

# Counting our Blessings

St. Ann School

Mr. Craig King, Principal

December 11, 2009

## – ST. ANN SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT –

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we at St. Ann School provide a Catholic education that meets the needs of students spiritually, academically, physically, and socially.

- On Tuesday, December 1st, the Diocese of Gaylord was introduced to its new bishop as Bernhard A. Hebda was ordained and installed as the fourth bishop of the diocese. Bishop Hebda follows the 20 years of service from Bishop Patrick Cooney. You may read more about this special event on the diocese's website at: [www.dioceseofgaylord.org](http://www.dioceseofgaylord.org)

- Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their annual Spelling Bee. Congratulations to the Spelling Bee winners:

Grades 4 - 6

Grade 7

Winner: Max Reaume

Winner: Brianna Whaley

1st Runner Up: Chaz Kamaloski

1st Runner Up: Jenna Erway

2nd Runner Up: Nigel Doering

2nd Runner Up: Glory Creed

3rd Runner Up: Jack Valice

3rd Runner Up: Shaina Ureta

- Thank you also to the Knights for conducting their annual Free-Throw contest. Students ages 8-14 participated and the winners were:

Kallie Poulos, 9 yr. old, Molly Mackey, 10 yr. old, Natalie Sterner, 11 yr. old, Rebecca Sharp, 12 yr. old, Kaleb Clous 9 yr. old, Zachary Losinski, 10 yr. old, Jack Valice, 11 yr. old, and Jonathon Skinner, 12 yr. old.

- Take time to read the attached *Partners in Faith*. It is a very informative publication which can expand your knowledge about our faith.
- A big thanks goes out to the ladies at the St. Ann Angel Gift Shop for setting up the Christmas Store for the students at St. Ann School. Students did some early Christmas shopping with the help of St. Ann elves. The store will also be open on Monday, December 14th.
- St. Nicholas visited the Kindergarten class during their Grandparents party. The students and Grandparents shared cookies, a visit with St. Nicholas and made gifts for someone special.
- Just a reminder that when St. Ann school is closed, all related day/evening school activities are also cancelled.

## Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM,  
& 5:30 PM

## Upcoming Events

### December

14th-Spirits 5/6 vs. St. Michael 5:30 PM

15th-Advent Program 7:00 PM

18th-Nanny Claus Musical 1:00 PM - Gym

23rd-Mass 9:00 AM, PALS

23rd-Christmas break  
begins at dismissal



### Advent Program/Band Concert

The Advent Program has been rescheduled for Tuesday, December 15th, 7:00 PM. Unfortunately, the band concert has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

### Baby, Baby

Congratulations to the Henriksen family on the birth of their son, Gage, and the Whitaker family on the birth of their son, Owen.



### Scrip Contest

And the winner is...5th grade! The 5th grade class won the ice cream party for selling the most Scrip per student during the month of November, \$572.50 per student. Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest and purchased Scrip. Scrip is for sale on a daily basis, so don't stop buying. Here is an update on our Scrip sales:

YTD May - Nov.	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
	\$93,745	\$79,806
Month of November	\$15,355	\$36,006

Don't know what Scrip to buy? You may buy a blank Scrip certificate in any denomination so the recipient of your gift can choose their own Scrip. Also, if you are planning on ordering Scrip for Christmas, plan ahead to account for shipping time. We have hundreds of choices on our special order list so take a look.

### Winterfest



The new year will be here before we know it and then all of a sudden, we will be rushing around to get ready for Winterfest - Casino Night 2010. The event is planned for Saturday, February 6th, from 7:00 PM to midnight.

We are always looking for helpers with our special events. If you are interested in joining the team, please give us a call at 775-1301. We are in need of help with decorations, set-up, clean-up, Black Jack or Texas Hold 'Em dealers, and food service.

### Two on the Town 2010

We now have *Two on the Town 2010* available for \$20. *Two on the Town* features 2 for 1 dining and entertainment specials. You purchase a *Two on the Town* packet from us, and St. Ann School receives \$5. The packet includes dining, golf, skiing, pizza and other specials.

### Computer Class




Mrs. Joy Hogg, our Computer teacher, would like to share a little bit of what the students are doing in the Computer Lab. Second and third graders are writing stories in Microsoft Word. They put in colored backgrounds and use wildly colored letters. They also drop in graphics and re-size them.

