and trapezia. In history, we have completed studying the Civil War and Reconstruction, and will begin taking a closer look at westward expansion and industrialization. In English, we’ll be focusing on learning to use more varied and creative sentences as we continue with our daily paragraph writing. In Science, we have begun our final section, *The Human Body*. In Religion, we plan on finishing the section of our books on *Christ the Redeemer* as Lent begins. We are all looking forward to celebrating Evensong and the Stations of the Cross together in the expanded church. May you enjoy a spiritually fruitful Lent.

In Jesus and Mary,
Sister Mary Margaret

ESPAÑOL

This month the students in PK will continue to study the alphabet and we are singing and dancing in class to *Itsy Bitsy Spider* and the *Hokey Pokey* in Spanish! We are having so much fun and it counts for my daily workout too! Kindergarten will continue learning the alphabet and the Spanish pronunciation for each letter; their vocabulary increases on a daily basis. First Grade





continues learning short phrases and can now tell you how old they are when asked: ¿Cuántos años tienes? Second Grade continues with two-to-three syllable words and will now be reading short paragraphs. Third Grade continues with their workbook learning vocabulary for objects around the house. They have also learned that in Spanish we have masculine and feminine nouns, a concept that is difficult to understand. They often ask how is it that a desk is a boy noun and a chair is a girl noun? (El escritorio y la silla). Fourth Grade is learning all about telling the date in Spanish and we will soon review telling time in Spanish. Ask them what the difference is in the months

and dates in Spanish. We will continue learning together and working together to help your children develop a love for languages. Thank you for the opportunity to work with them.

FIFTH GRADE PRE-LATIN

Fifth Grade will continue increasing their vocabulary in Latin as well as reading Greek Mythology and working on small projects. You will see your children making collages, connect a dot pictures, a Roman temple, etc. They are learning Latin through Mythology and we are having a great time! Thanks for giving me the opportunity to see them grow before they go on to Middle School.

Mrs. Treviño

GEOGRAPHY

Fourth Graders are still trekking their way across the European continent heading east. In March we're visiting the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, who were under the Soviet thumb for decades, but now have found their independence under the protective arms of the European Union and the NATO alliance. Before long, like Napoleon, we'll be at the outskirts of Moscow with our study of the Russian Federation. It will take us weeks to delve into the mystery which is Russia.

Fifth Grade students are in Southeast and South Asia – visiting Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. The National Geographic Society again did a world survey of 50 nations this year, asking college students to find countries on a world map. Unfortunately, college students from the U.S. scored next to last: 49th out of 50! We're going to reverse the trend that Americans are, by and large, ignorant of the political world in which we live!

I am glad to announce that next year, I will be teaching World Geography to the freshmen and sophomores. Those currently in 10th grade will take this class during their senior year.

Deacon Orr

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL HISTORY, AND SIXTH GRADE MATHEMATICS AND RELIGION

Oh, springtime—you bring about such beautiful change and growth, but you do it with such drastic force. In the month of March while watching the truth of the preceding statement outside the classroom windows, your students will also be witnessing such a truth in their studies.

In American History, we will study the bloodiest, and arguably, the most important battle of American History: the Civil War. In Texas History, we will study the great transformation of Texas from an agricultural heartland to an industrial centerpiece. Lastly in World History, we will finish studying the drastic changes brought about by the Renaissance and begin studying the ancient culture of China.

In Economics, we will be making a shift from principles to specifics. Most notably, we will focus on the economic decisions of individual entities such as the consumer and business firms.

The sixth graders will enter fully into new mathematical territory using concepts we have reviewed continuously this year such as units of measurement, etc. In Religion, we will continue to focus on the most important piece of our Catholic faith: the Mass.

