

The Sentinel

December 20, 2017

Principal's Message

On Monday evening the students presented a beautiful Christmas Pageant, providing families the opportunity to enjoy a time of reflection during the busy season of Advent. Through music and narration, the children portrayed a living nativity scene that literally brought to life the true meaning of Christmas. I congratulate all of them on a wonderfully stirring performance and thank Mr. Tessier and Miss McPhilamy for all that they did to prepare for this much-beloved tradition.

During Advent, many of the children completed classroom projects in which they considered "gifts" they might present to Jesus at Christmas. In some grade levels, the students actually wrote letters, thanking Him for coming into the world as our Savior. I was particularly struck by the words that one of the first graders shared with me during Activity Day last week. After she read her letter, she smiled and told me that there was more on the back of the page. As she turned it over, she proudly read the words that she had written to Jesus, "I am one of your people". Her desire to be recognized by Jesus as one of his followers was both precious and inspiring. And within her message lies the truth that, through the very life of Christ, we are forever claimed as His. We are, indeed, His people.

On behalf of the faculty & staff of All Saints Catholic School, I wish all of you a blessed Christmas Season! May the holiday be filled with great joy as you gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory, and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gift of Human Sexuality Program – Parent Meeting (January 10 @ 7:00 p.m.)

Central to the mission of Catholic education is a commitment to the formation of the whole person within the light of the teachings of the Gospel. At All Saints our effort to

educate all dimensions of the child ~ spiritual, intellectual, social, and emotional, has been an essential and consistent element of our mission.

As a Catholic school, All Saints also affirms the role of parents as the primary educators of their children and we are privileged to have the opportunity to work with you as partners in this regard. During the past several years, we have grown increasingly concerned about the many confusing messages that society as a whole, and the media in particular, place before the young people of today, particularly in regards to the topic of human sexuality. In this day and age it is increasingly important that we insure that the children learn the beautiful teachings of the Church on this topic and that they fully realize and understand the gift of human sexuality within this framework. Not to share this information with the children leaves them unprepared for the world they face and the many choices that await them in the years ahead.

All Saints Catholic School has implemented a middle school family life curriculum that supports our goal of educating the whole child. The program is coordinated by the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, Mr. Kevin Bohli, and is tailored to the specific needs of each school community. The program consists of a parent presentation during which Mr. Bohli provides an outline of his presentations as well as resources for parents. Following this presentation, he and an associate, Ms. Carmen Briceno, will meet with the students for three one hour lessons designed to provide the children with an understanding of the Church's teachings on the topic of human sexuality.

One of the advantages of this program is the involvement of outside professionals. In addition to their expertise and experience, Mr. Bohli and Ms. Briceno are unfamiliar to the students, which may put the students at greater ease in asking questions and discussing this topic. A second advantage of this program is that it is designed to take place in a single-sex setting; Mr. Bohli will address the boys and Ms. Briceno will speak with the girls. Finally, in accordance with diocesan policy, this program is designed as an opt-in opportunity for parents and students. Accommodations will be made for those children whose parents prefer that they not participate in the program.

Parents of middle school students are invited to a presentation to be held on Wednesday, January 10th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center. (Note: This is the meeting that was originally to have occurred in October but was rescheduled due to calendar conflicts.)

As this is such a very important topic related to the development of your child, we ask that at least one parent from each family new to the middle school be present at the meeting. Should you have any questions about this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the office for more information.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Open House for 2017-2018 School Year

All Saints Catholic School will host an *Open House* for prospective parents on Wednesday, January 10th beginning at 9:00 a.m. All parishioners and members of the community interested in learning more about our parish school are cordially invited to attend. Following a presentation and introduction at 9:00 a.m., tours of the facility will be provided. For more information, please contact Mrs. Joyce D'Eugenio, administrative assistant, at [\(703\) 393-1490](tel:7033931490).

Tuition Assistance Applications for 2018-2019

For information about the diocesan tuition assistance program and the application process, please click on the following link: [Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program 2018-2019](#)

Please note that the deadline for applications for elementary schools is March 16, 2018. The deadline for families with a student enrolled in Catholic high school is January 22, 2018.

Running with the Saints 5K

Start training now for our 6th Annual Running with the Saints 5K on March 24, 2018. Registration will begin in January 2018. We have many volunteering opportunities, please contact Joan Coleman at jcoleman02@comcast.net or search Help Counter.

Running with the Saints 5K Poster Contest - CALLING ALL STUDENTS

Support our 5K and #MichaelStrong by entering our Poster Contest. The Winning Poster will be used in our Advertising materials. Top 3 posters will receive a gift card. Michael Munsell will choose the winning posters! See flier for more information or contact Joan Coleman at jcoleman02@comcast.net

Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 21st

- Christmas Holiday Begins

Wednesday, January 3^d

- Classes Resume

Friday, January 5th

- School Mass – St. John Neumann (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, January 8th

- Scantron Testing (2nd Round) – Begins

Tuesday, January 9th

- PTO Executive Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, January 10th

- Open House (9:00 a.m.)
- Gift of Human Sexuality Parent Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, January 11th

- Enrollment Management Team Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Friday, January 12th

- School Mass (8:30 a.m.)
- FACT Tuition Assistance Application Deadline for Families with High School Students

Monday, January 15th

- Holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 16th

- Professional Development Day (Faculty/Staff Day of Recollection) – No School

Friday, January 19th

- School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Newsletter Links

- [Running with the Saints 5K Poster Contest](#)
- [Peace & Justice Mitten Collection Flyer](#)
- [DIOCESAN TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2018-2019](#) - Program Information
- [FACTS Financial Aid Application Link](#)
- [Helpcounter Volunteer Log-In](#) (Sign-Up for Upcoming Stewardship Opportunities)
- [PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE - Sign-Up](#)