Fifth, sixth and seventh graders are having job reviews. They have an interview to go over their folders of work, and must shake hands, make proper eye contact and review their art piece and advertisements. They have been studying the effect of color in computer graphics.

### Irish Dance Lessons

St. Ann School was so fortunate to have Mrs. Gena Dewey and her dance troupe here for St. Patrick's Day to show us their talents. If you are interested in lessons with Gena, take a look at the attached flyer.

### Pancake Breakfast

We are so blessed with the ongoing support of the Knights of Columbus, and now it is our turn to support them by attending their pancake breakfast, Sunday, December 13th, following the 8:30 Mass. 

### Going Green

We are looking for scrap envelopes. If you have envelopes you do not need, pass them on to the school office. Thank You!

Also, are you tired of all the paperwork that comes home in the backpacks? You may receive the newsletter, monthly calendars, and lunch menus via email. If interested, send your response to Terry Duley at [tduley@stanncadillac.org](mailto:tduley@stanncadillac.org)

# Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

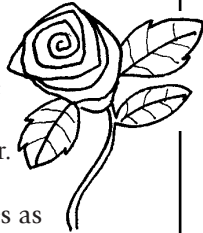
December 2009



## Thoughtful Moments

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

In 1531, Jesus' mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico with instructions to tell the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. She had him fill his tilma (cape) with roses as a gift. When Juan spilled the roses from his tilma before the bishop, a beautiful portrait of Our Lady remained. On December 12th, place roses in your home to honor the Mother of all people.

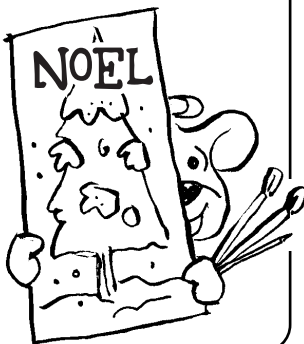


### "I love you"

For every negative comment you make to your child, try to add a positive one. While discipline and correction are important, so is love. If children doubt your love for them, the discipline won't work.

### Your authority

No one has the right to instruct or advise your child unless you agree. If teachers or doctors counsel your child without your permission, they won't be held accountable if your child gets hurt or in trouble. God gave that job to you.



## Help Christmas sparkle with love

Through the eyes of a child, Christmas is truly a magical time. The twinkle of the lights, the glitter of the tree, the tunes of favorite carols. In fact, what we remember most about Christmases past has nothing to do with gifts. It's all about the sparkle of love.

"One of my favorite Christmas traditions was cutting down the tree," remembers Jacob. "We got dressed up in our boots, made a thermos of hot chocolate and went marching through the woods together looking for the perfect tree."

For Susan, it was all about the music. "Every year my parents hosted a neighborhood caroling party. All the

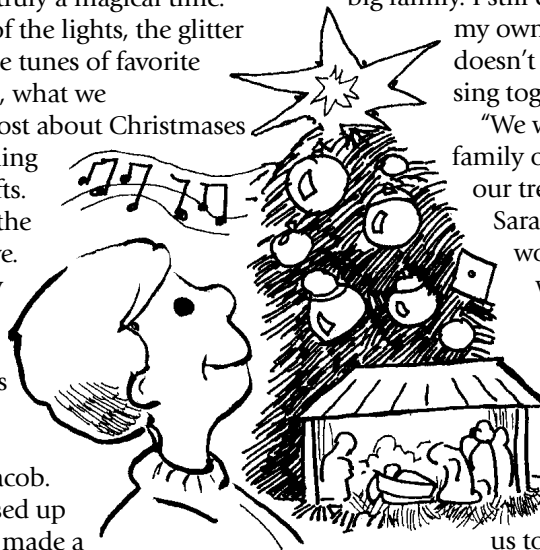
families together made it seem like one big family. I still do the same thing with my own family. Christmas doesn't start for us until we sing together."

"We were always the last family on the block to take our tree down," remembers Sarah. "Whenever anyone would ask why, Mom would tell them the Magi still needed to make it to the manger."

"I loved our annual nativity pilgrimage," said David. "Dad took

us to other churches to see their manger scenes."

Luz said she has kept her mother's tradition of leaving something out all year. "It helps us to remember our wonderful Christmas and look forward to Christ's coming all over again."



