

Advent at ST. MARY'S

EXPECTANT WAITING. HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION. CHEERFUL PREPARATION.



St. Mary's Parish School
Newsletter
Week of December 6,
2021



Monday, Dec. 6 is *St. Nicholas feast day*. St. Nicholas was a Catholic bishop who helped the needy. He was born around 280 in an area of present-day Turkey. He lost both of his parents as a young man and reportedly used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. A devout Christian, he later served as bishop of Myra, a city that is now called Demre. After his death, the legend of his gift-giving grew. The people of Holland developed many of the traditions around St. Nicholas. It was that country who celebrated St. Nicholas on December 6 and have their children put out their shoes and receive some goodies from "Sint Nikolaas" (Dutch for St. Nicholas. Dutch immigrants brought their tradition to America in the 1700's. At St. Mary's we continue the tradition! The students will place one of their shoes in the hallway and they will receive a special *surprise* in their shoes from St. Nick!



Items to note:

Jog-a-thon update from our Fundraising Coordinators (Dianna Spellman and Natalie Johnson): At Friday's **December 3rd assembly**, the following winners were announced



top 3 students who brought in the **most money** were:

#1 Jolene Yahvah	Preschool	with \$900
#2 Joseph Covill	Grade 4	with \$816
#3 Ike Shisler	Grade 2	with \$608.85

top 3 students with the **most pledges**

#1 Ali Wilson	51
#2 Ike Shisler	42
#3 Seeley Johnson	41

Most laps

Grades 6-8	Christopher Sheftic, Gr. 7	with 42 laps
Grade 3- 5	Titus Sheftic, Gr. 5	with 41 laps
Grades PS – 2	Ike Shisler, Gr. 2	with 31 laps

(2020 the total number of laps ran was 1,750; this year it was 2,064!) FYI: 5.7 laps = 1 mile!!!

the family who collected the most money was the Johnson Family with \$1903.20

Still to be announced: Classes with 100% of pledges/money turned will have a Bingo/Pizza Party and the class who brought in the most pledges (% wise) will receive the "mystery box".



From our two FUNDRAISER Coordinators about the Christmas Tree Sales:
Dianna Spellman ([208.301.3232](tel:208.301.3232)) Natalie Johnson ([208.816.3356](tel:208.816.3356))

A huge **“Thank you”** to all our families for kicking off the tree sales with such a strong start. We greatly **appreciate all of you** who have signed up for two to three shifts thus far. *All trees have been moved from the school to the lot and we hope to sell out soon.*

Third tree shifts are now open. As a reminder If you **have not** signed up for your **second** tree shift and trees sell out, your account will be charged a buyout fee.

Weekends are our busiest by far and we are *still missing coverage this Saturday and Sunday evening*. It is helpful to have these shifts filled first to help in our sell out efforts. Please see the far right column to view how many families needed per shift. Please take a moment and add your name where possible.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MQIELAIKgpL11N91LVfJkmfZyUf9A5n8R5a9kPXfVso/edit?usp=sharing>

When working tree shifts please remember to keep the trailer tidy and please use the comment box on the sign in/sign out sheet to let us know of needs/changes/concerns regarding the tree sales. Both phone numbers are listed in front of the binder book if immediate assistance is needed, please don't hesitate to call. Thanks again for your help and attention to this!

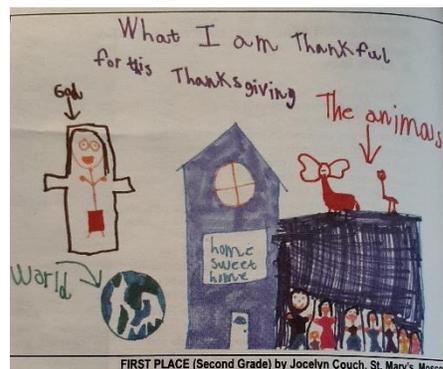


The Elves Workshop will take place in ONE week: December 13 through the 15th (or until our “store” runs out of gifts for families/relatives and friends. Prices range from \$. 25 to \$5.00. The student are able to shop daily at noon.

