

St. Andrew Parish School

School † *Church* † *Community*

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*“St. Andrew Parish School is where faith and knowledge meet.
We are called to Teach, Reflect, and Live the Gospel”.*

Parent Newsletter - December 12, 2016

Good Morning St. Andrew Families,

Brrrr. I guess Winter temps and snowfall are here to stay for a while. Please be safe, stay warm, and snuggle up the little ones as these cold temps affect their bodies differently than the big kids.

Many wonderful events happening this week. We will be celebrating our weekly Advent Prayer hosted by Mrs. Amici and our awesome 8th Grade Students. This week's Advent Prayer will be taking place on Tuesday, 12/13 at 8:30 in the School Gymnasium.

Our Student Christmas program will be held on Thursday, 12/15 at 6:30p. Due to parking and suspected large crowds, I would please recommend to leave earlier so our program can start promptly at 6:30p, doors will open up at 6p.

Our Student Mass during the School Week will be held this Friday, 12/16 at 8:45a hosted by our 6th Grade Class. Reconciliation for our Students grades 3-8 will take place after our Student Mass.

Our Sunday Student Mass will be held this Sunday, 12/18 at 9:30a hosted by our 5th Grade Teacher Mrs. Kimberly Smith and our First Grade Teacher Mrs. Heather Smith. Please join us as Mass with students always brightens our hearts.

Because of the true Winter Season upon us, please pay attention to emails from the Main Office regarding possible delays or closures. We work congruently with the Delavan-Darien School District and the Dousmann Bus Company to inform all families as soon as possible. I will be forwarding Mass emails to all and please check WMTV NBC Channel 15 from Madison, WI news broadcast or online at: www.nbc15.com, and WCLO / Channel 1230am (radio) for details. I will NOT be using Option C to communicate said changes.

When it comes to mean temperatures and windchills during the school day, it is very common for schools to use a model for which to be considered safe and hazardous to our students regardless of the temperature. I will use the magic number of "20 degrees". Outside recess and activities during the winter will operate around this number. 20 degrees and calm winds, we will be ok. Anything lower than that, to error on the margin of student and staff safety, I will have kids stay inside. I will be attaching a link to the US. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Any questions, please direct them to the Main Office.

We (Parish and School) take this time to introduce our new Maintenance Employee: Mr. Frank Dedeo. Frank is a military veteran and retiree from the Walworth County Maintenance Services where he was the Plant Manager for Boiler and HVAC Systems. Frank's knowledge in all aspects of Maintenance - HVAC, Boilers, Plumbing, and electrical are outstanding. Welcome Frank.

I want to thank our Music Teacher: Ms. Jeanne Bleser for her long efforts in advance to creating a wonderful Christmas Program for the students. Ms. Bleser also recently donated a brand new "base xylophone" to the Music department so the students could experience learning a new instrument. Thank you Ms. Bleser!

As one may have noticed our newer White Posts with yellow chains on the East side of our Parking lot (8th Street). This was donated to help create a better visual for visitors, parents, and Parishioners when it is safe to park and or not park due to school activities. For our "Matt Kenseth" pole position drivers who attend our pick line early, if you please, when it safe: (Usually after 2:50p) please feel free to unsnap the chain connector but PLEASE COIL THE CHAIN OFF OF THE GROUND. This will help the life of the equipment to last longer and not get possibly frozen to the ground. Thanks for your help.

Leadership / Volunteer Opportunities

1. We appreciate all of those who volunteer, chaperone, coach, and do amazing things for our students. If one is interested, one must have completed the "SafeGuarding" training from the Archdiocese. If you are interested, please contact Shelly Koch at 262-728-5922 for more info. Thanks.
2. If you know someone who is **certified to teach or substitute teach** with a current Wisconsin DPI License, and who may be interested in substitute teaching here at St. Andrew, please forward their name and contact information. Thank you.

Upcoming Events / Friendly Reminders

1. If we are in doubt of what is transpiring in your student's) classroom? I highly encourage you to visit their **Classroom Teacher's Google Home-Page or Option C** for items such as: Homework, Special Events, Quizzes, Tests, any all pertinent information to that Teacher and/or Subject Area. Any questions, please contact that Teacher directly. If you need further assistance after those attempts (at least 2), then contact me to help out as much as I can. Thanks.
2. St. Andrew's Children's Choir will be starting to practice for their Christmas Choir Scheduled on 3:30p on Christmas Eve. Please see the attached flyer from Ms. Bleser.
3. The ArchBishop's Catholic Schools Dinner is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom Milwaukee at 6:30p. If you are interested, please RSVP to the Arch Office at 414-769-3451 or email: mendenhallj@archmil.org.

Parent-School Committee News

1. St. Andrew Annual Fund:

Hollie Leffel and the Annual Fund have created a "Pizza Party Challenge" for All classrooms who participate in the Annual Fund Challenge. It's not the amount but the number of participants who help their class reach a goal of "100%". Give a lot, a little it doesn't matter but please play! Let's show our Parish community that we are committed to our school financial goals too. Please see the attached link at the end of your email. Thank you Hollie and thank you all.

2. Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting for PSA will be Monday, 12/19 at 6p in the Teacher's Room at the School. Are all welcome.

3. St. Andrew's Winter / Holiday Spirit Wear:

Earlier this month we sent out updated St. Andrew's Winter/Holiday Spirit Wear catalog sheets with prices, and our URL. Our School Store was open until 11/30. Using the URL, it was easy to order and have everything shipped directly to your house. For those who missed this deadline, I was able to have the store extended to this last Friday, 12/9. Greg is going to let me know when items will start to be shipped out. Remember for every item ordered, monies are directly given back to the school. Happy Holidays!

From The Coaches Locker Room

1. Basketball Sports Schedules:

For those who want to find out the latest and greatest times for practices and games, please contact your student's Coach or visit the St. Andrew Website at: [_____](#). Thanks Coach Q, Athletics Committee Members, Basketball Coaches, parents, and students for you hard work!! Go Spartans!

2. Holiday Ideas:

If one is running out ideas for potential stocking stuffers or a gift for grandparents, think about purchasing some "Spartan Bucks" from the Main Office. The Spartan Bucks are good for admission, concessions, and most importantly 100% of the monies goes back into the Student's Athletic Programming here at School. Thanks for your support.

Professional Learning Community Links/Happenings

1. As announced in Masses and our recent Parish Bulletin, Mr. Al Seeman will be preparing activities for Advent events on Sundays. Please see our website and the attachment in this week's Family Letter.
2. Free Tickets to a Marquette Basketball Game.

3. Aram Library Happenings for December:

Please visit the Aram Library Website at: aramkids@aramlibrary.org

From the Desk of Archbishop Listecki

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fame is one of those fleeting concepts. A person recognized as a celebrity today can often fade into obscurity in a short period of time. We might even convince ourselves that we are more popular than we think.

One time, I had returned to celebrate Mass in a parish where I was stationed. I had a wonderful relationship with the community. As I was standing in the back of the church greeting the congregation, a young boy came running up to me after Mass yelling, "I missed you! I missed you!" "Thank you so much," I responded, feeling pretty pleased with myself. "Oh, Father Bob, it's so good that you're back." "Ah, it's Father Jerry." "Oh, yeah," he responded. So much for the celebrity status.

Think of the movie star or stars that dominated your childhood; they might not even be recognizable to young people today. The stars of today who capture the imagination of the young will only be memories to the adults of tomorrow.

It can be hard for us to imagine the popularity of some of the former sport stars. They amazed us with their feats of athletic ability, some even making their way into the halls of fame, but many are merely memories. Today's generation might never appreciate what they meant to the fans of yesterday, and the fans of tomorrow may not appreciate what the stars of today mean to us.

A good part of fame is the vehicle of communication. Two hundred years ago, print excelled as a means of communication. A good reporter was as essential to fame as was the celebrated person. Legends grew out of word of mouth. In today's age, a person can gain instant celebrity status just by posting on Facebook – that same person can just as easily be deleted.

Each age group has their share of celebrities. However, when one is publicly recognized for decades, or even centuries, for their accomplishments, then perhaps the fame is well-earned.

If a Catholic were asked who the most popular saint is for today's believers, I would be almost certain that the answer would be St. Francis of Assisi. Our current Pope acknowledges the great influence St. Francis has in establishing the Gospel vision. He even took the saint's name for his pontificate. For almost 800 years, St. Francis has been a symbol of holiness and his effect continues to be far-reaching.

I asked myself, who would be the popular saint before St. Francis? Who would claim the imagination of the believers before St. Francis came into the scene? What I discovered was that today's saint, celebrated on December 6, would have occupied that position: St. Nicholas. He was noted by his generosity.

According to his story, Nicholas was a rich person who used his wealth to provide funds necessary for the daughters of a destitute man to marry. He did so by tossing bags of gold anonymously into the window of the man's home. It saved the daughters from a life of prostitution and destitution. Nicholas was later recognized as the benefactor. This generosity characterized his entire life. He became known for his piety and zeal. Today, the secular society transforms him into Santa Claus, and before that, the Dutch celebrated his feast day by placing shoes outside the door for St. Nicholas to deposit a treat. I hung my stocking in hopes that I would receive some candy or goodies rather than coal (indicating that I was a bad boy.)

In "Butler's Lives of the Saints," an anonymous Greek from the 10th century is quoted about St. Nicholas: "Wherever there are people, in the country and in the town, in the villages, in the isles, in the furthest parts of the earth, his name is revered and churches are built in his honor. Images of him are set up, panegyrics preached and festivals celebrated. All Christians young and old, men and women, boys and girls, reverence his memory and call upon his protection."

St. Nicholas was a bishop, and anyone who makes a bishop look good is alright with me. I know that he encouraged his flock to LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

[Transformed by the Spirit,](#)

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki

Archbishop of Milwaukee

From the Desk of Dr. Kathleen Cepelka
Superintendent - Milwaukee Archdiocese School

Friday of the Second Week of Advent

Friday, December 9, 2016

"I, the Lord your God, teach you what is for your good and lead you on the way you should go."

Isaiah 48: 17

As Catholic educators committed to teaching and leading others in the way of our God, we pause at the end of this second week on our Advent journey.

Despite the darkness and deepening winter that surround us, we trust that God is teaching us and leading us for our good.

Who needs us to show the way to safety and security today? To whom are we called to be the face of mercy and hope?

Come, Lord Jesus...

Principally Speaking

With many things going on in all of our lives especially at this time of the year, let us truly take a moment and remember what the season is about and how our children and students learn from us. Christmas is meant to be the birth of Christ, our Savior. It's meant to help celebrate family, friends, brother and sisterhood and "good tidings" to all. We all are our children's teachers and role models. When things become stressful possibly remember who is watching how we react, how we speak, how we share, how we love, how we smile, and we come together.

Our children will learn, emulate, and become engrained with these customs. To Teach love, peace, understanding, and diversity, we must model it for them all the time for it is our mandate in God's name to do so. I feel this is one of many beautiful messages for Christmas is to evangelize goodness as many are not so fortunate. Please be the light of mercy and hope during these next several weeks of Advent, Prayer, and togetherness.

In God's Love,

Randy

