

# Saint Alphonsus Catholic School



## FAMILY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 15, 2010

**School is closed next Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**This Friday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> is a Dress Down Day! Wear your red & green and Christmas accessories.**


### Calendar:

- Dec 17 – School Band Christmas Concert 1:30pm & 7:30pm in Parish Hall
- Dec 19 – Parish Advent Evensong 7pm in Church
- Dec 22 – School Candlelight 7pm / Christmas Holidays begin after Candlelight
- Dec 23 – NO SCHOOL (this is a change to original school calendar)**
- Jan 3 – Classes Resume
- Jan 7 – First Friday School Mass 9am  
School Dance for Grades 7&8 7:30-10pm in Parish Hall
- Jan 17 – No School / Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 19 – Communion Banner Meeting 9:30 in Narthex
- Jan 21 – March for Life Prayer Service 8am in Church
- Jan 22 – March for Life / Washington DC
- Jan 24 – Confirmation Retreat (4-8pm)
- Jan 30 – Opening of Catholic Schools Week / 10:15am Mass



**A great, easy way to help our sister parish:** Did you purchase the “KidStuff” coupon book this year? Many parishioners at our sister parish have asked for ShopRite gift cards for Christmas. If you bought the coupon book but do not shop at ShopRite, please donate the ShopRite coupons on pages 39 and 41. Please send the coupons in ASAP to Colleen Mook, c/o Molly Mook 4-217. We will make sure they are given with the parish Christmas gifts. Thank you!

### Yard Duty Schedule for Next Week December 20-24

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First Shift	DiNicola Fisher Sobolewski Tyrrell	DeMaioribus M Jennings Locati Nagle	Boles Harry Kuczborski Franklin	No School	
Second Shift	Hunter Cardosi Maiolino Wills	M Dolaway Drummond Rufo Yoast	Grasela Fresno Wydan Shegogue	No School	

Please find a substitute if you are unable to keep your assigned time!



**Report Cards:** Report Cards for the First Trimester were distributed last week. For **Grades 1-8, only the Report Card Envelope needs to be signed** and returned to school. For **Kindergarten, the actual Report Card needs to be signed** and returned to school with the envelope.

## SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT PRAYER DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 7:00 pm

Our annual school Candlelight prayer is on Wed., December 22<sup>nd</sup>...it is a wonderful present your children give to you...a true reminder of why we celebrate Christmas. Grades 1 to 8 will wear their regular school uniform; Kindergarten and Pre-K should wear their dress up/church clothes.



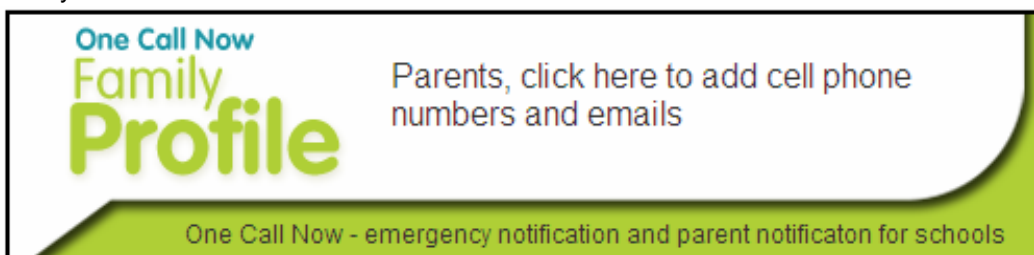
**First Friday Mass Collections:** On each First Friday of the month we are asking for donations for the Face to Face Program. For Friday, January 5th, we are asking the children in Grades PreK-2 to bring in mittens for the Face to Face program and students in Grades 3-8 to bring in household cleaning supplies for a shelter for homeless mothers in Ambler.



**One Call Now is our School-to-Parent Broadcast Service:** 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.

**This service has been programmed with only your primary (home) phone number. School broadcast announcements will be sent only to your primary (home) phone number, until you add additional phone numbers yourself. 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 going 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.**

**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." Visit [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) for sessions and to register on line. Please be sure to give the office a copy of your certificate after completing the workshop.

**eBoxTops**, like physical Box Tops, are worth 10¢ each for our school. However, instead of clipping these Box Tops and sending them into your school, eBoxTops are awarded electronically to our school earnings at bfe.com and will be included in our next Box Tops check amount. See flyer at end of this newsletter for more details.



## *Blue Ribbon Commission*

*Charting the Future Course of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*

**Blue Ribbon Commision Information:** In order to keep you updated on the movement and progress of the Blue Ribbon Commission, please visit the website: <http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/blue-ribbon-commission/video-of-press-conference>.



