



# Lighting the Way

## October 2022

*Lighting the Way  
is a monthly newsletter  
showcasing how the  
Lumen Christi Academies  
mission is taking root  
across our network of schools.*

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*On the front cover  
St. Catherine of Siena  
Students gathered in Faith Families to  
make rosary bracelets.*



**St. Peter Martyr  
Kindergarten/5th Grade  
Learning about the Rosary  
Buddies Activity**



## Lighting the Way – October 2022

### Executive Director Message

On September 9th, St. Catherine of Siena School and St. Paul Schools both celebrated Grandparents' Day. Students were thrilled to welcome special people in their lives who strengthen them with prayer, bless them with love, and encourage them with hope.

This timing of these celebrations is a great reminder of how alike our school communities truly are in this shared ministry. The opportunities for us to collaborate and exchange ideas & strategies are endless. Whether it's planning events like "Grandparents' Day/Special Persons' Day", organizing a class retreat, developing station rotation plans or assessment and lesson planning - the reality is the same, we can turn to one another - those within our schools, across our network and throughout the Diocese of Oakland - for encouragement, support and partnership.

On September 23rd, Elementary Staff Cathedral Day returned to the Cathedral for the first time since the pandemic. This gathering of all Catholic Elementary School staff was a visible sign of how we remain United in Mission. May we embrace each invitation to collaborate, and every encounter we have, with open minds and open hearts as we behold and bear witness to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as they make all things new this school year and always.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.

In Solidarity,



Rodney Pierre-Antoine  
Executive Director, Lumen Christi Academies





## **Mission & Catholic Identity**

### **Celebrating and Honoring Holy Mary, Mother of God**

In September, the 1st graders at Queen of All Saints celebrated Mary's birthday by making baby Mary sock dolls and students at St. Catherine of Siena gathered in Faith Families to make Rosary bracelets, the 2nd graders at Queen of All Saints created bracelets as well, for themselves and as gifts for family members and special friends. The students have also spent time praying the Rosary together in class. Throughout the month of October, we honor our Holy Mother, Mary, in thanksgiving for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the rosary. The Kindergarten and 5th Grade Reading Buddies at St. Peter Martyr learned about the joys and the mysteries of the Rosary on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.



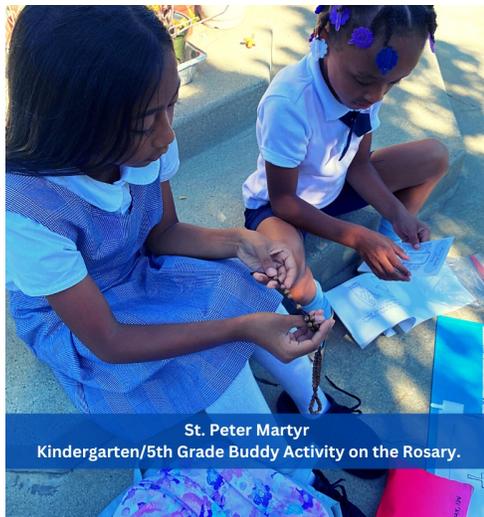
Queen of All Saints  
2nd Graders created Rosary bracelets.



