



**Benilde-St. Margaret's**

A Catholic, college preparatory school, grades 7-12

## Scripture Theme 2011-2012

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.”*

**(The Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9)**

### **Brief Background:**

At the time of writing this letter, Paul, the author, was imprisoned for breaking Roman law. Regardless of his fate, he maintained a strong expression of great love and affection for the Philippian community. Paul understood his salvation was connected to their prayers. Throughout the letter, Paul exhorts the community to transform themselves and be like Christ. He encourages the attributes of being true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, and full of praise. Paul, acknowledges that this isn't always easy and that this transformation sometimes takes place through suffering. However, it is with much assurance from Paul that the result will be joy. We are an Easter people!

- Questions for Reflection:**
- Where do you feel joy?
  - Has there been any suffering in order to achieve this joy?
  - What are your prayers and petitions to God?
  - At BSM, where and when do you feel the peace of God with you?
  - How does the suffering of simplicity and conservation lead to joy?

### **Suggestions for use:**

- Post in your room or office to serve as a reminder of our theme and the greater mission of our school.
- Read before meetings (individually or as a group) as a reminder of the greater mission of our school, not our personal agenda. God hears us, guides us, and will provide direction. Paul was clear and direct with the Philippians, “have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.”
- Use as a prayer, individually or with a group before a gathering.
- When you are having a hard day, reflect on the passage and questions calling to mind that, despite the challenge (suffering), we are an Easter people. Joy will come.
- Use it as a reminder that you have been called by God to serve the BSM community. By following the way of life in Christ, unity can be achieved and the *God of peace will be with you.*