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## Why do we sing carols at Christmas?

The word "carol" means song of joy. St. Francis of Assisi first introduced the joyous spirit of caroling to Europe in the 13th century. He created nativity plays in which actors sang the story of Christ's birth in the language of the audience.



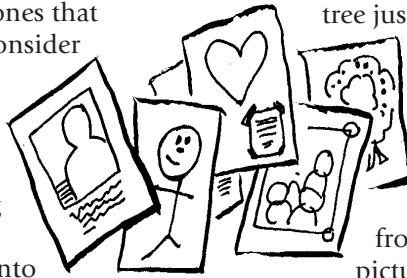
St. Francis encouraged the listeners to join in.

In time, the carols traveled from Italy to the rest of Europe and then to the United States. Today's custom has carolers go from house to house singing Christmas songs of joy.

## Giving gifts of love

Most of us would say that the best Christmas gifts we have received through the years are the ones that didn't come from a store. This season, consider these ideas for heartfelt Christmas gifts:

**Book of blessings.** Pick a recipient and together list all the ways that you feel blessed by having that person in your lives. Then each create a page using drawings, poems, stories, or photos that illustrate your ideas. Bind all the pages into a book to be presented as a Christmas gift.



**Family tree** – Choose a family member and create a tree just for him or her. Put pictures of family members on the leaves and use family memories or anecdotes for the branches.

**Memory book** – For friends or family who may not live close, make a book of memories from the year to help them still feel a part of your family. Include pictures from vacations, samples of hobbies, school pictures, and other illustrations of how your children have grown through the year.

### Scripture LESSON

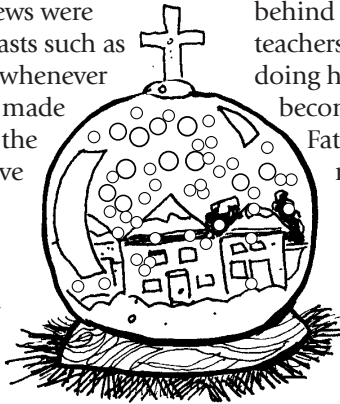
#### Luke 2:41-52, Jesus in the world

In Jesus' day, adult Jews were expected to observe feasts such as Passover in Jerusalem whenever possible. Jesus' family made the trip every year but the one when he was twelve was his first trip as an adult Jew.

In those days, a Hebrew boy became a man around the age of twelve and was recognized in a

ceremony known as a Bar Mitzvah. The he began formal education in the Torah and Hebrew Scriptures.

This was an important time in Jesus' life. Scripture reports that Jesus stayed



behind to talk with the scholars and teachers, and told his parents he was doing his Father's work. He had become aware of his place in his Father's kingdom, yet he remained mindful of his responsibilities to his parents and obediently left with them.

*What can a parent do?* Christians live in neighborhoods, schools, and communities. We are subject to legitimate earthly authority and can't retire from the world to live holy lives. As parents, we have to find ways to teach children to be holy while living in the world.

### Parent TALK

#### Is Santa real?

The other day my son, Jacob, asked me the question most parents dread. "Is there really a Santa Claus?" Without hesitation, I told him, "yes!"



I grew up in a large family and my parents often lacked money for gifts at Christmas. Yet, thanks to "Santa Claus," we never went a Christmas without a stocking to open or a gift under the tree.

To be truthful, I admitted that I have never seen Santa Claus and I don't know if a chubby man in a red suit is the one who delivered our presents.

Instead, I do know that Santa exists in the generosity and kindness of others. Santa provides an opportunity for people to humbly reach out to others in his name. So whether we call this spirit, "Santa" or "St. Nicholas," at the core, it is a love for Christ and the joy of celebrating his birth that brings out the best in people.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas (350).** St. Nicholas had a generous heart and gave away most of his fortune. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold into slavery to pay their father's debt. His frequent anonymous acts of generosity helped him become the patron saint of children.

**Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross (1591).** As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Because of a misunderstanding, he was jailed for nine months, but some of his beautiful spiritual writing came from

this experience. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

**Dec. 27 – St. John (1st century).** An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could call down fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later in his life, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to come down on the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.



#### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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FEBRUARY**

**AGES 5 THROUGH ADULT  
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