

Saint Alphonsus Catholic School



FAMILY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Calendar:



- Oct 2 – First Friday School Mass 9:00am
Peace Garden Dedication following Mass
- Oct 6 – School Pictures – *Students to wear their school uniforms*
- Oct 7 – Fire Prevention Assembly (Gr K-2 9-9:45am, Gr 3-5 10-10:45am)
School Rosary in Church at 2:00pm for the “Year of the Priest”
- Oct 9 – No School / Faculty Professional Day
Grades 7&8 Dance in Parish Center 7:30-10pm
- Oct 12– No School / Faculty Inservice Day
- Oct 13– Students Begin Wearing Winter Uniforms
- Oct 14– PreK & K Open House 9 -11am
- Oct 15– Parent Sacrament Meeting for Grades 2, 3, 6 (7-8:15pm in cafeteria)
- Oct 17– Sacrament Sunday at 5pm Mass
- Oct 18– Sacrament Sunday at 10:15am Mass
H & S Family Fun Day 2 - 5 pm



Yard Duty Schedule for Next Week October 5-9 * Please arrive at 11:50am for yard duty *

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Zakrzewski Mook Weglos Barton	Phillips Birnie DeMaioribus Rizzuto	Perri Clark Anninos Dianno	Tilson Cooper Quinn Larivee	No School

We cannot do enough for our children’s safety and enjoyment! If you cannot make your day, please find a substitute!

Family Directory: The 2009-2010 Family Directory is enclosed in this week’s family envelope.

Thank you very much to Judy Felix, Maura Zimmerman and all the chefs/bakers that prepared such a wonderful luncheon for the Faculty/Staff for Mercy Day! The teachers and staff enjoyed a very delicious and relaxing lunch thanks to all of the fabulous helpers. If you brought in a dish or platter, please be sure to pick it up from the table outside the main office. Thank you again from all the teachers and staff!!!





Peace Garden Dedication – You're Invited: The St. Alphonsus Peace Garden is located on the left side of the front entrance to school. Our Peace Garden will be a place where students will be able to talk about their disagreements and work out a solution or just for quiet reflection. This is a step in our anti-bullying program. This Friday, October 2nd after the 9:00 Mass, we will have two dedications and ribbon cutting ceremonies in order to accommodate all of our students. Classes will attend with their grade partners. The first dedication & ribbon cutting will be grades/grade partners PreK/6, K/6, K/8, 3/6 and 3/8. The second ribbon cutting will follow with the following grades/grade partners K/7, 1/5 and 2/4. There is a possibility that this dedication will be covered by the news media. After the dedication, each class will return to their rooms to sign the Classroom Pledge. The students will also have a special treat delivered to their classrooms. All are invited to attend the 9:00 Mass and the dedication ceremonies.

School Pictures will be taken on **Tuesday, October 6th**. **Students in Grades 1-8 are to wear their school uniforms for pictures. Kindergarten can wear “special dress clothing” for their pictures.** If you have gym that day, bring your gym clothes to change into. Tipping School Picture envelopes are in this week's family envelope. Please make checks payable to Tipping School Pictures and bring your envelope and payment with you on picture day next Tuesday.



The need for increased emphasis on school safety, along with quick response to inclement weather conditions and other in-school emergencies are top priorities for St. Alphonsus School. We must be able to communicate quickly with school families when situations at school or in our community arise that affect the welfare and safety of our students.

One Call Now is our School-to-Parent Broadcast Service

This service has been programmed with only your primary (home) phone number and one email address. School broadcast announcements will be sent only to your primary (home) phone number, until you add additional phone numbers yourself. Last year's phone numbers are no longer in the system. Every school family, both New and Returning Families, must add additional phone numbers. It is up to you to add work and cell phone numbers and any additional phone numbers and emails.

