

# St. Ann School

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# Wednesday Memo

<b>Monday, Dec. 9</b> Supervision	<b>Walking Tacos</b> Wise, McGee
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 10</b> Supervision	<b>French Toast Sticks</b> Kuhn, Wise
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 11</b> Supervision	<b>Breaded Chicken</b> Patty Hellenbrand, Wolter
<b>Thursday, Dec. 12</b> Supervision	<b>Pizza Dippers</b> Hellenbrand, Wise
<b>Friday, Dec. 13</b> Supervision	<b>Hamburger or Hot Dog</b> Bergman, Milota



## Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle



It's that time of year again when we are asking each family to donate for the Spaghetti Dinner Basket Raffle. The baskets have been assigned to the classrooms, and we are asking that each family bring their donations in to the school office as soon as possible so that we can assemble the baskets. You may bring in items relating to the basket themes, or you can make a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you! Please label your donation with your name and your child's grade. The class with the most donations received by December 13 will win an ice cream party (date to be determined by the winning classroom teacher). We will be having another prize drawing for all donations received by January 13, so please remember to label your donation with your name so you can be entered in the drawing. We are also still accepting donations for the Wine Raffle.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade - American Girl Basket  
2nd Grade - Toys for Boys Basket  
3rd Grade - Wisconsin Sports Basket  
4th Grade - iPod Basket  
5th Grade - Kindle Basket  
6th Grade - Date Night Basket  
7th and 8th Grade - Silent Auction items or a cash donation

~The Spaghetti Dinner Committee

## Just Coffee Order

Just Coffee makes a great Christmas gift! December orders are due December 6 to ensure orders will be delivered in time for the holidays. Order forms are in the school office, St. Ann website, or you can e-mail Tamara Mehring at doghairprod@yahoo.com.



## Bilingual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast

On Thursday, December 12, St. Ann School students will participate in a bilingual, Spanish/English Mass to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Fr. Randy will be our celebrant and Mass will be held at 8:10 AM. Please join us to celebrate this wonderful feast day. (Please note: We will not have All-School Mass on Friday, December 13.)

## Advent Concert Reception

We are asking families to please bring one to two dozen bars, cookies, or healthy treats for the Advent Concert reception. As a reminder, all items are to be free of nuts or nut products. These items can be dropped off at the school kitchen anytime on Tuesday, December 17, before the concert. We look forward to seeing you at the concert!

**Needed: Volunteer Lunch Recess Supervisor on Monday, December 16. Please call or email the school office if you can help.**



# Principal's Corner

**Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.**

(Matthew 24: 37-44)

In the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent, Jesus tells us to "stay awake". Jesus' message is plain and clear... "I am coming back and you don't know when. So get ready and stay alert!" The Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent is about three important comings of Jesus. It is about Jesus' coming as a newborn infant; it is about his promised coming at the end of time and it's about his coming into our hearts and lives every day.

I remember when I was a child having experiences similar to what the Gospel speaks about on the First Sunday of Advent. "I am going to the store," Mom would say to us, "and I want you to pick up your rooms and do all your chores while I am gone." When Mom left, the six of us had a choice to make. We could go to work immediately or we could laze around, waiting until the last minute and do a rush job. Sometimes we got caught and Mom came back early because she forgot something or because she had a short shopping list. When she saw the house still in disarray, she got angry. So it was very wise to do the work right away and to make sure that no one else in the family made a mess until she saw that the task was completed.

The six Leonard kids did the work for two reasons: to please Mom and to save ourselves some angry words. But Jesus is different. He asks us "to do the work", to live as he commanded for other reasons. We should do it because that is how God made us and we will be happiest when we live as Jesus taught us. We should do it so we can enjoy the rewards waiting us in the next life and because we don't know when Jesus will be coming home again. It won't matter what hour brings Jesus because we will be ready for him.

Know of my prayers for you and your family as this Advent season unfolds. May your eyes be open to God's presence in your lives during these next four weeks of Advent. May you open your homes and hearts daily to family, friends and strangers as you grow in love for them and for the Christ Child.

*~ Joan Leonard*



**Thank you everyone who ordered in November! We earned \$267 in profit!**

December is Cookie Bonus Days! We earn extra profit on all cookie orders this month! There are lots of choices to help make holiday baking easier! The free items this month are 1 lb. Pork Tenderloin with a \$90 online purchase and the promo code: DECBONUS and a 7 oz. sample of Kraft Mac & Cheese with any order. If you qualify for the Frequent Buyer Hanging Organizer, do not forget to order! You will receive it at pick up! All orders need to be placed by Thursday 12/12. Paper orders need to be turned into the Market Day box outside of the teacher's lounge by 3PM and online orders at [marketday.com](http://marketday.com) need to be placed by 11PM. The pick-up date is Monday 12/16 at 4:30-6PM in the gym. If you are unable to pick up your order, please let me know so we can make arrangements. There is very little space in the freezer. Please email Koreen Kuhn at [jhkuhn@charter.net](mailto:jhkuhn@charter.net) or call 712-4126 with any questions.

# It's a CLASS ACT

## Religion Classes By Mrs. Talbert

This year has been an exciting one for me, as I am now teaching both 7/8 and Grade 4 Religion classes at St. Ann's and also teaching 8th Grade Religious Ed Wednesday nights. Being able to share the catechism each day is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen my own faith, to get to know the kids even more, and to have some wonderful discussions about faith, family, and how each of our lives fits into the big picture – God's picture. Every day I am overwhelmed by how much our children trust in God and how they actually nourish their relationship with Jesus at such young ages.

