

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



November 30, 2020

THE NOTE!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I'm excited to have three weeks to get some learning and teaching in before Christmas break. We are down to only five quarantined and that goes to four tomorrow! I'm so thankful for our good health and pray that it continues.

We spent some extra time talking about Advent and its meaning and symbolism this morning. We also prayed for blessing on both our wreath after "lighting" the HOPE candle, and our nativity, after adding Mary and Joseph and the donkey. We prayed that we might be more obedient and humble like Joseph and Mary, and be more willing to think of others before ourselves, like the donkey. Each Monday we will light another candle and add more to our nativity. This week we live with the Hope that Jesus will come again!



ATTACHED/IN PACKET: December calendar/menu, bus slips

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday: All-School Mass (K-1), NO SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday: No a la carte

Friday: K-2 Class Mass (K-2), NO BINGO

- Thanks to Lindsey Hermann and her dad, the **live wreaths, swags, and crosses** will be available for pick up Thursday and Friday. Let us know when you'd like to get yours.
 - Contact Sarah Barthelme if you are interested in **St. Thomas crew socks**.
- We still have youth-sized **masks** and 2 **gaiters** left if anyone is looking for a stocking stuffer or gift. They are \$10 each.

- You will notice on the lunch menu that there are days we will not be having a **la carte** for 3rd-8th grades. If the meal is filling, there is no need to add anything. Some of the kids are not eating their lunch very well, so please encourage them only to get a la carte if they've eaten the meal provided.
- We are not going to have a **School Board** meeting this month. If you ever have any concerns that you'd like discussed by our board, feel free to contact one of them or me.
- Our school **Advent Reconciliation** will be next week on the 9th. Our 2nd graders will participate for the first time and we are excited for all of them. Keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament.
- **Stang Arts** registration forms are due one week from today. No late registrations since the turnaround is a short one.
 - **Thanks to all of you and your kids**, we are going to be donating \$265 to Operation Home Front, \$355 to the Newton Ministerial Association, and we raised a little over \$7000 for the Waylon Dow family. Our kids are seeing firsthand what good can happen when a group of people work together. We aren't a big family, but we are doing big things for our community. Way to go Saints!
 - We are not making our **wreaths** or having our **Christmas program**. As sad as that makes me, it's what we think is best. We will be videotaping everyone and putting it on Facebook like we did with our K-2 Thanksgiving program. Thank you for understanding!
 - If during this pandemic you are finding that you may need some extra **financial help** with tuition, please send me an email or give me a call. We don't want anyone to feel more than the normal holiday stress. If we can help, we will.
 - **Lunches** continue to be free through the federal government, so no statements will come home. Lori will send out **Late Stay** statements next Monday.
 - Our staff participates in an Advent Angel exchange and plan to have our staff party on the last day of school, **Dec. 22nd**. So that everyone can be at our party, we are not planning on having late stay that day after school. It will be normal dismissal at 3:10, but no late stay. I hope it won't be too much of a burden to find someone to pick up your kids that day. Thanks for allowing us to celebrate as a staff.
 - Still no word on our **extra-curricular activities**. I pray every day that we will get to have seasons! Gus was to start games this week, and I actually miss the gym time. If I've learned anything from this pandemic, it's that I need to appreciate what I have when I have it!
- Our virtue this month and next is **Love**. Along with the season of Advent, try to start conversations with your kids about ways to show love every day. I try to explain that it can be very small things that make someone feel loved. Each day I read from a book called Do Something Beautiful for God. It is the Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa. Today's entry is perfect for our new focus virtue of Love:

“It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start.”

- **Thanks to all** who have made donations to our school. Several have purchased masks for us, which were needed. Thanks to the family who donated money so that our staff could be rewarded for a job well done! They enjoyed pizza on Wednesday – their Thanksgiving meal! We are truly blessed!
- I was privileged enough to have Mr. Bob Kerans as a principal and a coach in high school. We now have a bigger connection as he was the principal at St. Thomas as well. He recently sent me a card that says, Good Morning! This is God! I will be handling all of your problems today. I will not need your help. So relax and have a great day! This is a good reminder for all of us as we start to prepare for Christmas.
 - No Crocs for church!

Have a great week. Let me know if you need anything!

Jill

