

PROVIDENCE Catholic High School

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017



THANK YOU FROM TREASURE CHEST FOUNDATION

Thank you from The Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation for the donation of \$1500 in gift cards during our December drive. These gift cards benefit children and teens who are undergoing cancer treatments.

PREPARING FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

17-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for 17-18, as well as 18-19, are being finalized. The calendars will be available to all families in early to mid-February.

STUDENT SCHEDULING & NEW COURSE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.

As Providence Catholic continues our efforts to go paperless, students will be registering for next-year's classes through the Student Portal. Counselors will meet with students in their English classes to guide them through the self-registration process using their devices to access the Student Portal on our Portal Plus system. Following your student's registration, parents will view, approve, and submit course selections electronically through the Parent Plus Portal. Parents will be emailed specific and detailed instructions during the week of registration.

FINANCIAL AID

Fr. McGrath's letter regarding financial aid for the 17-18 school year was sent to all families in December. A copy of his letter is available at the [end of this newsletter](#), as well as on our website by [clicking here](#). Please read this letter carefully. Families are encouraged to file their income tax early to meet the deadline. This **online** form is **very important**. Both the Providence Endowment Aid and the Joliet Diocesan Aid program use this form to determine the amount of Providence Catholic tuition grants for the next school year.

PRE-PAYMENT RESERVATIONS

For students who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors in the next school year, the **pre-payment reservation deadline is Thursday, January 18, 2017**. Parents of all students must return the Pre-Payment **form** with a down payment of \$100 per student by **January 18th**, to be assured of a place at Providence Catholic next year. The \$100 pre-payment is applied toward next year's tuition. We ask that the form be returned by this date so we can begin to schedule students with accuracy for the 2017-2018 school year. Please help us keep an accurate count by making a separate check for the pre-payment for each student. Please do not include the pre-payment in your regular tuition payment. Prepay forms are included with Fr. McGrath's Financial Aid letter in this newsletter and [online](#).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOSTS NEEDED

Hosting an international student is an incredibly rewarding experience. American families who open their homes and hearts to high school students from a different culture understand that the benefits of hosting extend beyond their

imagination. Providence Catholic is happy to work with Educatius International as one of its international partners and is currently seeking host families for the 2017-2018 school year. Educatius students are enthusiastic about studying abroad in the USA and they are required to be proficient in English, as well as meet all admission requirements of Providence Catholic. Many of the students travel from diverse countries including Brazil, China, Turkey, Vietnam, Thailand, Norway, Italy and Germany. Parents who host through Educatius are eligible to earn a generous monthly stipend. Please consider hosting! Additional information is available in the [letter included in this newsletter](#).

PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC POLICY: AFTER DANCE PARTIES

The second semester brings with it three dances: Sweetheart in February, Prom in April and Senior Dinner Dance in May. Providence Catholic wants to be sure that our stance on after dance parties is very clear. You may remember that last September 24th, a Saturday evening, Providence Catholic held its annual Homecoming Dance, which was attended by present students and their dates. More than 700 young men and women attended the dance which lasted from 7:30 until 10:30 PM. After the dance a party was held at the home of a Providence family who were attempting to provide musical entertainment, good food, and supervision after the dance. Although they employed professional security personnel and many parent volunteers to have appropriate supervision for the event, some Providence Catholic students chose to drink alcohol on their way to this party and others obtained alcohol while they were at the party without their hosts knowing about it. Because they became intoxicated, several students had to be picked up by their parents in person, and other parents needed to assist students who became ill. **Please be assured that Providence Catholic High School does not conduct, sponsor, or support after school event parties such as this, and had no connection to the staging or holding of this party.** The unfortunate outcomes of this party have been addressed by the school administration and by the families involved. Those involved in this party have agreed that no further gatherings like this one will be held for Providence Catholic students from this time forward. If you have any questions, please call Fr. McGrath at school.

QUIK LUNCH PROGRAM

Just a quick reminder concerning money deposited onto your student's ID for our Quik Lunch Program. If money is deposited online at Payforit.com, funds may not be available on your student's account for 24-48 hours. Cash or checks received in the school's Main Office in the morning should be available by lunch if dropped off by the time the bell rings at 7:50 a.m. If money is dropped off in the Main Office after the start of the school day, funds will not be available until the next day. Please be sure to check your student's balance often.

