



St. Rose Catholic School Mission Statement

Saint Rose Catholic School partners with parents to provide a high-quality Catholic education with academic excellence in a faith-filled community for children in preschool through eighth grade.

Prayer for the New Year

Thank you Lord for the new year ahead. May we all look forward to each day as a blessing, a new beginning.

We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and may we walk confidently and faithfully in your love. Help us to stay humble, obedient, thankful and grounded in you and your word.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

In your name, we pray. Amen

“St. Rose School is a very amazing school. It teaches so much about life and everything you need to get through your life. I don’t know what I would be without it.”

- Gage Chaney, 8th Grade

Message from the Principal

I would like to wish all of you a happy new year. I pray that everyone was able to have a wonderful Christmas vacation that was full of memories and time spent with family and friends in the presence of our savior, Jesus Christ. It is hard to believe that the school year is nearly halfway over. Friday, January 18 marks the end of the second quarter and the half point of the school year. Much work has already been completed by St Rose Catholic School students, faculty, and staff; however, there is much more to be completed.

I want to thank all of you that took time out of your busy lives to participate in the St. Rose Catholic School Parent Satisfaction Survey. The data and information gathered from this survey will help to inform instruction, policy, and education moving forward this year and into future years. Additionally, I was able to gain a better insight into the perceptions of the broader school parental community. Some of the information gathered I will be addressing moving forward in my “Did You Know” portion of this newsletter. This month I will discuss a few common questions or perceptions regarding finances at St. Rose. I hope to be able to bring insight and help educate parents about this aspect of our school. Please look for this towards the end of this newsletter.

Please join us for the celebration of Catholic Education. Catholic Schools Week has celebrated Catholic education since 1974. This year's theme is “Catholic Schools: Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed.” **Catholic Schools Week 2019** will run from **January 27 - February 2**. The week kicks off with **Sunday Mass on January 27** and concludes with **Grandparents’ and Special Friends day on February 1**. Intermixed during the week will be activities and special themed days for the children and a **Southern Cluster Mass on Thursday, January 31** at Mission College Prep. This Mass is an opportunity for the St. Rose, St. Patricks, Old Mission, and Mission College Prep communities to come together in prayer. Additionally, during Catholic Schools Week our school book fair will be running in the school library times TBA. Another reason to celebrate Catholic Schools: Catholic Schools in the United States have a 99 percent high school graduation rate and 85 percent of Catholic High School graduates go to college.

For Your Information

Fr. Stephen’s Farewell Reception: The Parish Office will be hosting a farewell reception for Father Stephen on Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. If you plan on attending, please plan on bringing a dessert or appetizer that is easily portioned for sharing with the larger group. Father Stephen will officially start in Hollister on January 11.

Monthly Statements: As part of our move to a more electronic means of communication beginning in January, we will no longer be mailing monthly statements to families. They will now come to you via email through the primary email address that is listed on your children's registration papers. For parents who split payments, both parents will receive their portion of the bill via email.

2019 St. Rose Catholic School Crab Feed: This year's Crab Feed, which is hosted by the 7th grade, will be on **Friday, January 25** beginning at 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. The theme for this year's event which helps to pay for the 7th grades classes Yosemite Field Trip is Chinese New Year. Get your tickets soon as this event has sold out for the last four years. Tickets can be purchased in the school office for \$50.00.

School Mass Collection/Buck-A-Jeans Day: Ms. Moreno's 3rd-grade class has decided to donate all proceeds from the December School Mass and Buck-A-Jeans day to the St. Rose Catholic School library. November's Mass collection and Buck-A-Jeans day proceeds benefited the Family Care Network. Ms. Castro's 2nd-grade class will be presenting a check to the Family Care Network for \$171.00. January's 6th grade Mass and Buck-A-Jeans day proceeds will go to support Lifewater International, a non-profit organization out of San Luis Obispo.

\$50,000.00 Matching Donation: As I mentioned in my Season of Advent newsletter, a great opportunity has come our way to help our financial situation. A generous and anonymous donor has come forward and will match whatever we raise to **\$50,000.00 by June 30**. I am excited to announce that we are approaching the halfway point of this goal. **As of January 5, 2019**, we have received donations of **\$24,855.00**. Once again, I am asking for your generosity to help in this cause as any donation counts as every dollar that comes in will be matched up to \$50k. If you can donate \$25.00, \$100.00, or even \$500.00 or more it will significantly help. Our goal is to be able to raise the \$50k as this will mean \$100k will be committed to helping St. Rose Catholic School. If you are looking for a tax break, this is a perfect opportunity for you to donate to a non-profit organization. Donations can be made at the Parish Office payable to St. Rose Church.

Old Items

Amazon Smile: Did you know that St. Rose is eligible to receive money through the Amazon Smile program due to our 501(c)(3) status. Many items purchased on Amazon.com qualify for a contribution to come from Amazon to a charitable organization. If you are interested in supporting St. Rose Catholic School through this program, please visit smile.amazon.com and select St. Rose Catholic School as an organization that you would like to help.

Script: Please don't forget that you can order script from Michelle in the school office and a percentage of the proceeds will come back to school. While this is no longer a school commitment, for every \$25.00 generated that comes back to the school you can be credited with one service hour. For those of you purchasing gift cards, please think about using this service so that our school benefits from it.