Auxiliary Bishop  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

November 8, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On October 19, 2010, Cardinal Rigali issued a Pastoral Letter entitled, "*Called to Conversion and Holiness*". I wish to draw your attention to one of the components of that letter that will be of particular interest to you as parents/guardians of school-aged children.

In this letter, Cardinal Rigali reminds us that "We must review all of our schools and religious education programs to ensure that they are effective in their mission and that the religious education of our youth remains the priority in their operation and maintenance." In order to look more carefully at this ministry to Catholic Education, the Cardinal will appoint a Blue Ribbon Commission. The work of the Blue Ribbon Commission will be to review, analyze and propose a plan to the Cardinal outlining ways to strengthen Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The legacy of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia spans more than 200 years. Among its most vibrant and vital works has been the Catholic Education of its youth across many parishes and schools. As we celebrate this rich heritage and thank God for the blessing that our schools and parish religious education programs have been, we accept the responsibility to ensure their vitality and vibrancy for the future.

The Blue Ribbon Commission will be composed of various national and local experts in the field of Catholic Education both at the school and religious education levels, corporate and financial experts, as well as members of religious communities. The names of the commission members will be announced later in the fall with their work beginning in January, 2011.

As this work unfolds, we ask for your continued prayer and support as the Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia responds to the outpouring of God's grace and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Catholic education of our youth is of primary concern to Cardinal Rigali as well as to the life of the Church throughout the five county Archdiocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael J. Fitzgerald  
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

# Keepsake Ornament



Don't miss this unique custom made ornament commemorating our parish community. This dimensional multi-colored gold plated ornament includes a revolving reflection of both our beautiful church on one side and school on the other.

It comes packaged in a clear two-piece gift box.

This terrific keepsake will be treasured by you and your family for years to come...

These ornaments are available in limited quantities for only **\$25!** Cash or checks made payable to Saint Alphonsus Home and School.

To order please fill out the form below and return in envelope marked **Ornament.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent home with  
student/class: \_\_\_\_\_

## **IMPORTANT PLEASE READ**



December 1, 2010

Dear Parents & Student(s);

As we voyage through the 2010-2011 school year I would like to take the time to outline and hopefully answer questions concerning the computerized point of sale (POS) system utilized in your school's cafeteria. There has been some confusion as to how this system works. Please read the following information carefully, and if you have any questions that remain unanswered, please feel free to call the school food service office.

### **How QSP Works**

The system is a computerized debit system that will allow you to pay in advance for meal purchases. The system works with a twelve key PIN pad that is similar to an automated teller machine (ATM). It will allow your son(s) or daughter(s) to enter their **personal identification number (PIN)** to access their account. **Your child's pin number will be assigned to them on the first day of school (this only applies to the new students (KDG and transfer students)). All other returning students will continue to use their same pin numbers. Students who may have forgotten their pin number need only to ask one of the cafeteria staff for assistance.** Please have him or her memorize this number. The PIN keypad will be located on the serving line. All students will have an established debit account, although you will not be required to make advanced payments because the system still has the ability to act as a cash register and can accept cash payments on a daily basis; however, he or she will need to enter their pin number for every transaction.

### **The Benefits to You and Your Child**

This debit system increases the speed at which your child can get through the cafeteria line giving him or her more time to eat and enjoy breakfast and/or lunch. The system also allows us to print reports for you about what your child is purchasing. Plus, if your child has a special dietary need, confidential notes can be added to his or her information so our cashiers know what he or she is or isn't allowed to purchase. With the ability for your child to have a debit account also comes the ability for you to pay for meals in advance. The options for advanced payment are as follows:

### **Advanced Payment Options**

#### **DIRECT PAYMENT**

You can send **CASH, A CERTIFIED CHECK, or a MONEY ORDER** to your school's cafeteria via mail or your student can bring it directly to the school cafeteria. Cashiers will have pre-printed forms available to be used when making advanced payments. Your child(ren) can bring the form home for you to complete or you can have your child complete the form in the cafeteria. Deposits must be made by 9:30 a.m. and will be available to your child immediately. **We are no longer accepting non-certified personal checks.**

#### **ONLINE PAYMENT OPTIONS**

We are proud and excited to be able to offer you an online pre-payment service for the Cafeteria Program. You will be able to go online and make advanced payments at **www.payforit.net**. In addition to the ability to make advanced payments you will also be able to view & check your student's balance online and also have low balance emails sent to you when your child's balance reaches a certain dollar amount. You will also be able to view account activity for the previous 3 weeks. An Internet Convenience Fee (ICF) of 5.75% will be listed separately for each Credit/Debit Card transaction made using the website. There is a \$1.25 Flat Fee for transactions made using electronic checks (ACH). The transaction fee is only charged when use Pay For It (PFI) to make payments to your child's account. There is **NO CHARGE** for using PFI to obtain balance records, request activity reports, or to sign up for the service.

