

## *From the Principal...*



Dear School Families,

I blinked and it is December. Is anyone else feeling this way? Our days at school are so busy, packed with great activities to both challenge us and allow us to grow academically and spiritually. Sometimes, we forget to stop and reflect on the good happening. Advent is a great reminder for us to stop, reflect and prepare for the coming of God's promise. I love this season, the lights, the more intentional time spent with family and friends, and the preparation for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. How are you preparing for Christmas this advent season?

As a school community, we are saying the Hail Mary as a group before the end of lunch, working with the faith formation students to create a large advent wreath (check out the back of church), and making Christmas cards for a number of organizations.

Students hear me say we are all different and that is good! We each have our gifts and our challenges and we are called to love each other knowing both. God gives us what we need to do his work. May this season of preparation be what you need it to be to accomplish God's work.

Becky Kennedy

## *Note From Father Tony...*

Dear Brothers and Sisters

We have now begun the season of Advent and with it the beginning of the church's new liturgical year. The season of advent has a two-fold character. Firstly, we prepare for the



commemoration of the birth of our Lord at Christmas and secondly, we look forward to Christ's second coming at the end of time.

During the season of Advent many things happen in our Church that help us to focus on the comings of Christ. The liturgical colors change from green to purple. Purple is the color of royalty and also of repentance. Our Mass readings change and we go back through the Old Testament hearing readings about the anticipation of the coming savior. We also hear from scripture about the end of time when Jesus will come again. We also have an advent wreath which is symbolic. We light the candles symbolizing the coming of the light into the darkness.

In the ancient Greek manuscripts of the Bible, there are two different words used to name time. The first is *chronos*, which refers simply to the measurement of time. The second word is *kairos*, a term used to describe a time that is filled with meaning, a time of God's particular action. *Kairos* is always a moment of salvation, a time in which grace and redemption are offered to humanity. Advent can indeed be a *Kairos* time for each one of us if we are open to the coming of Christ into our hearts. There are some things that we can do to increase our vigilance in this season. A daily re-dedication of our lives to Christ will help us focus on the importance of the coming of Christ. This is also an excellent time to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of reconciliation. Making a special effort to pray together as a family is also a great way to prepare for the great Feast of Christmas. May this Advent truly be a *Kairos* time for us and may we be filled with joy at the coming of the Savior.

God bless  
Fr. Tony

## Christmas Program

For your holiday enjoyment, please join us on December 15th, in the school gym, at 1:00 and/or 6:30 p.m. The PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are working on an exciting all-school Christmas program with singing by our preschool, a performance by our middle school band, and an all school play; "Christmas Messiah," featuring selections from the Handel's famous oratorio, "Messiah." You will not want to miss this!

## Playground Helpers

We are still in need of playground helpers almost any day of the week for the months ahead. Please consider helping us out with this important opportunity. It's only a short time-- 11:30 to 12:15. You can sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094badae2bab9-201617>. You can also find the link on the school webpage under parent information.

## Spirit of the Ice Festival

Save the date for Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-3:00. More information will be coming.

## ALICE Info.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 we will have a parent info night with Officer Tony to talk about OLL's intruder policy. It will be in the Presentation Room.

ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. ALICE Training provides options that address the unique challenges specific to Police/LE, K-12 Schools, Healthcare Facilities, Higher Education, Businesses, Government, and Houses of Worship.

## OLL+

OLL+ will be open during the Christmas break except for December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and January 2<sup>nd</sup> Contact Mrs. A, at Ext. 180 to reserve a spot.

## Essential 3

Families who are new to OLL, or those who have not completed the Essential 3 (Code of Conduct, Background Check, Virtus Training) and plan to volunteer are required to have completed the Essential 3. If you are in need of VIRTUS training, here are a few of the places you can go to take care of it:

- December 1, 6:00 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina
- December 10, 12:30a.m., St John the Baptist, Savage
- January 5, 2015 6 p.m., Providence Academy, 15100 Schmidt Lake Rd. in Plymouth

## Cold Weather Wear

Whether we like it or not, it is colder and when the kids go out for recess, they need to be dressed for it. Hats, boots, mittens along with a warm coat (and snow pants if they are in PreK-4) are required. Don't assume they will be inside when they leave home in the morning. Everyone goes out for recess.

## Summer Day Camp

We are considering offering an OLL+ Summer Day Camp and are asking families to complete the survey form to measure interest. Our Lady of the Lake School's "OLL+ Summer" program is designed to meet the summer needs of parents by offering a safe, accessible and affordable school-based program. OLL+ makes it easy to provide your child with opportunities for fun, socializing and learning. Your child will have the opportunity to participate in group activities and more. We sent a flyer home with the youngest child in the family. You can also find I on School Speak. It would be appreciated if you would return the pre-registration form by December 9, 2016. This will help insure we are prepared to provide a good program for your child.

## Band/Choir Performance

The band and choir students will be performing on December 16th at Eden Prairie Mall. They will perform outside of VanMaur on the lower level at 10:30. They will be combining with St. Joe's in Waconia for this performance. If you are out shopping, stop by to see our middle school students perform.

The band students will also combine with St. Joe's for their Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 20th at 1:00 and 6:00.

## Engineering for Kids

Engineering for Kids will be starting back up in January. This was a big hit last year. The classes are offered for kids K-5. The first session is a Jr. Civil Engineering: Fun Foundations for grades K-2 and then a Software Engineering: Scratch Video Sensing for grades 3-5. Registration forms went home with kids and can also be found on School Speak.

## Parakeets

The Johnson family is sharing their parakeets with us. They are being housed in the Kindergarten room and they have a clutch of 4 eggs. The whole school is watching and observing the eggs hatching. They should be hatched before Christmas break.



## Preschool

Preschool will be attending mass on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure they are wearing white shirt and girls in skirts or jumpers. Mass starts at 9:00 so try to have your preschoolers here before that so they don't have to walk in after mass has started.

Preschool will be going to Stages Theater on Wednesday, December 21st.

## Jump Rope for Heart

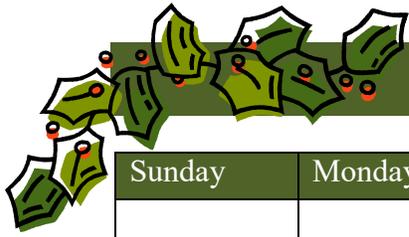
We will be participating in Jump Rope for Hearts in February - a fun healthy way to raise money for the American Heart Association. Details to follow!

### MOA Sea Life Field Trip



### Preschoolers dressing up for Thanksgiving





# December Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			.	1 School Board Meeting	2	3
4	5 Dance Line Family Fun Night 5-7 PTO Mtg.	6	7	8 Mass Gr. 5/6 Holy Day	9	10
11	12 Dance Line ALICE Info. 5:30	13	14 Mass 3/4	15 Reconciliation Gr. 2-8 All School Christmas Program 1:00pm or 6:30pm	16 Band/Choir Performance at EP Mall 10:30 OLL Family Christmas Party 6:00	17
18	19 Dance Line	20 St. Joe's band concert middle school band kids 1:00 & 6:00	21 Mass 1/2 Preschool Field trip to Old Log	22 OLL+ Open	23 	24
<b>Christmas Break</b>						
25	26	27 OLL+ Open	28 OLL+ Open	29 OLL+ Open	30	31
1	2	3 School Resumes	4 Mass Teachers	5	6	7

6<sup>th</sup> Grade to Baker Park with St. Therese

Middle School Dance

Operation Christmas Child

