

St. Louis School Cardinal Post

Volume 3 Issue 4

Holiday 2011

Important Dates

- Dec. 16**—Christmas break begins 11:30am
- Jan. 3**—School resumes
- Jan. 5** – Home and School Meeting
- Jan. 6** – Kindergarten Registration
- Jan. 12** – Geography Bee
- Jan. 13**—No School/
Faculty Retreat
- Jan. 16** – No School—
Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 19** – PK/JK Registration
- Jan. 21**—Confirmation Meeting
- Jan. 22**—Confirmandi
Mass 9:00am
- Jan. 26**— Junior Beta
Club Induction
- Jan. 27**—Home and
School Spaghetti
Dinner
- Jan. 30-Feb. 3** Catholic
Schools Week

Please refer to the school website for other important dates.

www.stlouismemphis.org

A Message from Mrs. Niedzwiedz:

Dear St. Louis Friends and Families,

'Tis the season of presents! We spend hours trying to find those perfect gifts for the ones that we love. Giving feels so good! Especially, when we know it is something that our loved ones really want. One of my friends, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, gave me a great gift this Advent Season, and I recommend it highly. It is a book, Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas by Jay Cormier. In the second week reflection, the author poses the question, “What about Christmas presence?” As I was reading this reflection, I thought about how much more important it is to be present and spend time with those we love, rather than stressing out about those gifts that usually end up damaged or broken. Talking, playing board games, passing the football in the backyard are all activities that can bring families closer and build memories.

The author went further to say that God has such great love for us that he sent his only son, Jesus to be present with us here on earth. What a fantastic gift! He continues to be present for us in everything we do, even today. Jesus can be present in our hearts if we open the door and welcome him. The author states it so eloquently:

“God embraces humanity in all its messiness, imperfections, failures, and poverty—and by that presence enables us to transform human frailty and failure into holiness and completeness.”

As we look forward to Christmas, please make sure that you spend time with the children sharing the greatest gift that can be given, the love of our God through the birth and life of Jesus Christ. Try to incorporate family traditions that help to cultivate this feeling of Jesus being present to us. My husband’s family started a tradition where we all gather together on the day we exchange gifts, a Christmas candle is lit, and a family member reads the Christmas story from the family Bible before we open presents. This is a tradition that we now carry forward. As we gather as a family, we also remember those in the family who are no longer with us.

We have so much to look forward to this New Year with the completion of the renovation of the church and breaking ground for the addition to the school. The faculty and administration will be studying in more detail the new Core Curriculum Standards set forth by the diocese, specifically in the area of mathematics. We want to ensure that our math program and textbooks offer the necessary rigor for outstanding student achievement. St. Louis continues to be a leader in the Diocese of Memphis in academics.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and much Christmas presence!

Peace and Blessings,

Teddi Niedzwiedz

St. Louis School Mission Statement

St. Louis Catholic School is committed to quality education in the spirit of Christ in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Working in partnership with parents and the community, we are dedicated to preparing our students for the future through faith formation and academic excellence utilizing progressive technology while enhancing students’ emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.



Greetings to the St. Louis School Family,

Christ is coming! Get ready! Be prepared. We believe, often, that this is a reminder that we will recall the birth of Christ 2,000 years ago. That is true to a certain degree. December 25 is the day we celebrate that God became one of us, “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” Madison Avenue tells us to celebrate by shopping and decorating, spending money, eating and drinking. It too readily becomes our focus for the season.

The Church gives us Advent as an antidote. It is 4 weeks of spiritual preparing for another type of Christ coming. He will come again to judge our lives as individuals and as a people. Be prepared for we know not the hour or the day. Advent is an opportunity to look at our faith response to the first coming of Jesus. Do we worship and adore Him as Savior above all other people and things of life? Am I ready to face the Lord and give an account of my stewardship with the time and gifts He has bestowed upon me? We can always recommit ourselves to be better people, Catholics, spouses, parents, students and children of God.

Secondly, Christ comes to us every day of our lives. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Where do we find and meet Him today? Certainly in the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures. In prayer, He speaks to our soul, spirit, and conscience. Quiet time will allow us to listen and tune out the world and its noise and distractions.

As Catholics, we believe that He is truly present—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist. “I am the Bread of Life.” “Take and eat—this is My Body—Take and drink—this is My Blood.” “He who eats of my flesh and drinks of my blood remains in me and I in Him!” Do we as Catholics believe this as the Church has for 2,000 years? If so, how can we not be faithful to attendance at Mass on Sunday as we are obliged? Would we miss seeing a superstar or athlete? Not if we could help it.



Jesus also says that He is present when 2 or 3 gather in His name. So, He is there in Church and in our family, and social gatherings. He tells us in Matthew 25 that He is there when we see sick, hungry, thirsty, naked or imprisoned people. In fact, we will be judged on how we minister to Him in those conditions.

Advent says now is the acceptable time to seek the Lord while He may be found. Repent—go to the Sacrament of Penance (Confession)—if we have ignored the Lord and His Way. Repent means turn around, away from self and back to the Lord Jesus.

It's a joyful time. Christ wants to be born in us as He was in Bethlehem long ago. What a great Christmas it can be if He is seen more visibly in each of our lives. O Come O Come Emanuel—Emanuel means “God is with us.” Does the world see that presence in us?

This is a season of grace and opportunity. Seize the moment. Now is the time.

God bless all of you.

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John B. McArthur



*Report cards will be sent home to parents Friday,
January 6, 2012.*

*Please remember to turn in your Rainbows forms to
Mrs. Kreitz.*

Seventh Graders Give a "Bunch" to Military

The seventh graders recently participated in a drive to collect needed items for Military Care Packages. All of the items were sent to the HHC 230th Engineer Battalion-Tennessee Army National Guard in Kuwait. Brent Bunch, father of Mitchell, Ashton, and Hayley, is a member of that battalion. The students and parents did an extraordinary job of sending in toiletries, food, socks, and books. We shipped eleven boxes that weighed a total of one hundred pounds. This project allowed the students to show how thankful we are for the men and women who are serving our country.



Buchholz Brothers are Principals for the Day

Nicholas and Michael Buchholz were principals for the day on Friday, December 2, 2011. Nick and Michael spent the day with Mrs. Niedzwiedz and assisted her in the daily duties.



As a special treat for their students, the Buchholz awarded everyone the first jeans day of 2012 on January 4, 2012. All three principals ended the day with the annual Cardinal Christmas basketball game. This year the students won the game!

Please remember the safety of our children!

- ◆ *Slow down when in the parking lot*
- ◆ *No talking on cell phones and no texting in the parking lot*

St. Louis Students Give to Help Others

This holiday season the students and families of St. Louis continued the "Feed My Flock" theme of helping others with three service projects. The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, sponsored by the Junior Beta Club, was held to benefit the St. Michael Food Pantry. The students collected over 2300 cans of non-perishable food to be distributed to families in need of food.

Our annual Cardinal Christmas basketball game, sponsored by the Student Council, benefitted Catholic Charities. Each student brought one toy for admission to the game. These new toys will be distributed to children in our Diocese so that they may enjoy this Christmas tradition.

The school, in conjunction with the parish, is sponsoring the Giving Tree. Tags listing clothing items needed for different ages were available for pick up in the Clunan Center after Masses. Some of our homerooms brought in items for the Giving Tree instead of exchanging presents among themselves.

Service to the community around us is an important lesson that we strive to teach to all of our students. Just as Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" Matthew 25:40. Thank you all for helping us to spread the good works to others.



Student Council members help collect the toys for Catholic Charities.

Scrooge Visits St. Louis

The Drama Club again presented a wonderful performance to the parish and school. This year's play was *A Christmas Carol*. We all enjoyed the show. Thank you to Mrs. Trotter, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Moore and all of the adult volunteers for



St. Louis Honor Roll-First Nine Weeks

Highest Honors

4th Grade

Brittain Ross
Jackson Lyons
Marc Anthony Marconi
Andrew Martin
Elizabeth Navarre
Sarah Grace Price
Sarah Reno
Hunter Stroud

5th Grade

Spencer Beck
Kenley Dunaway
Catie Grusin
Gerard Tavoleti
Robert Ward
Emily Wilson
McKenzie Barnett
Karen Benedict
Alyssa Donato
Kara Kane
Will Kelley
Patrick Koch
Katie McBride

6th Grade

Ryan Anderson
Katy Grace Jones
Madeline Novak
Kyle Frasure
Lee Griesbeck
Austin Martin
Finn Mullen
Anna Bryan Nieman

7th Grade

Megan Bryant
Caroline Conrad
Anette Guzman
Christian Locastro
Courtney Cremerius
Reid Lanigan

8th Grade

Maggie Perry
Catherine Weglicki
Lauren James
Katie Koch
Owen Martin
Elizabeth Tavoleti
Mary Katherine Werner
Zoe Thompson
Justin VonStein

Honors

4th Grade

Philip Benedict
Alexis Grace Connor
Jackson Deneka
Erich DeWane
Ethan Fitschen
Anna Grace Gage
Harvey Gower

Rowan Hawksby
Maggie Montegut
Charlie Moore
Kenneth Smothers
James Strickland

Taylor Brenner
Ethan Cary
Carson Kane
Maddie McGee

Dominic Reynolds
Spencer Stalnaker
Mary Helen Weirich

5th Grade

Ivy Almand
Rachel Baioni
Anna Grace Barnett
Isabella Bodini
Allison Bryant
Hayden Cervetti
Raymond Fracchia
Kells Hecht
Claire John

Garrett Knott
Madeline McCrary

Pierce McDaniel
Anna Riley Pieroni
Luke Spencer
Sam Stalnaker
Will Wolbrecht
Samuel Barnett

Nicholas Benson
Michael Buchholz
Sophia Cervetti

Anna Kate Cremerius
John Morgan Gates
Perry Gates

6th Grade

Bryce Bush
Chip Davis
Nicholas Dimeglio

John Daniel Goodspeed
Jack Herring
Campbell Johnson
Bryson Mitchell
William Thiel
Davis Tooley

Fiona Toomey
Henry Ward
Sarah Ward
Ross Wills
Max Carroll
Grace Gage
Sam Sampietro
Tim Sauser
Kate Spencer
Jackson Stanley
Savannah Stovall
Kaitlyn Trainor

7th Grade

Eleanor Atkinson
Mitchell Bunch
Hudson Cunningham
Corinn Davis

Nate Delgado
Drew Hendrix
Liz Holliday

Nate Huettel
Michael Montegut
Katie Posey

Chandlor Stroud
Erin Taylor
Natalie Tipton
Keagan Voss

Sam Werner
Elizabeth Atkinson
Angel Benson

Catherine Broughton
Addy Charbonnet
Sam Collins

Adam Connor
Jack Mitchell
Sam Nieman
Nicole Wallis

Will White

8th Grade

Annie Armstrong
Bailey Cochran
John Crone

Nicole Dunavant
Ben Hill
James Moore

Dominic Nayan
Lydia Smith
Jillian Cunningham

Mary Fracchia
Hannah Harrison
Rives Moore
Mia Mullen
Lanie Trotter
Lila Wahlquist

Spelling Bee Champion Crowned

Emma John is our 2011 Spelling Bee Champion! Congratulations to Emma and all of our contestants. Christina Manuel is our second place finisher. Good luck Emma at the Memphis and Shelby County competition in February!



Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Niedzwiedz congratulate Emma John and Christina Manuel after the Spelling Bee.

Christmas Performances



Thank you to our talented members of the orchestra, children's Mass choir, and show choir for the wonderful performances.



Alumni Update

- Congratulations to Addie James, John Cordera, Brittany Fields, and Grace Ann Shorter for being inducted into the National Honor Society at St. Benedict at Auburndale