TUITION TAX CREDIT

The State of Illinois has enacted legislation providing an education tax credit to persons who are residents of Illinois and the parent or legal guardian of students who qualify. For information on this tax credit, you may visit their website at www.revenue.state.il.us. On the left side of the page click on forms. Once on the form page, click on individuals, current year, and choose schedule ICR. You may also contact them at 1-800-782-3336. Our Tuition Officer will be mailing a summary of payments for the 2016 tax year by January 31.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN TECHNOLOGY CLASSES:

If your student is enrolled in a Technology course this semester, be sure to check your email box for information regarding dual credit. As you may know, Providence Catholic has partnered with Moraine Valley Community College to provide college credit to each student enrolled in a Tech Class. Students who enroll for dual credit will receive high school AND college credit for taking that class here at PCHS! All you need to do is follow the directions in the email to register online with MVCC. Dual credit enrollment will be open only from Jan. 6 through Jan. 13. (You will be billed \$44 directly from MVCC in a few weeks.) If you have any questions, contact your student's Technology teacher.

THEOLOGY CLASS COURSE UPDATE

The Theology Department will be making changes to textbooks for the 17-18 school year, and has already made course changes for 2nd semester. The course changes were communicated at the end of the 1st semester to the appropriate

class levels. We wanted to take this time to inform all families of the changes in this department. [Please see the letter included in this newsletter](#) from Fr. Rich Young, OSA, Department Chair of the Theology Department, concerning these improvements.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF JUNIORS: ACT WORKSHOP

We are still taking registrations for our ACT Workshop, which is offered to help students prepare for the upcoming ACT Test. The workshop is held on five consecutive Saturdays, February 25 to March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The first four Saturdays will be devoted to the four academic areas of the test (English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning). On the fifth Saturday, an official (retired) ACT Test will be given under testing conditions. The tests will be scored and returned to the students the following Monday after the test. If you would like more information, please contact Kathy Ball at (815) 717-3177.

NHS SELECTIONS



The National Honor Society will begin the selection process for new members at the beginning of the second semester. After first semester grades are finalized, the National Honor Society moderator will post a list of students who are eligible for membership based on their grade point average. Juniors and Seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher will be invited to begin the application process. All interested students must attend one of the information meetings. The dates and times for these meetings will be posted along with the list of eligible students. Please remind your student to be alert for announcements regarding NHS if they meet the GPA requirement.

WRESTLING PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

Come join us for good food and fun as we support the PCHS Wrestling Program. The event will take place on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at Laraway Lanes in New Lenox. [More information is available on the event flyer included in this newsletter.](#)



GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

A packet of information about graduation has been distributed to all senior students through their Theology classes. Please ask your student for the information so you may place your order.

CAP & GOWN MEASUREMENT

Seniors will be measured for caps and gowns during their lunch period on Thursday, January 12, 2017. If your senior misses this day, there is a make-up measurement day on Thursday, January 19, 2017 during lunches.

PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS OF PRESENT SENIORS

We would like to list in the graduation program the names of parents and grandparents of graduating seniors who are alumni of Providence Catholic. This will recognize the continuity and consistency of a Providence Catholic education in our community. If you graduated from Providence Catholic and are the parent or the grandparent of a current Providence Catholic senior, please contact Mrs. Kathy Ball at (815) 717-3177 so that your name may be included in the program.

PROM BIDS ON SALE SOON!

Prom bids will be on sale coming up in the next few months. Cost will be \$150 per couple. Prom will be held on Friday, April 28, 2017 at CD & Me in Mokena. More information to come. Please remember that the dresses may not be 2 piece and that they should not have cutouts near cleavage. Please keep in mind that we are a catholic school and hold our

values and morals to a higher standard. If you have any questions concerning Prom, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@providencethecatholic.org.

HARVEST DRIVE E-DIRECTORY

Please utilize the [Harvest Drive E-Directory](#) by patronizing the businesses that support Providence Catholic High School. The E-Directory may be accessed via the PCHS website by selecting the "E-Directory 16-17" button located on the school's main page. As a bonus, please check out the Platinum Level patrons included in this newsletter. Please contact [Ms. Jamie O'Brien](#), Harvest Drive Coordinator, with any questions at (815) 717-3163.

