

From the Principal

ADVENT—THE LORD IS COMING, LET'S PREPARE OUR HEARTS for HIM!

As we enter the season of Advent this weekend, we would like you to consider how you as a family can prepare yourselves for the coming of the Lord. All He asks is for you to reach out and be open to Him. Here are some opportunities for you to seek Him out at St. John's:

- Sunday Mass (4:30pm Sat-8:30am, 10:30am, & 5:30pm Sunday)
- Daily Mass (8:30am), or Wednesday school Mass (8:30am)
- Advent Family Retreat on Sunday, December 3rd at 12:15pm (lunch at 11:30am)
- Reconciliation on December 23rd at 3:30pm.

As a school, we are preparing our hearts for the Lord in many ways in the coming weeks.

- We will be praising Him through music with our Band Concert on December 6th at 7:00pm and the Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00pm.
- Through Service with our Advent Service Project, Bags of Joy - helping the homeless by creating outreach bags for those in need in our community (see below for more information).
- Cleansing our hearts with God's forgiveness - Reconciliation for grades 3-8 on December 4th
- All school Masses each Wednesday at 8:30am
- Practicing the virtue of Purity – keeping our soul free from sin. As the 1st graders learned today that the Holy Spirit dwells with us, we need to make sure that we make room and welcome the Lord in.

Finally, please join me in praying for Sr. Gwendolin, former principal at St. John's from 1982-2003, whose memorial Mass is this Saturday, December 1st at 10:00am here at St. John's. Also keep our 2nd grade students in your prayers over the next weeks as they make final preparations to make their First Reconciliations on Saturday, December 16th.

Have a wonderful weekend and blessings to you and your family during this Advent season.

Ann Laird, Principal

Upcoming Events

November 30

End of 1st Trimester
School Spirit Day
Preschool picture retakes

December 1

Memorial Mass at 10:00am
for Sister Gwendolin

December 3

Second Trimester begins

December 4

Reconciliation, gr. 3-8

December 6

Feast of St. Nick
Band Concert, 7:00pm

December 7

School Spirit Day
Bags of Joy Donations Due
Geography Club, 2:30pm





As you begin your holiday shopping, remember to use Amazon Smile for your purchases. It works the same as regular Amazon shopping, but a percentage of your purchases will come back to St. John's.

To get started, go to www.smile.amazon.com, login using your regular Amazon account, and designate St. John the Baptist Church and School of New Brighton as your charitable organization.

Box Tops Collection Contest Through December 7th

Keep collecting those Box Tops! Our current contest runs through December 7th. The grade that turns in the most valid (non-expired) Box Tops by Dec 7 will be rewarded with a day to wear comfy clothes and receive a hot chocolate treat! (Date to be identified by the teachers of the winning grade)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL!**



Our 8th grade students went on a vocations field trip today. The boys visited the St. Paul Seminary and the girls visited the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver.

Santa's Shop

Santa's Shop is fast approaching! Our store will be open for the students to shop on Tuesday, December 11th. All Classrooms will have the opportunity to visit Santa's Shop. Envelopes/lists will go home next week to all students in grades K-5. Please send a re-useable bag with your child to help transport gifts home. Prayer partners will help younger students wrap their gifts too. Please make sure to send cash or check payable to St. John's for purchasing gifts! We are excited to have the kids shop. We have a great selection of gifts for all ages. If you are interest in volunteering please contact Julie Thomas @ lovemy2girls2121@gmail.com



Bags of Joy - Advent Service Project

This year for our Advent Service Project, St. John's will be creating homeless outreach bags for people in need in our community. We are asking for your help with the donations of the items for these bags. Collection will run through next Friday, December 7th.

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| Kg – Chapstick | 5th - Soup (tab open cans) |
| 1st - Hand/Foot warmers | 6th - mini hand sanitizer |
| 2nd - Individually wrapped toothbrushes | 7th - Fruit cups |
| 3rd - Toothpaste | 8th - Granola Bars |
| 4th - Socks | All - Candy |

Students will assemble the bags in class and will be able to see first-hand the generosity in our school! Each student will also take a bag home to personally deliver the next time you drive by or see someone in need.

Help Needed - Care Crew Teacher

St. John's Care Crew (preschool) is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, dedicated person who loves children. The Care Crew Teacher would provide quality care of our 3-5 year old students in an after school program. This position would include planning creative and fun activities, maintaining a safe and clean environment, greeting and communicating with parents and most importantly, engaging with the children. The hours are 2:30p-5p Monday through Friday. For more information or to apply, contact Andrea Schroeder (schroedera@stjohnnyb.org).

Wines to Wishes 2019

Wines to Wishes planning is well underway! Did you know...

This is the 14th year that the event has taken place. Over the past 13 years, the event has brought in over \$900,000! It is the premiere fundraising event for our school!

Many wishes have come true thanks to the generosity of our school community, parish community, sponsors, friends, and family. Last year, every teacher and school staff member received a new laptop, and flexible seating furniture was purchased for 5 classrooms.

This year, our goal is to purchase furniture for the remaining 11 classrooms.

There are many ways to get involved in the event!

- Purchase an item (or two!) for the grade baskets (see the letter for ideas) or put together a basket of items – all will be used for the silent auction.
- Contact friends and family members to see if they are able to donate something for the silent or live auction. We all know someone!
- Sign up for one of the many volunteer opportunities, which will be available after the start of the year. Want to get involved now? Let us know!

Our next planning meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30p.

Invitations will be sent home in the next few weeks!

Contact Michelle Barsness (barsnessm@stohnnyb.org) or Rita Arndorfer (arndorfera@stjohnnyb.org) with questions!

