

## *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. There is a lot of good happening right now! Advent is a great reminder for us to stop, reflect and prepare for 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 at morning meeting we will be reading a Bible Story which relates to Jesus' family. After the bible story is read the class presenting will place an ornament on our Jesse tree in the gathering space. The ornament represents what the bible verse for the day was about. To bring this Advent tradition home please find the Jesse Tree Information packet in the school announcements on SchoolSpeak.

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



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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 4th grade and middle school band, and an all school play; "A Christmas Carol." 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 is only a short time-- 11:30 to 11:55. You can sign up on SchoolSpeak.

**\*\*\*\*Please note the new time change. We are doing recess first now so you need to be here by 11:30.\*\*\*\***

## OLL+

OLL+ will be open during the Christmas break except for December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup> Contact Mrs. A, at 952-472-8244 or ollplus@schoololl.com 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 7, 9:00 a.m., St John the Baptist, Savage
- January 2, 2018 11:00 a.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina
- January 7, 2018 1:30 p.m. St. Michael, Prior Lake
- January 11, 2018 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.

## Band/Choir Performance

The band and choir students will be performing on December 15<sup>th</sup> at Eden Prairie Mall. They will perform outside of VanMaur on the lower level at 10:00. They will be combining with St. Joe's in Waconia for this performance. If you are out shopping, stop by to see our 4th grade band and middle school students perform.

## 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 walk in after mass has started.

Preschool will be going to Orchestra Hall on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Toys for Tots

Our December Service project is collecting toys for Toy For Tots. From December 1 - 11 we will collect toys. Please invite your child to go and pick out a toy they would like to receive for Christmas to donate. This is a great way to start a

conversation with your child about serving those in need. Unwrapped toys can be dropped off by the tree at the front office. We will continue with the bible verse we were using for November; Luke 3:11.

**MISSION:**

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

**Poster Contest**

Flyers also went home with the kids, but just in case it didn't make it home, here is a snapshot of the contest rules.

**Call For Entries...**

KEEP *Christ* IN *Christmas*

**POSTER CONTEST**

**OLL Students**  
**Ages 5-14**

**CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST**  
The "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest will allow young people to engage their creative talents and imaginations while understanding the true, spiritual meaning of Christmas.

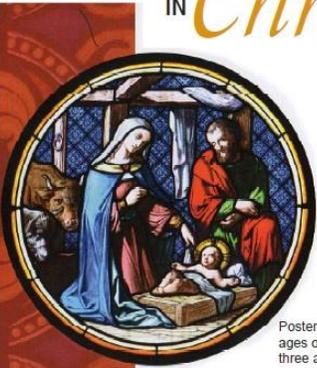
**ELIGIBILITY**  
Poster Contest is open to all young people between the ages of 5 and 14. Contest entrants compete in one of three age groups—ages 5 through 7, ages 8 through 10, and 11 through 14. *1st place award in each age group.*

**RULES**

- \* Entries in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster contest must include a slogan reflecting the topic and an original visual image.
- \* Each poster should be original work including concept, layout, slogan, and any visual images of a single person.
- \* Poster must be approximately 11 x 17" vertical or horizontal. If pastels, chalk or charcoal, the poster must be laminated or covered with clear plastic.
- \* Each poster must be submitted with a Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest entry form # 5025 available at the School front office. The name and age of the entrant should also be printed on the back of the poster.
- \* All final entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. Winning posters will not be returned.
- \* Submissions due: Friday, December 29 at OLL Front Office.

**AWARDS - 1st Place**, poster continues onto next level.  
Local (School), \$25, 12/31    District, \$25, 1/15    Regional, \$50, 1/31  
State, \$100, 2/15    International, \$250, 2/28

**Council 6005    Knights of Columbus**



**Elf Week for Staff**

Elf Week is a time when we try to do a few extra things for the staff to help them during this busy time of year. We have set aside December 11th-13th to provide them with some snacks. We are also looking for volunteers to help each day from

9-11am. They will do things like wrap presents for teachers, address Christmas cards, help with any projects in the classroom etc. You can find a sign up on SchoolSpeak if you would like to help.

**Mass at Minnetonka Shores**

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, K-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be going to Minnetonka Shores for a mass and they will be singing Christmas Carols. Permission slips will be going home soon.

**Health Office Notes**

We would like to remind you before the cold and flu season starts, that if a child has a fever they should be kept home until their temperature has been normal for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing meds. If your child has been ill during the night with vomiting, diarrhea, fever or excessive cough, we ask that you keep him home the following day to rest.

**Super Bowl Tickets**

THE BOLD NORTH PRESENTS

**SUPER BOWL LII**

★ Raffle ★

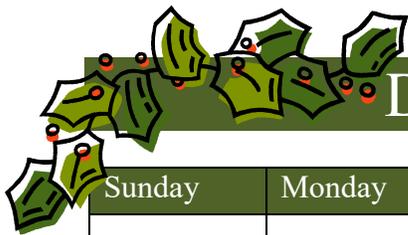
**WINNER RECEIVES 2 TICKETS TO SUPERBOWL LII**  
(2) UPPER DECK SEATS, PRE-GAME PREMIER CONCERT WITH COMPLIMENTARY FOOD AND DRINKS AT *NOMADIC LIVE!* AT THE ARMORY IN DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS!

PURCHASE A RAFFLE TICKET FOR \$100 EACH  
300 tickets to be sold. Tickets can be purchased with cash or check at Our Lady of the Lake school or church office until January 20th, 2018 at 5pm, drawing is at 6pm. Winner need not be present to win.  
QUESTIONS? Contact Kassie Ricke at knicke@schoololl.com

DRAWING WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK AT 6PM, JAN. 20<sup>th</sup>



2411 Commerce Blvd, Mound, MN 55364



# December Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			.		1 Parent Volleyball Night	2
3	4 Dance Line Preschool Field trip to Orchestra Hall	5 PTO Mtg. 6:30	6 No Mass Reconciliation Gr. 2-8	7 School Board Mtg. 6:30	8 Immaculate Conception Mass 9:00 Holy Day 5/6	9
10	11 Dance Line  All School Service Night 6:30  Toys for Tots Due	12	13 Mass 1/2	14 All School Christmas Program 1:00pm or 6:30pm	15 Band/Choir Performance at EP Mall 10:30 OLL Family Christmas Party 6:00	16
17	18 Dance Line	19	20 Mass 3/4	21 K-8 Mass and sing at Minnetonka Shores	22	23
24	25 	26	27 OLL+ Open	28 OLL+ Open	29 OLL+ Open	30
<b>Christmas Break</b>						
31	1	2 OLL+ Open	3 OLL+ Open	4 School Resumes	5	6