CALLING ALL FUTURE CELTICS!

7TH & 8TH GRADE SHADOW DAYS: ONLINE REGISTRATION

For more information on our Shadow Days, and to schedule a visit online, please visit the [Shadow Day](#) section of our website. Questions? Please contact Mrs. Rachel Ellingson, Director of Enrollment at (815) 717-3160, or via email at rellingson@providencethecatholic.org.

8TH GRADE PLACEMENT EXAM, SATURDAY, 1/14/17

ARRIVE BY 7:45 A.M.; TEST BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.

All current 8th graders who would like to be considered for admission to Providence Catholic as freshmen in the fall of 2017 must take this exam on Saturday, January 14, 2017. Below is important information about this day:

- Students should arrive through Door #4 by 7:45 a.m.
- The test fee is \$25.00. Cash and check (made payable to PCHS, are accepted.)
- Please bring two #2 pencils.
- **Calculators are not permitted for the test.**
- If you are a Providence Catholic family and have an 8th grade student, they must take the placement day on this day to be considered for admission.



NEW Scholarship Opportunities for the Class of 2021!

Providence Catholic has implemented a new academic scholarship program that will tremendously impact the incoming freshman (Class of 2021). By taking the placement exam on January 14, 2017, your student may qualify for the following scholarships. Below is a breakdown of the scholarship awards based on where your student scores on the placement exam:

Celtic Scholar Award: Score 90%-94% = \$6,000 (\$1,500 per year at PCHS). Must maintain a 3.25 GPA.

Celtic Scholar with Distinction Award: Score 95%-99% = \$10,000 (\$2,500 per year at PCHS). Must maintain a 3.5 GPA.

We want to thank parents, students, and alumni for spreading the word about the placement exam and Providence Catholic. Your efforts have a huge effect on persuading eighth graders and their families that our value laden environment is the answer to their needs. We greatly appreciate all you do to recruit and spread the message of our mission. Again, thank you.

For more information pertaining to our Placement Exam, click on the link: [PCHS 2017 Placement Exam](#).

JR. HIGH MUSIC STEP-UP NIGHT: THURSDAY, 2/9

It will be a night of music and fun! The Providence Catholic Music Department is hosting the annual "Music Step-Up Night" on **Thursday, February 9, 2017 from 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Students in grades 5 through 8 are invited to come

rehearse with the Choir or Band for a free concert for family and friends at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Gym. Interested students should pre-register online as dinner for participating students will be provided. More information and online registration are available by clicking here: [Music Step-Up Night](#).



JANUARY & FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Below is important pertinent to events in January and February. Please refer to the calendar online and in your ParentPlus portal for a full listing of school events.

NO CLASSES: MONDAY, 1/16, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

DATE CHANGE! SKI TRIP: SUNDAY, 1/22

The date of the annual Ski Trip has been changed from Sunday, January 15 to Sunday, January 22. Sign-up forms for the ski trip are due to Mr. Murphy by this **Thursday, January 12**. The bus will leave Providence at 7:00 a.m. for Alpine Valley Ski Resort in Elkhorn, WI and will return to Providence by 6:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK MASS: MONDAY, 1/30

9:00 a.m., Sacred Heart Gymnasium (Big Gym)

PROVI'S GOT TALENT: MONDAY, 1/30

7:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Gymnasium (Big Gym)



New this year! Join us for our Junior Class Fundraiser, Provi's Got Talent. Come see all the talent Providence Catholic has to offer. Parents and families are invited to attend. There will be a \$10.00 entrance fee per person. For more information, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@providencecatholic.org.

GIRLS KAIROS: 1/31 – 2/3

Many blessings to the senior girls, and adult and student leaders attending this Kairos Retreat!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES: WEDNESDAY, 2/8

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We will have a full day of school this day, following Schedule C. As we have in the past, we will use Pick-a-Time to schedule conference appointments. Instructions and procedures for scheduling your conferences will be emailed to parents and posted on our website by Friday, January 27. Pick-a-Time will be available for one full week from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 30 through midnight Sunday, February 5. For the best choice of times, parents are encouraged to **schedule their conferences as early as possible**. Each teacher appointment is limited to 5 minutes; guidance counselor appointments are 15 minutes.



