December 23, 2011

Dear Parents:

The AMCA Catholic Identity Team is pleased to announce that AMCA will be hosting a monthly Sunday "Buddy Class Mass" at Our Lady of Grace Church from January through May.

The schedule is as follows:

January 8th, Noon: Pre-Kindergarten and 8th Grade

February 12, Noon: 1st and 6th Grades

March 11th, Noon: 3rd and 4th Grades

April 22nd, Noon: Kindergarten and 7th Grades

May 20th, 10 AM: 2nd and 5th Grades

The Buddy Classes will work together to prepare a banner which will be used in the procession at Mass, and children from these classes will also be invited to participate in various liturgical ministries.

In addition, a theme is being selected each month, and everyone at Mass will be invited to go to the school hall following Mass for refreshments, an activity geared towards the children, and a short talk on that month's topic by an invited speaker. We ask the families of the sponsoring Buddy Classes to assist by donating refreshments.

Our theme for January 8th is Family, and Dr. Jerry and Jeanne Antonino have graciously accepted the invitation to be our speakers.

More specifics will be provided upon our return in the New Year, but with the first Buddy Class Mass being the first Sunday after returning from Christmas vacation, I wanted to at least provide this brief overview.

The hope is that these Buddy Class Masses will help AMCA to work towards our three Catholic Identity goals established with the diocese: nurturing vocations to the priesthood and religious life, increasing Mass attendance of AMCA families, and increasing interaction between OLG parish and AMCA. As the diocese also emphasizes that each academy should host an annual Catholic Identity Celebration, we are happy to consider these Masses with receptions following as a fun five-part celebration of our Catholic faith which all AMCA, as well as OLG parish families can participate in and enjoy.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support, and again, a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all.

Yours truly,

Maria Cuomo
Principal