



Principal's Thoughts

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I know it's not January, however our *Liturgical New Year* begins on the first day of Advent! Readings for Sunday Mass & Holy Days are assigned to a Cycle (A, B, C) which changes on the first day of the new liturgical year. This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and therefore we will begin listening to readings in Cycle C. Advent or Adventus in Latin means "the coming." We are encouraged to not obsess on the materialistic aspect of the holiday but focus on preparing our hearts for Christmas and celebrating Christ's birth as we wait with anticipation for His Second Coming. So, just as we reflect back on the previous year in order to make our resolutions in January, to become better people, we should spend some time now thinking about our spirituality. Have we lived as Jesus taught? Have we taken care of those less fortunate or have we fed our spirit by attending church as often as we should? I hope you can find some time this Advent season to renew or rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. With that in mind I invite you to sign up for Matthew Kelly's Best Advent Ever <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>. He is an internationally acclaimed author and speaker, whose mission has been to help people and organizations be the best versions of themselves. In that spirit, he also developed the organization Dynamic Catholic with the sole purpose of re-energizing the Catholic Church in America. By signing up for this program, you will receive daily reflections in the form of a video. All you have to do is sit back, reflect and enjoy!

FEELING CRAFTY?

- Has your family prepared an Advent wreath? There is still time!
- The materials used to create the Advent wreath are not randomly chosen but do have meaning.
 - The circular shape represents the eternal cycle of the seasons while evergreens adorning the wreath symbolize everlasting life.
 - Four candles placed in the wreath represent the four weeks leading to Christmas.
 - The three purple (violet) candles signify penance, humility and melancholy, each reminding us to be mindful and prepared.
 - The one pink (rose) candle represents joy. This pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent and reminds us to rejoice at Christ's coming.
 - Each night the appropriate number of candles should be lighted as a prayer is recited. These sites offer some suggested prayers and other Advent activities:
 - <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/about-advent-wreaths.cfm>
 - <http://www.catholicicing.com/advent-ideas/>

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Upcoming Events *Sponsored by: Your PACE Board*

- **Ho! Ho! Ho! Breakfast with Santa is THIS Saturday!**
 - Get your reservations in ASAP! Forms can be found on our website.
 - Need hours? More adult volunteers (10) are still needed for this event. Please contact Holy Joaquin if you would like to help.
- **Spirit Wear Sale**
 - Sweatshirts, ball caps, adult shirts and warm hats (kids can wear the green ones at school at recess!) will be sold at Breakfast With Santa. Great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers!
- **DINE OUT!**
 - Our next Dine Out will be Wednesday, December 5th at Mary's Pizza Shack. Dine in or take out! We made \$225 at Jacks last month – thanks for your support and let's keep it up!
- **Reindeer Lane (aka Santa's Shop) – December 5-7th**
 - PACE will be hosting a Santa Shop where your little St. Agnes kiddos can go shopping for their families on their own – it's a great way for them to get into the spirit of giving!!
 - The store will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Dec. 5-7.
 - A flyer with more details has been included in your envelope.



- **Six Flags Read for Success Program**
 - Information has been included in your envelope this week about the Six Hour Reading Club offered by Six Flags Theme Parks.
 - Given our AR program, this is an easy way for your child to earn a free ticket to Six Flags!
 - Deadline is February 22!
- **Scrip News**
 - Scrip will NOT be sold on Dec. 20-21. Deadline for large, special orders is December 13th.
 - Special orders must be picked up on Tuesday December 18th.
 - Regular sales will resume on January 3rd.
- Looking for a way to celebrate Advent?
 - Join Magnificat SOTI, a Ministry for Catholic Women, at their Prayer Breakfast on Dec. 8-9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza in Concord.
 - Father Matthew Spencer, host of "St. Joseph's Workshop" on Immaculate Heart Media/Relevant Radio, will celebrate Mass and share testimony.
 - Tickets are \$33/\$40 after Dec. 1; the event is open to men and women.
 - For more information: <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-a-d/ca-walnut-creek/>

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TIME SENSITIVE

- **St. Agnes Parish Outreach Opportunities**

- **Giving Tree**

- Please consider taking a star or two from the "Giving Trees" in the church to help spread the Christmas Spirit for a family in need. All wrapped gifts with the original star attached need to be returned on or before December 9th at the 11:00 Mass.

- **HELP!**

- We would love your help to transport students to Concord Royale on Clayton Road. You don't even need to stay!
 - Each month on a Thursday a group of students along with Mrs. Ghelfi visit with the residents.
 - Students leave campus around 2:50. You could drive or be a chaperone in the car, drop off and still be back on time to pick up your child AND receive ½ hour toward your parent hours! Such a deal!
 - Please contact Mrs. Ghelfi if you can help. Even just once would be awesome!

Preschool News!

- Activities for the week of December 3rd:
 - Sounds: q & x
 - Faith Talk for the week: Jesus is Born & Advent (Hope)
 - Geography: Europe
 - Science: Fish
 - Homework: Practice the song for the Christmas Concert.
 - Breakfast with Santa is THIS Saturday, December 1st.

Student Learning Expectation

3.2 An academically prepared student who is able to: Demonstrate understanding and achievement within the core curriculum



~Please Pray~

We can all use prayers and support from one another, therefore each week we will pray for one of our families that they will feel God's grace and our love. This week we ask God's blessings on the Gabbard Family an alum family whose son Brian unexpectedly went home to God. We pray their faith and support from family and friends will give them comfort as they mourn the loss of their son and brother.

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	IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS
11/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Family Gathering 2:00 • CJSF Awards Assembly 2:30 (Formal) • School Board Meeting 6:30-8th Grade Room
11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 Mass (Kinders - Formal) • 12:00 Dismissal-WCEA Self Study Preparation
12/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Party 9-1 • Breakfast with Santa-Church Hall
12/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Sunday of Advent
12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation 9:30 (Grs. 3-8 formal only)
12/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.00 Non-uniform Dress Day
12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reindeer Lane Preview Day • 12:00 Dismissal – Faculty WCEA Articulation • Dine Out @ Mary’s Pizza Shack
12/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reindeer Lane Shopping
12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reindeer Land Shopping



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