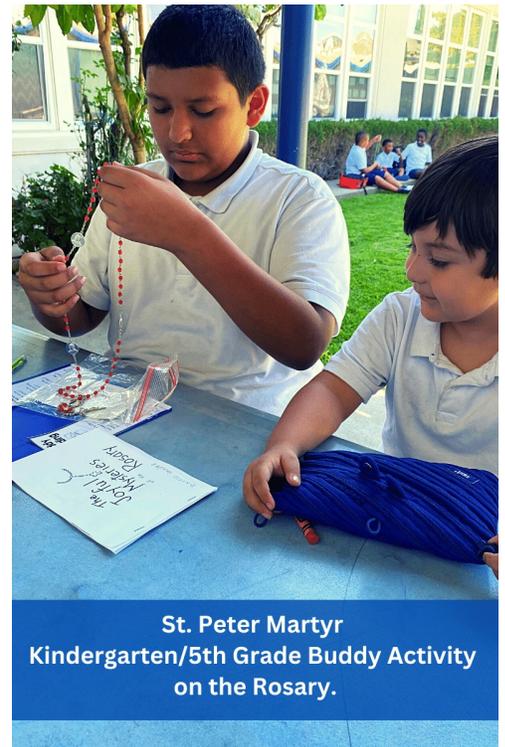
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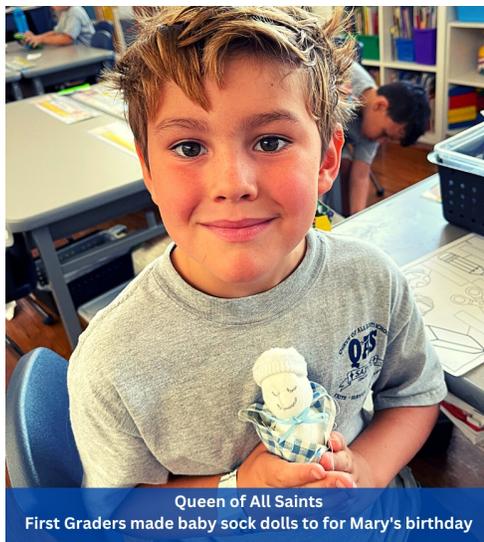
Queen of All Saints  
2nd Graders created Rosary bracelets.



St. Peter Martyr  
Kindergarten/5th Grade Buddy Activity on the Rosary.



St. Peter Martyr  
Kindergarten/5th Grade Buddy Activity on the Rosary.



Queen of All Saints  
First Graders made baby sock dolls to for Mary's birthday

**Our Lady  
of the  
Rosary  
pray for us.**



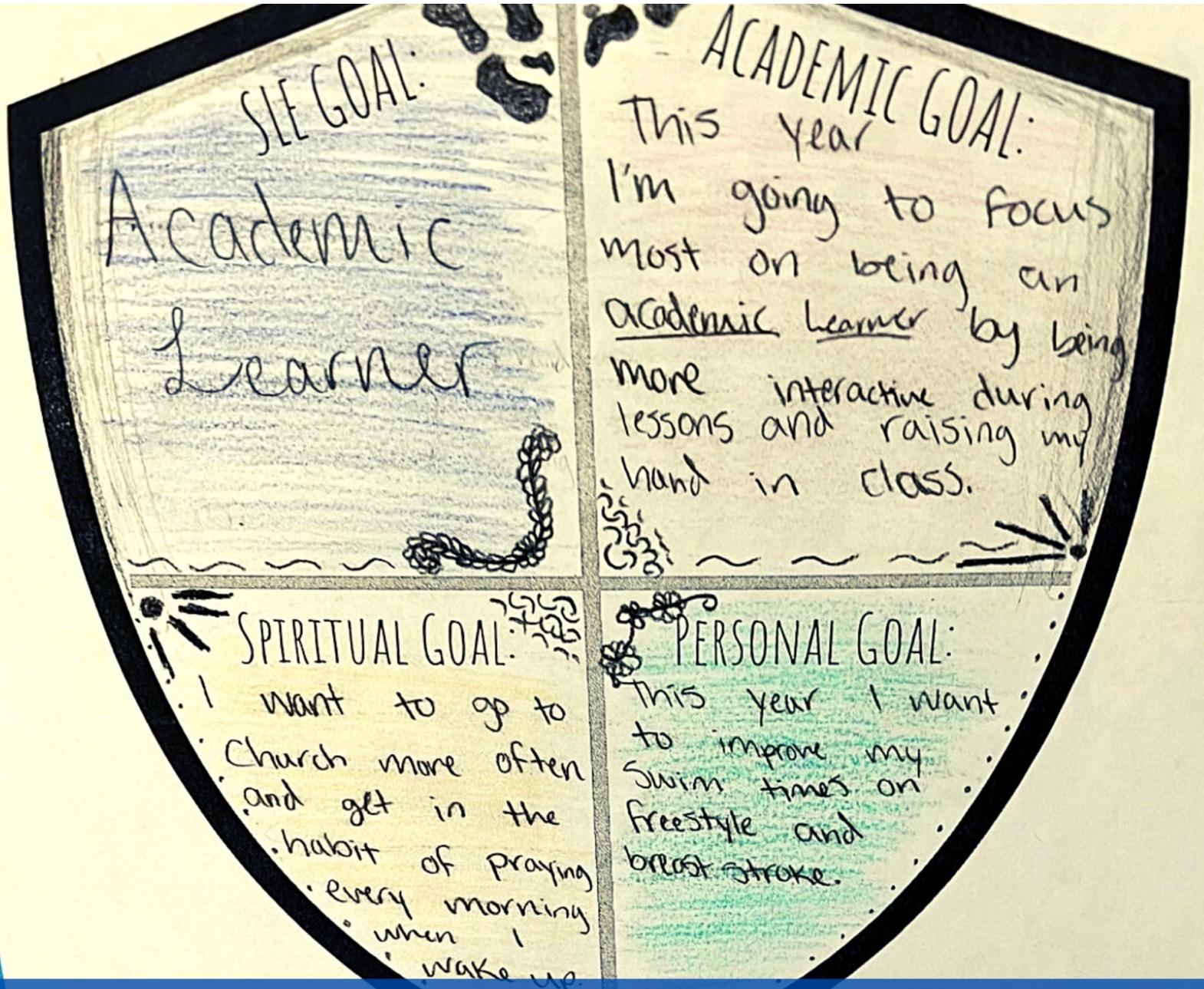
**"What we learn with joy  
we never forget"  
- Alfred Mercier -**



