



Guardian Angels Church & School
217 West 2nd Street
Chaska, MN 55318

To all those who've expressed their best wishes to the Guardian Angels Church and School family ... most especially to the Guardian Angels student taken to the hospital after a freak accident on St. Valentine's Day at our parish campus.

Thank you. And God bless you.

The outpouring of affection and prayers has been incredible ... from parishes and congregations all around the Archdiocese. Archbishop Flynn called Thursday night and wanted the kindergartner – Ethan Fuller, the bravest and most upbeat person I have ever met – and his family to know that he was saying a rosary for him at that moment.

The news media has been most sensitive, and has captured the spirit of this parish, one in which people are rising to the occasion and volunteering to help in whatever way they can. Back in 1902, the church burned down – and one year later, it was built up again (and paid for). Back in 1925, a tornado hit our school, and it was not only repaired, but improved. And in 2008, our 150th anniversary, tragedy hits our parish with an accident covered extensively in the media. The media covered how parishioners and parents just showed up to show support and to move the kindergarten rooms across the street to another building.

Just as the resurrection came after the passion and crucifixion ... just as before in Guardian Angels Church and School history, *parishioners and school parents* are rising up from the misfortune, meeting the challenge, and becoming the stronger for it. The heaters are nearly all removed and the rest are soon to follow, the kindergarten remodeled, and renewed interest in campus improvements is emerging quickly. I simply can't wait to see what the parishioners and school parents are going to do, being led by God into an even better future. As had Abraham and Sarah.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Since many of you are asking for updates, you can find them on our parish website: www.GACHASKA.org. Click on the school website for updates and for a message to the parishioners from me: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1504864981650623019> A message from our incredibly gifted principal, Mrs. Ronhovde, to school parents is below. (Believe me, I've witnessed first hand why Mrs. Ronhovde was recognized five years ago as one of the finest principals in the country. She was the calm in the midst of the storm of frenzied activity.)

If you were planning to come to the installation of Guardian Angels' twenty-sixth pastor (me) by Archbishop Flynn – *and we do hope all parishioners and school parents/children do come to a Mass during the installation weekend* – please know that the second collection that was to be taken for on-going restoration efforts in the beautiful church will now be used for the school's emergency repairs. If you cannot make the

installation, but would still like to make a tax-deductible contribution towards the repair of the school, you can do so through this link: <http://gachaska.org/donatenow.aspx>

The official reception after the installation had been cancelled as we are now using the St. Francis Hall for our interim kindergarten and pre-school space. But so many parishioners and school parents called in or wrote emails requesting that there be a reception ("Fr. Paul, we really NEED this get-together now, after the accident."), we're going to have one in the school gym. Overflow for the Mass will also be there, with the Mass televised in the gym.

Again, thank you ... thank you ... thank you for the heartfelt expression of care and concern. And please do keep the little hero – Ethan Fuller – now out of the hospital, in your prayers. Since the guy was unable to celebrate St. Valentine's Day with the rest of his class, we are – as a parish and school community – considering St. Valentine's Day to be unfinished until he comes home to receive all his Valentine's wishes and cards. And believe me, they are really piling up.

Yours in the Resurrected Christ,

Fr. Paul Jarvis

Tuesday, February 19, 2008, **"the Sixth Day of St. Valentine's Day"**

P.S. Come to the 10 a.m. Installation Mass with the clothes you hope to be photographed in a group photo. Again, all parishioners, school parents and students, and friends are welcome.

