



Dear Alumnae, Parents and Friends:

Beginning in 2012, Archbishop Chapelle will hold its first St. Joseph's Day altar. I am very excited to already have such an enthusiastic response from everyone. I am sure that this addition to our school calendar will benefit our students, alumnae, faculty, staff and the general community. It will include students in their religion and history, but it will also allow alumnae and the community to become more involved. Many of us have mothers, grandmothers, neighbors and friends who would love to become involved with a St. Joseph's Day altar. Chapelle's altar is the perfect opportunity! Everyone is welcomed to donate, participate and visit the altar on St. Joseph's Day.

Origins of the altar truly reinforce our school motto, "God Will Provide." Done in thanks for his intercessions during a time of famine, St. Joseph's Day altars give us a kinship with the Sicilian people. Just as God provides for us, He also provided for the Sicilians in their time of great need. The altar is still done on a lesser scale in Sicily, but New Orleans holds tight to this custom. The custom is fading as older generations pass away, and it is up to younger people to keep the tradition alive.

The St. Joseph's Day altar also will serve as a teaching tool for students. Chapelle is first and foremost a learning institution, and we will use this altar as an avenue to teach about religious history and culture.

St. Joseph's Day is celebrated on March 19. The actual altar will be on display Sunday, March 18, 2012, from 4-9 p.m., and Monday, March 19, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the school gym. A prayer service will be held once the altar is closed. All are invited to participate in the altar and prayer service.

Traditionally, St. Joseph's Day altars are sustained solely by donations. We are blessed to have vast resources in our alumnae and friends, and I hope that the Chapelle community will relish in sharing their talents with the altar. There will be many opportunities to bake, decorate, and donate time, money or goods.

Currently, we are requesting cookie supplies and popcorn or cookie tins, which will be used to store the cookies until March. Chapelle will host "baking days" in the campus cafeteria to make the cookies for the altar on **Saturday, February 4; Saturday, February 11; and Saturday, March 3**. Please bring a rolling pin, cutting board and a razor blade or small sharp paring knife.

The dough will be mixed and ready to roll, and this is another great opportunity to learn how to make these traditional cookies and participate in this cultural event!

We are also accepting any donations to be displayed on the altar, including fruits and vegetables (especially lemons, artichokes and eggplants), seafood, pasta, bottles of wine, candles and flowers. Kori's Floral Boutique is offering special pricing and delivery for floral arrangements. Please call Kori's Floral Boutique for more information at 504-468-2672. Please indicate if you are making a donation in honor of a deceased or sick loved one or any serviceman or woman, and we will place a dedication card next to the item. All donations should be dropped off at Chapelle on Friday, March 16, at 6 p.m., and Saturday, March 17, at 10 a.m. Please contact us to make arrangements.

Monetary donations can be mailed to Chapelle. Please make checks payable to Archbishop Chapelle High School and indicate that its use is for the St. Joseph's Day altar on the memo line.

I hope that the St. Joseph's Day altar will help to build a stronger sense of community among our current students, alumnae, families and friends. Anyone interested in any aspect of the altar should respond to either Melanie Stringer (mstringer@archbishopchappelle.org) or myself (trdiecidue@tigerstadium.net).

Sincerely,
Tabitha Diecidue
Class of 2002
St. Joseph's Day Altar Committee Head and Founder