**Lumen Christi**  
ACADEMIES

## Academic Excellence Growth Goals

This month was an exciting one as our teachers have spent time learning about their students in their classrooms. They have been able to review, analyze STAR results, share results as a school, make classroom goals as well as school-wide goals. Teachers have had goal setting conversations with their students for the first trimester.



**St. Catherine of Siena**  
**Setting Sail for the Year with Student Goals**

WE SAIL LIKE VIKINGS!

## Academic Excellence: Blended Learning in Action



The Blended Learning Model integrated across our network provides students an opportunity to learn at their own pace and level, through small group instruction, individual and collaborative practice and using adaptive and assignable software. This approach allows teachers to get immediate data on student learning and differentiate the learning in order to maximize student success.



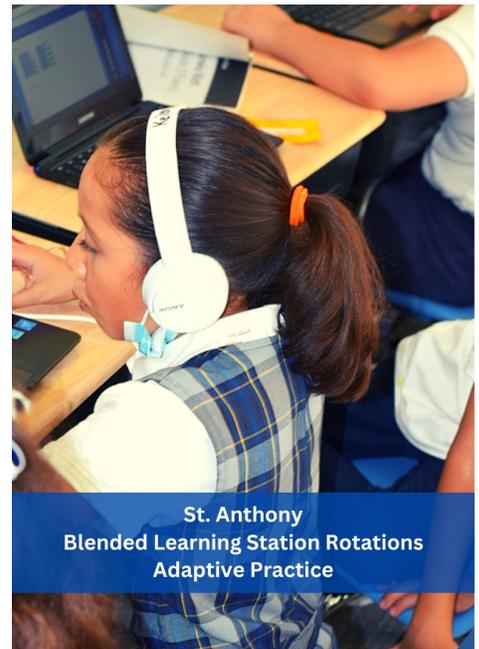
## Academic Excellence: Blended Learning in Action



