



St. Margaret Catholic School

Viking Vine



"Be Who God Meant You to Be And You Will Set The World On Fire."

December 14, 2018

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

Here's a good insight into life. "Life is not about being better than someone else. It is about striving to be better than you used to be." Author Unknown. St. Augustine had another good insight when he wrote: "When people choose to withdraw far from a fire, the fire continues to give warmth, but they grow cold. When people choose to withdraw far from the light, the light continues to be bright in itself but they are in darkness. This is also the case when people withdraw from God."

And withdraw from God we all do, not out of disbelief necessarily, but mostly out of forgetfulness, because we are just too busy with the rest of life. Take for example the Bethlehem Innkeeper who told Mary and Joseph that there was no room for them in his inn. This did not mean that he was a bad person; he was just very busy taking care of his customers, providing for their needs and keeping the peace. Unfortunately, when the most important birth in history took place in his backyard, he missed it entirely, not because he was a bad person, he was

just too busy.

With Christmas just around the corner, we might be too busy to give attention to what we are actually commemorating. Those who live "by the cash register" will do everything they can to keep our attention on our wallets and purses. The Three Wise Men seem to have had the true understanding of the Christmas event. They spent many weeks in anticipation as they travelled from their homeland to Bethlehem. When they arrived, their purpose was to honor the newborn child and out of courtesy they brought one gift each.

We, too, have the opportunity for a period of anticipation in the Season of Advent. Of course, Advent is a constant season for, within our lives, we are continuously waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectations, are all part of our Advent experience. God does not come to us from the sky, he comes to us in the daily story of our lives in people, places and events.

Advent invites us to prepare for the commemoration of God's coming by taking time to have a closer look inside ourselves away from the busy outside. This looking inside is not about remorse or regret, nor about listing ways life

over the past year could have been different; it's not about wishing we were better people. It's about forward movement, getting new bearings, relying more on God for directions. It's about a fresh start, getting closer to the "fire" and the "light" that are God's love and compassion. Advent is a time to "Rejoice, let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is nigh." St. Paul Phil 4:4,5.

As well, Advent is a time to: "Accept surprises/ that upset your plans. Shatter your dreams./give a completely/ different turn/to your day/ and - who knows - / to your life./ It is not chance./ Leave the Father/ to Himself weave/ the pattern of your days." Dom Helger Camara. A Thousand Reasons for Living.

Then: "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." St. Paul. Phil. 4:7

Peace and Blessings,

Wendy L. Wicke

Events

Monday, December 17th

6:00 pm - PK-3 thru 2nd Grade Christmas Program in the GYM

Tuesday, December 18th

Jr. High Mid Terms

9:30 am - 1:30 pm - 5th Gr. Choir to perform at various places

Wednesday, December 19th

AR Points Due

Jr. High Mid Terms

Thursday, December 20th

Free Dress for December Birthdays/Popsicle Party will be in January

Jr. High Mid Terms

Friday, December 21st

End of 2nd Quarter

8:30 am - Prayer Service in Gym

Noon Dismissal to begin Christmas Holidays.

Lunches

Monday, December 17th

Gr. Meat Soft Tacos, Pinto Beans, Corn & Peach Slices

Tuesday, December 18th

Hamburger, Fries, Pear Slices & Wheat Cookie

Wednesday, December 19th

Chicken Alfredo, Yam Patty, Salad, Orange Smiles & Wheat Garlic Roll

Thursday, December 20th

Pork Roast/Rice Gravy, Sweet Peas, Cauliflower with Cheese Sauce, Spiced Apples & Wheat Roll

Friday, December 21st

NOON DISMISSAL LUNCH WILL NOT BE SERVED

Choice of Milk Daily

Things to Remember

HALO!

Our HALO this week was Mrs. Catalina Harris. We thank Mrs. Harris for the many hats she wears. First as an aide to Mrs. Adams and second as our school translator.

Club Meetings

Tuesday, December 18th

Noon - BETA Club

Wednesday, December 19th

3:00 - 3:30 pm - Student Council

Christmas Holidays

School will be dismissed at Noon on Friday, December 21st (Lunch WILL NOT BE SERVED AND NO EDC) and will resume on Monday, January 7, 2019!!

Viking Lagniappe

Unveiling the Virtues

Justice enables one to give to each, beginning with God, what is due him.

A Disciple of Christ living the virtue of **JUSTICE** ...

Shows devotion and honor to God as Father

Offers to God what one has done

Lifts one's heart and mind to God through prayer (Praise, contrition, thanksgiving, and supplication)

Respects oneself

Treats others with respect, recognizing the innate dignity of each person

Distributes to each what is necessary in a manner that is honorable

Is obedient, loyal, and respectful to those in authority

Pays due honor with respect to one's country with a willingness to serve.

Taken from: **EDUCATION IN VIRTUE**, *Disciple of Christ - An Educator's Guide to living a virtuous life.*

Ethics

in the Kingdom of God
is wisdom for life
for the discerning and doing
of virtue.

Family Faith Formations

Keep a Catholic Home

In one of the chapters of Marc Cardaronella's book, "Keep Your Kids Catholic: Sharing Your Faith and Making it Stick," he includes some suggestions for creating a physical environment in your home to support and nurture faith. The environment is considered a "second teacher" and it is a prime way to show what it is we value. "Environment drives behavior." Holy reminders around the house help us to think of God more often. Some suggestions offered include: sacred art, statues, and crucifixes. We don't have to overdo it, but simple, tasteful holy reminders can strengthen our identity and open us to grace. One great item to have is holy water. It is okay to bring some home from church or ask Father to bless some holy water for you. Perhaps you can have some in your child's room and bless them, tracing the sign of the cross on their foreheads with the words, "May God bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Or, put it by the front door and bless them as they go out. Whatever you choose, let's show our children that our faith is not something reserved for church time but an important part of our daily life.

Faculty & Staff Stocking

Faculty & Staff Stocking is an opportunity to honor all St. Margaret Faculty & Staff at Christmas.

Each year with the donations made to Faculty & Staff Stocking, we are able to give each staff member at school a monetary gift.

You may send cash or a check made payable to SMCS in an envelope

addressed to "Faculty & Staff Stocking" to the school office by WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH.

Thank You,

PTC School Board Members



Special Thank You!!

The SMCS PTC would like to say a Big Thank You to everyone who came out to Breakfast with St. Nicholas and to all the wonderful volunteers who helped!!

