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The Deacon's Desk

...a Parent Guide to the Week Ahead at St. Alphonsus Catholic School

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School Advisory Council:

Esmeralda Stadthagen
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Kristen Owens
Kevin O'Connell
Brian Sanderson
Fr. Michael Snyder
Deacon Jim Gunkel

FOOD DRIVE...

See page 2 for information about our 4th Grade food drive underway. Thank you in advance for your support!

Laura Relief...

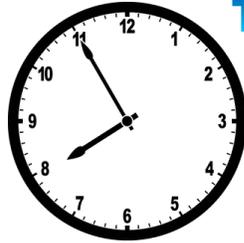
Want to contribute to hurricane relief?

Please visit: helpswla.com/disaster
And click the "Donate Now" button! Thank you for helping our brothers and sisters who are in need!

Coming Up...



Early Release Day— <i>Wednesday</i>	SEP 16
Fall Break— <i>Thursday and Friday</i>	OCT 8—9
Report Cards— <i>Wednesday</i>	OCT 14



Tardy Procedures (it happens, but this helps...)

Thank you for a good first week of an earlier intake time! The new 7:55 intake deadline is helping us to begin instruction earlier. But of course, tardies happen from time-to-time. When they do, please ensure that your child gets into school safely under YOUR supervision. All children who arrive at or after 7:55 must be signed-in at the front office by an adult. Each child will be given a tardy pass and admitted to class after temperature check. If you see staff in the back drive leaving their posts and heading inside, please continue driving to the front entrance to sign your child in. We appreciate your support of our children's safe entrance into school each day!

Liturgy Lookout: This Week in Mass...

What's the Point??

That's easy: HEAVEN! This week's readings clearly and unequivocally teach us that our mission in life is not only to get ourselves to heaven, but that the way we get there matters a great deal. More than anything, it requires a great love for all people, and as we know, this directly reflects what our God is all about. He is the God of love, and under that great umbrella, we find His mercy, His compassion, His commandments given to us for a good life, and so much more.

But also under this umbrella, we find not just "warm fuzzies," but also some trials and hardships as well. But the good news is that God gives us these to help us grow and lean on Him more than ourselves. This week, our saints understood this well, many to the point of giving their lives in living the message. On Monday, we celebrate the great feast day of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which teaches us that

gazing (figuratively) on the cross of Jesus reminds us that our hardships lead us to our eternal reward in heaven. Likewise, the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows Tuesday gives us a human example of the obedience to God that our own sorrows can produce, as Our Lady endured seven (7) great sorrows in her life that brought her closer to her Son, and eventually to us. We look to her as a wonderful model and guide as we draw closer to her beloved Son!

On Wednesday, Saints Cornelius and Cyprian are celebrated for their martyrdom. They taught the great virtue of mercy and forgiveness in offering the same to those who sinned in their denial of their faith during persecution. Like today, they found that their most significant obstacle and hostility arose within the church's ranks itself! But love for Christ always prevails, and the martyr's crown led them both to heaven. They teach us that we can withstand anything on this earth for the sake of

Christ.

As we near the week's end, we see that the resurrection of the dead is a key teaching of the early church, still not well-understood today. We should rejoice in the church's teaching that we will one day receive glorified bodies that will endure forever with God in heaven. But we also hear through the gospels that we should rejoice in *all* souls that make it to heaven, and not be concerned about how others earn their "heavenly reward" compared to ours. The Lord rewards us according to His ways, and not ours. Let's remember as we head into the coming week to make it our mission to help ALL our brothers and sisters complete the journey to heaven. We look forward to sharing this sacred task with you! Have a blessed week, and enjoy mass whenever you can.

Blessings and Peace,

Deacon David

Forming Intentional Disciples for CHRIST!



FALL FOOD DRIVE

BENEFITTING

THE LORD IS MY HELP

SEPTEMBER 10-23

TO DONATE, PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER:

**PASTA, RAMEN NOODLES,
CEREAL, CANNED PROTEIN**

SPONSORED BY: ST. AL'S FOURTH GRADE