Queen of All Saints 1st Graders  
Adaptive Software Station



St. Peter Martyr  
2nd Grade Blended Learning: Technology Station



St. Anthony  
Blended Learning Station Rotations  
Adaptive Practice

Several of our principals have been supported by classroom visits and walk-throughs with Jessica Griswold, our Lumen Christ Academies Academic Director, ensuring we support our teachers as we develop our new teachers and provide feedback for our veteran teachers. Classroom visits are illuminating the amazing work teachers across the network have been working towards: Station Rotations w/leveled small groups, use of adaptive software, and daily community building in classrooms. During our Wednesday Collaboration time, grade level teachers have been meeting to collaboratively plan rigorous lessons integrated with high-level thinking and creative activities. Additionally, we are continuing our partnership with LMU through professional development. We will begin working with individual teachers at each site to provide personalized instructional coaching through the lens of Blended Learning.



## St. Paul Blessing of the Animals

### **Laudato Si' Caring for God's Creation**

We are called to solidarity with all creation. The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi commemorates the life of the patron Saint of the environment and living things. In remembrance of his love for all creatures, several of our schools hosted a special Blessing of the Animals service on his Feast Day.

It is fitting that the month-long Season of Creation ends October 4, the Feast of St. Francis. At St. Elizabeth, students are learning how to better care for our Compost, recycling and trash bins are available to students during snack and lunch time, and the compost is being used in the school's Garden of Learning. The St. Catherine of Siena Student Leadership Team and school have launched a service-learning project to bring awareness to Childhood Cancer, partnering with the Oakland Children's Hospital to make kits for patients and caregivers.

**“We must protect creation  
for it is a gift  
which the Lord has given,  
it is God's present to us;  
we are  
the guardians of creation.”**

**- Pope Francis**



St. Paul  
Blessing of the Animals



St. Paul  
Blessing of the Animals



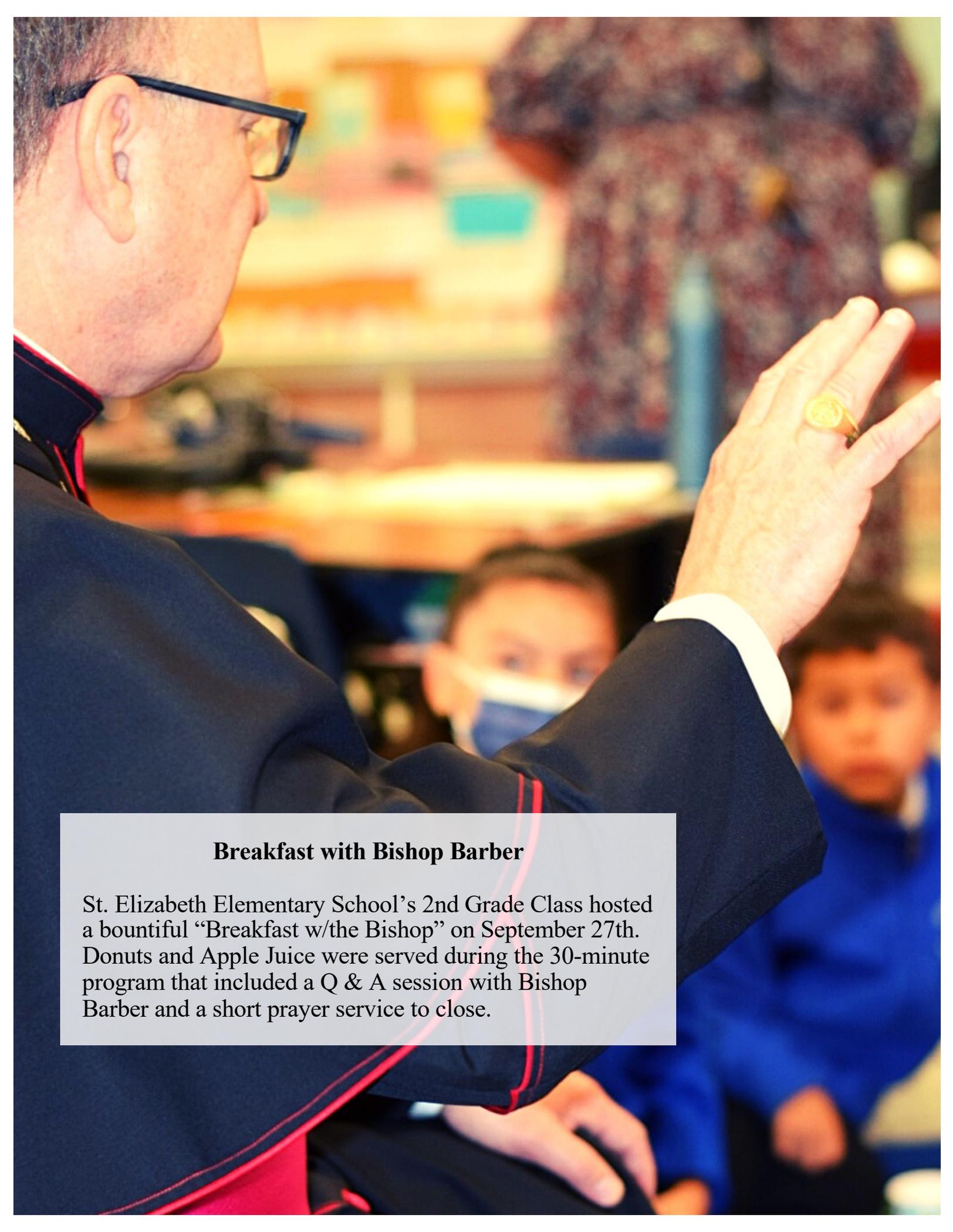
Queen of All Saints  
Blessing of the Animals



