

JANUARY 2021 ISSUE 5

# ST. THERESA REMAINS STRONG IN TIMES OF



## St. Theresa Catholic School Little Rock, AR

### It takes a village

Jasmine Gonzalez, Vice Principal

I first want to thank our STS families for trusting us with your child in times like these. You have been patient, understanding, and supportive. Repeatedly I hear, "St. Theresa feels like home. It has a warm, family environment to it." And that is because of you; our community, our parents, our staff, our pastors, our students. You have all come together to help support St. Theresa Catholic School, and for this, I'm truly grateful for every single one of you.

Secondly, I hope the words spoken by our community throughout this newsletter provides you with a sense of peace. That even in the midst of a pandemic, St. Theresa remains strong. Thanks again; it truly takes a village.

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#### Contact Us

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Vice Principal:  
[jgonzalez@stslr.org](mailto:jgonzalez@stslr.org)

## A message from the principal

Kristy Dunn, Principal

A verse on my heart lately is, "I give thanks to God always on your account..." from 1 Corinthians 1:3.

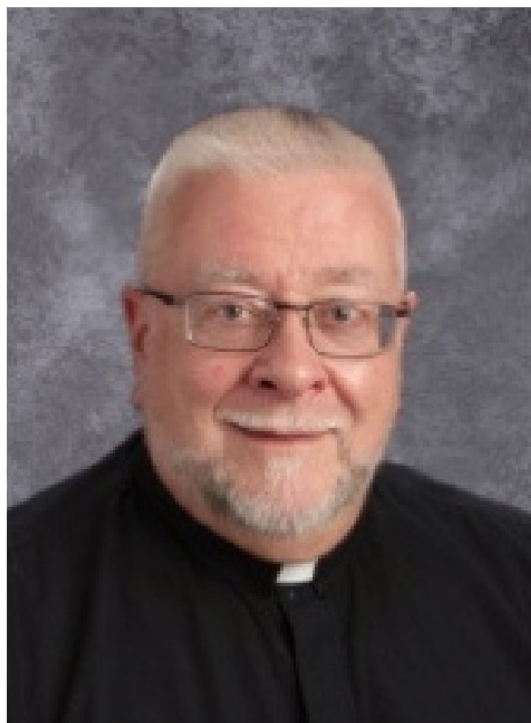
It's on my heart because even in the midst of this pandemic, I have so much to be grateful for, and at the top of the list is YOU! You, our community. You, our families. You, our supporters. You, our staff. I don't say this lightly. I mean it, truly. This pandemic has challenged us all. Schooling safely has been more challenging than ever before. But, time and again, you have shown the love of Christ. We have received everything from words of encouragement to donations to monetary gifts, and I thank God for every single one. Know of this for certain - I thank God always for you. God bless you all.



## A message from the pastor

Father Mark Wood, Pastor

Sooner or later we all experience that life is always a mixture of good and bad, joys and sorrows, just and also unjust, beautiful and also tragic. We are preparing to celebrate the birthday of our Savior Jesus Christ and he certainly did not spare himself from living our reality, and so, one of the messages of Jesus Christ is that he always walks with us through everything we face, both the good and the bad. Since this past March we have been living through the hardest and most challenging event of our time and we have been responding with our faith in Jesus Christ. I am especially grateful to our entire St. Theresa School community for the way in which you all have responded to this crisis. Our principal, Kristy Dunn, our vice-principal, Jasmine Gonzalez, all of our faculty and staff, all of our parents and students, everyone has worked together and cooperated in order that we can have both in school and virtual learning. I know that this has been a very stressful time that requires a lot of planning and preparation and paying attention to many tedious details, but it has all been worth it and so, together with God and with each other let us continue and bring to fulfillment all of the good work that God has begun in us.



## Fulfilling our Mission

Jasmine Gonzalez - Vice Principal

Although St. Theresa originally experienced some set backs due to the pandemic, STS has continued to meet and exceed our strategic goals.

One of those goals is to provide mental and financial support to our students and families. We are able to offer mental support via zoom with a licensed therapist to our parents and students. We are also able to better support our families financially by providing free breakfast and lunch this year. Praise God! We are thankful for ACE Scholarships, who generously donated over \$90,000 in scholarships. With their support, we are able to offer more scholarships to low income families.

