

Christmas Program Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Our students have been very busy practicing and getting ready for our annual Christmas Program for Saint Andrew Catholic School. The program is being held next Tuesday, December 18.

We will have a musical prelude prior to the start of each program showcasing the individual musical talents of our student volunteers, and we hope this will provide beautiful background music as you enter the Church.

Afternoon Prelude: 12:00 PM
Afternoon Concert: 12:30 PM

Evening Prelude: 6:00 PM
Evening Concert: 6:30 PM

This beautiful and entertaining program will be presented by our students in Preschool through Grade Five.

Irregular Schedule for Students Next Week

Next week will be busy for students who will be both preparing for and also performing in our annual Christmas Program. We know that changing the regular routine of students can be challenging and stressful for them. Here is a summary overview of next week:

Monday, 12-17: Advent Prayer Service and Christmas Program Practice in the Morning

Tuesday, 12-18: Christmas Program in the afternoon and evening.

Wednesday, 12-19: School Mass – Birthday Mass PE will be offered on this day.

Thursday, 12-20: Afternoon Christmas Movies

Advent Project: Unwrapped Toys for Children



For Advent this year, we are collecting unwrapped toys for children in need within the Elk River community. The unwrapped toys are placed in a manger, which we have placed in the foyer of the main entrance of our school.

Thank you so much to the many families and students who have already provided an unwrapped gift. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Our final day for collecting the unwrapped gifts is Thursday, December 13, 2018. The gifts that we have received will be picked up early Friday morning.

Christmas Movies on Friday



We will be offering an afternoon of Christmas movie viewing for our students. The students in grades K-2 will be watching *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* and *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*. The two movies are rated G.

The students in grades 3-5 will be watching *Home Alone*, which is rated PG. If you would prefer your child not watch this movie, please contact me at tdonlon@saint-andrew.net so other arrangements can be made.

Please know that we understand completely that it is the right and prerogative of our parents to choose the types of movies that their children view.

Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families



Each family has been given a small weekly guide titled, *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families*, which provides a brief reflection on the Gospel for each Sunday and Holyday for this year.

December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

Gospel: Luke 3: 10-18

Reflection: “What should we do” people ask today when confronted with the concerns of the day. No action can cure all the violence or comfort all mourners. But an individual’s concern can warm another’s heart and lift burdens. Not only do we give of our cloak for heat but also our smiles and kindness. This warmth keeps us hopeful in times of dark and cold. When all around us grows dim, we look to Christ, whose light we share with others. Once shared, the light continues to grow until, with Christ’s coming, we emerge from the shadows.

On the Way to Mass: What kind of light brings you the most joy? How do you share that with others?

On the Way Home from Mass: Why is the candle this Sunday pink while the others are purple?

We hope that you will make a concerted effort to use this guide during this season of Advent. Also, to receive or exchange ideas, be encouraged with friendly reminders, or get tips for family faith-sharing, please follow this link to register at www.saint-andrew.net/celebrate.



Family Adoration Specifically, for Families with Young Children

Have you ever felt stressed out bringing your children to Mass? Parents know that sitting still is hard for children and being quiet is equally challenging. We want parents to feel comfortable at Mass. We know that many parents are feeling hypersensitive about how their children are acting. Sadly, there are some families who choose not to attend Mass because they think their family is distracting others at Mass.



We know parents feel more comfortable being at “family focused” occasions where kids are invited and welcome. Saint Andrew is offering a new opportunity for families. You are invited to Family Adoration from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on Sunday evening, December 16.

Family Adoration is held in the main church and is for people of all ages from babies to adults. You are not required or expected to stay for the whole time, instead, you are invited to visit for as long as you would like. Adoration will not be as quiet as it is in the chapel, but the warmth and companionship of other families will enhance this time before the Real Presence of Jesus.