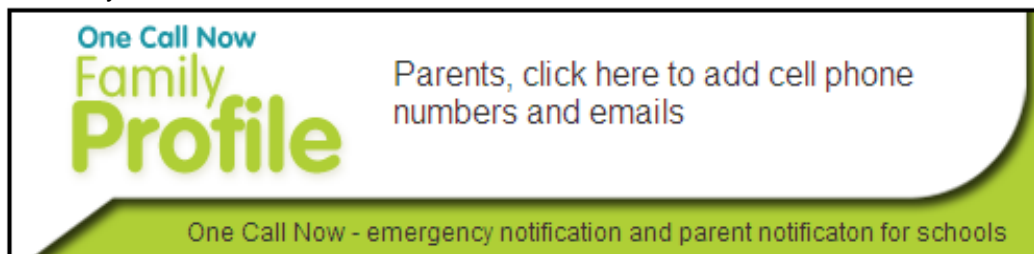
Families wishing to include additional phone numbers and emails may do so by one of the following two ways.

1. Click the following link

<https://www.onecallnow.com/Access/FamilyProfile/FamilyProfile.aspx?G=bo7CSe9fKbNNNe7Qsg2VeA%3d%3d>

or

2. Go to the St. Alphonsus School website, click on the Family Envelope tab, and then click on the One Call Now Family Profile web banner



Each family can add up to five more phone numbers and four more email addresses. **If you choose not to add more emergency contacts, messages will go to your primary (home) phone number only.**

Lunch Boxes, Sweatshirts, Sweaters, Lost & Found: Even though school has been in session for only a few weeks, there is already an abundance of sweaters, sweatshirts, and lunch boxes in the Lost & Found bin. Unfortunately many items are picked up from the recess yard at the end of each day and brought to the office but there are no names on anything so we do not know the owners. Please check the Lost & Found outside the first floor computer room to claim any items you may be missing. Anything not claimed by the end of next week will be donated to the poor. Please make sure names are written on lunch boxes and any other items you would like returned if lost.

Absences: **If your child will be absent from school, please call 215-646-0150 then press “1” before 9:00 am.** Please leave name of student, grade, teacher and reason for absence. If you would like class work and homework, please indicate the name and teacher of the student you want to have the work sent home with or at what time you will be picking up the work (from the table outside the office). Kindly request a time after dismissal since it is often not possible for the teachers to ‘stop’ class to prepare materials during the school day. The center door to school is the after-school CARES program and there is a doorbell if you cannot get into the building. If you are planning a vacation, work will need to be made up upon your return!

Shelter In Place Items: Every student is asked to have in school non-perishable food/drink items to be stored in a bin for the academic year. Please place these items in a zip-lock bag with the student’s name noted. Items are stored in a bin at the designated shelter in place area.

Safe Environment Workshop: Thank you for all your help with our children ... your presence and support are greatly appreciated. If you work with children on a weekly basis (lunchroom, library, classrooms, etc.) you are required to attend the “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” workshop.” Upcoming workshops include: St. John of the Cross (Roslyn) on October 6th @ 7pm; St. Anthony of Padua on October 15th @ 7:00pm, Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Doylestown) on October 20th @ 6:30pm, and St. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Jamison) on October 22nd @ 7pm. Visit www.virtusonline.org for more sessions and to register on line. Please be sure to give the office a copy of your certificate after completing the workshop.

Family Fun Day: Sunday, October 18th from 2-5 pm.
Come celebrate Fall at St. A’s all new Family Fun Day with music, food and games.
See registration form at end of this newsletter and separate flyer for information on the Pumpkin Decorating Contest!



MEDICATIONS: If your child requires any administration of medication (daily or as needed) we **MUST** have the medication form completed **with the physician’s signature**. Legally we cannot administer even an aspirin unless the form is completed by a physician. This form is available under ‘Forms’ on the website. Thank you!

Eighth Grade Fundraiser: Don’t forget the Sally Foster Gift Wrap sale! Half of every sale goes directly to our eighth grade to assist with graduation expense. ***Orders are due back to school by October 14th.*** Wrapping paper will arrive at St. A’s on November 23rd so that all orders will be received in time for Christmas.



The October issue of Partners of Faith is attached to the end of this newsletter.



Auction News

“I Heard It Through The Grapevine”



Empty Baskets Needed - if you have any empty baskets, decorative boxes, empty basket containers etc. that you could donate to the auction the packaging committee would appreciate them. Please just drop them off at the auction office in the gym. Thank you.

Every child attending the Fall Fest is invited to bring a white T-Shirt to tie-dye.

A Tie-Dye Dress Down Day is in the works and students would be invited to wear their shirt (or the tie-die shirt of their choice) on that day. Details to follow.

