



ACADEMY NEWS



St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

December 13 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

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wage."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his bar, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

REFLECTION

John the Baptist urgently called upon all those who came to him to turn away from sin. When asked what that repentance should look like, John's response to the tax collectors and the soldiers and to all of those waiting to be baptized on the banks of the Jordan River can be summarized as follows: share what you have with others and treat one another fairly. We pray: *Lord Jesus, help me to inspire and to encourage a spirit of generosity and honesty among those I know and love.*

Important Dates:

- Our Christmas Mass will be led by our 6th grade on December 17th at 9:00 a.m. Please join us if you are available.
- Our Christmas Concert will be on December 21st. We fill our auditorium and parking is tight. You may want to stay at drop off time and have a cup of coffee and get a good seat as we will begin the concert at 9:00 a.m. Dismissal for the Christmas break will follow the concert. Students may be picked up in their classrooms. For those not attending the concert it is a half day dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
- Following our Christmas break we will return to school on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Mark your calendars!

Next year enrollment for current St. Mary's Academy families opens on January 2nd. This is particularly important for those who are **interested in our Pre-K 3 or Pre-K 4 programs** as these do fill up fast! As a reminder, our Pre-K 3 program offers (3) half days or (3) full days, while our Pre-K 4 program offers (3) or (5) full days. Registration opens to the public at our Open House on January 27th. Also, keep in mind we have limited slots for our part time options. For more information, or to enroll your student, please contact Mrs. MacDonald at 413.567.0907 or jmacdonald@stmaryslongmeadow.org on January 2nd. Thank you!

Principal's Message



- Thank you to everyone who has brought in hats and mittens for our Christmas collection. The Gray House of Springfield will be very pleased with our donation. There is still time to bring in new hats and mittens, please place them on the Christmas tree in the main foyer.
- The next *Week at a Glance* will come out on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.
- Please make sure that your child has a hat and gloves/mittens, boots and a warm coat as we are now in the cold weather season. We will continue to go outside for morning and lunch recess as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above. They will also need to bring their sneakers with them to change out of their boots when they go to their classroom. Also, please remind your child/ren we do not play in the snow. Thank you for your help.

As we look forward to our break, the faculty and staff would like to wish all of our families a joyous Christmas season and a blessed New Year. May the newborn Christ child bless your family with joy, peace, happiness, and good health.

Fair Share Opportunities:

Open House:

It's hard to believe we are talking about Open House already, but it will be here before you know it! We are looking for **volunteers on January 27th from 10am - 4pm or anywhere in between.** This is a great way to earn fair share hours! If you can help, please email Mrs. Banaitis at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org

Ski Club

Ski Club:

The ski/snowboard club is a go this year! We meet every Friday night starting in January and go for 6 weeks. Click on the attachment for more information or click www.skiblandford.com/store/ to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn Hemingway at 413-348-6121 or Jmhemingway145@gmail.com. This has always been a great program where you can meet other families from SMA while your children enjoy supervised lessons or just ski with friends. All registration is online and **the deadline is December 17th**.



A Teacher's View:

The stockings are hung by the chimney with care and we Kindergarten elves are busy, busy! We began December with a craft morning with our parents. Each of us took home a box of treasures hand-made with love. We read about St. Nicholas and we put our shoes out in the hall. Guess what? St. Nicholas filled our shoes with a shiny coin and a sweet treat. We read about Our Lady of Guadalupe and Christmas in Mexico. We learned about reindeer and made our own Rudolph caps. We learned St. Lucy is called the Queen of Light and how children in Sweden honor her on Dec. 13. We made our wreath of light. This Friday, we will travel to the North Pole via the Polar Express. We can't wait! We do our reading, writing and math too. We will sign off now, we have lunch with our buddies, a birthday party for Jesus, our concert and other activities to prepare for and enjoy.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kindergarten, Miss Leclair, and Mrs. Denno



- We would like to thank SMA parents, Mr. and Mrs. McKinnon and Pioneer Gymnastics for coming in to take some professional photos of our students, staff and school again this year. These pictures are beautiful and really captured our school community. We are excited to share them with you in an upcoming digital marketing campaign so be sure to look for them. The talent from our parents is incredible and we are so grateful they share it with us. If you are looking for gymnastics lessons, Pioneer Gymnastics is right in East Longmeadow and a great place to enroll your child – support a business who supports our school!
- I would like to thank Jill LeGates, parent volunteers, and the Parent’s Association for all of their dedication and hard work in coordinating this year’s Secret Santa Shop. Many have worked diligently throughout the year since the last Secret Santa event purchasing items to be sold. They also compiled a team of workers to help with this wonderful project. I would also like to thank the many parents, grandparents, and family members who helped in the wrapping and those who have and will join us for this event. Thank you!