FRESHMAN BAKE SALE: TUESDAY, 2/7 & THURSDAY, 3/9

The Freshman Bake Sale is a two-day, lunchtime bake sale to raise money for the freshman class. Students are assigned to a day according to last name. On their designated day, students should bring 1-2 dozen baked goods to Mrs. Cornfield and the Student Council freshman class representatives in the cafeteria in the morning before school.

Tuesday, February 7: Last names A-L

Thursday, March 9: Last names M-Z (**This is a NEW date from the printed calendar. Please note the change.**)

If you have any questions concerning the Freshman Bake Sale, please feel free to contact Mrs. Katelyn Cornfield, preferably via email: KCornfield@providencecatholic.org.

OPEN MIC NIGHT: WEDNESDAY, 2/15

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., PCHS Cafeteria

Join the Guitar Club as they host the 2nd Annual Open Mic Night in the Providence Catholic Cafeteria. This event is free and open to all parents and families. Please watch the Daily Announcements for more information.

SWEETHEART DANCE: SUNDAY, 2/19

7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Gym (Small Gym)



sweetheart dance

Below is some important information pertaining to this year's Sweetheart Dance:

- ♥ Tickets are \$15 per person with payment by **check only**. Checks can be made payable to PCHS.
- ♥ Tickets will be on sale during lunches the week of February 13, 2017. Please check the Daily Announcements for exact days as the date gets closer.
- ♥ The Sweetheart Dance is a semi-formal dance. For semi-formal dress guidelines, go to page 47 of our [Student Handbook](#).
- ♥ Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

NO CLASSES: MONDAY, 2/20, PRESIDENT'S DAY

WINTER BAND CONCERT: TUESDAY, 2/22

7:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Gymnasium (Big Gym)

ALL-SCHOOL RETREAT DAY: THURSDAY, 2/23

[Please see the enclosed letter](#) from Fr. Merk and the Pastoral Team outlining the All-School Retreat Day for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Also, please note seniors will have a free day on this day.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS INFORMATION NIGHT: THURSDAY, 2/23

7:00 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Gymnasium (Small Gym)

This presentation is geared for students planning to play athletics at the collegiate level. One of our counselors, Luke Senffner, will explain the eligibility requirements and process for registering for NCAA and NAIA. He will also explain what students and parents can be doing now and in the future, as well as give an overview of the recruiting process. This presentation is given every other year.



AYM BLOOD DRIVE: TUESDAY, 2/28

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Gymnasium (Small Gym)

Support the spring AYM Blood Drive! Parents and families are invited to participate and no appointments are necessary. Please bring a photo ID. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@providencecatholic.org.



MEN'S CLUB & WOMEN'S CLUB EVENTS

Please see information below, as well as flyers included in this newsletter about upcoming Men's & Women's Clubs events.



Super Celtic Sweep\$take\$

To purchase a sweeps ticket online, [click here](#).

Father/Student Bean Bag Tournament & Chili Cook-Off: Monday, February 6, 2017

UPCOMING WOMEN'S CLUBS EVENTS



TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH: TUESDAY, 1/31

Calling all Providence families! The Women's Club is looking for donations of gift cards and baked goods to celebrate the Faculty and Staff of Providence Catholic High School during Catholic Schools Week. For more information and deadline, [please see the Teacher Appreciation Lunch flyer included in this newsletter](#). **Thank you for supporting our faculty and staff!**

BAD WEATHER POLICIES & ARRANGEMENTS

All parents are aware that freezing temperatures may be dangerous to students who must wait in the cold. It is up to the **individual** parent to determine if their student's health is at risk when the cold is intense. **School will always be held at Providence Catholic when extremely cold temperature is the only hazard to traveling.** When there is snow on the ground, or it is snowing, or there is a threat of snow, and Providence Catholic decides to close school we will use the Notify system. If a snow schedule is in effect, school will begin **one hour later** and the buses will run **one hour later** to allow snowplows to open roads. This will be conveyed through the Notify system. School will be in session whenever the school buses can run safely. The Notify system will be the main method of notifying school closings or emergency notifications, but you may also do any of the following. First, call the PCHS Emergency Closing line at 815-717-3131. Second, listen to any of the following radio stations: WMAQ 67 (AM), WGN 720 (AM), WLS 890 (AM), B 96 (FM), WLS 94.7 (FM), WBBM 78 (AM), and locally WJOL 1340 (AM). Third, check the PCHS Website and all official Providence Catholic social media pages.

CONNECT WITH THE OFFICIAL PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC PAGES ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Twitter: https://twitter.com/PCHS_Celtics

LIKE us on Facebook

Providence Catholic High School (Official Site)

FRIEND "Charlie Celtic" on Facebook

Instagram: pchs_celtics



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencethecatholic.org

Fr. Richard J. McGrath, OSA, Ph.D., President

rmcgrath@providencethecatholic.org

December, 2016

Dear Providence Catholic Families,

Your children's education is one of the most important decisions you will make. A Providence Catholic High School education is the smart investment to make in your child's future. I want to thank you for choosing to be part of the Providence Catholic High School Family. We appreciate the confidence you have placed in our faculty and staff to help prepare your children for life.

PRE-PAYMENT RESERVATIONS FOR 2017-2018

For students who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors in the next school year, the pre-payment reservation deadline is **Wednesday, January 18, 2017**. Parents of all students must return the enclosed form with a down payment of **\$100** per student by January 18, 2017 in order to reserve a place at Providence Catholic next year. The \$100 pre-payment is applied toward next year's tuition. We ask that the form be returned by this date so we can begin to schedule students with accuracy for the 2017-2018 school year. Please help us keep an accurate count by making a separate check for the pre-payment for each student. **Please do not include the pre-payment in your regular tuition payment.**

FINANCIAL AID: YEAR 2017-2018:

For the 2017-2018 school year Providence Catholic High School will once again distribute more than \$1,600,000.00 in need-based scholarships, aid, grants, and discounts. Please study this letter carefully and apply by March 1, 2017, if you wish to be considered for a financial aid next year! These grants are available to all Providence Catholic families who qualify.

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment will be conducting the financial need analysis for Providence Catholic High School for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. There is a \$30 application fee payable online. Families applying for financial aid will need to complete an **online application** and submit the necessary supporting documentation to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by March 1, 2017. Applicants can apply online beginning January 1, 2017, at factstuitionaid.com.

If you have questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak with a FACTS Customer Care Representative at 1-866-441-4637.

Again, thank you for choosing Providence Catholic High School. I realize that Providence Catholic education is a very important investment and commitment on your part.

Sincerely,

Fr. Richard J. McGrath, OSA, Ph.D.
President

RJM:kb
Enclosure



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencecatholic.org

RESERVATION FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

In order to reserve a space for enrollment and schedule my student(s) for classes at Providence Catholic High School for the **2017-2018** school year, I have enclosed payment of \$100 each for my child(ren). I understand that this is a non-refundable payment, which will be applied towards next year's tuition. If for any reason my child(ren) do(es) not return to Providence Catholic, I understand this payment will be considered as a donation.

Please do not include this payment with tuition; **a separate check is needed for the prepay.**

Send to the attention of: Michele and return to the Main Office no later than **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017.**

The name(s) of the student(s) for whom reservation payment is enclosed:

GRADE LEVEL FOR 2017-2018***

PLEASE PRINT:

SOPHOMORE: ID# 20 NAME: _____ AT \$100.00

JUNIOR: ID# 19 NAME: _____ AT \$100.00

SENIOR: ID# 18 NAME: _____ AT \$100.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR THE INCOMING FRESHMAN RESERVATION.



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencecatholic.org

PASTORAL DEPARTMENT

January 2017

Dear Parent of a Junior, Sophomore or Freshman student,

The Pastoral Department has planned an all-school retreat on **Thursday, February 23rd**. The freshmen and sophomores will stay on campus at Providence, while the juniors will be transported to St. Bernard Church in Homer Glen, IL for their retreat. There are quite a few details to coordinate with such a plan; this letter serves to inform you of the structure of the day and to seek your prayerful support.

- The bus schedule for the morning will be as usual for the normal school day. Our retreat day begins the same time as school, 7:55 a.m.
- All students will report to their 1st period classrooms for the start of the day. After the community prayer, the freshmen and sophomores will begin their retreat, while the juniors will board buses for St. Bernard Church (143rd Street and Bell Road). Fr. Terry Deffenbaugh, O.S.A. will direct the junior retreat, with the assistance of senior leaders and faculty supervisors.
- The theme of the freshman and sophomore retreat is "The Eucharist." Their schedule will include an opening prayer and introduction to the day, presentations, small group activities and a Mass. The day will include a lunch and will conclude by 12:30 p.m. Those students who take the bus to school will be returned home by bus immediately following the retreat. If you drive your student to school, you may pick him/her up after 12:30 p.m.
- The juniors will arrive at St. Bernard's by 8:30 a.m.; lunch will be provided at the parish. They will be dismissed between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. and will return to Providence via the buses. For liability reasons, juniors must take the school buses and may not drive to St. Bernard's. (If your junior student takes a regular Providence bus to school, the Pastoral Office will contact you and make arrangements for your student's transportation home at the end of the day).

(over)

The dress code for the day will be casual, but modest. Also, all students will be provided with a lunch.

Please remember that this retreat day is mandatory, a requirement for the successful completion of this school year and progression into the next one. If your student misses this retreat for any reason (including illness), s/he will be required to make up this obligation by attending another retreat approved by the Pastoral Department. **Your student may have to attend either a weekend retreat or a retreat this summer if s/he misses this retreat!**

You may be tempted to ask why a retreat is an obligation. A retreat is an opportunity to experience faith on a more personal level and on a level different than "book knowledge." It allows for a "retreat" from the typical academic day and can provide a profound spiritual experience, increase self-knowledge and deepen the relationship among members of each class. The most important things we learn in life are faith, hope and love. This is why we make it mandatory for all students to attend a retreat---not just for their increased theological understanding of life, but for a faith experience with the Lord. Let us all work together toward that end.

Please keep us in your prayers!

In Faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. D. Merkelis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. John D. Merkelis, O.S.A.
Pastoral Director

6 December 2016

Dear parents and guardians,

As the Chair of the Theology Department, I want to thank you for your trust in giving your child over to our care, and to assure you that the theology faculty and I take your child's intellectual and faith formation very seriously. With that in mind, I am writing this to inform you of forthcoming textbook changes beginning next academic year as well as some changes in our course sequence beginning the second semester of this year.

First of all, beginning next year (2017-2018), we will replace our present textbooks and publisher (Ave Maria Press) with a new textbook series from St. Mary Press. Most of the present texts have been in use an average of five years. Many of the editions are on the verge of changing or being discontinued. This presents us with an opportunity to consider how best we can serve you – from an academic/formation perspective as well as a financial perspective. With the new textbooks, you can purchase printed books as well as eBooks and iBooks. More information regarding text options and cost will be forthcoming during registration for next year.

Secondly, we will be changing the sequence of our classes in order to allow your child to choose from various electives in his or her senior year. This requires us to return *Introduction to Catholicism* to its original one semester status. We believe that this change enhances the theological education of our students in that they will be able to learn a new subject as well as integrate what they have learned in their Theology classes. I want to make clear that this change does not result in any gaps in the students' theological formation nor negatively impact our following of the US Bishops' *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*.

We will begin our transition to the new sequence beginning the second semester of this academic year (2016-2017). Our first-year students will participate in the study of the Old Testament. This replaces the previous second part of the *Introduction to Catholicism* class. Know that we will still be providing instruction in *Theology of the Body* as well as the life and select works of St. Augustine. I assure you of our commitment in providing a solid groundwork this first year, a groundwork on which our other classes are built.

The practical results of this transition are as follows:

1. We are asking present sophomores to turn their Old Testament textbooks into their teacher at the end of this semester. They would not be able to sell them even if we maintained this publisher and series as this text is going out of print.
2. The present freshman students will be able to use the used Old Testament books this next semester without having to purchase them.
3. We will be using the *Anselm Academic Study Bible* (hard cover) beginning next year. This Bible will be the primary text for the Old Testament and New Testament courses (2nd semester freshman Old Testament and 1st semester sophomore New Testament). We are also purchasing approximately 80 classroom copies of a supplemental text (*The Bible*) from St. Mary Press in order to facilitate the transition and to augment our resources for the benefit of our students.
4. Present students will be allowed to continue to use *The Catholic Youth Bible* from Ave Maria Press. However, they will not be able to sell them used to any incoming students. Beginning with the class of 2021, the *Anselm Academic Study Bible* will be the standard Bible for our theology classes.
5. The sequencing transition will affect our present sophomore class in that we will not be able to offer electives their senior year so that they can complete the courses required by the US Catholic Bishops.

