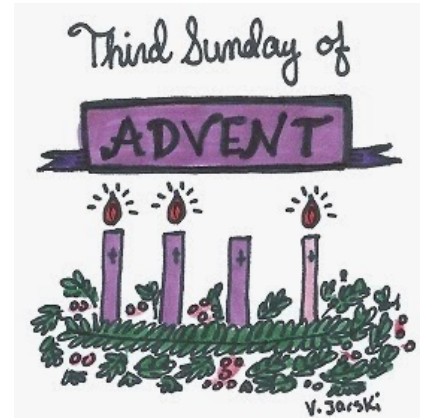


December 10, 2016

Dear Parents,

We have arrived at the Third week of Advent! It is also known as “**Gaudete**” or “**Rejoicing**” Sunday. We rejoice because our waiting will soon be over! We are nearing the birth of Christ.



In the Gospel this week we hear John the Baptist speaking from prison. He sent word by Jesus’ disciples to ask Him, “Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?” Jesus answered by telling the disciples, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have good news brought to them”. So as the disciples leave, Jesus begins speaking to the crowds about John. “See I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare the way before you. Truly I tell you, among those born of women, no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist”. Jesus then makes it clear when He adds, “yet, the least in the kingdom is greater than he”. Think about this silently in your heart. Who do you think the “least in the kingdom of heaven” might be?

The weeks are getting closer to Christmas and we are having many things to help the children prepare their hearts for the true meaning of Christ’s birth. Today the children shopped for their relatives and friends. They were really excited to get something for someone else. That is just one small way to prepare our hearts during this season of giving. We are reminding them of acts of kindness they can perform each day. Their time and talents are precious gifts for them to also consider giving.



A tradition started with the Eighth Grade and Mrs. Mazon to help students prepare their hearts, is **Las Posadas. On Tuesday Dec.13th**, the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe will travel from class to class. The Eighth Graders sing throughout the halls as they take the statue into a new class each day, with Mary asking “Can I stay in your class today”? When the Eighth graders go to the classroom, and ask in Mary’s name, the children answer “yes” to Mary and the statue stays in that class for the day. So Mary and Joseph will be dressed in costume and there will be a short reading by the Eighth Grade. We thank Mrs. Mazon who continues this tradition which started in Mexico.

Congratulations to Grade 4 and our Art teacher, Mrs. deLugo and classroom teacher, Mrs. Pecoraro, for winning Second Place in the Knights of Columbus **Festival of Trees** Contest. Please consider stopping by at the Museum any time from now until Jan. 29th. When you go, don’t forget to vote for us in the People’s Choice award.



Speaking of voting, another chance to vote for another accomplishment from one of our children. On the Artsonia.com website you can vote for Michael 41223, as he has been selected as a finalist for this week’s, “**Artist of the Week**”. The finalist who receives the most online votes between now and Sunday Dec.10th, will be the winner. So please visit the link <http://www.artsonia.com/aotw/vote/0/50785062>. If you haven’t voted, please try to do so. We are always proud of the students accomplishments. The student and school will receive gift certificates to help with art materials.





Reminder for the 8th Grade parents: meeting at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, Dec.13th. We will begin promptly, because I have another meeting at 6:45. .



An update on **Mrs. Fresco:** Her surgery went well and she is now home recuperating and working very hard in physical therapy. We wish her well and a continued promise of prayers.

Mrs. Delahunt has gone to Virginia for her father's funeral, and will return on Monday. Her surgery is Dec. 20th. She too, is grateful for the prayers and support from the school community through all of these times of difficulty.

Mrs. Mastriano will be having surgery on Monday the 12th. Today is her last day until she is fully recuperated. It will be a little hectic in the office without her. You can greatly help by calling in your child's absence by 8:10am., sending in written notes with changes or needs, while she is out will really help because we will not have a full time replacement. If you need to leave a message on the answering machine, we will pick up messages each morning, so you can be sure things will be taken care of. She will be returning some time in Jan., so your patience is greatly appreciated. We wish her well.



Reminder for Christmas Show: I hope to see many family and friends on Dec. 21st at 6:30 sharp! It will be wonderful to see all the Angels gracing our stage!

Enclosed in this week's packet is an explanation of the forthcoming new Catholic Transcript. We have been asked to distribute the information to the school community.

See you at breakfast with Santa!



Sunday 8:00 to 1:00

God bless,

Sr. Annette