



Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

THE SCHOOL OF

Advent Begins on Sunday

During the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday, December 3, 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.

Advent calendars are being sent home this week to help you and your family prepare for the birth of Jesus. Suggested ideas will help everyone understand how important the season of Advent really is

and that Jesus is the reason for the season. These calendars 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.

Bazaar Results

On Saturday, November 4, our entire community came together to show their support for The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. Our annual Harvest Bazaar was once again a huge success.

Thank you to all our students, parents, parishioners, and friends who played some role in this year's bazaar. A special note of appreciation goes to all the chairs and workers of the many

booths and various activities. A special note of thanks to the Ladies Sodality of St. John's and the Norshaft Lions for organizing the pasta dinner. You are all truly amazing! We could not have done it without you. We certainly can understand and know why we have heard so many positive comments about how wonderful an event it was and the sense of community it fostered.

Because of all your hard work, and after all expenses, we raised approximately \$11,000 for our school this year. We are so very grateful.



Classroom Parties



Our classroom Christmas Celebrations will take place on Wednesday morning, December 20. 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 us.

Band and Chorus Concert

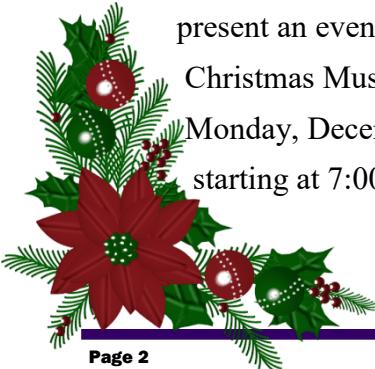
Our Middle School Band and Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Karen Webster, will present an evening of Christmas Music on Monday, December 12, starting at 7:00 PM in

our multi-purpose room. The concert will be performed by students from Grades 6, 7, and 8. If you can attend the concert on the 12th, you will be surely entertained by the beautiful music they have prepared for your listening pleasure.

Please don't forget about your CASH CALENDARS. We need your help.

Every family has been given five to either buy or sell. The cost for each calendar is \$10 and you have nine chances to win cash during the month of January. These are due back to school on Monday, December 18.

Proceeds can help offset our winter fuel bills.



Christmas Tree Lighting

Our third and fourth Grade parents will be hosting our annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, December 1, from 6:00 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. All families are welcome to attend.



Jesus: Light of the World and Jingle Bell Beach

"Jesus: Light of the World" and "Jingle Bell Beach" will be presented by our students (PS-Grade 8) on Thursday, December 14, at 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church. The two shows combined will be approximately 45 minutes long. We will also

be having a performance on Thursday afternoon at school starting at 1 PM for grandparents and other guests who cannot come in the evening. Children in PS-K-Grade 1 must wear nice Christmas attire. The older students will be wearing their singing team tee-shirts and

shorts to go with their beach theme. We will be having a run-through rehearsal at the church on Wednesday morning, December 13. We will walk to the church and then back to school when we are done.

Christmas Wish List



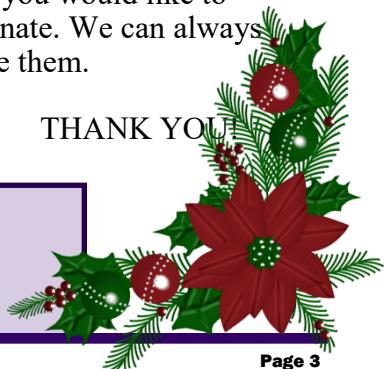
Many times during the Christmas season parents and friends wonder if there is something in particular that the school needs and how can they can help. If anyone is willing to donate a special gift during the holidays, the following items are suggested:

- postage stamps (books or rolls)
- 5 oz. plastic cups for the after school program
- blank CD-R discs
- playground balls
- driveway salt
- colored copy paper
- 20 gallon plastic totes
- and TWO MILLION dollars this year! (INFLATION!)

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!

**THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 and 8
NOON DISMISSAL—PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 20 —NOON DISMISSAL
CHRISTMAS BREAK—NO SCHOOL—DECEMBER 21—JANUARY 1**





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**The School of Sacred Heart
St. Francis de Sales**

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[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
- ◆ Holding an ancestor night once a month on which your family celebrates the life of an ancestor

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 into their adult lives.

Blessings and Happy Holidays!



**WISHING YOU THE SPECIAL BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS
FROM ALL OF US AT SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL**