



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

December 6, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian School Community,

Welcome to Week One of the Advent season! Advent spans roughly four weeks and is a time to focus on the coming of Christ and birth of our Savior. Traditionally, families place an Advent wreath in their homes, with four candles - three purple and one pink. The wreath itself is made of evergreens, symbolizing continuous life. The circle shape of the wreath, having no beginning or end, reminds us of the eternity of God, the immortality of the human soul, and everlasting life found in Christ. The purple candles symbolize prayer, penance, preparation, and a time to focus on good works, leading up to Christmas. The pink candle marks Week Three, "Gaudete Sunday", and symbolizes a time to "Rejoice", as the coming of Christ is near. Another candle is lit each Sunday, together adding increasing light each week until THE LIGHT of the world comes to us, shining brightly on Christmas morning!

Within the season, today, December 6th, is the Feast Day of St. Nicholas in the Catholic Church. St. Nicholas was a legendary bishop, known for his generosity and kindness to all, especially in the protection of children and the innocent. He was known for placing treats and surprises into the shoes of children; hence the filling of stockings. St. Nicholas today, is more commonly known as Santa Claus! The school children will receive a candy cane today as a feast day treat and reminder to do good works for others. In the spirit of St. Nicholas, let us all commit ourselves to look for those to whom we can show care and kindness - everyone!

Have a wonderful day and Week One of Advent. Consider talking about the holy season with your children when you are gathered for a meal or before bed. Look for our Advent wreath in the Front Lobby next time you are in the school building!

God bless you,
Ms. Grams

STUDENT DRESS DAYS FOR THIS WEEK - As promised, this week we will still have another dress-down day - however - it will be TOMORROW, Thursday rather than Friday. Friday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day in the church when we commemorate the conception of Mary, the mother of Christ. Friday morning we have an all-school mass at 8:15am, which family, friends, and parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to join us for. Students should be in uniform on Friday, given it is a mass day. Therefore...Thursday, 12/7 is dress down, while Friday, 12/8 is a uniform day. Our apologies for the confusion.

PIANO – If you are interested in a free upright piano, please contact the school office.

CONTAINERS – We have some containers left from fish fry dessert donations. Please inquire at the school office.

ADVENT FUN DAY – Parents, do you need an afternoon to go shopping or just have some time off to relax before the holidays? On Sunday, December 17 from 1-5:00 p.m., St Sebastian Youth Ministry will help parish children ages 3-11 enjoy play time, crafts and snacks in the school cafeteria. Suggested donation is \$1 per child, plus personal care items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste or other goods) for homeless people served by Milwaukee Hope House. Go to <http://bit.ly/17AdventFun> to register. We'll send an email to confirm.

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING – As you're getting ready for Christmas, if you find burned-out holiday lights, bring them to church on Sunday and look for the colorful boxes near the church entrances. High school Faith Formation students collect the lights as a way to keep them from landfills and make some money for a local cause.

SUPPORT SOME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI- Three high schoolers from the Sebs community, Sophia Kepler, Miranda McCauley, and Reilly Madigan, are part of a very small group of thespians from Pius XI high school to be invited to attend in the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh. What is the Fringe Festival, you ask?

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the single biggest celebration of arts and culture on the planet. Every August for three weeks the city of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, welcomes an explosion of creative energy from around the globe.

The troupe from Pius is the ONLY student group from the State of Wisconsin invited to attend and perform in the student showcase! This is a very high honor!

Please consider supporting them to get there by taking part in their fundraiser night:

Panera Mayfair Mall

Thursday, Dec 7

4-8 pm

Must show flyer (see attachment) or use "FUND" code if ordering electronically.

Stop in and eat before you go to the Forensics meeting in the church hall at 7 pm! Many thanks for your support.

ATTENTION BASKETBALL FAMILIES The snack stand schedule is now out for this basketball season. Please review the attached schedule for your assignments and the attached policy regarding duties. All families of St. Sebastian athletes are required to participate. If you need to make a switch on your assignment, you will need to find your own replacement. A copy of the schedule will also be posted outside of the snack stand. Thank you for your service!!

ST. COLETTA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – Imagine....the Nativity with angel reporters, kings, a queen, a variety of animals (including a land shark), and a shepherd who has lost his sheep...plus a dancing star!

Please attend The Christmas Star, presented by the students of St. Coletta, this Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 PM in the church hall.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT! The 5th Grade Girl Scout Troop is hosting a Christmas Movie Night on Friday, December 8 in the Church Hall.

6-7 p.m. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer & Frosty the Snowman

7-9 p.m. Elf (Will Farrell) PG *See review on www.common sense media.org to decide if this movie is appropriate for your child.

Girl Scouts will be collecting monetary donations to support hurricane recovery efforts in Puerto Rico. Hot chocolate, popcorn and other movie snacks will also be for sale. Kids are invited to wear pajamas and bring pillows and blankets. Parents may drop off students, but must sign them in/out if they do not plan to stay and watch the movies.

REGISTRATION 2018-19 – All families interested in registering or re-registering for the next school year should plan to attend our Open House on Sunday, January 28th.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED - Are you interested and available to consider substitute teaching at St. Sebastian School? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Lori Golomski at [414-453-5830](tel:414-453-5830) or lgolomski@saintsebs.org for more information. A teaching license is preferred, but not required.

The pre-requisite to being a substitute teacher at St. Sebastian's is an undergrad degree in any area, a background check, and meeting Safeguarding requirements.

GENERAL FORENSIC MEETING ANNOUNCED - There will be a very important information meeting for all middle school students AND their parents interested in being part of our award winning forensic team on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00p.m. in the Church Hall. Registration forms, sign-up procedures, practice policies, and the general forensic program will be explained, so it is important that BOTH parents AND students are present. Come and find out about forensics so that you can be a part of this EXCITING extra- curricular activity. Forensics is open to all 6th through 8th grade students. Any questions should be directed to Kathy Kirkpatrick (414-774-6963).

GRANDPARENT INFORMATION FORM - At Saint Sebastian School, we recognize the important role that grandparents play in our students' lives. From daily school pick-ups, to coming to concerts and sporting events, to the annual Grandparents' Day breakfasts, we appreciate their support of our school. If you have not already returned your family's form, please print the attached grandparent form and send it to school as soon as possible. Thank you.