I believe that I can speak for the teachers of the Theology Department by saying that we look forward to continuing working with you in the faith formation and theological education of your child.

Blessings this Christmas,

Fr. Richard A. Young, OSA, D.Min.

Chair

Theology Department



Help Honor our Faculty & Staff during Catholic Schools Week!

In celebration of **Catholic Schools Week**, the annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon is **Tuesday, January 31**.

The Women's Club is seeking baked goods and gift cards to show our appreciation. If you are able to bake a dessert for this event, please contact the Women's Club at womensclub@providencecatholic.org. All baked goods will need to be delivered to the PCHS Main Office by 9:30 am on Tuesday, January, 31.

The Women's Club will also be accepting gift cards in small denominations (\$5-\$20) as gifts for our faculty and staff. Please deliver all gift cards to the PCHS Main Office in an envelope marked 'Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon' through noon on Friday, January 27.

Thank you in advance for supporting Providence Catholic!

Sincerely,

Providence Catholic Women's Club



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC WRESTLING FUNDRAISER



Candlelight Bowl

January 15, 2017, 3:30 p.m.

LARAWAY LANES

1009 Laraway Rd. New Lenox, IL



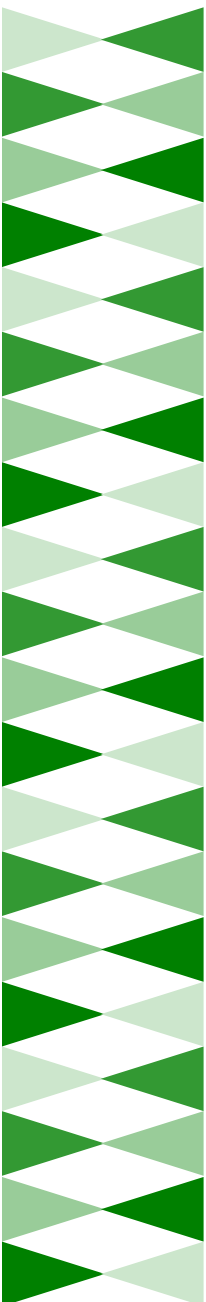
CASH BAR,
RAFFLES & SPLIT
THE POT WILL ALL
BE AVAILABLE

COME JOIN US
FOR SOME GOOD
FOOD & FUN!

If you cannot
attend and would still
like to donate, please
Contact: Keith Healy at
815-717-3156 or

khealy@providencecatholic.org

\$30.00
INCLUDES
3 Games of
Bowling,
Shoes,
And Food!

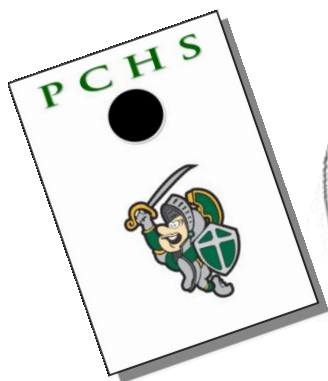


PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC MEN'S CLUB

Presents the Annual
Father/Student

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT &

1st Ever Chili Cook-Off



Monday, February 6

7:00 PM PCHS Cafeteria/small gym

Doors open at 6:30 PM and complimentary Hot Dogs, chips and refreshments will be served

Entrance fee \$10/team (\$5 per person)

Participation is limited to one team only

- Baggo prizes 1st - \$100 per team, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25
- **Best Chili Winner \$100 - (Chili must be prepared ahead of time.)**

PLEASE RSVP BY: Friday, February 3, 2016

CAPTAIN NAME _____ STUDENT NAME _____

CAPTAIN ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

CAPTAIN PHONE _____

CAPTAIN EMAIL _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ NAME OF TEAM _____

Mail form to: PCHS c/o Men's Club, 1800 W. Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, IL 60451
or Email Mensclub@providencecatholic.org