**Step 1:** Signing up for an account with Pay For It. The School District for your school is The Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Where it asks for the Payment method please choose either ACH-Archdiocese of Philadelphia, or CC/Debit Card-Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

**Step 2:** After you have signed up for Pay For It you will be sent a confirmation email. Go to the link in the email and enter the confirmation code to complete the setup of your account.

**Step 3:** Now that your account has been established you can now add your child to your account. You will need to know your student's Student ID # that is provided by the school to add them to your account.

After you have added your student to your account you will be able to add money to their lunch account, and also view their purchase history. This information will show on your Pay For It homepage. It usually takes about 24-48 hrs for your students purchase history to sync to your account when you first add him/her to it. After this sync is complete the purchase history will be updated on a daily basis. Deposits made by midnight will be available the following day for Breakfast and Lunch.

Money will be automatically deducted as your child uses his or her account to make cafeteria purchases. There is no limit on the amount of money that can be deposited into a debit account. Utilizing this system also eliminates the need for your child to carry money for School Meals, greatly increasing the speed at which he or she goes through the cafeteria line. Every student will enter his or her PIN number, thus insuring your child's privacy.

### **Additional Questions and Concerns**

ARAMARK is the contracted cafeteria provider for St Alphonsus Catholic School. All questions regarding the POS system are to be directed to the ARAMARK supervisor, Valerie Hlinka (Hlinka-valerie@aramark.com). The ARAMARK supervisor will be able to add money to all students' accounts and they will be able to refund balances should the student leave the school for any reason and upon graduation. *We require at least 30 days notice for refunds of monies on account if your student should have to leave the school and/or is graduating.* Accounts must have a minimum balance of \$10.00 in order to be refunded. The school office staff will not be able to accept or refund monies to students; this can only be done through the ARAMARK supervisor on staff. Parents can either pick up their refund at the school, or they can have it mailed directly to them. Balances for returning students will be carried over to the next school year. We highly recommend that you monitor the account balance as the school year comes to a close, to minimize the amount of money that is carried over. Monies may also be transferred to siblings or if your child transfers to another Archdiocesan High School.

Below is a form that should be sent in with your first deposit. This form will be available through the cashiers for future deposits. If you are paying for more than one student in the same school with one payment, please clearly document how much money is to be designated to each student's account. If you do not specify, the deposit amount will be divided equally between the student accounts. Thank you for your cooperation and your participation.

Sincerely,  
Paul Paetow  
General Manager- **ARAMARK**  
**TO BE USED FOR ADVANCED PAYMENTS**

#### **STUDENT DEPOSIT FORM TO BE RETURNED WITH ADVANCED PAYMENT**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ PIN# \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT OPTION:**

# GATOR GEAR

## ORDER FORM

Item	Size	Price	Quantity	Total Cost
T-shirt		\$15		
Flannel Pant		\$20		
Youth sweatshirt – pink letters		\$25		
Youth sweatshirt – green letters		\$25		
Adult sweatshirt – pink letters		\$35		
Adult sweatshirt – green letters		\$35		
Tie Dye Shorts		\$16		
Warrior mesh shorts		\$18		
Sweatpants		\$20		

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made payable to St. Alphonsus Home and School.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number/ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

All items will be sent home with your child unless otherwise specified:

\_\_\_\_\_



earn for your school every time you shop online with:



Over **100 popular retailers** give eBoxTops to your school when you start your online shopping trip at [btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace). Just click on your favorite retailer and eBoxTops will be donated directly to your school with your qualifying purchase. You can earn up to 15 eBoxTops per \$10 you spend. Don't miss out on this easy way to earn even more for your school!

earn eBoxTops when you shop at quality stores such as:



**2** eBoxTops per \$10 spent



**1.5** eBoxTops per \$10 spent



**3** eBoxTops per \$10 spent



**1** eBoxTops per \$10 spent



**4** eBoxTops per \$10 spent



**0.5** eBoxTops per \$10 spent



**7.5** eBoxTops per \$10 spent



**2** eBoxTops per \$10 spent

Go to [btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace) to shop and earn today!