ALL proceeds will go to St. Vincent de Paul (local charity) and to Ursuline Sisters in Mexico and their missionary work.

Our elves need assistance to have items to sell. Donation of items that students like to buy as gifts for family members are items like: toys, stuffed animals, religious objects, jewelry, “gently used” books, games, candles, etc. Please send your items to the school as soon as possible. *If you have any questions, please just ask) Thank you!*

Congratulations to our Second Grader, *Jocelyn Couch*, whose drawing focused on *Gratitude*” took **First Place** in the Idaho Catholic Register (ICR)! Here is a copy of her drawing:



FIRST PLACE (Second Grade) by Jocelyn Couch, St. Mary's, Moscow

Future Event

REMINDER: December 24, Christmas Eve there will be a *Family Mass at 4:00 p.m.* at St. Mary's Church. *Attached is a flyer about this event.* IF you are going to attend this Mass, would you consider signing for a part in which your family could participate? We need ushers, readers, gift bearers, etc.

Thank you so much. Please return the flyer on/by **December 15. OR you can sign-up on the following link:**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1680X8NsZ9BDx_GdwVmywZPjpoGRU0z_Ntm6lgOjbrg4/edit#gid=0

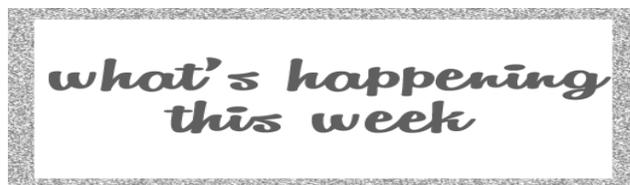


From Dianna Spellman, organizer for St. Mary's School participation in this this year's Moscow's *Holiday Lights Parade*.

PARADE DATE CORRECTION: The parade has been moved to **Thursday the 9th @ 6pm** because of conflicting events in the area. If your children would like to participate, please sign up on the link below. The theme is

gingerbread house and students will be dressing up thanks to some help from Ms. Nikki! I will have students take their costumes home Thursday the 9th after school. I have not been given the location of our staging area but I will update that information as soon as I get it. Everyone will need to be to the float by 5:30. We need students to ride on the float, a few to carry the banner in front and several older kids to pass out candy from behind the float. We are not permitted to throw from the float so we need students that can walk and pass out candy at the same time. If there are any parents willing to ride on the float with kids, that would be very helpful. Please remember to dress warm as we will be rolling whether it rains or snows! Any questions or comments please get a hold of me at 208.301.3232.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SI6vYREaj3byV2tOs_sq5i5hJnbWDbptP3mhv7uIOKk/edit?usp=sharing



Monday, Dec. 6: Feast of *Sint Nikolaas* better known as *Santa Claus* is celebrated

Lunch: *Corn dog muffins*

Tuesday, Dec. 7 Wear a Christmas shirt OR a Santa hat today

Lunch: *Chicken pineapple stir fry*



Wednesday, Dec. 8 *School Mass for the Feast of Mary at the Church.*
UNIFORMS are required today

Lunch: *Waffles and sausage*

All are welcome and invited to the First Presbyterian Church annual Service of Remembrance on December 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Thursday, Dec. 9 *Bring Joy to another!* By doing two random acts of kindness for two persons (or more) today

Lunch: *Pizza Skillet Pasta (think Pizza without dough but over macaroni)*

Christmas Parade starts at 6:00 p.m. (see further info in this Newsletter)

Friday, Dec. 10 *NO Mass today and no uniforms are required*

Sweater Weather! be sure to wear your favorite Christmas or snuggly weather sweater.