Mr. Howell

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND SEVENTH GRADE MATHEMATICS

Well, the Science Fair was a great success this year with approximately 120 entries ranging from why toothpaste protects your teeth to how volcanoes work. An independent panel of judges spent all day on Saturday, February 4th, reviewing the entries and selecting the top projects for each grade. Two judges per grade reviewed each project independently, using a standardized scoring rubric. Their scores were then tallied and the top three were selected from each grade (plus one honorable mention). The five first place finishers were then reviewed by eight of the judges and scored against each other for the best in show award. The winning entries as selected by the judges are as follows:

- Sixth Grade: 1st-John Quigg, 2nd-William McDonough, 3rd-Grant Zurcher, HM-Edward Clukey. In Seventh Grade: 1st-Caitlin Dudenhofer, 2nd-Abigail Gruspe, 3rd-Daniel Fernandez, HM-Jacqueline Boucher. In Eighth Grade: 1st-Collin Huse, 2nd-Joseph McDonough, 3rd-Ryan Burns, HM-Laura Oliveros. In Ninth Grade: 1st-Emily Fontenot, 2nd-Garret Wright, 3rd-James Galindo, HM-Megan Roethe, and Kayla Chauvin (tie). In Tenth Grade: 1st-Claire McDonough, 2nd-Briannon Connolly, 3rd-Brooke Ralston, HM-Pilar Ortiz

Best-in-Show will be announced at the Academic Awards Ceremony at the end of the term.

Your Biologists are now in the midst of dissecting fetal pigs and frogs. They will be paying attention to those features of the anatomies of both which are similar as well as those that are different. Our anatomy mantra has been "Form Follows Function" -- meaning that how something looks depends a lot on what is its job. This dictum holds true for all levels of biological organization from the way proteins fold to the overall body structure of an organism. All is geared towards maintaining an internal state of blessed continuity in the face of changing external conditions that we call homeostasis.

The Chemists are skirting the barest fundamentals of quantum theory while trying to digest atomic orbital theory. "Accipite et manducate..." (Take this all of you and gnaw on it...). This is fairly meaty stuff, but their reward, should they choose to succeed, will be to understand *why* certain chemicals act the way they do and therefore why the periodic table looks the way that it does. It is the underpinning of all chemistry; and having passed through this fire, they will come out the other side into a lesson on chemical bond structure.

The sixth graders are absolutely smoking their way through our unit on weather and will next be exiting the atmosphere for the inky depths of outer space. One never really exits the atmosphere; one simply finds that the supply of air molecules becomes exceedingly scarce. In any case, we will begin by discussing the structure of the solar system and how modern science believes that it may have been created. This may lead to a side discussion on the relationship between science and Holy Scripture since the Creation narrative in the book of Genesis is somewhat different than that in our textbook. Such an opportunity is one of the many blessings of parochial education.

Your seventh grade Pre-Algebrists are just beginning to taste true algebraic manipulation with the idea that addition and subtraction are really the same operation, but with different signs on the numbers. Our problems are now usually involving many different steps and our efforts at mastering them individually is now paying off in spades. As the complexity of the problems increases, the students will find greater and greater comfort in writing everything out as they do their calculations.

Dr. Vallor

**MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH,
AND EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION**

The sixth grade scholars have returned to Narnia, and not just figuratively speaking. They actually found a portal into that wondrous land, perhaps imprudently ventured through it, and almost didn't return. It was very weird. I wasn't allowed in though; some lion told me I looked too old—a rarity in my experience. Anyway, the students are now reading *The Silver Chair*.

The seventh grade scholars will be studying parallelism, practicing concise writing techniques, and pondering the existence of the legendary forty-second part of speech. No one has ever proven its usage,

nor has anyone proved to use it, but scattered bits of information suggest its existence. The truth is out there.

The eighth graders will be analyzing classification and definition. I, for example, can be and should be classified within the category of magnanimous things and defined as a very humble person. Let's hope the 8th grade students will classify and define with more veracity than I do.

The sophomores will be preparing and delivering class presentations on various philosophical questions pertaining to Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*.

All the best,
Mr. Cupp

**MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL LATIN,
ADVANCED MATHEMATICS I,
AND SEVENTH GRADE RELIGION**

Salvete omnes,

This month will bring a close to Bede's History of the Church in England circa 700 AD. Whereas Herodotus showed us the limits of the historian, Plutarch wrote to help us form our judgment of good and bad action. Similarly, Bede wrote so that an attentive hearer might imitate what is good or if the deeds be wicked, that he might shun them. History for both of the latter was not a mere pedantic exercise, but a source for informing one's character and judgment.

In our Latin I classes we continue reading and rereading. However, we have taken a more grammatical bent to our exercises. Just what do all those endings mean? The question of the month will be: "Cur hic terminus?"

Our eighth grade Latin scholars will continue to practice their endings as we read more complicated (and more interesting) stories.

During Lent in Advanced Math, we may begin the calculator free days. By this we shall ensure that we are the masters and not the machine.

Pax vobis,
Magister Ruplinger

**MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL LATIN II,
LATIN III, RELIGION, ENGLISH**

During March, the Seventh grade will study the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, and review what was learned about Penance and the Holy Eucharist at the beginning of Fall term. Latin II will learn the four subjunctive tenses in all conjugations, study relative clauses, and translate larger passages of continuous text. Latin III will finish its overview of grammar while translating selections from Caesar's *Gallic Wars* and



Pliny's letters concerning the persecution of the early Church and the destruction of Pompeii. Students in both Latin classes continue studying ancient Roman culture and architecture. **Latin Students must review declensions, verb forms, and vocabulary daily.** Freshman English will finish reading through the *Aeneid*, then conclude its study of ancient epic with a major essay (5-7 pages) that explores the influence of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* upon Vergil's masterpiece. The class then will read and act its way through Shakespeare's tragedy, *Julius Caesar*. Freshman Theology will conclude its study of the *Gospel of John* and begin reading *Acts*.

Dr. Thigpen

ALGEBRA I

I have office hours every Wednesday from 3:45 to 5:00 when we focus on preparing for the test the students will be taking Friday morning. Students scoring below the class average would be wise to attend. During March, we will be dividing polynomials, working with quadratic equations, working with spheres and learning to master uniform motion problems. We will master the Pythagorean Theorem and graph extensively. We will finish the text with time to spare!

Mr. Dempsey

ALGEBRA II

We will begin the month with the classic "Boat-In-The-River" problems. Also, coming up are independent and dependent variables, functional notation, joint and combined variation, conjunctions and disjunctions, and graphs of parabolas. The attention of current shoppers and future retail moguls will be captured by problems about percent markups. It should be fun!

Mrs. Johnston

ATHLETICS

We concluded our Jump-Rope-for-Heart activities on February 24th and raised more than \$4,400 to support the American Heart Association.

Baseball registration is currently taking place. We have two coaches who have committed to coaching the 3 thru 7 years of age group. In order for us to form additional teams, we need coaches. Registration ends soon! Congratulations to our Middle School Boys Archer teams who placed 1st and 3rd in the AIAL league. It was a great season, and a tremendous accomplishment for such a young team! Middle school track is upon us and the golf and track season kicks off in March for our Upper School athletes. Next month's curriculum promises to continue to enhance the elements of fitness for our students. A Gymnast from Gymnastics of San Antonio will come to the school and teach the students how to tumble.

We are happy to announce that the newly formed Sports Council will serve as an advisory board to help us build on the existing athletic program. We welcome your

suggestions or ideas anytime. We are looking forward to an exciting new academic year in sports. We appreciate your support.

Coach Garcia & Coach Zapata

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As we close the third quarter, our Tech scholars are completing their term projects. These are individual presentations on academic topics, researched on the internet and delivered to an audience of peers with the support of presentation software. Topics include Nikolai Tesla, Michelangelo, St. Joan of Arc, William the Conqueror, Saladin, the science of Epidemiology, the ancient city of Carthage, and the Battle of Marathon. The presentation work has brought out considerable creativity which will be further applied as we study video editing in the fourth quarter.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Two exciting college planning events are coming up in the next several weeks. On Tuesday, March 14th, at 7pm in the Common Room, we will hear from one of our school parents, Larry Webb, formerly the Director of Admission and Financial Aid at the University of Dallas. Mr. Webb will discuss the college search process, how admission officers evaluate candidates for admission, and the financial aid process. This will give us some good insights on how our scholars need to present themselves. That same evening, we will begin signups for a group excursion to Houston on Sunday, April 2nd to attend the *National College Fair*. Several hundred colleges and universities will be present, and their representatives will be available to talk to our families. This will be great practice for future college visits. Both events will be open to



all students and parents in the parish and school community.