On-line Auctions will run for **3 weeks** this year beginning on October 18th. Watch for details.

Donor forms are coming in! Thank you! We are very appreciative of all donations as soon as possible as we have to organize, sort and photograph some of them for the on-line auctions.

Class Projects or Gifts are being organized by one to two volunteers from each homeroom. Information will be coming home. No Money Will Be Collected For These Projects This Year. Home and School will fund up to \$100 for each homeroom.

You'll find a donor form at: www.stalphonsus.com (Auction)
stalphonsus.maestroweb.com - Auction phone: (215)646-5695
Email: auction@stalphonsus.com

A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE



When to Keep Your Child Home from School

Fever - If your child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, your child should not attend school. On the other hand, many children are sick and should be kept home even though they do not have a temperature. We count on parents to use their best judgment. While at home, encourage your child to drink plenty of liquids. Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medicine) before returning to school.

Mild Cough/Runny Nose - If there is no fever, and the child feels well enough, he/she may attend school.

Lice - Please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition. Treat your child with a pharmacist recommended OTC product following the directions on the bottle **EXACTLY** as written by the manufacturer. Report lice activity to the School Office/School Nurse. Your child's confidentiality will be maintained. Your child may return to school after treatment is complete. He/she will be checked by the school nurse.

Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms - Children with bad coughs should stay home, and possibly see a doctor. A severe cold could be flu, bronchitis or pneumonia. When the cough improves, and your child is feeling better, then it's back to school.

Diarrhea or Vomiting - Keep your child home when they are experiencing diarrhea or vomiting and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medicine) at which time your child may return to school.

Sore Throat - A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be a symptom of strep throat - even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat are headache and stomach upset. Keep your child home from school and contact a doctor. Your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat. If prescribed, he/she can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.

Earache - The child needs to see a doctor to rule out infection.

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis) - Keep the child home until a doctor has cleared an OK to return to school. Pink eye is highly contagious and most cases are caused by a virus, which will not respond to an antibiotic. Bacterial conjunctivitis will require an antibiotic; your doctor will be able to determine if this is the case.

Rash - Children with a skin rash should see a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases requiring medical treatment.

Remember when in doubt; always call your doctor for advice.

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

October 2009



Thoughtful Moments

Mass

Living a Christian life is not supported by our society today. Our children will have many opportunities to stray from living their faith. Gathering for the Eucharist every weekend is a way we strengthen our children to help them live a Christian life.

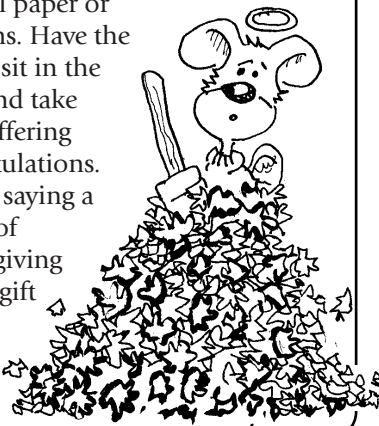


Swaperoo

Try swapping places at the dinner or breakfast table for a change of view. Throughout the meal, act like the person whose position you took. It'll be fun to see what life looks like from a different perspective.

The Honor Chair

When someone in the family has a reason to be celebrated, set aside a place of honor at the dinner table or in the family room. Designate a special chair and drape it with colorful paper or balloons. Have the person sit in the chair and take turns offering congratulations. End by saying a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of your family.

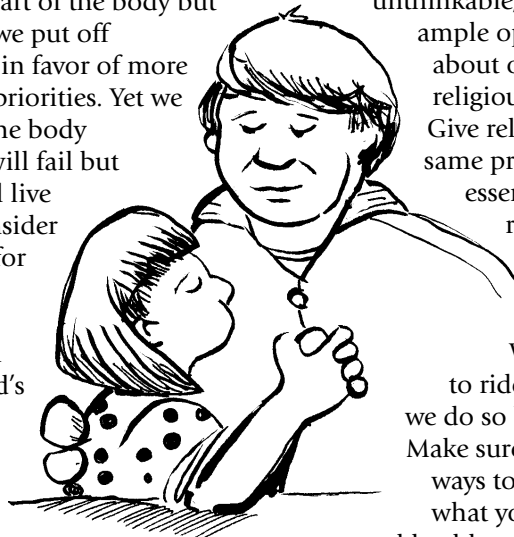


Care for the most important part of your child

As Catholic parents, we know that our child's soul is the most important part of the body but sometimes we put off nurturing it in favor of more immediate priorities. Yet we know that the body eventually will fail but the soul will live forever. Consider these ideas for raising a strong, healthy soul in your child's body:

Feed the soul like you would the body.

