

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 1, 2017

GALA KICK-OFF AND PLANNING PARTY!

SAVE THE DATE: THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 3 (by Door C). ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE GALA KICK OFF AND PLANNING "PARTY." WE REALLY NEED THE IDEAS AND ASSISTANCE OF ALL PARENTS TO MAKE THIS EVENT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IT CAN BE. COME AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR. WE WILL GATHER WITH PIZZA AND SODA TO BEGIN THE PLANNING OF THIS IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER, and TACKLE BOX WILL BE OPEN FOR FREE CHILDCARE (pizza too!) **THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO GET MORE INVOLVED AT THE SCHOOL AND TAKE A LARGER LEADERSHIP ROLE! JOIN US!**

Dear Parents,

With Advent still one week away, today we celebrate the conclusion of the liturgical year with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This important observance, more commonly known as the Feast of Christ the King, is considered the final Sunday of Ordinary Time and the last one before Advent. **This feast reminds us that whatever earthly powers may do or ask of us, Christ is the true king that should reign in our hearts.**

Because Christ the King falls so late this calendar year, we are shortchanged a full week of my favorite liturgical season: Advent. However, this week's Gospel is a perfect lead-in for our observance of Advent with the reminder that all people will be judged on the mercy they show to the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, those in need – whether they are Jesus' disciples or not. This underscores an important challenge to all of us who hear this Gospel. Those in need of our world belong to Christ, and in showing mercy to them, we meet the Christ who will also come as judge.

ADVENT OBSERVANCE – PRAYER, REFLECTION AND LOVE IN ACTION

I'll send a newsletter at the end of this week that goes into more detail about how we observe and celebrate Advent at the school. In addition to prayer, reflection, and good deeds (explained more thoroughly next newsletter), an all school gathering is held weekly to assist those in need. This community is already so generous, so please participate only as you are able. Here are the items we will be collecting if you would like to start thinking/shopping to participate:

- **A toy for Gifts Anonymous – any age from 2 to teen (collection on December 4th-11th).**

- **Dollar store personal hygiene items** that are small – hotel sized shampoos, toothbrushes, combs, hair scrunches, deodorant – items that could fit into a small sandwich bag for our mission outreach (**collection Dec. 4- 8th**).
- **CAER Food Collection** (in conjunction with the December/June Birthday Mass on **Wednesday, December 13**).
- **Socks for our Veterans** – mens/womans white socks any size/style (**collection December 11-19**).

CHRISTMAS CONCERT INFORMATION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

TWO PERFORMANCES 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.

ALL CHILDREN (PRESCHOOL/PREK/K-5) PARTICIPATE IN THE CONCERT

MUSICAL PRELUDE – Prior to each program, a musical prelude will be held to showcase the individual musical talents of our students who take piano or instrument lessons. This is not meant to be another program, just to simply provide background music as guests enter the church. Children in grades K-5 who take music lessons are invited to volunteer to share one piece of music that they have prepared and practiced. This does not have to be Christmas music, but it does need to be something they are able to play without assistance or coaching. If you child would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Olinger. Students must be signed up to perform.

PRELUDE 12-12:30 afternoon performance; 6-6:30 evening performance.

STUDENT DRESS: All children are requested to wear their uniforms for the afternoon (12:30) performance. Children may wear their “Sunday best” for the 6:30 performance (or their uniform). Please wear your “best” uniform to school on that day.

PRESCHOOL AND PREKINDERGARTEN - The preschool and prekindergarten are asked to attend both performances on Tuesday, December 20th (12:30 and 6:30). Since the T/TH kids will already be in session on this day, ALL the students from the M/W/F class (and the T/TH kids who don't usually come for the afternoon session) need to meet in the preschool room at 12:00. All preschool and prekindergarten students should assemble in the preschool room for the evening performance between 6:00-6:15 Mrs. Rajkowski will have further directions for picking up your child at the conclusion of each performance.

SOCIAL: A coffee/cookie/juice social will be held in the school cafeteria following both performances. The cafeteria will be used exclusively for the afternoon performance, as it should provide ample seating and space for our guests. For the evening performance we will also have cookies/refreshment in the gym, so that no one has to wait too long in line for his or her refreshment. The cafeteria will also be

available for the evening performance, to allow an option to sit down for our friends and relatives who need it.

MORE INFO ABOUT THE PROGRAM will follow in upcoming newsletters. For now, make sure you have the date and time saved, and invite your friends and family to this wonderful way to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Volunteers are needed to assist with both the afternoon and evening performance. Please help as you are able.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 –

School resumes at usual hours - 8:20 start time.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 –

Band and instrument lessons for grade 4

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 –

NO SCHOOL MASS TODAY! Check 11/30/17

THURSDAY, NOV. 30 - FEAST OF ST. ANDREW!

- 10:00 – Mass – We don't have our usual Wednesday Mass this week, opting instead to celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saint: Andrew. **We have a special liturgy assisted by the students of Grade Two on the Feast of St. Andrew, Thursday, November 30th at 10:00 a.m.**
- Following the Mass, **the third through fifth graders** will join Fr. Mark in **praying the Rosary and beginning a novena** that starts on the Feast of St. Andrew and ends on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. All parents and families are welcome to join us in prayer.
- Fifth grade band and instrument lessons as scheduled.
- 6:00 p.m. Mass for adults/families that would like to celebrate St. Andrew!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 –

- Spirit Day – Jeans and spirit wear!
- **GALA KICK-OFF AND PLANNING PARTY!**
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Last but not least, our church and school website is in the final phases of being reconstructed, and it is looking great! To make our school site even more attractive to interested parents, **we could use testimonials from past and current parents and/or students with short, meaningful sentiments on what Catholic education at St. Andrew means to you and your family.** Email me your statement, and I'll let you know if we need more information. Thank you!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. Know that you are held in prayer each and every day in my prayers of thanksgiving – as I am so grateful for the love you share with me through your wonderful children.

Back to school tomorrow!
Ms. Scipioni