



DECEMBER, 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec 8- Mass celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 10:15

Dec 12- HSA Meeting at 7pm in Commons

Dec 19- Christmas Concert at 6:30pm at Holy Apostles Church (students arrive at 6pm)

Dec 21- Half Day- Noon Release

Dec 22-Jan 5- No school- Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Jan 11- Thursday Parent Coffee Hour (8:30am) in Holy Apostles Dining Room

Jan 18- HSA volunteer fair 6-8pm in Commons

Feb 21- Info Meeting & Tour for Prospective Families- 10am & 5:30pm in Commons

*Growing leaders who turn
FAITH into ACTION.*

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

Happy New Liturgical Year! Advent kicks off the new Church year with four weeks of preparation for the season of Christmas. Advent is a time that we remember to prepare, to hope, and to look forward to the coming of Jesus.

At St. Ignatius we will offer many opportunities to help our students prepare their hearts for Christ. First, our school is gathering for daily prayer during Advent. During this morning gathering each day we light our Advent wreath and listen to readings from the Advent seasons. Our 3rd-8th grade students will also have opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Advent. Finally, our students will be given lessons and prayer experiences in their religion classes to help grow in faith and experience the beauty of this important season.

Here are some ideas for how you can celebrate Advent with your family this month:

1. **Pray together:** If you don't already have a family Advent wreath, find an opportunity to make or purchase an Advent wreath and build a tradition of weekly (or nightly) Advent prayer with your family.
2. **Involve your children in preparation:** The season leading up to Christmas can be hectic and stressful, especially for parents and adults. Remember that all of our preparations—shopping for gifts, decorating our homes, preparing treats or meals—have meaning. They each build anticipation towards the day of Christ's birth. They bring us closer to family and friends. Share these preparations with your family.
3. **Make room:** Does your home have room for new Christmas gifts? Guests? Decorations? Consider doing a family clean out and donating to St. Vincent De Paul or another organization. What about our spirits? Is there space there for listening to the whisperings of God? Clean out and make some room for Christ...for Christmas.
4. **Be Aware:** The first Christians didn't know when or how a Messiah would come, but they were ready. The shepherds, the wise men, and the Holy Family were aware and open to the way God would surprise the world with the fulfillment of His prophesy. Imagine if they had only paid attention to their own plans and ideas. How are we being open and aware to what surprises God has in store for us? Have we left room in our own plans for the miraculous work of God? Are we alert- ready to be called upon at any time to follow?
5. **Find Peace:** Where do you find peace? Seek out those places and hold fast to them.

For me, peace is truly found in the children that I serve. The innocence of childhood, the wonder and the awe, and the bursting potential of each child is a source of deep peace and great joy. Thank you for giving me and our staff the opportunity to experience the joy that your children bring. It's no wonder that God chose to send his peace in the form of a newborn child.

May your season be filled with family, warmth, peace, and hope.

Andi Kane

Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

Academic Excellence • Faith Formation • Social Justice • Service • Strength of Community

SUPPORT SERVICES SEGMENT- A message from Mrs. Z:

A good friend recently sent a link to a blog post by Dr. Charles Fay, one of the gurus of Love and Logic. Considering we celebrate Veteran's Day in November, and that we are headed into the sacred season of Advent, his message really hit home. The topic was 'teaching selflessness'. He began by commenting on the selflessness of our military families, and how important it is to instill this value in our children. Likewise, Father Len often speaks in his homilies about how people who serve others and pour out their lives in love experience so much more joy than those who are self-absorbed and concerned with their own happiness. So how do we teach our children to give glory to God through a life of thinking outside of themselves, serving others, and pouring out love to all? Here are some ideas:

1. **Modeling:** I cannot stress enough that our children do what we do; they do not do what we say. They may actually do what we tell them to do out of respect or fear of consequences, but the habits, attitudes, and lifestyles that our children will live out in their adult lives are those that we teach them through our actions. If we want to instill the value of selflessness, we must show our children that it is important to us by acting it out in our everyday lives.
2. **Service starts at home:** According to Dr. Fay, children who are overindulged and not held accountable are more likely to become self-absorbed and even narcissistic, which is the polar opposite of selfless. Children should be expected to do their fair share of developmentally appropriate work around the house. Entitlement begins at home when children are not held accountable for their household contributions, but still expect to have and receive everything they want.
3. **Seeing God in all people:** When I have kids in my office trying to work through a conflict, we always talk about how we are called to see God in everyone, even when they hurt us or we disagree. We also talk about how important it is to try to see the situation from the other person's perspective and realize that everyone has their struggles. When we do this, we are more likely to have empathy for others and extend a helping hand.
4. **Expecting and modeling small acts of kindness:** Holding a door for someone, giving up a seat to an elderly stranger, letting someone go ahead of you in line, complimenting someone, and simply looking someone in the eye and saying "good morning" are simple ways to reach out and positively impact others. It is easy to get overwhelmed with our busy lives and become so engrossed in technology that we forget to pick our heads up and notice the people and needs around us.
5. **Providing opportunities for and encouraging service to others:** If our children engage in service to others, especially with their families and peers, they are more likely to continue this service as adults. In the near future, we will have a community service fair in which students will have the opportunity to learn about different organizations that they may want to work with for their service project.
6. **Understanding child development:** Having given suggestions for how to instill selflessness in children, it is also important to acknowledge that children are, by nature, more self-centered. Selfless thinking is not something that happens consistently until late adolescence or young adulthood. We must be patient with our children as they go through the developmental stages, knowing that if we model and reinforce the behavior we would like to see, they will continue to grow in that direction.

Great Things Happening!

St. Ignatius Catholic School is truly committed to growing students who turn their faith into *ACTION*. We strive to present students with opportunities to make service part of their everyday lives. This month we have so many examples of how St. Ignatius students are living their faith!



Thanksgiving Dinner Drive- Students from all classes brought in Thanksgiving Dinners for those in need. Our 8th grade students helped distribute to families over a weekend.



Festival of Trees- Our HSA and students spent many hours this month creating a fun and magical Christmas tree that was donated to St. Alphonsus for their Annual Festival of Trees. The HSA donated funds to purchase the tree and helped students from all classes create decorations to adorn it. This tree will be auctioned off at the Festival of Trees to support the St. Alphonsus Foundation.



Parish Rake Up- Students from grades K-8th and their families spent their Saturday raking yards for Holy Apostles' parishioners with physical limitations.





THANK YOU, PARENTS!

Thank you to the St. Ignatius Catholic School HSA and our 8th grade parents for the wonderful baked potato bar lunch prepared for our staff this month! We are so blessed to be supported by this amazing parent community. Thank you!

-The St. Ignatius Staff

HSA UPDATES-

Dear St. Ignatius Parents,

The Home and School Association had another busy month in November supporting our school and building our community. From helping to rake up leaves for our physically limited Holy Apostles parishioners to Mom's Night Out at The Meridian Village we had an action-packed month!

This month I'd like to highlight, Dawn Dewhirst and team for an outstanding job on our St. Ignatius "Winter's Candyland" Christmas tree which took **FIRST PLACE** in the children's themed division at this year's Festival of Trees! Thank you for all of your hard work. Thank you also to all of our K-8 students who participated in making decorations for the tree; it was beautiful.

In the next few weeks students will be coming home with an invitation for all parents to join the Home and School Association at this year's second annual dinner and auction, *Ignite the Night*. Support from the evening will contribute significantly to the HSA's goal of helping to keep tuition costs at St. Ignatius School low. In addition, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the St. Ignatius Foundation, which supports the school's commitment to financial accessibility. I hope that all parents are able to join us in benefiting these important causes and in celebrating our amazing school!

Please remember, all are welcome to attend our monthly HSA meetings. I encourage everyone to please join us on December 12th at 7:00pm in the School Commons. It's a great opportunity to get involved with our school community and to learn about ways to contribute to the Family Participation Program.