Mr. Johnston

MUSIC

February was a great month for extra-curricular learning for both students and teachers from The Atonement Academy. We began the month with the annual observance of Catholic Schools' Week, a time to reflect upon the importance of Catholic education in our society. It is a time for us to ponder how we can become better learners. It is also a time for us to think of the teachers who have had a profound influence in our lives. We were fortunate to attend a wonderful organ recital at Trinity University presented by *James David Christie*, our esteemed mentor and teacher from Boston. Dr. Christie is a world-renowned teacher, performer, and scholar. Perhaps more importantly, he is a caring, generous human being who strives to instill a passion for music in the hearts of each and every one of his students.

The Atonement Academy was well represented at Dr. Christie's concert, with over 20 people in attendance! Following the recital, students and parents were able to meet Dr. Christie and talk to him about music and the pipe organ. The next day, Mr. Murray attended a workshop with Dr. Christie on the organ works of the 17th century North German composer *Dietrich Buxtehude*, while Mrs. Murray attended a choral workshop presented by Dr. Ann Howard Jones of Boston University at University Methodist Church. We have already begun applying the many new things we learned! Students will note that our warm-ups have changed and we are trying some new techniques.

The *Texas Music Educator's Association* held its annual convention in San Antonio February 16th-18th. This was our first experience at the TMEA and we hope not our last! We greatly enjoyed hearing performances by many fine choirs from all over Texas. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other music teachers from around the state and to start building our network of colleagues. From our experience there, we take away new ideas about repertoire, style, accompaniments, and so many other things. We attended workshops on "Orff" instruments, *Kodaly* Method, Music Theory and Technology, Gregorian chant, vocal production, and vocal blend. We heard high school mixed choirs, high school women's choirs, children's choirs, bands, wind ensembles, orchestras, percussion ensembles, and more. We saw exhibits from literally hundreds of vendors selling everything from violins to hand cream (I guess that is to relax your tired muscles after long practicing sessions!) One very interesting result of this experience was our discovering the "TPSMEA" or *Texas Private Schools' Music Educators' Association*. They sponsor many events throughout the year, including competitions and festivals. We hope to be able to participate in some of these as soloists, small ensembles, or full choirs. As we learn more, we will keep you posted.

On Saturday, Feb. 18th, we participated in a program on the pipe organ for young people at Trinity University. Several Academy students attended to learn more about the "King of Instruments." Both of us prepared works of differing styles and performed as part of a demonstration of the different "families" of sound that make up the organ. Mr. Murray demonstrated the "full organ" sound by playing the impressive *Te Deum* by Jean Langlais. Mrs. Murray demonstrated the "string family" of pipes by performing *Berceuse* by Louis Vierne. Both works are by French composers of the 20th century. (The *Casavant* pipe organ that is currently being installed in our church will be the perfect instrument for performing these French Romantic works.) The students who attended were able to register for free group lessons.

The season of Lent will provide many opportunities for special devotional services. As is our tradition, the students will participate in Evensong every Wednesday afternoon and Stations of the Cross on Friday

afternoons. We will have a "Festive Evensong" on March 16th, as part of the dedication ceremonies for our new school building. This service will include a choir setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*. The texts of these canticles have been set to music by hundreds of composers over the centuries. We are excited to have an opportunity to learn and perform these musical greats.

We are very excited about the progress on the installation of the *Casavant* pipe organ in the church. The frame work of the organ went up very quickly and now the detail work has begun. Hundreds of pipes will be installed and "voiced." The console is being completely overhauled and fitted with 21st century technology. The wiring is being completed to carry the electrical information from the console to the pipe chests. It won't be long before we begin to hear beautiful sounds from this magnificent instrument. Once the organ is functional and complete, the small positive organ will be moved to the new Sacred Heart Chapel where it will be used for occasional liturgies as well as smaller weddings and funerals. It will also serve as an ideal teaching instrument for those eager to take organ lessons in the future.

