

# St Christopher Alumni Association

*Celebrating our past and planning for our future*



## Alumni Newsletter – Spring 2007

### Welcome to the St. Christopher Alumni Association!

*The St. Christopher Alumni Association was founded to promote alumni activities, to help alumni keep in touch with each other and with the school, and to promote the continued success of St. Christopher School.*

#### Fr. Mark's Corner

There is a story that goes something like this:

“A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, ‘I know what the Bible means!’ His father smiled and replied, ‘What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?’ The son said, ‘I do know!’ ‘Okay, what does it mean?’ says the father. The son says, ‘Basic Information Before Leaving Earth’.

Not a bad story, but it highlights the importance of knowing the Bible and our faith. At St. Christopher School we are proud to offer a diverse and well-rounded curriculum, a curriculum that is Christ centered. There are many reasons to choose St. Christopher School, but our Christian environment is certainly our strongest asset.

As St. Christopher Alumni, your support of our school allow us to offer this environment to our children. Thank you for all you do, to help and support our school.

Fr. Mark Walter  
Pastor

#### Parish 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>!

All alumni are invited to the St. Christopher Parish 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, to be held at Odyssey Country Club on **Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by “The Steve Edwards Orchestra”. The cost of the event is \$50 per person.

For more information, please contact the parish center at 708-388-8190, or via e-mail at [stchris@stchristopherparish.com](mailto:stchris@stchristopherparish.com). You may purchase tickets via mail by sending a check payable to “St. Christopher Parish” to the St. Christopher Parish Center, 4130 W. 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Midlothian, IL 60445.

Odyssey Country Club is located at 19110 S. Ridgeland Ave. in Tinley Park. For more information about Odyssey Country Club, visit their web site at [www.odysseycountryclub.com](http://www.odysseycountryclub.com)

This promises to be a wonderful celebration of 85 years of St. Christopher Parish. Hope to see you there!

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### From the Desk of Principal Mike Johnson

Well, here we are about three quarters of the way finished with this school year and so far we have accomplished much. Our preschool computer lab, which is designed with our younger learners in mind, is almost complete. We are halfway to our goal for our research computer lab in our library and are pricing out our online research materials. Lastly, our student services are growing due to the large amount of assistance we have gotten from not only our parents but from our local universities. This year alone we have started a yoga program for our upper grades and acquired counseling services from Governor's State University. We have also begun to consider reintroducing the student paper to the school. By next year, we hopefully will have our after-school program running along with a part time resource teacher program and a full-time counselor.

It has been such an experience to be back here. I never realized how much I had gotten from this place or how much it shaped me until I came back. And the funny thing is, now I see the impact that this place and its teachers have on the students here. Since returning, I have had the opportunity to reconnect with so many people from my past and I always tell them the same thing – why don't you stop in and see the place? It's true that you can't go home again but you can visit from time to time. So next time you're in the neighborhood, why don't you stop in? I guarantee that I can find some time to give you a tour.

Respectfully,

Michael Johnson, Principal

### Parish New Year's Eve Party

The Alumni Association sponsored a parish New Year's Eve Party. Thanks to all who attended and helped plan the event. The gym was transformed into an elegant ballroom with Christmas lights and candlelight. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal, dessert, a raffle and conversation, followed by dancing.

The highlight of the evening was when Fr. Mark serenaded guests with the first song of the night, and then again at 11pm for New Year's in New York. As the scoreboard clock counted down to midnight, 650 balloons were dropped from the gym ceiling. A great time was had by all, and everyone is looking forward to next year.



### School Spelling Bee

In January, 24 students from 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades participated in the Chicagoland Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Chicago Tribune. The event was held in the gym and nervous students taxed their brains as Mr. Johnson challenged them with a variety of words. An 8<sup>th</sup> grade student was the winner and the first runner-up was a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student.

The St. Chris winner advanced to the Regionals, where she competed against students from throughout the Chicago area. Pictures from the Spelling Bee can be seen on the school web site at:

[www.stchrisschool.org/Pictures/SpellingBee](http://www.stchrisschool.org/Pictures/SpellingBee)

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### Calendar of Events

**March 24, 2007** – Parish Mission

**April 13, 2007** – Parish 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party at Odyssey Country Club, Tinley Park.

**July 18 –22, 2007** – St. Christopher Fiesta

**July 20, 2007** – Alumni Night at Fiesta

**November 2007** – Alumni Mass – To be determined.

For more info on any of these events, call the parish center (708-388-8190) or visit our website at [www.stchrisalumni.org](http://www.stchrisalumni.org)

### All-Alumni Mass and Pancake Breakfast

The Second Annual All-Alumni Mass was held on Sunday, November 12, 2006, at the 9:30 a.m. liturgy. All participants in the Mass were St. Chris Alumni, including the celebrant (Fr. Mike Novak), altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic minister, gift bearers, and cantors.

After the Mass, alumni and other friends of the school enjoyed the Holy Name Society pancake breakfast in the Franciscan Room. Over 120 alumni attended the big event. Alumni enjoyed touring the school, viewing vintage school and parish photos, puzzling over St. Chris School trivia, and socializing with fellow alumni. Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners.

To see more photos of the event, visit the “events” page on our web site.



### Parish News

The St. Christopher Lenten Parish Mission will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The theme of the Mission was “Once Upon a Tree”. The Mission will begin with a keynote address by Fr. John Breslin, and followed by eight different breakout sessions on a range of topics. The day should be a wonderful time, filled with prayer, reflection, and fellowship.

The Choir and Music Ministry will perform a Cantata on Sunday, March 25. The Cantata, composed by Pepper Chopin, re-tells the story of the Passion of Christ using sacred music, eloquently moves through the major events leading up to Good Friday and Easter.

The St. Christopher’s St. Joseph Table was held on Sunday, March 18, from noon until 4 p.m. in the school gym. The St. Joseph Table celebration featured salad, spaghetti with homemade sauce and, of course, the traditional sweet table. Proceeds from the event benefit our St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Boy Scout Troop #358 celebrates their 25<sup>th</sup> year of Lenten Fish Frys. The Scouts serve a variety of meatless dishes, including spaghetti, perch and shrimp. The last one for this year will be March 30 from 5-8 p.m.

The statues in the church of Mary, the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, and the Resurrection have all been repaired and restored by a sculptor recommended by the Art Institute of Chicago.

The annual Lenten Ecumenical Breakfasts are again being held at St. Christopher and in neighboring Christian churches on each Wednesday morning during lent. The theme for this year’s gatherings is: “Reconciliation-What the World Needs Now”

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### School News

Catholic Schools Week began on Sunday, January 28th, with a special all-school "Pack-the-Church" Celebration at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. After Mass, an Open House and Pancake Breakfast were held at the school.

Other events during Catholic Schools week included the History Fair, with exhibits from the 50's up to the future. Teachers were served breakfast by Student Council members on Teacher Appreciation Day. The week concluded with Student Appreciation Day on Friday. Students had a jeans day and were treated to ice cream and a movie.

Starting in January, yoga is now offered to all female students from grades 5 through 8. The classes are held after school twice a week and focus on meditation, breathing, stretching, and relaxation. Classes for boys will begin soon.

Congratulations to our Second graders, who made their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.



The school Christmas Program was held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The gymnasium was packed to capacity to watch the entire school (from pre-school to 8<sup>th</sup> grade) perform a wonderful Christmas pageant.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Following the Mass, there was a reception in the gym, complete with food and music.

The new hot lunch program continues to be a big success. A majority of the school families participate in the program, which helps busy families make sure their children get nutritious lunches.

The school now has a brand new web site! The site is located at [www.stchrisschool.org](http://www.stchrisschool.org). The site is packed with much useful information. Of particular interest to school parents is the new Homework section, where the weekly homework assignments for each grade are posted on the site. To facilitate better communication, each teacher can now be reached via email.

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Are you moving? Have your email or phone number changed? Do you have news to share with fellow alumni? Send us your information online at [www.stchrisalumni.org](http://www.stchrisalumni.org) or by mailing this form to: St. Chris Alumni Association, 4130 W. 147<sup>th</sup> St., Midlothian, IL 60445

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name as Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email \_\_\_\_\_ Work Email \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to Help at Future Alumni Events \_\_\_\_\_

News/Favorite Memories \_\_\_\_\_

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