Another goal is to better meet our technology needs for our teachers and students. Due to CARES ACT funds, we are now able to provide a Chromebook to every student in second through eighth grade! Every teacher was also able to receive a document camera. With these additions, we are able to better serve our students and are better prepared in case we need to be virtual again in the future.

Also through the help of CARES ACT Funds, we were able to meet our building needs. STS now has three water bottle refillable stations to help minimize the spread of germs. Through a partnership with City Serve in Little Rock, we received donations to help kickstart our bathroom remodel project. This included toilets, urinals, light fixtures, and sinks!

Our enrollment continues to rise throughout the year. Specifically, our waitlist for kindergarten and first grade continues to grow! We are very thankful for everyone who has referred our school to a family member or loved one. We are grateful that even in the midst of a pandemic, we continue to receive phone calls and drop-ins from prospective families.

Most importantly, our faith has remained strong and apparent at St. Theresa Catholic School. Our eighth graders continue to lead. They led our school rosary and set the example in mass for our younger students. Our students have, figuratively, linked arms more than ever before and shown compassion towards each other. They understand that these are hard times, and it truly warms my heart to see them be there for each other. They've had to deal with several changes this school year and they've taken them on like champs!



## Testimonials

### **Michelle Moreno - Parent, School Board Member, Parent Ambassador**

"We love St. Theresa's Catholic School! Our family is fortunate to be part of this growing community. I have walked up and down these hallways countless times at STS, and have such a sense of pride and appreciation each time I do."



### **Karla Robles - Parent, School Board Member, Parent Ambassador**

"We have felt safe and comfortable sending our kids to STS during this pandemic. We believe and see they are doing a great job through this extremely difficult time. Having an A/B schedule is wonderful. It gives our kids an opportunity to still have a 'normal' school day while following safety precautions."



### **Officer Madden**

"St. Theresa Catholic School is a very safe environment for students of the Little Rock community to learn and grow. Both staff and administration are doing a wonderful job at ensuring the safety and security of its students."



# Virtual Open House

Jasmine Gonzlaez - Vice Principal

Open House will look different this year due to COVID. In order to keep safety measures in place, St. Theresa will have a virtual Open House on January 31st at 6pm via Zoom.

You may call or text Miss. Gonzalez (501.258.8751) for the zoom link if you are interested in joining. This is a time for prospective families to tune in and hear all about STS and ask any questions. Please help spread the word if you know of anyone that may be interested in joining STS next year.

Zoom link info:

Topic: Open House

Time: Jan 31, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Go to zoom.us

Meeting ID: 815 5837 3643

Passcode: 719369

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81558373643?  
pwd=d1QrZHRlcllXUXNWbWg0NG0vTEIyQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81558373643?pwd=d1QrZHRlcllXUXNWbWg0NG0vTEIyQT09)



## STS Wish List

Kristy Dunn - Principal

Jasmine Gonzlaez - Vice Principal

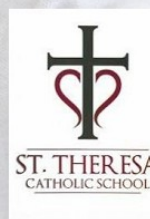
Through the support of our donors, St. Theresa is able to fulfill our mission and educate the leaders of tomorrow. Please contact me (jgonzalez@stslr.org/501.258.8751) if you would like to partner with us by providing one of these needs below, or you may also visit our school website at [www.stslr.org](http://www.stslr.org) to see an updated wish list or make a contribution.

- 12" Laptop cases (40)
- Kids masks - Size XS for PK and K
- Materials for bathroom renovations: Countertops, paint, tile
- Car window paint for advertisements
- Cleaning supplies



# REGISTER EARLY

## HERE'S WHY YOUR FAMILY SHOULD REGISTER FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR ASAP



When you let us know your plans for next year, it benefits you, your child, and our school.



### It benefits you:

You have more time to receive help with the admission process and secure a spot for your child.



### It benefits your child:

Your child's upcoming teacher will have more time to prepare in order to meet your child's needs



### It benefits our school:

It allows the school to better prepare for the upcoming school year when we know the number of students returning.

We can **hire staff earlier** and set up **classroom configurations**.

**Together We WIN with Early Registration!**

6311 Baseline Road Little Rock, AR | [www.stslr.org](http://www.stslr.org) | 501.565.3855

Register online at [stslr.org](http://stslr.org)



