



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

December 19, 2018

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Dear St. Sebastian School Community,

As the Advent season of anticipation, patience, and preparations winds down, we know the coming of Christ is near!

Fr. Larry delivered a beautiful homily this morning at our all school mass. He focused on where true joy comes from, and how amidst struggles and disappointments in life it can be hard to find some times. Fr. Larry challenged us to try and understand joy "not as an emotion, but as a conviction" experienced within ourselves.

There are many families in our community who are currently facing major life challenges. Whether death of loved ones, addictions impacting families, loss of jobs, divorce, broken relationships, and so on, it can be hard to find hope and experience joy. Thank goodness for the celebration of Christmas, however, serving as our reminder of the Lord's great goodness, packaged in a tiny infant, bringing hope and joy to the world!

One of our 4th graders' petitions prayed today was for our school families to prioritize attending a church service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. I thought that was beautiful, and yes, so important. By attending a faith-based school, our children's understanding of the world, of holidays that are holy days, and in how they learn to create space for God in their life must be markedly different than if they were in "any other" school. Just as adults search for hope and true joy, it is easy to forget that young children do too. Going to mass or church does not automatically make us "holy", but surely God pours our graces in what we hear and sing together, as well as simply gathering with a broader community of faith. Keeping Christ as our center, we must cultivate our children's understanding at both home AND school that, truly, hope and joy comes from our God.

In closing, I share the beautiful prayer below that you may be familiar with, *The Magnificat*, from Luke's Gospel (1:46-55). It is the Blessed Virgin Mary's hymn of praise to the Lord. Imagine this woman, shunned from society for an unexplained pregnancy... carrying the Savior of the world in her womb... unsure where she would physically give birth... unsure of what her life (or her baby's life) would entail... yet, giving thanks to God in a time of such uncertainty. May this Christmas we allow her words to dwell in our hearts and breath life, bring hope, and manifest radical joy our souls.

THE MAGNIFICAT (Prayer) - Luke 1: 46-55
My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name;
And His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him.
He has shown might with His arm,
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.
He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of His mercy
Even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

December has been a special month, including St. Nicholas' surprise visit, our all school service day benefitting men at the Guest House, and of course, our Christmas concert! Thank you for being a part of our community's JOY!

God bless you and your families,
Ms. Grams

PRAYERS – We ask for prayers for K5 student Evie Lintvedt and her family. Evie's father, Nicholas, recently passed away. We ask for God's blessings on Evie and her mother, Krista Cannon and sister, Sierra Cannon.

Also, please remember in your prayers K4 student Mason Groth and his family, as Mason's father, Aaron Groth, passed away this past week. Aaron was an alumnus of St. Sebastian School. We also keep in our prayers Mason's grandparents (Aaron's parents), Annette and John, parish members, as they grieve the loss of their son. God bless you, Groth family.

May eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

THIS FRIDAY IS "FUN CHRISTMAS-WEAR & HOT COCOA DAY"! - Students and staff are invited to wear Christmas colors, cozy pajamas, ugly Christmas sweaters, or whatever Christmas-y wear puts you in the spirit! Hot cocoa will be served in the morning by Student Council.

THANK YOU – Our staff wishes to thank the 7th grade parents for hosting a lunch for them this week. It is very much appreciated.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR – SINGING ON DEC 24, 4PM MASS - The annual children's Christmas choir will sing for the 4 PM mass on December 24th. There are two rehearsals for children in grades 2-5. The first is Friday, Dec. 21st from 3:00 to 4:30p and the second on Saturday, Dec 22 from 1:30p to 3:00p. Both rehearsals are in the church. Please e-mail your child's name and grade to mkamenski@saintsebs.org with "chXmasch" in the subject line please, so that we can have enough packets of music for the children. If you have questions, please call 414-453-1928.

THANK YOU St. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL FROM ST. CATHERINE FOOD PANTRY - As we close 2018, the volunteers & shoppers at St. Catherine Parish Food Pantry THANK YOU for your generous donation of food! Special shout out to St Sebs Student Council & School Staff for organizing a food drive on our behalf. Respect and human dignity are associated with good, healthy food. Our bodies, families, and community, are stronger when we can come together for meals. Thank you all for helping spread Christ's message of love!

Gratefully, Jane Kornburger and Terese & Rob Shelledy

To learn more, including how to give or receive food, <http://saintcatherine51.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Food-Pantry-at-St-Catherine-Parish-flyer.pdf>

ATTENTION 8th GRADE – The photographer will be at school on Tuesday, January 15th to take graduation photos. 8th graders may dress up.

8TH GRADE PIZZA LUNCH FUNDRAISER - The next PIZZA LUNCH will be Friday, Dec. 21st. Order forms can be found in the newsletter attachments and copies are also available in the school office. Orders are due by the end of the day today.

Questions? Contact Christine Conway at: cconway31@ymail.com

ROSIE READER - Congratulations to the following student for her outstanding progress in the Rosie Reader program:

Completing the letter "G" in reading:

Grade : K5 - Maame K. Dampare

Awesome job completing the program Maame! Way to Go!!

FISH FRY NEWS!! SAVE THE DATE!! 6th grade parents will be working the first fish fry of the new year on January 4th!!! Mark your calendars!!! Come and enjoy all your Fish Fry favorites...fried or baked cod, french fries, chicken nuggets, shrimp chowder, salad bar, and homemade desserts!! Try our "Special Soup Of The Month", Chicken Dumpling made by Lisa Weger!! You don't want to miss it because it won't be available in February!! Dinner is served from 4:30-7:30 in the school cafeteria. Don't forget to tell everyone you know about Milwaukee's BEST fish fry!

Want to help and need more info? We're ALWAYS looking for volunteers! Contact Amy Struck (Amy4ever72@hotmail.com) OR Lisa Weger (lisamweger@gmail.com)

PORTILLOS FUNDRAISER – Enjoy your Chicago-style favorites (and a night off from cooking) and help the 8th graders get to Washington, DC. On January 9th, from 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Portillos, in the 84 SOUTH complex in Greenfield, will donate 20% of the proceeds toward the trip. Be sure to bring the attached flyer – or show it on your smartphone.

MAGAZINE & KRINGLE SCHOOL PRIZES - Thank you to everyone who sold Magazines, gifts and Kringles this year to help support H&S. We raised just over \$9,000. As a reward for the students who sold 5 items, the dress down day will be on January 11th. For those who sold 10 items, the root beer float party will be the afternoon of January 11th as well. We will pass out the VIP passes to those who sold 15 or more magazines or gifts at the root beer float party. Attached are the names of all the students who earned each reward. Please contact H&S chair, Molly Ambrose, at mambrose@saintsebs.org with any questions.