**become an online power earner!**

Once you earn 100 eBoxTops, we'll give you **10 Bonus Box Tops!** Start shopping and watch your school's earnings add up.

Not a Box Tops site member? Go to [btfe.com](http://btfe.com) to start earning for your school!

note: it may take up to 6-8 weeks for eBoxTops to be displayed on your earnings page.

# St. Alphonus Scrip Program

*In stock items will be returned within 2 days. Special orders can take up to 1 week. Checks should be made out to St. Alphonus*

*For questions or additional information call Mary Finley at 215-646-0421 or marfin29@aol.com.*

Office Use: check # \_\_\_\_\_ cash \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Name</b>		<b>Total Order</b> \$
<b>Room Number</b>	<b>Order Date</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>

Grocery	Qty	Total
A&P/Super Fresh \$25 or \$100		\$
Acme \$50		\$
Giant \$50		\$
Pathmark \$25		\$
Shop N Bag \$50		\$
Genuardi \$25 or \$100		\$
ShopRite \$25 or \$100		\$

Department Store	Qty	Total
Bloomingdale's \$25		\$
Boscov's \$25 or Bon Ton \$25		\$
JCPenney \$25 or \$100		\$
Lord & Taylor \$25		\$
Kohl's Dept. Store \$25 or \$100		\$
Macy's/Federated \$25 or \$100		\$
Neiman Marcus \$50		\$
Sears or K-Mart \$25 or \$100		\$
Ross' \$25		\$

Travel	Qty	Total
Marriott Hotels \$50/100/500		\$

Electronics & Office	Qty	Total
Staples \$25		\$
Office Max \$25 or \$100		
Office Depot \$25 or \$100		

Entertainment	Qty	Total
AMC Theaters \$25 or 1 tkt (9.50)		\$
Barnes & Noble/B.Dalton \$10 or \$25		\$
Barnes & Noble "Teacher" Gift \$20		\$
Blockbuster \$6, \$10 or \$12		\$
Dave & Busters \$25		\$
Borders / Waldenbooks \$10 or \$25		\$
Regal Ent (UA Theaters) \$25 or 1 tkt \$9.50		\$

Home Decor	Qty	Total
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25		\$
Crate & Barrel \$25		\$
Restoration Hardware \$25 or \$100		\$
Pottery Barn / Williams Sonoma \$25		\$
Pier 1 Imports \$25		\$

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

Sporting Goods	Qty	Total
Sports Authority \$25		\$
Champs Sports \$25		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25		\$

Apparel & Accessories	Qty	Total
American Eagle or Aeropostale \$25		\$
Claire's \$10 (No fee card)		\$
The Childrens Place \$25		\$
Gap / Banana / Old Navy \$25		\$
J. Crew \$25		\$
Gymboree \$25		\$
Limited \$25 or Dress Barn \$25		\$
Talbots \$25		\$
TJ Maxx/Marshall's/Home Gds \$25;100		\$
Eddie Bauer \$25		\$
Express \$25		\$

Dining - Casual	Qty	Total
Bertucci's \$25 or \$100		\$
Applebee's \$25		\$
California Pizza Kitchen \$10		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25		\$
P.F Changs \$25		\$
Outback Stk/Carrabbas \$25		\$
Red Lobster/Olive Grdn/Longhorn Stk \$25		\$
Ruby Tues \$25 or TX Roadhouse \$25		\$
Chile's Bar & Grill \$25		\$
TGI Fridays \$25		\$

Dining - On The Go	Qty	Total
Cold Stone Creamery \$10		\$
Domino's \$14 Pizza & 2-liter		\$
Dunkin Donuts \$10		\$
Panera Bread \$10 or \$25		\$
Pizza Hut \$10		\$
Starbucks \$10 or \$25		\$
Burger King or Wendy's \$10		\$
Chuck E Cheese \$10		\$
Baskin Robbins \$2		\$

Online & Mail Order	Qty	Total
iTunes \$15 or \$25		\$
LL Bean \$25 or Lands End \$25		\$
Shutterfly \$25		\$

Specialty Retailer	Qty	Total
Bath & Body Works \$10 or \$25		\$
Ulta Salon \$25		\$
CVS \$25 or Rite Aid \$25 or Walgreen \$25		\$
Payless Shoes \$20		\$
Michaels or JoAnn Fabrics \$25		\$
Hallmark \$25		\$
Super Cuts \$25 or Master Cuts \$25		\$
Great Clips \$25		\$
Foot Locker \$25		\$
Omaha Steaks \$25		\$