Lunch: *Fish sticks and tater tots*



- Q. How will we know if school is closed due to the weather?**
 A. Basically, if Moscow School District is closed due to treacherous road conditions, we will be closed too. See the [Family Handbook](#) for specific details of how the school will alert families.
- Q. When is the last day to sell raffle tickets?**
 A. Friday, December 17th
- Q. Will there be a family rosary in December?**
 A. Not this month. The next one will be in January 2022.
- Q. Why are there ladders alongside of the school?**
 A. Debbie Johnson, our Facilities Manager who is dealing with this wanted you to know the following: Scaffolding can be seen on the south side of the school to repair roof ice damage sustained during the winter of 2019-2020. We recently received permission from the insurance company to proceed with the needed repairs and to alleviate further damage we are proceeding with exterior repairs. New roofing shingles, new plywood, two coats of sealant, and new heat tape should be completed this week. Interior work and gutter replacement will be ongoing. All work will be completed with minimal interruption to school activities.
- Q. We know there is not a Christmas Play this year, but the calendar has a possible instrument/choir concert. Will this be happening?**
 A. No, due to the restrictions surrounding the pandemic of the number allowed to gather; playing and singing in large numbers that one of our programs bring together with the lack of ventilation. . We shall see what the Spring will bring!
- Q. Does the school do safety drills with the students?**
 A. Yes, we do. We are required to do a Fire Drill monthly. This past month the school was evacuated in 80 seconds.
 We also do “lockdown” drills throughout the school year. This week we will be doing one. We go on the PA to announce the lockdown. The teachers know where the students are to be placed

within the area they are safely and away from doors, windows, etc. The doors are locked; shades down etc. Under no circumstances do they open the doors until the doors are unlocked by a person in authority. All do a very good job safety wise. We pray we'll never have to do either one in reality!

Q. Will there be childcare during the Christmas break December 20 through the 31st.

A. No, there won't be any childcare at the school.

Q Is it true that families are being charged for getting a mask from the school office?

A. The only ones being charged for a mask are those students who come to the school office three to five times every week asking for a mask. The occasional student who needs a mask there is no charge. This charge is only those who consistently needs a mask from the office (3 to 5 times weekly).

Q We notice that this year we have fundraising coordinators. Why has this been done?

A. Fundraising efforts are key to assisting the school financially yearly. The cost to educate *every student* this year is \$7200. And 80% of the budget is salaries and benefits. We must have ways to cover the gap of tuition charged and actual cost. We have several ways of doing this. However, a *major* way is fundraisers. In the past, we have relied greatly on staff and “volunteers” to make the fundraisers work. We have chosen to do what many schools have done which is to actually make this a “position”. Dianna Spellman and Natalie Johnson were the team (along with a great volunteer group) that made the Auction work so well last year. They asked about becoming the school’s fundraiser coordinators. We are grateful to the great job that Dianna and Natalie are doing together as a team to raise the fundraising monies *along with each of you, parents, for the sake of the education of your child(dren)!!!*

By them taking on the task of coordinating the fundraisers, it has “freed” staff to cover other important areas in the school. Example: Debbie Johnson in addition to being the Office Manager is now “free” to focus on being the Facilities Manager in the school. This area covers dealing with keeping the school facilities in top shape: contracts dealing with maintenance, repairs, equipment, etc. in the school.

Eucharistic Adoration for children has started *at school*. This means students are welcomed and allowed to spend time with Jesus in His presence of the Eucharist. And this presence is in our school in the library. Father Joe, our pastor, spent time with each grade explaining what Eucharistic adoration is. Each student was very attentive. This first week has been very special. The students, especially in the older grades, as they have finished their work have taken time just to be with Jesus. Mr. Herrenbruck, upper grades religion teacher, who has taken his students in the past to church for adoration told us that having the Eucharistic presence in the school has been even more special due to the intimate setting and feeling of closeness to Jesus. This has been very special for all of the school. We are truly blessed!



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