Spiritual nourishment can come from attending Mass every weekend, receiving the Sacraments, and encouraging a regular prayer habit. Encourage prayer as a family, too.



Educate the soul. Denying a child a proper academic education is unthinkable, so make sure to provide ample opportunities to learn about our faith through religious education programs. Give religious education class the same priority as any other essential subject. Periodically review the homework, check on progress, and don't let him miss class.

Show by example.

When we teach our child to ride a bike or tie his shoe, we do so by showing him how. Make sure to also show your child ways to live the faith. Discuss what you do to keep your own soul healthy and strong.

Daily exercise is key. We only get better by practice. Make sure your child practices her faith every day. Prayer and service to others are two easy ways to start.

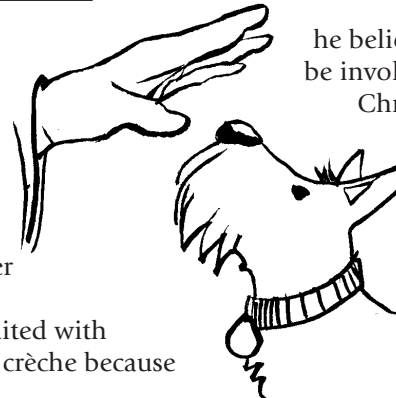
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have animals blessed in October?

This custom is observed in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is October 4th. This great saint saw himself as a brother to all creation.

St. Francis is credited with the first Christmas crèche because

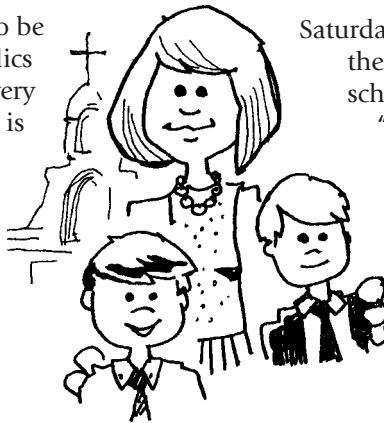
he believed all of creation should be involved in the celebration of Christmas. One story about him says that he once preached to a flock of birds that remained completely still until he gave them a blessing and urged them to go forth and proclaim God's glory.



Don't be too busy for Mass every weekend

Studies show that the best way for parents to be sure their children will remain faithful Catholics when they grow up is to take them to Mass every weekend. That's how children learn that Jesus is there for them now and always. If you have trouble getting your family to Mass every weekend, consider this:

"Weekends are a busy time for our family." Schedule Mass on the calendar the way you would an important soccer game or dance performance. There are many different Mass times at different parishes, including



Saturday vigils and Sunday nights. Think of Mass the way you do a favorite television show and schedule it in.

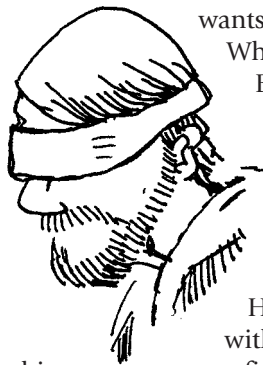
"My children go to religious education class. Isn't that enough?" Giving children a firm grounding in the faith is very important but without taking them to Mass every Sunday, it's like serving them a steak dinner that's missing the steak. Jesus is present, body and blood, every Sunday in your church. Don't miss the chance to bring your children there, too.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 10:46-52, a blind man shows the way

A blind beggar saw Jesus more clearly than the followers who were his companions. Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was near and cried out, "Son of David," a title reserved for the Messiah. Although people tried to quiet him, Bartimaeus persisted and Jesus finally noticed him and had his disciples call him over.

Bartimaeus responded by casting aside his cloak and rushing to Jesus. Even the little he had was thrown aside. The only person in Mark's gospel to call Jesus, "Master," Bartimaeus stood before Jesus humble and confident



that his prayer would be answered. It is this profound trust that Jesus wants to elicit from the crowd.

When his prayer was answered, Bartimaeus followed Jesus as his disciple.

What can a parent do? Sometimes

difficulties of being Christian can blind us to the joys of following Jesus.

Help children approach Jesus with excitement and confidence. When we trust him as Bartimaeus did, we become true disciples who can tackle the difficult task of leading others down the road to God.

Parent TALK

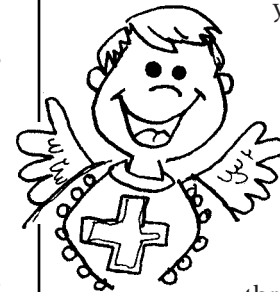
It always bugs me that All Saints Day gets overshadowed by Halloween. Last year, I thought of a way to combine them. I challenged my son to bypass the superheroes and instead portray his favorite saint.

After scouring through books, Joshua decided on St. Michael. When we read how he led the angels in the great battle against Satan, Joshua was proud to dress as someone still protecting us today.

We found a cool warrior costume and put a cross on the chest. We made wings and a spear from cardboard we painted silver. It was perfect.

As we went door-to-door, neighbors asked him what character he was dressed as and Joshua beamed as he replied, "St. Michael the Archangel."

Not only did Joshua get more candy that night, he made quite an impression on the neighbors. After all, it's not every day you're in the company of an angel.



Feasts & Celebrations

Oct. 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). Pope Pius V created this feast to thank Our Lady of Victory who helped the Christians defeat the Ottoman Turks. The feast was renamed Our Lady of the Rosary by Pope Gregory XIII.

Oct. 15 - St. Teresa of Avila (1583). Founder of a strict religious order whose nuns wore rough brown habits and sandals instead of shoes. St. Teresa founded more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

Oct. 18 - St. Luke (1st century). St. Luke was a Christian physician from

Antioch who wrote two books of the Bible. His Gospel and Acts of the Apostles were probably written between 70 and 85 A.D.

Oct. 28 - Saint Simon and Saint Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot who once expected the Messiah to be a political leader. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus as apostles, they evangelized until they were martyred in Persia.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

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2009 St. Alphonsus Auction and Casino Night

FEELING GROOVY!

Sharing The Peace and Love 

2   9

HOME & SCHOOL
FUND RAISER

You'll find a donor form at: stalphonsus.maestroweb.com

DONATIONS NEEDED!



H  M E R   M
P I Z Z A P R I Z E C  N T E S T

When your family makes a donation, every child in your family gets 1 point added to their homeroom tally.
Highest homeroom participation wins a pizza party!

Cash and gift certificates make great donations!

Go to the auction tab on the school website for information and forms.

www.stalphonsus.com (Auction)

You'll find a donor form at:

stalphonsus.maestroweb.com

Auction phone: (215)646-5695

Email: auction@stalphonsus.com

Contest ends
October 16th

Celebrate Fall at St. Alphonsus' all new

'Family Fun Day'
With Music, Food and Games

October 18th 2 – 5 PM



Featuring: DJ, Moon Bounce, Professional Face Painting and Spray Tattoos, Pumpkin Decorating Contest*, arts and crafts, Candy Scramble (*in lieu of Trunk or Treat*)
Carnival Games and Fall-Themed Field Contests & Events for the entire family

Your **Home and School** has so many fun activities planned; all that is needed is you!

Please return form and payment to Terry Zajac c/o Stephanie Room 111 by October 9th.

*Look for a separate flyer announcing the Pumpkin Decorating Contest and Prizes

*This event will be held indoors if the weather does not co-operate

Name _____

of Adults _____ # of Kids _____

Total enclosed: (5\$ per child or max of \$10 per family) _____

(Cash or checks made payable to St. Alphonsus Home and School)

I can help : _____ Set Up _____ Clean Up _____ Work a booth (for 1 hour)

Email _____

Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

Some pumpkins will be SCARY. Some pumpkins will be SILLY, and some pumpkins will be very ORIGINAL.



Which pumpkin will you make for the Family Fun Day Pumpkin Decorating Contest?



