

St. Ann School

December 8th, 2011

Counting our Blessings...

St. Ann School Mission Statement

We at St. Ann School are guided by the Holy Spirit to provide an exceptional Catholic education for students spiritually, academically, physically, and socially.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00PM

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

December Events

8 - Feast of Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation, 6PM

8 & 9 - Christmas Store open all day

12 - 4/5 Spirits @ St. Mike, 5:30PM

12 - 6/7 Spirits @ St. Mary, 6:30PM

13 - JrK - 7th Advent Program, 6:30PM

13 - Band Concert, 7:30PM

16 - K of C Free Throw Contest,
(during gym class, 8-14 yr. olds)

20 - Christmas Around the World

21 - PALS

21 - Christmas Vacation begins at
dismissal

25 - Merry Christmas

From the Principal

I hope you are able to attend as many events as possible for what promises to be very busy days leading up to Christmas! This week started with girls basketball games on Monday (great effort, attitude, and sportsmanship!). On Tuesday, St. Nicholas stopped in all classrooms on his Feast Day to share gold coins with all the students, some words of wisdom, and a promise that another visitor will soon come to see them!

We hit full speed on Wednesday as over 150 special guests (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) joined us for Granola with Grandparents at 7:30AM! Thank you for making this a priority to spend time with one or more of our students and for visiting our school. I also took six students (Mackenna Johnson, Emma Reuther, Roberto Rojas, Quinn Notarian, Trevor Knapp, and Brendan Shanahan) out to Culver's for a Playground Superstar lunch. Thursday featured our School Liturgy, which coincided with the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception; our 7th graders did a great job as leaders. Our students had an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping at the Christmas Store, which was provided by the ladies from the Ann's Angels Gift Shop. It was great to see the students buying presents for their parents, siblings, friends, etc. Please remember that Catechism Bee permission slips must be turned in by Friday, December 9th.

Next week's schedule begins with girls basketball games on Monday at St. Michael's and St. Mary's (Good luck, Girls!). Tuesday will feature the JrK - 7th grade Advent Vocal Concert at 6:30PM in the church and the 5th - 7th grade Band Concert at 7:30PM in the Parish Hall. Our School Liturgy on Wednesday will be lead by our 6th graders (parents are always welcome to attend!). Thursday will feature our Principal for the Day, Melissa Kendell, who generously obtained the position through the Silent Auction at our Oktoberfest (maybe I'll retire for one day!). Our 6th and 7th graders will be caroling at Lakeview Manor and Green Acres in the morning and several of our school parents will be involved in a Michigan Made Craft Show in the Parish Hall (all are invited), which begins at 5:00PM. Students who will be nine years of age or older by January 1st, 2012, will be eligible to participate in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest on Friday during their gym class. Students who plan on participating must fill out an entry form, which they turn in on the day of the contest.

I would like to explain the procedure for students and parents for the concerts on Tuesday, December 13th. Doors to the church will not open until 6:00PM for families to secure seats for the JrK - 7th grade Advent Concert. The first few rows will be roped off for Silent Auction winner families. Students must remain with their parents until 6:15PM when they should be escorted to the Parish Hall to meet their teachers. Please remember that we are using the church as you would at a Sunday Liturgy. I will excuse parents and guests who are attending the Band Concert to leave for the Parish Hall so they may be seated for the 7:30PM performance. The remaining families will be excused shortly afterward to proceed to the gym for refreshments. Student performers, parents, and guests at the Band Concert will be excused upon the performance's completion to enjoy refreshments in the gym. I would ask that each St. Ann family bring one dozen cookies, brownies, etc. for refreshments and the school will furnish the coffee and juice.

Mr. Robert Kellogg, Principal
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Cadillac, MI 49601

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www.stanncadillac.org

I Spy Awards

Molly Anderson, 3rd
Noa Bengelink, JrK
Emily Burt, 2nd
Kameryn Clous, 2nd
Ben Drabik, 2nd
Madi Drabik, 3rd
Gabe Drouillard, 4th
Jordin Ellens, 6th
Mr. Emington
Luke Enyeart, 3rd

Sean Feister, 2nd
Zoey Feister, 2nd
Mitchell Hamilton, 4th
Julia Jezak, 2nd
Maddie Johnson, 4th
Sean Krannitz, JrK
Jon LaMonde, 4th (x2)
Julian LaMonde, 4th
Molly McKeever, 3rd
Ian Munch, 6th

