

**ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**  
**DECEMBER 1 - 9, 2017**

Dear Parents,

*In the prayerbook, "Living Faith," St. Augustine is quoted asking, "What does love look like?" His answer was not in flowery language or theological text. He simply said, "Love has hands to help others. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others. That's what love looks like."*

Advent is a great season of hopefulness and love as we prepare to remember and celebrate the birthday of Jesus. **Advent is truly a time when God calls us to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters.** It challenges us to live and speak the word of God in our daily lives, and to see the love of Christ shine through us as we are.

**As we are.** One might think from the words of St. Augustine that we should do greater things during this season than we would normally do. But maybe St. Augustine might be telling us to be on the alert – ready to use our eyes and ears to notice when someone we know (or even someone we only "know of") is hurting physically, mentally or financially. We should then use our head and our hands to find some practical way we could show our love ... with a call, a card, a pie, an invitation to come for coffee and talk, or whatever help we can afford to offer.

**ADVENT ANGEL – PRAYER, REFLECTION AND LOVE IN ACTION**

St. Andrew School community prepares for the coming of our Savior through our Advent Angel program of prayer and giving. An all school gathering is held weekly as an opportunity for reflection, prayer, and to assist those in need. This community is already so generous, so please participate only as you are able:

- **GIFTING: A toy for Gifts Anonymous – any age from 2 to teen (collection on December 1st – 11th).** For our first week of the program we are collecting **unwrapped toys for children** ages two through teens to assist Gifts Anonymous – a program sponsored by CAER to give gifts to children in our local community. For the second week of Advent we will be collecting **dollar store personal hygiene items** that are small (i.e. hotel sized shampoos, toothbrushes, combs, hair scrunches, deodorant, hair pins – items that could fit into a small sandwich bag for our mission outreach). In conjunction with the December / June Birthday Mass on December 13<sup>th</sup> we will have a **food collection for the CAER Food shelf**, and for our final week we will join the parish in supporting the "**Socks for Veterans**" program.
- **GOOD DEEDS/PREPARING OUR HEARTS** – Paper hearts will be posted as an outward reminder of the inward changes happening due to good deeds and acts of kindness to others. A heart shaped Advent calendar will post an idea a day of good deeds and acts of kindness to others.

- **PRAYER** – The kids will chose prayer partners in the school community, and are praying for their special “prayer buddy.” They are making a special effort to pray for one another. *The kids and you are encouraged to pray for those for whom you don’t always pray, for the intentions of those who may need/request it, for the school community (we always need prayer!) or for whatever God puts upon your heart!*

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 - TONIGHT!!

**GALA KICK-OFF AND PLANNING PARTY!**

**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!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - First Sunday of Advent

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 -

- **ADVENT ANGEL PRAYER SERVICE (students) – If you chose to participate, we are collecting unwrapped toys for Gifts Anonymous** (locally sponsored by CAER). Any new gift for tots through teens. Gift cards are also greatly appreciated, especially for the teens.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> The “eve” of the Feast of St. Nicholas

- **Students will leave a boot or shoe on top of their locker** in anticipation of St. Nicholas coming tonight! *Some children leave their shoes out the night before the Feast of St. Nicholas, hoping they will find treats there in the morning – left by a secret giver who was filled with the love of Jesus.*
- Students in grade 1 have a field trip today.
- Band and instrument lessons for grade 4

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - **THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS**

*Born about 17 centuries ago in what is now the country of Turkey, Nicholas was a kindly bishop known for his generosity to the poor. He gave away his money to those in need, but he tried to do it secretly so no one would know he was responsible. When people found out and praised Nicholas, he reminded them that God was the source of all goodness. (the evolution of Santa Claus)*

- Students check their shoes at school to see if St. Nick brought a small gift!
- NO MASS TODAY for school - SEE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 –

- Band and instrument lessons for Grade 5.
- 6:30 – Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 –

- **THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - 10:00 a.m. – Mass**, assisted by the students in grade 4. Today is a HOLY DAY OF OPPORTUNITY (another chance to sing and praise our God). *The common misunderstanding about this feast is that it celebrates the conception of Christ. This feast centers on the belief that Mary was conceived without sin. This feast celebrates that Mary was chosen long before she was born to play this most special role in the incarnation of Christ – Remembering that she still had the free will to choose to be the Mother of Jesus. MASS ALSO AT 7:00 a.m.*
- **STUDENTS SHOULD BRING THEIR donation envelopes (or a small donation of their own) to put in the collection basket today.**
- Students in grades 3-5 will stay after Mass to say the rosary with Fr. Mark.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**SANTA BREAKFAST with the Knights of Columbus.** Join your parish family and have a delicious breakfast made by the KC's following both Masses on Sunday. A free will offering would be appreciated, but not necessary. Have pictures taken with Santa!

**UPCOMING DECEMBER REMINDERS:**

- 12/11** – Spirit Council rings the Kettle Bell at Cub Foods from 2:00-4:00 today.  
**12/13** – Birthday Mass for December/June birthdays. Food collection for CAER  
**12/14** – There will be a combined band practice for grades 4 and 5. Kids must have their instruments on this day. 2:45-3:30.  
**12/18** – Afterschool band practice for grades 4 and 5. 2:45-3:30.  
**12/22** - No school, Christmas vacation begins.

**FIFTH GRADE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD TRIP**

Fifth grade parents are reminded that information was sent home from Mrs. Laabs on regarding the upcoming (February), three day environmental field trip to Long Lake Conservation Camp. All information regarding cost, supplies, health concerns, chaperones, etc. was included, and needs your review and attention.

If you are considering chaperoning for this field trip, check with Mrs. Stefano to make sure you have a current background check in place and have met all safe environment requirements. If this is not in place you will not be able to participate.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT INFORMATION**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017**  
**TWO PERFORMANCES 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.**

**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.**

**MORE INFO ABOUT THE PROGRAM** was in last week's letter, and will be included in next week's newsletter as well. 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.

**NEXT PARENT VOLUNTEER EVENT:**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SOCIALS**

**Volunteer sign up can be found here:**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fafad23aafe3-standrew1>

Volunteers are needed to assist with the coffee/cookie/juice socials following both programs (afternoon and evening). Help is needed in prepping the cookies, etc., serving and clean up.

**REMEMBER THAT ALL PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DONATE AT LEAST 10 HOURS OF SERVICE TO ST. A'S A YEAR.**

May God continue to bless you abundantly for all you do for his children!