

## The Rosary Project

Dear Families,

The students of St. Patrick School started a very special project this month. Kathy Wille, a former teacher at St. Charles, came to me with an idea to help students and their families learn more about the power of praying the rosary at home. Kathy spent countless hours in prayer trying to determine how she could share her love of the Blessed Mother with the St. Patrick School Community. Her prayers were answered when she determined the best way to share her love of Mary was to put a rosary in the hands of families each week.

Kathy took it upon herself to secure one rosary for each classroom and one booklet about how to pray the rosary for each student. Our own parishioner, Georgia Thomas, went to the effort to hand make special bags for the rosaries making these even more special for our students. We met and came up with a plan that would allow one student from each classroom to take home the rosary each week. During that week, the student's family could pray the rosary together and then record their thoughts in a prayer diary. Every Wednesday, the rosary would be handed over to another student in the classroom at the all school mass. At this time, Father Robert would bless the rosary before handing it off to the next student.

On Wednesday, October 18th, Father Robert blessed the rosaries and we presented them to each classroom. The student who was chosen to take the rosary home first was invited to the altar to participate in this blessing.

In the late spring, each classroom will decide who should receive the classroom rosary. This can be a student, a faculty member, or a member of our parish. The students will be allowed to make that choice on their own. The recipients of this special rosary will receive it at the May Crowning ceremony in May.

Our hope is that families will take part in this special project by praying the rosary as a family and recording their thoughts or feelings in the classroom prayer diary. I am excited about this opportunity for our students and grateful to Kathy and Georgia for coming to me with this idea. As you know, the rosary is a very powerful prayer tool. I hope that as you say the rosary, you will keep our students, families, and faculty members in your prayers.