Queen of All Saints  
Blessing of the Animals



St. Catherine of Siena  
Blessing of the Animals



### **Breakfast with Bishop Barber**

St. Elizabeth Elementary School's 2nd Grade Class hosted a bountiful "Breakfast w/the Bishop" on September 27th. Donuts and Apple Juice were served during the 30-minute program that included a Q & A session with Bishop Barber and a short prayer service to close.



Over 70 classrooms from across the Diocese of Oakland gathered remotely via Zoom for the event. Bishop Barber did an amazing job answering questions as they came in from St. Elizabeth's 2nd Graders as well as the students on Zoom. They learned about the pet Bishop had as a child, his path to the priesthood and some of his interests and hobbies.



As part of this month-long celebration, the 1st Grade class at St. Peter Martyr learned how to make Paper garlands “Papel Picado” by watching a video on Catalina Delgado who has been making paper garlands for generations to help celebrate her Hispanic Heritage. They also read “Carmela Full of Wishes” by Matt de la Peña and made dandelion art and wrote about their wish. The Student Council at St. Elizabeth has been leading their school’s LatinX & Hispanic Heritage Month festivities. Each class researched a different country and decorated their classroom doors to represent the country to include the following: flag, facts, traditions and types of foods As a class, students dressed in the colors of the country. Middle school students also created a mural. The 4th graders also created flags from the country they/their parents and guardians are from to celebrate Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month, the students really enjoyed learning about where their classmates were from. St. Peter Martyr students had a similar experience in Faith Families as students learned about Hispanic Heritage and celebrated their own heritage with drawings and/or written reflections.





## **Operational Vitality Back to School Nights & 22 – 23 Planning**

Back-to-School nights were well attended by parents and guardians across our network of schools. It is so wonderful to be able gather once again in person for these sessions focused on establishing strong Home School Partnership.

During September, each principal reviewed their 2022 - 23 budgets and forecasts during one-on-one meetings with our financial advisory consultant and Operational Vitality Coordinator to support effective resource management and planning. School leaders and office staff are now developing enrollment management and recruitment plans for the 2023 - 24 school year. Our six schools are continuing to work diligently and collaboratively to exercise best practice in all business operations. We are incredibly encouraged by the positive growth we are seeing through these efforts.



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ACADEMIES

Rodney Pierre-Antoine  
2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100  
Oakland, CA 94612