



The Season of Advent

Week 1, HOPE

Dear Jesus, you are hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

November 30, 2016

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

We have been talking about the season of Advent here at school and I thought each week, I'd pass on an Advent prayer for you as well.

Next Tuesday, the students in grades 5-8 will be going to Woodside Lutheran Home to assist residents in making Christmas ornaments. This multi-generational project is a terrific partnership between our students and the Woodside residents. It is truly heartwarming to see the interaction between the generations.

The 5th grade boys' basketball team has a home game on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 4:30. Everyone is invited to come and cheer on these boys. There is no cost to attend this game. St. Joseph School did not have enough players to support a team solely from our school so we partnered with St. Joseph Parish. This is also true for our 8th grade boys' team.

We are trying something new this year. Rather than having a Student Council, we are having a student activity group. This is a little less formal and hopefully more activities will be generated through this group. We were fortunate to have two eighth grade boys come forward to lead this new activity group. Other upper grade students were very supportive of having Jack Gagnon serve as President and Jason Euceda, serve as vice president. Mr. Krause is the staff advisor. Mrs. Seleen has offered to supervise students who might be interested in being bell ringers at Bay Park Square for the Salvation Army. This activity will take place within the next few weeks. More information will be coming home regarding this activity if your son/daughter expressed an interest in helping. This is an after school activity.

Next week we will have the *Holiday Treasures Gift Shop* set up at St. Joseph School! The Holiday Treasures shop, formerly called The Secret Santa Shop, will be co-chaired by parents Brooke Glenzer and Rebecca Gardner. This shop allows your children to shop for mom, dad, grandma, grandpa and others for Christmas. It's fun to see the gifts chosen for the children's very special people. The shop will be open from 7:30am -3:30pm on Tuesday, Dec. 6, Wednesday, Dec. 7 and Thursday, Dec. 8. The teachers will take their classes in for a browsing time and a shopping time. A flyer and an envelope for money, if you choose to allow your child to shop, accompanies today's letter home.

Brooke Glenzer and Rebecca Gardner could use some volunteers next week in the Holiday Treasures Gift Shop. If you are willing to help for a couple hours or the whole day...whatever works with your schedule, please call or text Brooke at 920-246-9785. She'll be scheduling the volunteers. If you choose to volunteer, remember to fill out a volunteer slip. If your child comes in to shop while you're there, you can leave the room or help another student so their gifts will be a surprise for you too.

Kim Hanson, grandmother of the Hellmann children, is working with the Adopt a Grandparent program in the Green Bay area. Her organization is putting together over 500 baskets to be given to area nursing home residents at Christmas time. She asked if we, families of St. Joseph School, could help make handmade Christmas cards to go with each gift basket. I don't think we could make the total of 500 cards needed but I agreed to get the word out to our families. The students will all make 1 card in their class but if any of your families would consider making a card or several cards at home that would be terrific. Send any handmade cards to school on or before Friday, Dec. 9. This is a little early but the organization needs time to attach the cards to the gift bags and distribute the gift bags to over 15 area nursing homes in time for Christmas. You can make the card say to: a friend, from: first name only or if you're comfortable you can sign it with your family name Ex. From, The Hoard Family. The cards made at school will only have the child's first name. Whatever size or materials you decide to use will be fine. Thanks for helping with this worthwhile project in helping to make someone else's Christmas a happy time!

Looking ahead...Our Christmas program will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:30. Every student has a part in this program so we hope everyone will be attending. Dress up holiday clothing would be appropriate for the students to wear. There will be a social following the Christmas concert. Santa will be there too. We ask each family to send a dozen cookies for the social so if you're busy baking, please make an extra dozen for school. More information regarding the program will be sent in future letters.

Have a great week.

Sincerely,

Carol Hoard