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Extended Hours, 7:30 - 8:10 am — 2:45 - 5:30 pm
www.stmaryslongmeadow.org

A Ministry of St. Mary's Parish

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Saint Mary's Academy Mission Statement

Saint Mary's Academy promotes academic excellence within a Christ-centered Catholic community. Students from Pre-K through Grade 8 learn acceptance and appreciation of others and develop to their full potential within a nurturing family environment.

Week of 12/07/16 - 12/13/16

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)



Gospel Reflection

Gospel for this weekend:

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who take no offense at me."

Reflection:

People in power were afraid of John the Baptist, so he ended up in prison. When John sent his followers to ask Jesus if he was the Savior, Jesus pointed to the miracles that he had performed. Jesus praised John the Baptist and let people know that no one was as good a person as John. While Jesus affirmed that John was God's messenger, John learned that Jesus was the Messiah.



Principal's Notes

- As we are in the "snowy season" of winter it is important to know how everyone will be contacted for Delays, Early Release, and Snow Days. The Town of Longmeadow determines when we will have one of the days mentioned. Once I am contacted, I send out a message through Rediker to all families. We usually do not have early dismissals. But, if it was determined that we needed to do this, I would do an emergency message through Rediker that reaches out to all telephone numbers and emails. If you have changed your telephone number or email since the beginning of the school year, please make sure to contact the office with your new information. Also we ask that your child has a hat, gloves/mittens, boots and a warm coat as we are now in the cold weather season. We will continue to go outside for morning and lunch recess as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above. They will also need to bring their sneakers with them to change out of their boots when they go to their classroom.
- The Parents' Association asked me to send a reminder to those families who choose to participate in the collection for the faculty and staff. The last day for the collection will be December 14th.
- The School Store will be Tuesday, December 13th. Please make sure to bring no more than \$3.00 as everything is reasonably priced.
- The dress down day for families who sold all 21 of their calendars that is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th.
- This Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. our Jr. High will perform their interpretation of "The Christmas Candle". Tickets may be purchased in advance through the Main Office for \$5.00 or at the door each night. Please join us if you are available.

- This Friday, December 9th our Kindergarten students will be spending time with their family members during their craft day. We all look forward to seeing their wonderful decorations they put together.
- **Breakfast with Santa** will be Saturday, December 17th from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Also, Candles and Candlelight will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 17th. This is a wonderful evening to celebrate the Advent Season in preparation for Christmas.



Fair Share Opportunities

OPEN HOUSE:

Need fair share hours? We could still use one or two volunteers to help at Open House on Sunday, January 29th. For more information or to sign up, email Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org

Many Thanks:

We are thrilled to announce that we exceeded our goal this year **raising over \$20,000 by selling Advent Calendars!** This is a 25% increase from last year! We are so grateful for each family who sold to their friends and family and those who helped out at the many Masses. Without the support from our families, we would not have hit our goal and for that we are grateful. All money raised from this event goes back into the school to enhance our academic programs. Thank you! Thank you! Good luck to all those who participated! As a reminder, for those families who personally sold all 21 calendars, *dress down is this Monday, December 12th.*

Open House Lawn Signs:

Do you live on a road with heavy traffic or perhaps a grandparent does? We are looking for 20 families to put lawn signs out advertising our Open House in January. Ideally, we like them to go in the ground in December, before the ground freezes. Please stop by the office to grab a sign or email Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org with questions. Thank you in advance for the support.



Angel Acts

- Please join me in thanking all of our families who sold our Advent Calendars at Masses over the past three weeks at three different churches. We are so grateful for your dedication to helping with this project. What a great success!



A Teacher's View

These past few weeks in music class we have been busy preparing our program for the Christmas concert. All classes have shown exceptional development in their musical skills. Our third graders have especially made great progress in playing their recorders. Not only are they ready to perform with their recorders for the Christmas concert, but are also able to independently read the music that they are performing. It has taken us most of the school year to understand the many musical concepts included in playing the recorder, and we will proceed to strive to master the recorder as the school year continues. I am looking forward to a great Christmas concert, and am proud of all the effort my students put in during our class time.

Sincerely,
David Gurt