

December 2, 2016



Dear Parents,

This week, for the second Sunday of Advent, the prophet Isaiah suggests the possibility of a reign of justice and faithfulness where the spirit of wisdom and harmony will grow. If the year of mercy has touched our hearts in any way, we too, will see this possibility. It sounds like a perfect world where peace will flourish forever. In the Gospel of Matthew this weekend, readers may wonder why the gospel writer spends time describing John the Baptist's clothing and strange diet of locusts and wild honey. But it is specifically because John preaches the coming reign of justice and the need to reform our lives, that we see the need to change our hearts if we wish to truly experience the Advent of His coming. This is the mission of the church. Action on behalf of justice will transform the world. We need to believe in a better world and work to make this happen. Despite tensions, divisions, or conflicts, we who are believers must act like Christ because we have been shown mercy, grace and salvation by our God. We respond by the way we live! The year of mercy may have ended, but certainly not our works of mercy.



We have included another monthly calendar for Dec. There are a few additions so please refer to this calendar for the most accurate information.

Dec. 2nd, First Friday was today and we all attended the 8:30 Mass. I am so proud of the way the children are learning to participate in the readings and songs. We are so fortunate to have two wonderful priests that really take the time to give the children a love for the Liturgy. I appreciate the time they spend here at the school. The children are really getting to know them.



This **Saturday, Dec. 3rd**, at the Knights of Columbus, the exhibit of Creches from Germany as well as the Festival of trees opens at 11:00am. Please stop in anytime to vote for our **4th Grade tree #22!** The children did a wonderful job along with our Art teacher and classroom teacher. Fr. Keefe and I went along the day grade 4 decorated it and were so happy to watch the excitement build as they hung the hand-made ornaments on each branch. Check out our Facebook page to see some great snapshots of that day.



This **Sunday, Dec. 4th**, is the monthly Family Mass at 11:00am. Choir members are asked to be in church by 10:40. Please consider joining us for this Mass.

Monday Dec. 5th, is distribution of report cards. Your children will bring them home. **Please sign the envelope where the line says FIRST TRIMESTER, and return the empty envelope on Tuesday.**



It is also **picture re-take** day on Monday the 5th. Students must return the original package that was sent home if they are having their picture retaken. If anyone was absent that day it is also the only day we will take pictures again for this year.

Thursday, Dec. 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Holy day of obligation. There will be an 8:30 Mass in school on this day as well. Anyone is welcome to join us at our Masses. Many parishioners do and it is a wonderful way for them to see what our children are learning. Remember, it is this Parish family that supports the school with their generous contributions that subsidize our school. Without our Parish, the tuition would be double!



Thursday and Friday, Dec. 8th and 9th, your children will have an opportunity to first browse, and then purchase small items for relatives and friends at our Lil' Shopper's Shoppe. The gifts are moderately priced and fun for the children to pick out themselves. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.



Sun. Dec. 11th is our Annual **Breakfast with Santa**. The flyer was sent home last week. This is the opportunity to purchase tickets in advance. Please fill out the bottom portion of the flyer and send it into school this coming week to give us an estimate on number of people. Tickets will also be available at the door. This is a great family event. Invite friends, neighbors and perhaps some perspective families you might know who are considering St. Mary School for their children.

We will be having a few changes for the next month or so, as Mrs. Fresco, Mrs. Delahunt and Mrs. Mastriano will be out for health reasons. We never have total control over some things and health is one of them. While they are out, we will have substitutes. We wish all three of them a quick and speedy recovery so they will be back again with us soon. I thank all the parents in advance for your patience. If there are problems with the children during these next few weeks, please call me and I will work with the subs to clear things up. Hopefully it will all go smoothly. As for the school office, both Mrs. Bassi and Mrs. Caprolione will be filling in, so they are pretty familiar with the office routines. As for Mrs. Delahunt, I have been working on a permanent sub and as soon as we have one in place, it will be announced.

As always, I thank everyone for their cooperation. We are blessed with a great faculty who work well together and will help those who fill in so that there will be little or no disruption in the children's learning.

Save the date for our Christmas play **Angels Aware!** It will be held in the gym on **Dec. 21st at 6:30pm**. All students will be in Angel costumes, unless told otherwise by Mrs. Xeller.

God bless,

Sr. Annette