

DECEMBER NEWS AT SHSF

Issue 5
December 2018

ADVENT BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

During the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday, December 2, various activities have been planned for our students. These include our morning prayer services with the Advent Wreath and daily reflections about the liturgical season.

There are also a number of activities listed on our school calendar and in our parish bulletins that will give you and your family an opportunity to fully prepare for the coming of our Lord.

Our students are making Advent chains to help them understand how important the season of Advent really is and that Jesus is the reason for the season. Discussions with your children about them will definitely add to the richness of the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Please try to encourage your children to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas during the weeks ahead by taking part in these activities.



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Mission Statement

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"Don't Be Scared" and "Christmas in Black and White" will be presented by our students (PS-Grade 8) on Thursday, December 13, at 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church. The two shows combined will be about an hour long.



Grade 1 must wear nice Christmas attire. The older students will be wearing their penguin tee-shirts and jeans. If they want to wear Santa hats with their penguin shirts, that's fine too. Be sure their names are in them though, so they don't get lost.

We will also be having a performance on the same Thursday afternoon at school starting at 1 PM for grandparents and other guests who cannot come in the evening. Children in PS-K-

There will be a run-through rehearsal at the church on Wednesday morning, December 12. We will walk to the church and then back to school when we are done.



**THURSDAY AND
FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 6 and 7
NOON DISMISSAL
PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES**

CASH CALENDARS

We will be doing our CASH CALENDARS again this year. We really need your help selling them.

Every family will be given five to either buy or sell. The cost for each calendar is \$10 and you have 31 chances to win cash during

the month of January. These are due back to school on Tuesday, December 18. If you do want to sell them, you can make a donation for the ones you don't sell. Look for the calendars next week.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT

Our Middle School Bands and Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Karen Webster, will present an evening of Christmas Music on Monday, December 17, starting at 7:00 PM in our multi-purpose room. The concert will be

performed by students from Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. If you can attend the concert on the 17th, you will be surely entertained by the beautiful music they have prepared for your listening pleasure.



TUESDAY—DECEMBER 18—NOON DISMISSAL

TREE LIGHTING

Our third and fourth grade parents will be hosting our annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Wednesday, December 5, from 6:30 PM until 7:00 PM on the school grounds.



This will be an outdoor event, so dress warmly! There will be refreshments, Christmas music, and some very special visitors. Please join us as we begin our countdown to Christmas.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our classroom Christmas Celebrations will take place on Tuesday morning, December 18th. This is the last school day before vacation begins. Room parents will be contacting you

about the details once they have spoken with each of the classroom teachers about the necessary arrangements. All parents are welcome to join in the fun.



**CHRISTMAS
BREAK
NO SCHOOL
DECEMBER 19—
JANUARY 1**

HOLIDAY WISH LIST

Many times during the Christmas season parents and friends wonder if there is something in particular that the school needs and how can they can help. If anyone is willing to donate a special gift during the holidays, the following items are suggested:

- postage stamps (books or rolls)
- manila file folders (3 tab)
- #10 size white envelopes
- blank CD-R discs
- driveway salt

- colored copy paper (any color)
- 64 quart clear plastic totes with lids
- and 100% participation in our Cash Calendar sales

No limit on any of the items, as few or as many as you would like to donate. We can always use them.

THANK YOU!



THE SCHOOL OF SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201

Phone: 802-442-2446
Fax: 802-442-2344

www.sacredheartbennington.org



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church provide a special sense of meaning and beauty for those who practice them. The Rosary, Stations of the Cross, novenas, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and of course, the liturgy itself are but a few of the many rituals and rites that have been handed down to us for centuries. As holiday time approaches, we all have the perfect opportunity to create and celebrate valuable family traditions as well. Very often, a routine practice or the display of an object that is meaningful to a family can easily become a custom or tradition. Family values are reflected in the way these traditions are consistently practiced, and these practices often become a lens through which family members view their lives and shape their opinions. Finally, traditions are a way of handing down information, beliefs and customs from one generation to another. The key thing is to establish family traditions or rituals and then practice them on a regular basis. Some suggestions of ordinary events that can be transformed into family traditions include:

- *Attending Mass as a family throughout the year*
- *Asking a child to lead a prayer at Christmas—or any family dinner*
- *Having a special book at Christmas Eve that you read as a family; Following the reading, the children go right to bed!*
- *Keeping a Christmas memories book from one year to the next in which everyone adds a memory of that Christmas*
- *Allowing children to select the menu for certain special meals or on a certain day of the week*

These are all very simple ways of bringing a family together and providing an anchor of strong family life. You probably have many family traditions already. Be sure to honor those important elements of family life. What appear to be simple customs will be fun for your family and will provide comfort and strength to your children well in to their adult lives.



FROM ALL OF US AT SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL!