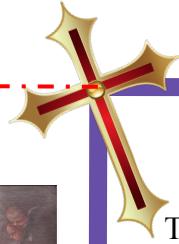




ELEMENTARY VALIANT NEWS



Will You Be My Valentine?

February fourteenth is known around the world as Valentine’s Day, a day of love and a day of friendship. But... why? In our Catholic/Christian community, Valentine’s Day is actually the feast day of Saint Valentine. Saint Valentine was a Roman saint, and he is the patron saint of Terni, epilepsy, and beekeepers. He suffered martyrdom to the hands of the emperor Claudius II Gothicus, and is buried at the *Basilique Saint Valentin* in Terni, Italy.



Season of Lent

The Lenten season is coming up! Lent is a time of almsgiving and feasting on the positive things in life. We will be starting the lenten season with Ash Wednesday, and it continues on for 40 days and 40 nights. This is in remembrance of Jesus’ forty days stranded in the desert with no water to drink or food to eat. He was tempted by the devil, but did not give into his temptations and instead continued to follow what God told him to. Fasting from negatives and feasting on the positive things will always bring us closer to God! We set aside all our hardships and dedicate these 40 days to God’s love sent to us through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Jesus inspires us to continue on our lenten journey and helps us move on with a holy intent.

Keep Calm and Soccer On



The soccer season is going remarkably for our boys and girls high school teams! The girls are in the quarterfinals, and the boys have made it to the semifinals through hard work, dedication, and lots of perseverance!

Here at Saint Genevieve, students can involve themselves in various different sports and can work their hardest to become great at them! Soccer is well liked by our elementary, middle, and high school students; a game commonly known as *“futbol”* (“football”) in Spanish.



Soccer consists of many different important rules. In the game, players can move the ball in any direction, but they may only use their feet, head, or chest to handle the ball. The only player who is allowed usage of their hands is the goalkeeper.

Soccer also has some interesting facts! For one, modern soccer actually began in 1863 and was born in England! The game can’t be traced back in time, but it was played around 3,000 years or so ago. Soccer balls also use to be made of animal parts and typically leather! Isn’t that interesting?





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Celebrating First Reconciliation



On February 15, many of our 2nd grade students and a few upper grade students had their first reconciliation! Reconciliation is one of the sacraments, and it is the Sacrament of Penance. In reconciliation, we confess all of our sins, mortal or venial. There are four steps to reconciliation, which are contrition, confession, absolution, and satisfaction. After confession, we receive a penance, which might be saying the Hail Mary three times. The sacrament of reconciliation is usually the second sacrament that is received as a child. Thank you Father Lawrence and Father Memo for leading the service and Dr. Alpert for preparing our students!

“I felt joyful after receiving my first reconciliation. My soul is now pure, and I’m excited to receive my first communion next.” - Alexander Prado, 8B

Night School with Danny Trejo

“Struggling with issues within your family is difficult,” said Danny Trejo. “Insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results.” However, when we lean on Him through hard times, God does send us signs when we need them the most. Trejo’s experience is truly an example of God’s mercy and love for His children, because after his first gig, Trejo landed various acting roles and became the man he is today, sober for over five decades. “Life is good, you understand? But I’ve gotta do good, not just talk about it,” said Trejo. “Everything good that’s happened to me was because of helping someone else.”



On Thursday night, our middle and high school students, as well as faculty and family, all gathered to experience night school with Dan Trejo, more commonly known as Danny Trejo. So, with the jazz band playing on and all-around applause as he entered into the gym.



A now very famous actor who is featured in several movies, Danny Trejo’s story of how he rose to his fame is an inspiration and a treasure to many. Growing up, Trejo tells the story of how being sentenced to prison multiple times and struggling with addiction helped him to turn his life around. “I was just following the wrong people,” he tells us. “Bad choice. I mean, (just,) that’s all...”



What we can take away from the speech is that *we have to take inspiration from the right people, anything is possible with God, and that we must achieve what we can at our full potential.* Trejo says, “There’s a world of potential.” His mother was a housekeeper and his father was a laborer so his time was spent with his uncle, who he saw as role model.

However, it led him to tumble downward further into his addictions. Associated with gangs, what Trejo knew as a young man was fear, and by going to prison, that fear only grew. However, by turning to God, Trejo began to realize that helping others is the way we should live our lives. “I was like a counselor for inmates,” he shared, speaking about his time as an inmate.

Trejo’s story of faith and how God led him to be the man he is now is truly an inspiration to Christians, and most importantly, masterpieces at the hands of God.



(Fun Fact: Danny Trejo made his First Holy Communion here at our very own Saint Genevieve!)