This years Family Fun Day will include a pumpkin-decorating contest! Pumpkins will be judged in different categories including scariest, silliest, and most original. The pumpkins can be decorated, painted or carved.

What a great family project!



All entries must be submitted to the pumpkin-decorating table on Family Fun Day.

**PLEASE DROP OFF ENTRIES BY 1:45 PM
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN EACH
CATEGORY!**

Family Fun Day - October 18, 2009

St. Alphonsus Scrip Program 2009-2010 School Year

*In stock items will be returned within 2 days. Special orders can take up to 1 week. Checks should be made out to St. Alphonsus
For questions or additional information call Mary Finley at 215-646-0421 or marfin29@aol.com.*

Name	Total Order	\$
Room Number	Order Date	Phone Number

Grocery	Qty	Total
A&P Food Stores \$25		\$
Acme \$50		\$
Giant \$50		\$
Pathmark \$25		\$
Shop N Bag \$50		\$
Genuardi \$25		\$
Genuardi \$100		\$
ShopRite \$25		\$

Department Store	Qty	Total
Bloomingdale's \$25		\$
Boscov's \$25		\$
JCPenney \$25		\$
JCPenney \$100		\$
Kohl's Dept. Store \$25		\$
Kohl's Dept. Store \$100		\$
Macy's/Federated \$25		\$
Macy's/Federated \$100		\$
Sears \$25 Gift Card		\$
Sears \$100 GIFT Card		\$

Discount Store	Qty	Total
Kmart \$25		\$

Electronics & Office	Qty	Total
Staples \$25 Gift Card		\$

Entertainment	Qty	Total
AMC Theaters / Loew's Cineplex \$25		\$
Barnes & Noble/B.Dalton \$10		\$
Barnes & Noble/B.Dalton \$25		\$
Blockbuster \$10		\$
Blockbuster Night Card \$12.00		\$
Blockbuster Single Game \$6		\$
Borders / Waldenbooks \$10		\$
Borders / Waldenbooks \$25		\$
Regal Ent (UA Theaters) \$25		\$

Home Decor	Qty	Total
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25		\$
Crate & Barrel \$25		\$
Linens 'N Things \$25		\$
Pottery Barn / Williams Sonoma \$25		\$

Home Improvement	Qty	Total
Lowe's \$25 Gift Card		\$
Lowe's \$100 Gift Card		\$
Home Depot \$25 or \$100 Gift Card		\$

Sporting Goods	Qty	Total
Cabela's \$25 Card		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25		\$

Apparel & Accessories	Qty	Total
American Eagle Outfitters \$25		\$
Claire's \$10 (No fee card)		\$
Eddie Bauer \$25		\$
Gap / Banana / Old Navy \$25		\$
J. Crew \$25		\$
Lands' End \$25		\$
Limited \$25		\$
Talbots \$25		\$
TJ Maxx/Marshall's \$25		\$
TJ Maxx/Marshall's \$100		\$

Dining - Casual	Qty	Total
99 Restaurants \$25		\$
Applebee's \$25		\$
California Pizza Kitchen \$10		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25		\$
Longhorn Steakhouse \$25		\$
Outback / Carrabbas \$25 Card		\$
Red Lobster/Olive Garden \$25		\$
Ruby Tuesday's \$25		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$25		\$
TGI Fridays \$25		\$
Uno Chicago Grill \$25		\$

Dining - Fine	Qty	Total
Legal Sea Foods \$25		\$
P.F. Chang's \$25		\$

Dining - On The Go	Qty	Total
Cold Stone Creamery \$10		\$
Domino's \$14 Pizza & 2-liter		\$
Dunkin Donuts \$10		\$
Panera Bread \$10		\$
Pizza Hut \$10		\$
Starbucks \$10		\$
Starbucks \$25		\$
Wendy's Card \$10		\$

Online & Mail Order	Qty	Total
iTunes \$15		\$
LL Bean \$25		\$
Shutterfly \$25 card		\$
Shutterfly \$25 card		\$

Specialty Retailer	Qty	Total
Bath & Body Works \$10		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25		\$
CVS/pharmacy \$25		\$
Honey Baked Ham \$10		\$
Jo Ann Fabrics \$20		\$
Michaels \$25		\$
Walgreens \$25		\$