



# ACADEMY NEWS



St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

November 28, 2018

## ***Our Mission Statement:***

*St. Mary's Academy promotes academic excellence within a Christ-centered Catholic community. Students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 learn acceptance and appreciation of others and develop to their full potential within a nurturing, family environment."*

## **Gospel Reflection**

### GOSPEL

Jesus said to His disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the son of Man."

### REFLECTION

The first two weeks of Advent focus on the end times – the Second Coming of Christ. As Jesus himself said, no one knows the hour when he will return in glory. So, our most prudent course of action is to "be vigilant at all times" and to "pray." If today Jesus returned, would we be ready?

As we begin this season of Advent, we are asked to pray with our families in order to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ at Christmas and every day.

## **Important Dates:**

Friday, November 30th: We will begin to draw the winning tickets for the Advent Calendar Raffle at Morning Prayer.

December 6th and 7th: The Drama Club production of "Bells of St. Mary" will be at 7:00. Please get your tickets in the Main Office.

December 8<sup>th</sup>: Breakfast with Santa. A paper went home to sign up for Breakfast with Santa. Please join us.

We are currently collecting hats and mittens for our Giving Tree. All collections will go to those in need at the Gray House located in Springfield, MA. Thank you.

# Principal's Message



## Dress Down Reminder:

Thank you to those who have turned in Advent calendars. If your family turned in *all 24*, each student in your family can dress down on Monday, December 3rd. If you did not turn in your calendars, you can do so by turning them in tomorrow so they will be included in our first drawing on Friday.

## Brick Campaign Christmas Present:

For the past two years, SMA launched a very successful legacy brick campaign selling 160+ personalized bricks. These bricks are now displayed beautifully in front of our building and many were purchased in memory of, in honor of or just to commemorate a student's time at SMA. It is not too late to purchase your first brick, or purchase another one as a Christmas present. This end of the year gift is tax deductible and makes a wonderfully unique present for anyone in your life. If interested, please fill out the attached form with a check for \$125 and send it into the main office. Thank you.

## Junior High Chorus at Morning Prayer:

Join us this Monday morning, as our Junior High drama students performs mini selections from their play, "Bells of St. Mary's", at morning prayer next week. They have been working hard practicing late each night and are excited to share pieces of what they have been working on.

## Fair Share Opportunities:

### Open House Signs:

We have 20 Open House lawn signs that we would like to put up around our surrounding areas. If you live on a busy road, or a neighborhood that has many children, please consider putting up a sign. You will receive 2 fair share hours for putting up a sign on your lawn. If you don't live on a busy road, perhaps you have a family member who does and wouldn't mind helping out in this way. If you would like a lawn sign, please contact Jenna at [jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org](mailto:jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org) or stop in her office. This is a great way to advertise our upcoming Open House on January 27<sup>th</sup>. This is an easy way to earn hours. We would like all signs up in early December and it is first come, first serve. Thank you.

### Breakfast with Santa

We are looking for a parent who would like to be our chef for the morning for our Breakfast with Santa. Someone who enjoys making lots of pancakes and sausage. Please contact Mrs. MacDonald or Mrs. Brodeur if you are able to help. Thank you



## A Teacher's View:

It is hard to believe that we are approaching December. The second grade students have had a very busy November. They made Thanksgiving turkeys on which they wrote what they are thankful for. They are thankful for many things including family, friends, and school. December will continue to be busy as we approach the season of Advent and the Christmas holiday.

In math we will soon begin to learn two digit addition and then we will learn two digit subtraction. The students understand how important it is to practice their facts daily to help with the addition and subtraction.

The students have been learning about Reconciliation and the parts of Reconciliation. They know that this is a wonderful celebration of God's forgiveness. We have practiced the Act of Contrition and are ready to receive our First Reconciliation on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

During the Christmas season the second graders are each bringing in a Christmas or winter book to share with the class. This allows us to read and hear some of the amazing books that are available to us during this time of the year.

In writing the students have been working hard on writing narrative stories about themselves. They understand that the writing process is a step by step process in which the author is constantly making changes or additions to their writing pieces. The students are enjoying writing their own stories and also love being the illustrator of their work.

We are beginning to learn cursive handwriting and will spend time learning how to form each letter correctly. The students are very excited about being able to write in cursive and use it in their future writing.

This is a wonderful time of the year and I want to say how thankful I am for each student. They amaze me and make me smile everyday. It is a joy to be a part of St. Mary's Academy.

Mrs. Widmer



Thank you to everyone who brought in canned good donations. Combining all canned goods from Family Frolics and those collected during our classroom competition, we were able to raise \$1,307.78 worth of canned goods for the Mayflower Marathon. All donations through the marathon will be distributed to local food pantries. Thank you for your support.