529 plans: As you prepare for future years of Catholic School tuition and college tuition, you may want to look into a 529 plan. There are many potential tax benefits to a 529 plan which can be an investment in future education. There is a tax opportunity to put pre-tax money into a 529 plan. This plan may reduce taxable income by the amount put in. This 529 money may be used for college, college expenses and now for tuition at grammar schools and high schools. For more information on 529 plans, please follow the link at <https://www.sec.gov/reportspubs/investor-publications/investorpubsintro529htm.html>

Upcoming December Dates to Remember

January:

- 7 School Resumes
- 9 PTO Board Meeting @ 8:00, 7th Grade Crab Feed Fundraiser Meeting @ 6:00, Free Dress for students whose parents completed the Parent Satisfaction Survey, Celebration for Fr. Stephen @ 7:00 in Parish Hall
- 10 Auction Meeting @ 8:00, PTO General Meeting @ 6:00
- 11 Minimum Day/Extended Care Closed, School Mass @ 8:30, First Grade Retreat @ 9:30, Faculty Meeting @ 1:00
- 11 - 18 Middle School Mid - Terms
- 14 - 25 Winter STAR Testing
- 16 Buck A Jeans Day, Auction Meeting @ 8:00, Adult Faith Formation Meeting, Reconciliation @ 6:15
- 17 SAC Board Meeting @ 5:30
- 18 8th Grade Free Dress, Quarter 2 Ends
- 21 No School: MLK Holiday
- 23 5th Grade Field Trip @ Cal Poly Performing Arts Center, Reconciliation Retreat for Parent(s) and child @ 6:00
- 24 Auction Meeting @ 8:00
- 25 Minimum Day/Extended Care Open, Report Cards Mailed, Gospel Awards @ 8:30, Spirit Shirts, Faculty Collaboration Meeting @ 1:00, Crab Feed Fundraiser @ 5:00
- 27 - 2 Catholic Schools Week

- 27 Family Mass @ 10:00
- 28 - 1 St. Rose Catholic School Book Fair in School Library
- 30 Auction Meeting @ 8:00
- 31 Catholic Schools Week Southern Cluster Mass @ MCP @ 9:50
- 1 Minimum Day/Extended Care Closed, Grandparents' and Special Friends Day, School Mass @ 8:30, Faculty Meeting @ 1:00
- 2 Reconciliation Service @ 10:00

Did You Know?

While analyzing the qualitative (written response) data from the Parent Satisfaction Survey, it became apparent that there are many questions or perceptions surrounding finances at St. Rose. These primarily dealt with tuition, fundraisers, and school debt. While I may not be able to get into specifics regarding finances, I hope to be able to answer some of the questions that arose to educate everyone on the school budget.

Tuition and fundraising go hand in hand. To have a balanced budget, fundraising is necessary as tuition costs account for approximately 80% of our school's overall operating budget. The remaining 20% must be made up through fundraising. Some schools in our Diocese use the model of having little to no fundraising and having all items that St. Rose bills for during the school year included in base tuition. This, however, comes at the cost of having a significantly higher tuition rate. Money raised from fundraisers such as the Dinner Auction, Golf Tournament, and Drive Thru BBQ are allocated to the general operating budget. If at the end of the year there is a surplus of money, it can then be allocated towards special projects.

Fundraisers and service hours are an integral part of both the St. Rose operating budget, and our school community. The only way for fundraisers or service hours to be cut back would be for a more substantial than normal increase in tuition to happen which I am not ready to do.

A large portion of required service hours can be fulfilled at some of our fundraisers such as the Dinner Auction, Wine Country Run, or Drive Thru BBQ. Additionally, while script is no longer a requirement (Charity Mania has taken its place) parents may still purchase script. For every \$25.00 that comes back to St. Rose, the family may count that as one service hour. This bonus also holds true for money raised via AmazonSmile. In speaking with other principals in the Diocese of Monterey, I have found out that we are at the low end of parental service hour requirements as some ask for 35 or 40 hours yearly from parents.

The school debt was brought up in multiple responses with questions or comments ranging from "how can the school be in debt with the auction making so much on a yearly basis" to questions such as "just how much is the school in debt?" As mentioned before, the money raised in the Dinner Auction goes towards the general operating budget to help make up that gap between tuition and the actual cost of running the school for a fiscal year. The vast majority of

the school debt was incurred before many of you had children at St. Rose Catholic School. The school had to borrow various large sums of money prior to, and during the economic collapse between 2007 and 2009. Since that time, the school has not incurred additional debt; in fact, it has shaved around \$100,000 off of our debt. One of my goals as a school administrator is to own this debt and not add any incurred debt, but continue the trend of paying it down.

I hope that this helps to bring some clarity to some of the questions or comments that were raised regarding finances on the survey.

Thank you once again for entrusting your child's education to us. St. Rose truly is a great community and one that I am proud to be a part of both as a parent and as an administrator. I thought I'd share a photo I came across recently of some of our current 7th grade students. To me, smiling children is one of the most satisfying aspects of my job as I think this is what it is all about:



Thank you again,

Trevor Knable

“St. Rose is a great school because it teaches you to respect and be kind to others. It also challenges you to always work hard and try your best.”

- Alexis Sran, 5th Grade