**Don't forget.... we will also draw the \$1,000 Early Bird Drawing for the Super Celtic Sweepstakes
(Get your Sweepstakes tickets in to have a chance)**

Providence Catholic High School Men's Club

\$UPER CELTIC \$WEEP\$TAKE\$

\$59,000 IN TOTAL PRIZE WINNINGS

GRAND PRIZE \$40,000

Only 1,200
Tickets To
Be Sold

2nd Prize.....\$5,000	9th Prize\$1,000
3rd Prize\$1,000	10th Prize\$1,000
4th Prize\$1,000	11th Prize \$ 500
5th Prize\$1,000	12th Prize \$ 500
6th Prize\$1,000	13th Prize \$ 500
7th Prize\$1,000	14th Prize \$ 500
8th Prize\$1,000	15th Prize \$ 500

\$100
per Ticket



PLUS...

- \$1,000 Early Bird Drawing #1 (February 6, 2017)
- \$500 Early Bird Drawing #2 (March 9, 2017)
- \$1,000 Seller of the Winning Ticket
- \$1,000 Seller of Most Tickets



GRAND PRIZE DRAWING (SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 AT 7 PM)

All drawings will be held in the school's cafeteria. All ticket holders welcome. Winners need not be present. GRAND PRIZE ticket will be drawn first. Proceeds will support the school's capital improvements program. In the event that all tickets are not sold, all prizes will be awarded on a pro-rated basis.

***Purchase your ticket(s) online at www.providencecatholic.org or call (815) 717-3165 for ticket information.**

-----cut here and return-----

I would like to purchase _____ \$UPER CELTIC \$WEEP\$TAKE\$ tickets at \$100.00 each.

Enclosed is \$ _____. Method of Payment Check Credit Card

Visa/MasterCard/Discover # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV2# Code _____
3 digit security code on back of card

Primary ticket holder (please print)

Other name(s) to include on ticket:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

*Ticket receipt(s) will be mailed upon receiving payment. PCHS will hold the ticket stub portion with name, address and telephone number. All purchased tickets will be included in the Early Bird and Grand Prize Drawings. Early Bird ticket winners will also be eligible for the Grand Prize Drawing. Please make check payable to PCHS Men's Club. Please **DO NOT** mail cash. Questions, call (815) 717-3165.*

Please mail to or drop off at:
PCHS, c/o Celtic Sweepstakes
1800 W. Lincoln Highway
New Lenox, IL 60451



Hello Wonderful Educators and Families,

As many of you know, there are several international students coming to Providence Catholic, through Educatius International.

This exciting initiative, is part of the school's efforts, to expand its global education program. We will have students coming to attend Providence Catholic, for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

To make this program a success, [we need to find great host families for the students.](#)

Educatius International is a leader in the industry, bringing to the US approximately 6,000 students per year, from over 30 countries. Here is some basic information on Educatius International, which ensures our program success:

- 1- Easy online application and background check process for host families
- 2- Host Family provides three meals a day and a supportive home environment
- 3- A yearly stipend for host families, to help offset the cost of hosting international students; families can host up to 2 students.
- 4- A referral bonus of \$100 to any individual that refers a family to host a student
- 5- An orientation program to all international students, host families and the school
- 6- Support as needed from Educatius International Staff, along with 24/7 emergency line
- 7- Students come fully insured and with their own spending money
- 8- Students must maintain a C grade average and follow program, family and school rules

If you are interested in providing a culturally enriching experience for your family, your community and our international students, please contact me at any time. [We would love to have you as one of our host families.](#)

You may also find more information at: www.educatius.org and on Facebook, Educatius International. Thank you!

Kind Regards,

Courtney DePinto
courtney.depinto@educatius.org
mobile: 312.772.8703

USA Headquarters

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✉ info@educatius.org

🌐 www.educatius.org

PLATINUM LEVEL ADVERTISING

Thank you to all patrons who supported Harvest Drive 2016. Below is a listing of all Platinum level sponsors with a link to their ad in the E-Directory. This BONUS listing will be featured in all electronic family newsletters through May 2017. Select ads below for a direct link to the ad listing or view the entire [E-Directory](#) on the PCHS website.

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