



ST. MARY SCHOOL

FAMILY NOTES

December 7, 2009

Children's Mass

The children will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at Mass Tues., Dec. 8, at 9:00 a.m. Grades K & 6 will serve the various ministries. There will not be a 9:00 a.m. Children's Mass on Thursday, Dec. 10.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children's Christmas Program, "Miracle on Bethlehem Street," will be presented at 1:30 on Wed., Dec. 9, and again in full costume at 7:00 that evening. The afternoon performance will not have full costuming; it is for those who prefer to attend during the day, and it gives our children one last opportunity to practice for the full evening production.

Our 5th/6th Grade Band will play carols of the season at 6:30 p.m., prior to the evening performance. Students have received notes regarding what to wear for the program.

NOTE: Students will return to the main school after the 7:00 performance. Parents must pick up students in their assigned classrooms. If you, the parent, are not coming to the classroom to get your child, please send a note telling us who will. **To avoid any confusion, we must have a note, even if another family member is taking your child home.**



Choir News

Children's Choir will practice on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 3:00 to 3:45 in the church. Because of Sister's lengthy illness, the children did not have time to prepare for a nursing home concert this year. However, they will sing at the 11:00 Mass on Sunday, January 3, the Feast of the Epiphany.



Reconciliation

Dec. 7—Grade 5

Dec. 10—Grade 3

Both services will take place in the church at 8:45 a.m. Mrs. Harrison and the teachers have helped the children prepare for this sacrament.

**Advent Angel
Bake Sale
Tomorrow!
Tues., Dec. 8
50 cents/item**

Christmas Gift for Father Alan

The children will present Father Alan's Christmas gift to him at the dress rehearsal on Wed., Dec. 9, because Father is unable to attend the evening performance. Donations for his gift will be accepted up till that day. Any amount you can contribute would be appreciated. Please send the money to the school office in a labeled envelope. Thank you to those who have already given. This year, more than ever, it's important to show Father we appreciate his devotion all three parishes and to our school.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Copies of the program's afternoon performance will be available on DVD for \$10. Order forms will be sent on Friday, Dec. 11. If you wish to purchase a copy, return the form with payment. Checks should be made to St. Mary's School.

CHRISTMAS SOCKS

Christmas socks may be worn now through Dec. 18.



H1N1—second vaccinations for students age 9 & under will be given at school on Dec. 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with preschool.

TAYLORVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOOD BASKET DRIVE.

The Taylorville Fire Department is collecting items from schools and churches to fill food baskets for needy local families. If you wish to contribute, send any non-perishable items by this Thursday.

Recycling Pick Up . . . is now on Thursday mornings. Bring your newspaper, plastic (1 or 2), and aluminum to the garage on the field before school any Thursday, and it will be picked up.

A Big Christmas Thank You. . .

to all who participated in the Taylorville Main Street Christmas parade. The children enjoyed the event, and so did I. We were VERY grateful for our nice warm bus, and we appreciate those of you who stood shivering in the streets to wave to us as we went by. Thanks also to Mrs. Harrison and the parents who rode along with us. I especially want to thank Larry Kemner, who volunteered his time to drive us on Saturday. He donates his time year-round to drive our big, blue bus to nursing home Masses and on field trips. Without him, our participation in the parade and in many other activities wouldn't be possible. The next time you see Mr. Kemner, tell him how much you appreciate his service to our school!

Advent Angel Collection

I will receive the school's portion of the second collection held at next weekend's Masses. This will be added to the bake sale money, the funds collected for our last Jeans Day, and the change collected in each of our classrooms. (The class that collects the most change gets 30 minutes of fun time in the computer lab!) With this money, gifts will be purchased for several students who reside at Kemmerer Village in Assumption. Our students will have an opportunity to see the purchases next Tuesday before they are wrapped. The gifts will be delivered on Wednesday, Dec. 16. Thank you for supporting our Advent project. Please know that you've made a difference in the lives of these Kemmerer residents.

We can still use empty shirt boxes for the Advent Angel gifts.

Santa's Workshop

The toys you donated are ready and waiting! Students in our Parish School of Religion will host their annual Santa's Workshop toy giveaway on Sunday, December 13, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Any family experiencing financial difficulty is welcome to select Christmas gifts for their children. This event draws big crowds from the community, so tell anyone you know who might benefit from this project to arrive early.



Market Day orders due to school by Wednesday, Dec. 9. On-line orders by 11 p.m. CST Saturday, Dec. 12. Pick-up is Thursday, Dec. 17, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Scrip Fundraiser

It's not too late to order your gift cards for that last minute Christmas present. All you need to do is review the participating retailers for the cards needed, complete the order form and forward the form and the payment to the school by Monday morning. I will be placing the last order before Christmas on Monday December 14th prior to 1:00 pm. This is to ensure that I am able to return the cards to you by December 18th. Just in time to spread some Christmas cheer. Thanks to all who have ordered, we have had a great start. Any questions please contact Terri Donnan or Tonya Bowsher. Scrip order forms available at www.st-maryschool.com.