Maggie Neiss, 4th
Quinn Notarian, 4th
Abbie Peltier, 4th
Emma Ruether, 2nd (x2)
Lindsey Tonello, 2nd
2nd Grade Class
3rd Grade Class
7th Grade Class

Playground Superstars

Quinn Hess, JrK
Brooke Ellens, K
Taylor Owens, K
Isaac Blaszak, 1st
Frannie Kiomento, 1st
Lindsay Tonello, 2nd
Gracie Tweedale, 2nd
Nicholas Blaszak, 3rd
Alix Matzke, 3rd
Brooke Kleinsorge, 4th
Abbie Peltier, 4th
Jim Canfield, 5th
Arianna Weidemann, 5th
Ashley Hudson, 6th
Noah Peltier, 6th
Chaz Kamaloski, 7th
Jack Valice, 7th



Granola with Grandparents



St. Nicholas' Visit

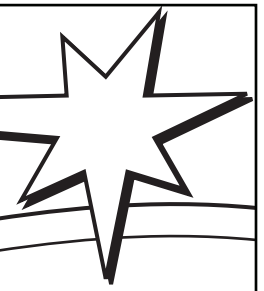
Food March

"I just wanted you to know how excited, more like ecstatic, my friend was to receive all the great food for Thanksgiving! I really wish that the students could have had the honor to be part of such a wonderful giving. My friend literally cried and jumped up and down when she saw all the food, especially the turkey. She said she doesn't remember the last time she had one. My friend is a wonderful lady who had polio when she was a little girl and has many disabilities because of it. She doesn't get a lot of help and really has nothing. She sends so many thanks to St. Ann School. I just wanted to share the experience with you. I hope you have a great Christmas!"

*Rhonda Bushor
Kindergarten Parent*



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2011

St. Ann School

Fr. Murphy, Pastor Bob Kellogg, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

Mass Changes

As of November 27th, you will have noticed that some of the prayers and responses we say at Mass are different than those to which we have been accustomed. Many of the changes use more poetic and reverential language. This is an opportunity to look at the familiar Mass with new eyes and a new appreciation.



A lived faith

Enrolling children in Catholic school or sending them to parish religious education is an important first step toward raising them in the Catholic faith. But it is only the beginning. The most important part is showing children how to live their faith each and every day. That kind of education can only come from a Catholic parent.

God came

The miracle of Christmas is that the God of love came to us. Isn't that amazing? Even more incredible, he hasn't left. Look for ways you and your family can find Jesus in the world this Christmas.



Put Christ's love back into your family's Christmas

Shop the malls in October and you may see Christmas decorations. Even grocery stores play carols before Thanksgiving. Don't let the barrage of holiday selling rob you and your family of a truly joyful season. Try these suggestions for reducing stress, boosting joy, and putting Christ's love back into Christmas.

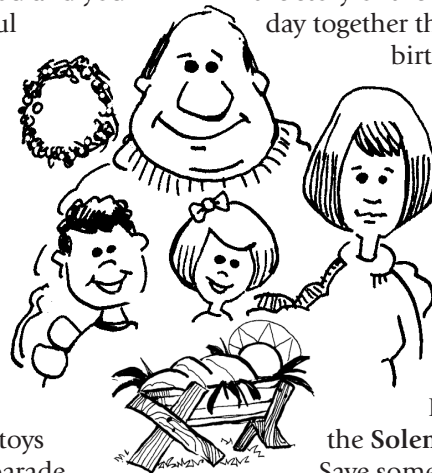
Avoid Christmas commercials. Nothing kills the spirit of Christmas like children pleading for over-priced, poorly made toys they just saw in the parade of holiday commercials. Instead, record the good Christmas shows and fast-forward through the commercials. Or, turn off commercial television and rent Christmas movies or

check them out of the library.

Separate your Christmas celebrations. Reserve December 25th for Christ's birth. Attend Mass, read the story of the Nativity, spend the day together throwing Jesus a happy birthday celebration. Let the 26th be the day for the secular celebration.

Make it last. Celebrate each day of the whole Catholic Christmas Season. Gather family close for a special meal on the **Feast of the Holy Family** (Dec. 30).

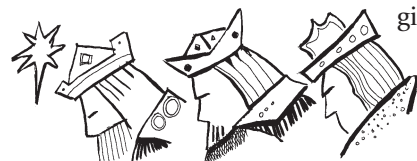
Pray for world peace on the **Solemnity of Mary** (Jan. 1). Save some Christmas gifts to give on the **Epiphany** (Jan. 8) to honor the Magi's gifts. Renew your Baptismal promises on the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** (Jan. 9), the last official day of the Christmas Season.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why did the Magi give gifts to Jesus?

