



This Week:

Thursday: Blood Drive in the hall; 5th and 6th grade Religion Bowl Meet @ St. Mary's, Newton

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Highlights from Mrs. Hohl

The Advent Season is Upon Us!

This Sunday, December 3, marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and the commencement of the Advent Season. Advent means "arrival" or "coming". During the next four weeks, we recall Jesus's arrival into our world as an infant and prepare our hearts for a deeper relationship with Him as we await His second coming. Although this is a joyous time, we also intend to "let every heart prepare Him room" by planning many special activities during the month of December. As a reminder, our theme this year is JOY (Jesus, Others, You) and we will be reinforcing this theme during the Advent season. Some of the activities we have planned at school include...

- Advent adoration each week (Jesus)
- Fr. Dan will lead us in a special adoration on Dec. 5th (Jesus)
- Visit from St. Nick on Dec. 5th (Jesus)
- Jesse Tree ornaments and explanation following each daily Mass (Jesus)
- Since Advent is known as "the little Lent", we want to focus on others by practicing alms giving. During the week of Dec. 11, we will be having a Penny Wars competition to purchase Scrip cards for the St. Anthony Family Shelter. (Others)
- School-wide confession on Dec. 19th (You)

As your family prepares for Advent at home, I ran across some meaningful ideas and possible traditions that may be of interest to you...

- Find ways to incorporate the ideas presented by the USCCB in the Family Advent Calendar (attached)
- Light the candle(s) on your Advent wreath at dinner and read from a daily Advent devotional.
- After decorating your Christmas tree, offer a Christmas tree blessing. (available on the USCCB website)
- Discuss and celebrate the many feast days during the Advent season:
 - St. Nicholas- Dec. 6th
 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception- Dec. 8th
 - Feast of St. Juan Diego- Dec. 9th
 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe- Dec. 12th
 - Feast of St. Lucy- Dec. 13
 - Feast of St. John of the Cross- Dec. 14th



Christ is the eternal prophet, priest and king. As members of Christ's Mystical Body, we commit ourselves to carry on His mission of teaching, sanctifying and governing the People of God.

The Spirituality of Stewardship

“Since its earliest days, the Catholic Church has exercised a preferential option for the poor. The Gospel pulls no punches in proclaiming, again and again, our obligations to come to the aid of those who are poor. In fact, St. John Chrysostom went so far as to chastise those who refuse to aid the poor thieves: “Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.”

Use whatever gift you have received to serve others.



Smith, Colleen. Catholic Stewardship: Sharing God's Gifts. Harrington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2001. Print.



Due to the Blood Drive, Extended Day will be held in the Middle School basement this Thursday. Please knock (loudly) on the south basement windows and Mrs. Seiler will let you in to pick up your children.

Save your loose change!

Dec. 11 – Dec. 15th

During the second week of Advent (love), we will be holding a Penny Wars competition at school. Students are encouraged to bring in their loose change (or dollars) to contribute. We'll use the money to purchase Scrip cards for the St. Anthony Family Shelter.



Crusader Café News

St Joseph School is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating, nutrition education, physical activity and integrated school based wellness. Please visit our school website for a link to the complete wellness program offered at St. Joseph Catholic School.

Crusader basketball games this week:

No games this week.

Upcoming games:

12/9– 8th grade boys v. St. Anne @ St. Francis @ 10:00 AM

12/9– 8th grade girls v. St. Joe Wichita @ SEAS @ 11:00 AM

12/9– 6th grade girls v. Holy Cross Lutheran @ Resurrection @ 8:00 AM



Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 in the Gym



Mrs. Webb has asked that the students wear nice dress clothes; no jeans, please. Boots are allowed.



From the School Office...

If there is a change in your family's carpooling arrangements or after school transportation plans, please do your best to notify the school office by 2:00 PM. Thank you!



Blood Drive

We will be hosting a blood drive this Thursday from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the parish hall. You can register online at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/give/drive/driveSearchList.jsp?zipSponsor=StJosephOst>

Or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment.

PTO News

- Each year, the generous spirit of our parents compels many to give the teachers and staff gifts of appreciation at Christmas time. If you choose to do so again this year, please consider a cash donation that will be divided among the teachers and staff. Donations to the PTO Christmas Fund are welcome until Friday, Dec. 16th. Simply put your donation (of any amount) in a marked envelope and send it to the office. Thank you!



DID YOU KNOW?

WITH 171 STUDENTS THIS YEAR, OUR OVERALL PRE-K- 8TH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS UP! HOWEVER, OUR K-8 CLASS SIZE REMAINS LOW WITH A CLASS AVERAGE OF JUST UNDER 16 STUDENTS PER CLASS.

No School, Friday, December 8th

for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.



Health Corner

5 ways to lose weight healthily

1. Maintain a balanced diet, adequate intake of whole grain-based foods, reduce intake of foods high in refined carbohydrates (white rice, white bread, noodle), sugar & oil



2. At least 150 minutes of exercise a week



3. Change habits that contribute to obese or overweight

4. Maintain good and positive emotion



5. Be positive when face with weight rebound

GoodMorning Global

Free Babysitting

St. Anthony's, Garden Plain, CYM is offering free babysitting on Saturday, December 2nd from 9am to 4pm at the St. Anthony's Parish Hall, Garden Plain. Children can come anytime. Please bring a sack lunch if they will be present at lunchtime.