



ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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WE INSPIRE. WE CHANGE LIVES.

October 21, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Morning Prayer today proclaimed in the Psalms, "Let the earth be glad. Let the sea and all within it thunder praise. Then all the trees of the wood will shout for joy at the presence of the Lord who comes." What a rich and uplifting prayer for these beautiful days of fall!

October quickly generates thoughts of Halloween. We will celebrate Halloween next week on Friday, October 29. Sometimes people ask about Halloween in a Catholic school. It is very fitting that we celebrate, and **the attached essay provides some history about Halloween** and the context in which Halloween began to be celebrated in various countries through the Church.

Students are invited to wear their costumes to school. 'Costume weapon accessories' should be **left at home** and enjoyed in your backyard or your neighborhood, such as pirate swords, etc. As always, students can wear their uniform if they choose.

Pallotti's Halloween Parade will be at 1:00 PM. Weather permitting, we walk around the block in our costumes. Families are welcome to join us, or to gather in the parking lot to take pictures as we walk by. Your child's teacher will inform you about classroom celebrations that may be held after the parade for students.

You are invited to join in the St. Vincent Pallotti Parish invitation to 'Trunk or Treat' on Sunday, October 31. See the flyer.

The news:

- **Spirit wear orders have been delayed** due to the product delivery problems at the United States coasts and delivery truck complications. The company is not able to give us a delivery date. This same situation is impacting delivery of food service items, and at a moment's notice we have had to adjust our lunch menu.
- **REMINDER TO CALL SCHOOL WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT!** It is a parental responsibility to inform your school when your child will be absent. Call, email, or text the OFFICE between 7AM and 9AM.
- **REMINDER TO RESPECT PARKING:** Those who drop off your children from the parking spaces by the church, across from the gym doors, please drop off and keep moving. Some of the spaces are labeled for PARISH OFFICE STAFF AND PASTOR, and these people are trying to arrive for work and for Mass as you are dropping off in the morning. Thank you.

Peace and all Good,

Jeffrey Johnson

What does Halloween mean in a Catholic School?

By Jeffrey Johnson

With the celebration of Halloween just around the corner, let's reflect upon our Catholic heritage and American life. Catholicism has added rich contributions to cultural values such as diversity, freedom, and the dignity of the individual in the United States.

A little history..... in about the 4th century the Church began to celebrate the *Feast of All Saints*. We celebrate all the living and baptized, known and unknown, who seek a life in God's spirit and light. *All Souls Day* followed *All Saints Day* to specially remember and pray for our loved ones who have died. The word 'halloween' derives from the phrase, '*all halloweds eve*', or, '*all holy one's evening*'. 'All Hallowed's Eve', or, Halloween occurred the night before the feast.

So, how does Halloween fit?

During the Middle Ages, a common liturgical practice included staging liturgical dramas and festivals, which sometimes involved parades in the streets. The vigil to *All Saints*, which celebrates light, God's Spirit, and the road to eternal life, was a festival which mocked death and darkness called *All Hallowed's Eve*. This was eventually called Halloween. The message of St. Paul's writing, "O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?" could be seen in Halloween celebrations.

Throughout time, people and cultures often create dramatic expressions of what we value, love, fear, reject, and so on. At Halloween, the Church in some countries created a festival intended to mock death through foolery, costumes, and parades. Costumes frequently included images of death such as skeletons, rotting flesh, goblins, ghosts, mummies, etc. Images of deadness and darkness like witches, vampires, and ghoulish faces on pumpkins also developed. This evening festival led into the Feast of All Saints which rejoices and gives thanks for the good news of light, salvation, and eternal life.

In any culture, time can erode original meanings. Practices can be added that mismatch the identity of a celebration. In modern culture we have seen the emergence of movie series like Halloween I, II, and III. Horror films may portray evil dolls, satanic themes, or figures of destruction. Such images have been tacked on to Halloween season in the current society. Yet, the history of Halloween ties to faith celebrations that reject death and darkness through the occasion of a festival.

In Catholic schools we teach about Halloween. We celebrate *All Saints Day*. We recognize *All Souls Day* and call for prayers and memories of loved ones who have died. We participate in simple Halloween celebrations. In addition to traditional spooks, skeletons, and goblin characters, we encourage costumes which recall saints, and great men and women of the past.

Costumes with weapons, movie figures that promote evil, violence, destruction, abuse of one's neighbor, or show strong disrespect (no matter how popular) are never acceptable.



October 31st 11:30-1:00pm

West Church - North Parking Lot

**Wear your favorite costume and join us for
St. Vincent Pallotti's Annual Trunk or Treat!
Decorate your car trunk and hand out treats
or just bring the kids for a family friendly
trick or treat event.**

All are welcome!

**Any questions or to register call Jan in
the Parish Office at 414-453-5344 x 116.**

