

December 14, 2018



Friday Notes

St. Mary's Catholic School, David City, NE

Get Ready, 3rd Grade... Reading Program Moves Up

St. Mary's started introducing their new reading series, Journeys by Houghton-Mifflin, 3 years ago with Kindergarten. The next year, they added 1st grade, then 2nd grade implemented this year. As with any new program, there are challenges to getting it under way, but overall it has been a very smooth transition. Due to your hard work in fundraising through the Spirit Shirt fundraiser and Soup Supper and with the recommendation of the School Council, we were able to purchase 3rd grade's materials for this year, too. They will start using them after the first of the year. Some benefits we have noted already: **more support for different levels of readers, more writing requirements, and higher level questioning to get students answering more difficult comprehension questions.** As usual, we are adjusting classwork, homework, and assessments to find just the right balance. This changes with each class as well. All in all, these materials provide great reading and language support for our students and we are excited to hear them reading at an even better level than before. Please feel free to talk with your child's teacher about the new materials the next time you are at school.

May God richly bless the rest of your Advent, Christmas, and New Year!

Mrs. Zook

Tue., Dec. 18, Advent Program

(students may dress up, but will still have lunch, recess, and PE. No jeans and no leggings alone—must be covered to fingertips.)

1:00 PM—all grades attend, **Grandparents and anyone who cannot come to the evening, cookies provided (Grades 3-5 about 1:45 PM)**

6:00 PM – doors open

6:20 PM – Grades PreK-2 arrive and all grades go to classrooms if at school

6:30 PM – PreK-2 Program begins

(Intermission after PreK-2—parents of PreK-2 only may leave, if parents are staying, PreK-2 students return to classrooms.)

7:00 PM – Grades 3-5 arrive and go to classrooms

7:15 PM – 3-5 Program begins

Wed., Dec. 19, Last Day of School before Christmas—Wear Christmas tops or Ugly Sweaters—Whole School Boxtops Prize!!

Dec. 20-Jan. 6, Christmas Break

Sat., Jan. 5, Mother-Son Bowling 9:30-11:00 at Westbook Lanes, Columbus. 8:00 Mass available-St. Mary's

Mon., Jan. 7, School Resumes

Wed., Jan. 9, 10:00 Late Start (Teacher Prof. Devt.)

Thu., Jan. 10, Banking in Schools Deposit, 7:45 AM

Fri., Jan. 11, Baptism Mass, 8 AM

Sat., Jan. 12, Traveling Choir, 5 PM (4:30), at Shelby-Sacred Heart



VIRTUES IN PRACTICE

2018 Year of Hope

Dec. **Patience:** Waiting or enduring without complaint.

K-2: St. Monica

3-5: St. Isaac Jogues

Recommended Grade K-5 Homework can be turned in 12/17-19

***Big Idea This Month: Check an Advent calendar daily and *patiently* await the celebration of Jesus' birth.**



PRAYERS AND THANK YOU'S

~ For your hard work as parents in this first half of the year.

~ For continued strength as we work together to form your children in the next half.

~ For all of your **generous donations!!**

**No Friday Notes next week.
Have a restful break!!**

Check Backpacks! Students are bringing home a "Unlocking the Gifts" key ornament for Christmas from the Spirit Club.

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A Note from the St. Mary's Spirit Club Spiritual Coordinator



Only 10 days until Christmas!

Can you feel it? Can you feel the excitement in the air? Christmas is almost here! I bet in your homes there lots of signs that it's almost Christmas day. Shopping for gifts, baking delicious Christmas treats, decorating the tree, sending Christmas cards and hanging the lights-all of these are sure signs that Christmas time is here. Are these are all wonderful things to do. They help us get excited for the upcoming celebration of the birth of our Savior. But, are you getting your heart ready too?

Advent is a little bit like Lent in that it is a season of preparation for a very important event in our faith. Unlike Lent, Advent is not a season of mourning. Instead it's a season of service and focusing on preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Sometimes it's easy to lose sight of that with all of

the noise and lights of the Christmas season. With less than two weeks to go before the big day, here are some things you and your family can do to make sure your hearts and your homes will be ready for the arrival of our Savior.

1. Make sure to go to confession. A soul that is free from sin is the best gift you can give to the new born baby Jesus.
2. Thank God every day for giving us the gift of his son. While you're at it, thank him also for all the other blessings in your life. Our family, friends, homes, food and school are all gifts that God gives to us every day.
3. Make an extra effort to bless all of those around you. Letting others go first, helping your parents and teachers without being asked, visiting someone you know who is lonely or sick, and taking a minute to let someone you love know how much they mean to you will help others have hearts full of joy during this special season.
4. Remember those who are not as blessed as you are. The chances to donate items to those in need through the school are a great reminder that for many children Christmas will not be a season of gifts and goodies. On top of making your donations of items make sure you pray for those who will be sad, lonely, hungry and without any gifts this Christmas.
5. Save some celebrating for the days after Christmas day. Officially the Christmas season in the church starts on Christmas morning and runs through the feast of the Epiphany on January 6. Try to save some of your favorite Christmas activities or treats for that time. It will help you remember that we are still celebrating Jesus birth even after Christmas morning.

Baptism Mass, 8 AM, Friday, January 11

January Baptism Celebrants					July Baptism Celebrants				
Marissa	Miratsky	5	B	6-Jan	Evan	Hoelscher	5	B	22-Jul
Lydia	Meysenburg	5	B	20-Jan	Becca	Podolak	5	A	22-Jul
Emilyn	Kavan	4	A	25-Jan	Lauren	Meister	5	A	19-Jul
Mason	Krivanek	4	B	11-Jan	Aiden	Rerucha	4	B	12-Jul
Dayne	Jakub	4	A	4-Jan	Robert	Dalton	3	A	5-Jul
Kalen	Stouffer	4	A	11-Jan	Allisson	Alcantara	3	B	23-Jul
Jacqueline	Comte	3	B	31-Jan	Bailee	Hough	2	B	16-Jul
Damian	Miratsky	3	A	31-Jan	Dylan	Masilko	1	B	1-Jul
Kaden	Kobza	3	A	3-Jan	Caden	Vandenberg	1	B	2-Jul
Dirkson	Kavan	2	B	16-Jan	Kendra	Havlovic	1	B	10-Jul
Samuel	Yindrick	1	B	1-Jan	Leah	Emswiler	1	B	15-Jul
Gavin	Thege	1	A	29-Jan	Eastyn	Kavan	1	A	28-Jul
Brecken	Romshek	K	A	6-Jan	Wyatt	Svoboda	1	B	31-Jul
Aubrie	DeWispelare	K	B	6-Jan	Carter	Emory	K	B	27-Jul
					Ceily	Kavan	K	B	7-Jul



✝ **Thank you for all the donations!!
I'll give a full report of our totals in
January after we give it all to chari-
ties.**

Some pictures to enjoy...



December Baptism Mass



K-2 Rehearsal for the Advent Program



Level 3 and 4 Art students from Aquinas teach an art lesson to students in grades 1-5.