In Fourth Grade Religion, we begin most days with the daily scripture reading. We then offer our intentions and end with a prayer, either through music or one we have memorized. At this point, most of the children have nearly memorized the Hail Holy Queen! Our early textbook discussions centered on learning to be good stewards and nurture all of creation. More recently, we have touched on the concept of free will and developing our consciences to recognize hurtful behaviors and situations before stepping into them in order to protect our relationships with God, family, and our friends. Our extra projects have included a weekly Bible study, making our own rosaries with members of Our Lady Queen of Peace parish, and a monthly rosary and adoration time. Students were amazed at how quickly the time passed while saying the rosary, and those who were in the adoration chapel unanimously acknowledged how they could feel Jesus' presence all around them. Several children asked if we could go to church for these activities weekly instead of monthly for the rest of the year!

In 7/8, we have been learning the different ways to pray, and we have been experimenting with all of them to find how we best receive the message of God. Although we are working with the daily scripture readings and offering our own intentions, at a pre-teen and teen level, prayer seems to be more easily inspired through music. With this in mind, several times a week we have been watching and reflecting on Christian music videos. Many of these uplifting videos promote global stewardship and demonstrate ways we can make a difference in the world, even as ordinary people. From our textbook, we have read and discussed many articles on early Church history and the new covenant. We are learning to personalize Jesus' message for ourselves, and to think of our faith as a living faith – something that gives us strength and courage and works miracles even in our lives today. Based on these articles, we have written reflections, studied the occurrence of the stigmata over the years in holy men and women, discussed the difference between a cross and a crucifix, and honed our carpentry skills by making our own crosses to take home and enjoy. We also been watching the Teen Timeline Bible Study on the book of Matthew each Monday and will start a monthly rosary/adoration in December.

Both classes have an “adopted” seminarian this year, and we just finished our first batch of cards and letters for Grant Theis and David Keyes, both originally from Wisconsin and now living in Minnesota at the St. Paul School of Divinity. We will probably send care packages later in the year, but for now, we're praying for these men and letting them know we're thinking of them and appreciating their sacrifice in answering God's call.

## Important Advent Concert Information from Miss Boersma

As the weather has changed, so have the sounds coming from the music room! This year our students will be presenting their winter concert on **Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 PM**. It will be held in the school gym. Your child(ren) will need to be at school, in their homerooms, by 6:10 PM on December 17.

**As we are preparing for the concert, I wanted to let you know how I am asking your children to dress for the evening:**

If your child is in elementary school (K-5th Grade), they need to wear dress pants (no jeans or sweat pants) and a nice shirt – for example, church appropriate attire. Girls may also wear skirts with nice blouses or dresses. “Christmas themed” and seasonally appropriate attire is welcome!

If your child is in middle school, (Grades 6-8), they need to wear black dress pants (girls may also wear skirts or dresses) and a nice, solid colored shirt. Students can choose which color they would like, but please avoid patterns and words.

If your child is in 5th-8th Grade and volunteered for a speaking part in the concert, they will be assigned additional attire requests individually.

The students have done a great job preparing for this concert, and I am looking forward to a wonderful evening filled with music and fellowship.

# Musings from the Family Corner

## Let It Be the First Day of the Rest of Your Life by Tonya Talbert

While grocery shopping last weekend, I asked the cashier how she was doing. She shrugged her shoulders. “Just another day,” she said with a half-smile.

I thought about that response all day long. I know I’ve used and heard that phrase many times before without really thinking about it, but this time it made me pause. As a Christian, should it ever be “just another day?”

For us, each new day holds the promise of a miracle. If we really think about it, each day is actually a miracle in itself, truly a gift from God. By choosing to look at each day in this way, we can influence our surroundings and the people we come into contact with. Although choosing to live with an “attitude of gratitude” sounds easy enough, certain circumstances and personalities may make it difficult at times. Regardless, we always have a choice.

Teaching our children that they are in control of how they respond to the world around them is a valuable lesson. Like adults, they choose how each day plays out by how they treat and respond to others. Being joyful and appreciating all that we have indirectly expresses gratitude to those who came before us, to those who love us now, and to the heavenly Father.

According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The purpose of life is...to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” If you or someone close to you is a glass-half-empty personality, here are a few things you can try:

- ◇ Keep a grateful heart and be a good role model. Count your blessings out loud. Begin a family gratitude journal and write down what everyone is thankful for each night before bed.
- ◇ Set an intention for the day. It can be a small accomplishment, sorting a pile of paperwork, returning telephone calls, or being patient with a difficult child. Express how thankful you are that you were able to achieve your goal.
- ◇ Approach your problems as opportunities instead of challenges. Keep things in perspective!
- ◇ Talk about making good choices each day. We choose how we will behave, how we will treat others, and how we will respond to others in any situation.
- ◇ Avoid situations or individuals who drain your energy.
- ◇ Encourage exercise to release healthy endorphins, a proven stress reducer and mood enhancer.

Believing that we are making a difference in the world will prevent us from accepting that any day is just another day. “Not all of us can do great things,” said Mother Teresa, “but we can do small things with great love.”