

December, 2017
Learning for Life!

Parent News

"Learning To Love God and Each Other"

Living Faith – Engaging Minds - Embracing Community – Inspiring Integrity

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Advent Giving Program and Circle

Christmas is quickly approaching and here at Holy Trinity Catholic School we are working to make Advent a time for preparing our hearts for Jesus. One way that we do this is by our Christmas Giving Program, our Angel Tree. Thank you so much for your generosity this year and during the coming holiday season as we remember those less fortunate. For our Christmas Giving Program we are collecting

gifts for those in need. We have a Giving Tree in our school which contains ornaments of varying value from a few dollars to \$15.00 or more. We are asking children to choose an ornament from the tree and return it with money or the gift listed anytime up to Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Items must be ready to distribute on Fri., Dec. 15 in the morning.

Please do not wrap gifts,

we give them unwrapped to the parents.

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Caroling at Heritage House

On Friday, December 15, the student body, except for our preschool, will walk two blocks to the Heritage House, a senior living home, to sing Christmas carols. We will go as Prayer Partners, the eighth will walk with the second grade, the seventh with the first grade and the sixth with the kindergarten, so that we have partners walking and singing together. All parents who have been through the Safe Environment Program are invited to join us for the

fun, beginning around 8:45 am.

After caroling the students will return to school for hot chocolate and donuts. The hot chocolate is provided by the Home and School. **There will be an 11:30 dismissal on Friday, December 15th so the morning should go by very quickly.** Many thanks to the **Knights of Columbus** who will provide the donuts and Christmas Music for the students when they return from caroling.

The students may wear free dress clothes on the 15th and it is fun if they wear any Christmas hats, scarfs, elf ears etc. for caroling. Remember to dress warm!

Extended Care should bring a lunch.





Advent Activities

The Liturgical Season of Advent began on Sunday, December 3. Advent begins the new year in the Catholic Church and is a time when Christians are asked to prepare themselves for the Lord's coming at Christmas. The readings at Mass remind us to "stay awake", "get ready", that the Lord is near and that we should prepare by repentance and alms giving.

Here at school we will meet on Monday mornings for a prayer service that will remind us of how we should prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. During the service, led by various grades in the school, students will do some beautiful liturgical dancing and bring light to our darkened chapel. Every classroom as well as our chapel will have an Advent wreath. The

lighting of an Advent wreath is a beautiful tradition to begin in your home if you have not used it in the past.

We are sending home a copy of a simple prayer that could be said as you light your Advent candle at the evening meal and some other suggestions for family Advent activities.

"Please send a pillow and a blanket on December 1 so we can snuggle in for "A Christmas Carol."

A Christmas Carol Afternoon December 1

This year's Student Council has suggested a Christmas activity that will be fun for everyone. All of the children will watch "A Christmas Carol" with their Prayer Partners on the afternoon of December 1.

This is a full day but students may wear comfy sweats so they can snuggle down for the movie. Students may also bring **pillows and**

blankets if they wish to watch the movie. We will begin the movie about 12:45 so please try to avoid doctor appointments, etc. on the afternoon of the 1st as it will be hard to get children out of the classroom.

Student Council has had many great ideas so far this school year and we thank them for their input.



Christmas Concerts

Two amazing Christmas Concerts are scheduled in December. The **2,3 and 4 grades have an Advent Concert** scheduled on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Parish Center. The students will practice in the morning on December

13 and are to be **dropped off at the Parish Center between 7:30am and 7:50 am.** We are in need of parents certified through PGC to bring them back to the school around 9:00am. Also, students have been asked to sing at a tree lighting ceremony at Tiemeyer

Park on **Friday, Dec. 1 from 6:00 -8:00.** Ms. Nina Bono, our second grade teacher, will lead the singing. All children are invited to join.



First Reconciliation for Second Grade

We are delighted that our second grade students have reached that time in their spiritual life when they are about to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They have been preparing for this day since August and are ready to receive the grace of this Sacrament.

One Reconciliation Service, for students from all three parishes, has been scheduled for Holy Trinity Parish Church on Tuesday evening, December 5 at 7:00 pm.

Parents are asked to bring cookies or brownies as the families will have a chance to share desserts at a little reception in the parish gym after each child has completed reconciliation.

All of the priests from the three parishes, All Souls, Holy Trinity and Our Lady of the Presentation, will be at the service as well as other priests. We ask that parents go to Reconciliation as witness to their faith, **sometime before December 5.** This allows your child to see you, the most important

person in their life, as a great example of how to live and how to ask God's forgiveness. This is a perfect way to prepare for Christmas!

Congratulations to all our second grade students who are celebrating this wonderful event in their spiritual lives.



