

November 8, 2011

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your prayers and your patience during my husband's illness and hospitalization. My family is exceptionally blessed to be part of such a large prayer network! Last week's religion focus was on the Communion of Saints. All Saints Day is a special time to call to mind the awesome power that we – the saints in Heaven, the faithful who have died, and Christ's followers on earth – have to support each other through prayer. In their religion books, the children identified ways they can work toward their own sainthood by helping others and following the Commandments. I smile when I think that God is adding to the lesson plans by providing this opportunity for the children and their families to help me and my family through prayer when we really need it. And I am thankful!

This week in religion the children are studying key elements of faith. Included are prayer and how we pray, the Bible, Seven Sacraments, Holy Days, Commandments, making good choices, and showing love for the World.

Last week in math we began Chapter 3 "Data and Graphs: Using Operations" and Chapter 8 "Place Value to 1000." We continue these two chapters this week. We are memorizing the addition and subtraction facts for seven.

Last week the reading focus was on fables. This week we begin a new theme in *Adventures* called "Around Town: Neighborhood and Community." This week's selection is *Chinatown*. We are working on making judgments as readers. We are also learning about nouns. In phonics we are focusing on consonant digraphs, the two sounds of "s," and r-controlled vowels. The spelling words for reading contain digraphs. On Fridays some of the phonics spelling words will be given on the spelling test following the regular reading spelling words.

In social studies we continue to study basic geography facts. This corresponds well with our focus on habitats in science.

The PTO meeting on November 15 has been changed to the church basement due to the yearly basketball tournament in the gym. Please bring your child to the classroom at 5:50 prior to the PTO meeting at 6:00. In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday the children should wear nice clothes.

Again, thank you so much for your prayers!

☺,

Mary