Cantate Domino Canticum Novum!
Mr. and Mrs. Murray

PTC CORNER

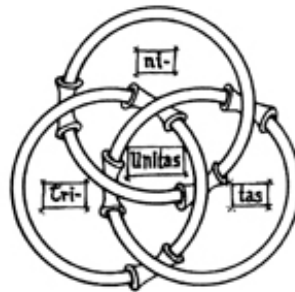
We have been very busy! The Stampede Dinner, Dance, and Auction were a huge success. We had many cowboys and cowgirls dancing and having so much fun. Thank you to all who helped make this event so great! Save your boots and hat for next year. A special "thank you" to Carmen McHugh and Roxanne Golightly; they really worked hard and it showed. Our St. Valentine's classroom parties were fun for all the students! Special thanks to the Room Moms. We were glad to see many of you at Cheesy Jane's on Fat Tuesday. What a great way to start off the Lenten season. Next month, we will have totals for you, on the Stampede and The Atonement Night at Cheesy Jane's.

Thank you and God Bless.

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Please keep your email address and telephone numbers current by accessing the registration page to update your information.

The registration page may be found at:
www.AtonementOnline.com/school/index.php



THE MARCH CALENDAR

OPEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES IN MARCH

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY, JOSE GOMEZ,
ARCHBISHOP OF SAN ANTONIO
THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH
SOLEMN EVENSONG IN THE CHURCH AT 1:00 P.M.
BLESSING OF SCHOOL
DEDICATION OF THE LIBRARY TO JOHN PAUL II
ALL-STUDENT ASSEMBLY IN THE GYM AT 2:30 P.M.

END OF THE THIRD QUARTER
FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH
DISMISSAL AT 1:15 P.M.

FIRST DAY OF THE 4TH QUARTER
MARCH 20TH

ARROW AWARD CEREMONY
FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH AT 11:00 A.M.*
(*SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION
SATURDAY, MAY 13TH AT 10 A.M.
ARCHBISHOP JOSE GOMEZ WILL BE WITH US.

Students at the academy are welcome to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of the Atonement Parish on Saturday, May 13th at 10 a.m.

This will be the first year we are combining the two, and we expect a very large number of candidates. Those in Second Grade are eligible to receive First Communion and Confirmation at the same Mass. Those in Third Grade who have already received First Communion last year are eligible to receive Confirmation this year. Catholic students at the school who have not made their First Communion or received the Sacrament of Confirmation, (above 4th grade), are also eligible to do so.

REQUIREMENTS

If you are a registered, attending member of Our Lady of the Atonement, all you are required to do is to fill out the forms **online** for either First Communion or Confirmation, or both. *If you intend to receive both, please fill out both!*

You will find the registration forms online at www.AtonementOnline.com.

If you are already a parish member, but have not registered as a member **online**, you will need to do that before registering online for First Communion or Confirmation. The whole process will take less than 10 minutes.

If you are **not** a member of the parish, we ask you to obtain a letter of permission from the pastor of the parish where you do attend Mass, in addition to filling out the above referenced forms **online**. When you register online, please register as a “non-parishioner” first, and then register for First Communion or Confirmation, or both.

Every child **must** belong to a Catholic parish. It is essential that you obtain this written permission from the parish in which you regularly worship. Permission letters may be mailed to the parish, faxed to us at (210) 695-9679, or Email the attachment to Mrs. Benzaquen at:

KBenzaquen@AtonementOnline.com.

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In addition to the academy children’s collection for the children of the Latin Patriarchal school in Ain Arik, we will take the following collections at the parish during Lent. If you wish to contribute to these worthy causes, please drop by the parish office or mail a check specifying your choices.

CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 1st at all the Masses:

7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

BLACK AND INDIAN HOME MISSIONS & CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Friday, March 3rd during

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Friday, March 10th during

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

U.S. BISHOPS’ OVERSEAS APPEAL & CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Friday, March 17th during

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

BIRTHRIGHT OF SAN ANTONIO ALLIED WOMEN’S CENTER

Friday, March 24th during

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

SANCTA MARIA MISSION IN MEXICO

Friday, March 31st during

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

ASSUMPTION SEMINARY FUND

Friday, April 7th during

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

SHRINES IN THE HOLY LAND

GOOD FRIDAY

April 14th at the Solemn Liturgy at 3:00 p.m.