Santa's Workshop

We are hosting a Santa's Workshop again this school year on **December 4 through December 8.** Your child will have the opportunity to purchase inexpensive gifts (1.00 to \$8.00) for siblings, grandparents, moms and dads and other family members. **Santa's Workshop is an opportunity for students to buy a small gift for someone else** rather than buying something for themselves. We hope that each child will then feel the joy of giving on

Christmas Day as well as the joy of receiving!

Parents can designate a specific amount of money and the number of gifts they wish their child to buy and we will see that the children purchase what they need. Gift bags will be available free with each purchase so the children can keep their presents a surprise until Christmas. This is not a money-maker; it is a service to our school families that allows the children to experience the joy of giving to others.

Santa's Workshop will be open at lunch and at various times throughout the school day and after school on some days. Parents may want to visit the Workshop in order to help with suggestions.

This year Santa's Workshop will be set up in the Art Room in the main school building.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. On this date we celebrate the fact that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was herself born without original sin. **We will have a 9:00 Mass on this date and parents are invited to join us**

Santa's Breakfast

Please join us for Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the Home & School Association. The breakfast is set for Saturday morning, Dec. 9 here at school. The breakfast will run from 8:00 -11:30 and will include a picture with Santa, crafts and a pancake and sausage breakfast. Santa gets to

the breakfast around 9:00am.

Advance reservations are not required, but will save you money!

The cost is **\$5.00 per participant ahead and \$6.00 at the door**. A flier with more details is included with this newsletter.



FAITH

Holy Trinity School in St. Ann and St. Ann School in Normandy wrote a grant for a new toddler faith program called FAITH. It is modeled on Parents as Teachers, but focuses on the emotional and spiritual development of the child. We are piloting the program in late January or

early February and are now training adults to make home visits to share the the program in four visits.

If you have a two-year old and would be willing to help us pilot this new program, which we hope to expand to the entire

Archdiocese in the future, please call school (426-8966) or return the information sheet that will go home in January. Look for more information about this new (free!) program to come home soon.

Happy Birthday Jesus Parties and Christmas Break

All of the students in grades K through 8 will celebrate "Happy Birthday Jesus Parties" on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 19, beginning at 12:00 noon.

All of the parties for grades **K - 8** include lunch food, games and/or crafts. We invite any parent who is certified through **Protecting God's Children** and has had the background check to join us for our parties.

Students in our preschool will celebrate with a **song-fest** Wednesday, Dec. 13 **in the school chapel beginning at 10:00.**

Tuesday, December 19 is our last day of school before Christmas break. Preschool students will dismiss at 11:00 and students in grades K-8 will be dismissed at 1:30 pm

No hot lunch will be served on party day. **If your child is in preschool and going to Extended Care, you need to send a bag lunch.** **No Extended Care or school Dec. 20 –Jan. 3.** Classes resume for all on Wednesday, January 3



St. Lucia Celebration, December 13

The eighth grade girls have a busy day on December 13 when they will help us celebrate the feast of Saint Lucia.

Saint Lucia is an Italian Saint, a martyr, who was "adopted" by the Swedes who still celebrate her feast day. She is associated with the idea of light because December 13, her feast day, fell on what was calculated to be the longest day of the year in the Middle Ages. Our eighth grade girls will dress in white with a wreath of leaves and paper candles on their heads and serve the students a special treat while they tell her story. Ask your child about the celebration when they come home on the 13th !

January Highlights

We return to school on January 3.

8th grade Confirmation Rite of Enrollment. Jan. 21

Home & School Meeting on January 16

Catholic Schools Week Jan. 29 -Feb.2 (activities every day including **Parent Prayer Service and Virtue Night with pizza on Feb. 1 at 6:00 pm**)

Movie Night at Holy Trinity Parish Center

You are invited to drop your children off at Holy Trinity parish Center for a Movie Night on **Saturday, December 2.**

Parents need to come inside to drop off children and fill out an emergency contact form, which is required by the archdiocese for any event such as this.

The evening will start at 6:00 pm, children must be picked up no later than 10:00pm.

Enjoy the time to Christmas shop!

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FastDirect

Grades Kindergarten through eight may access grades through FastDirect at

www.fastdir.com/holytrinityschool

We're on the Web!

See us at:

holytrinity-stann.org/

Eighth Grade Service Activity

Our eighth grade students will work at a city food pantry, making Christmas baskets and stocking shelves, as they donate the money and canned goods collected at the Thanksgiving food drive. Thank you for your generosity! They will be gone most of the day on Monday, December 18th. Keep our eighth grade students in your prayers as they work for our community.