The Magi knew that they were traveling to greet a new king and brought gifts that were appropriate at the time for a king. Over the years, the Church has reinterpreted the gifts in terms of Jesus' life.

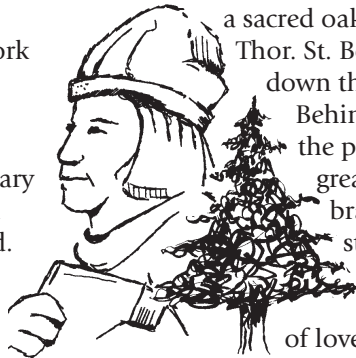


They gave him gold to recognize his royalty. The expensive gift of Frankincense, often burned to carry prayers to Heaven, was a symbol of Jesus' priesthood. His last gift, Myrrh, was used in burial preparations, a sign that Jesus would suffer and die for us.

The Christmas Tree teaches about love

Like many of our Christmas traditions, the background of the Christmas tree is a patchwork quilt of many cultures. One piece concerns St. Boniface, a missionary in the time of Pope St. Gregory II.

St. Boniface's greatest challenge as a missionary was to eliminate pagan superstitions that kept people from accepting the Gospel he preached. One Christmas Eve, St. Boniface was traveling through the woods with his companions and came upon the townspeople gathered around



a sacred oak about to offer a human sacrifice to their god, Thor. St. Boniface stopped the sacrifice and chopped down the oak.

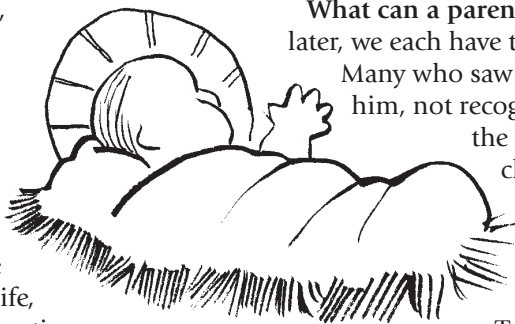
Behind the oak stood a fir tree. St. Boniface asked the people to bring it into town and set up in the great hall of the duke. They placed candles on its branches and listened while St. Boniface told the story of the Nativity and the Baby who would grow up to be the Savior and sacrifice himself for all of us. Many were captivated by the story of love and were converted.

Scripture LESSON

John 1:1-18 Who Is Jesus?

This month we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. By coming to Earth, living among us and teaching us, he taught us about God and his nature. We are able to share in God's divine life through Jesus's life, death and Resurrection.

In this gospel, St. John explained that Jesus took on our humanity because he loves us and wanted to share our experience. He chose to live as we live. He experienced what we experience.



Remembering that, we can also know with confidence that Jesus understands us.

What can a parent do? Sooner or later, we each have to make a choice.

Many who saw Jesus rejected him, not recognizing him as the Messiah. Help children to make a deliberate choice to recognize Jesus as their own personal Savior.

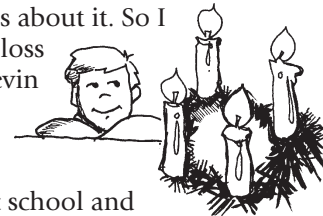
Teach them to ask,

"Do I live my life as if

I'm a child of God?" Tell them what it means to live as a child of God and to follow Jesus. Jesus is our friend and brother.

Parent TALK

Growing up, my family didn't practice many Catholic devotions. I mean, we went to church, but that's about it. So I was at a loss when Kevin came home from



Catholic school and asked if we could light an Advent wreath. I had seen them in church, but we didn't own one.

I went online and read that an Advent wreath is a symbol of the four-week season before Christmas when we await the coming of the Savior. We could make our own using a Styrofoam ring, three purple candles, a pink one, and some greenery. So I got the supplies and we made a family Advent wreath.

During the busy season it was nice to take a few quiet moments to turn off the lights, light our Advent candles and say our Advent prayers.

Something else that has meant a lot to me is knowing that we joined millions of families all over the world in this beloved ancient tradition.

Feasts & Celebrations

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

Dec. 8 – **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. The day we celebrate Mary's conception in St. Ann's womb, free from Original Sin. A Holy Day of Obligation.

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. Some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came while in prison. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

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



Our Mission

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