

Greetings from Sr. Rosario

Much to the delight of students, we were surprised with two snow days during Catholic Schools Week! Thankfully, we were able to reschedule several activities. On February 3, 8th grade students from 18 Catholic Schools in our Region gathered at Holy Infant to celebrate the Eucharist and enjoy social interaction. I am grateful to our priests, civic leaders and volunteers who attended our Annual General Assembly. Mayor Walter Young, City Administrator Robert Kuntz, Aldermen Ray Lembke and Tim Pogue, Chief Schicker and several from the Ballwin Police Department, our Morning Traffic Staff and many other friends of Holy Infant were present. At the assembly, Mayor Young proclaimed *Holy Infant School Day in Ballwin*. How fortunate we were to reschedule Storyteller Bobby Norfolk for February 12, Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday! Mr. Norfolk entertained our students with tales of Lincoln's Slavery and Civil War years. What a wonderful week we had to celebrate our Catholic Identity and to express our appreciation to all who support Holy Infant School!

It is no coincidence that Catholic Schools Week comes just before the important liturgical season of Lent. Teachers and students are preparing for the many ways they will observe Lent, participate in Church traditions and grow closer to Jesus. We invite you to join the students outside the Church on Tuesday at 8:45 for the tradition of *"The Burning of Palms"*. The ashes will be used at the students' Ash Wednesday liturgy at 9:30 a.m. The following Monday, students will make the first of their weekly *"Way of the Cross"*. Kindergarten children will follow *"The Road to the Resurrection"* in their Lenten coloring books. Fourth grade students grow from cocoons into butterflies as they track their Lenten sacrifices on classroom bulletin boards. Sixth grade students have Lenten Prayer Buddies and a Daily Intention Box. On Wednesday of Holy Week the special 8th Grade Lenten Meditation will close the season of Lent at school in a moving dramatization of Jesus' Passion. We are privileged to accompany your children on this part of their spiritual journey, to spend these special days, rich in Church tradition, with our students. Thank you, parents, for allowing us to assist you in nurturing the faith dimension of your children's lives.

Sr. Rosario