God Bless,

Hillary Smith

St. Ignatius Catholic School HSA President, hsa@stignatiusmeridian.org



FIRST RECONCILIATION-

On Saturday, December 2nd, our 2nd grade students will be celebrating the sacrament of First Reconciliation at Holy Apostles Church. These students have been working hard to grow in their faith and prepare for this important sacrament. Please pray for our 2nd grade students during this important milestone in their journey of faith formation.



FAMILIES ON FIRE

At Holy Apostles Catholic Church and St. Ignatius Catholic School, we are constantly reminding our students and children that God is all around us- in everything we do and in all we celebrate. We remind our students and youth to look for God in all things, and find ways to see and encounter God in both special and common ways. We would like to start partnering with families to offer ideas that might help you infuse faith into more aspects of your daily lives, routines, and celebrations.

REFLECTION: DECEMBER- GIVING

“For it is in giving that we receive”, how many times have we heard this popular prayer by St. Francis of Assisi? What does this truly mean for us Catholics? We are reminded of the significance of giving throughout the Bible and Church writings. Many people automatically connect the word giving to money. This is easy to do since we are called to prayerfully tithe to our Church. Though in actuality, to give means to present something voluntarily and without expecting anything in return. This month has a good mixture of giving and receiving. As a family, set some time together and make a list of ways to give. Either to one another and/or to those in need within our community. Here are some suggestions to help celebrate this month at home!

1. Story Time: The Feast of Saint Nicholas is on December 6th. This man knew how to give! Together read the true story of Santa Claus and learn about his generosity which led to gift giving. Then carry on the old tradition of having the kiddos place their shoes by the door before bed to find them filled with treats by the morning!
2. Prayer Time: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on December 8th and is a Holy Day in the Church. This means we are urged to attend Mass. We are remembering God’s gift to us, the Virgin Mary and her being immaculately conceived. Holy Apostles will be celebrating Mass, attend as a family. Then say a Hail Mary for the beautiful gift of families.
3. Simple Reminders: The season of Advent also falls during this month. The four weeks leading up to Christmas are set a part to prepare us for the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent wreaths are a great visual for the whole family. As a family, place a purchased or homemade Advent wreath in a visible spot in your home. Everyday come together around it and reflect on Jesus and His mission. Think about the greatest gift we received on His Nativity! The gift of Himself and Eternal Salvation!
4. Friends in High Places: The Feast of the Holy Family is on December 31st this year. This day is dedicated to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their life together on earth can be a helpful example for our own Catholic family. The Church presents their model of family life to us. We can also discuss the many ways they followed God, no matter what. We can also have them join our daily prayer life by simply adding, “Holy Family, pray for us” to our grace before meals.

“It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving”

- Mother Theresa

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY THIS MONTH

Gray Wolves Giving Annual Appeal-

Gray Wolves Giving is an annual drive in which we ask our entire community to prayerfully consider financially supporting St. Ignatius Catholic School. Funds from Gray Wolves Giving help make a St. Ignatius education accessible to as many families as possible by keeping tuition as affordable as possible for all. Every student that attends St. Ignatius benefits from Gray Wolves Giving. The best part about Gray Wolves Giving is that it gives donors a vehicle to make an incredibly tax effective contribution directly to the school via the Idaho Education Tax Credit. Please consider supporting this important annual effort. For more information or to donate, please visit our website.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strength of community is one of the cornerstone philosophies of St. Ignatius Catholic School community! A vibrant community gives children strong roots to grow and develop. We encourage all families to participate in our many social, service and volunteer endeavors to help us build and strengthen the St. Ignatius family.

MOM'S OUTING

In November the HSA organized a special outing for Gray Wolf moms! This was a great opportunity for St. Ignatius moms to take some time to get to know one another and make new friends. Thank you to the HSA Hospitality Committee for making this event happen!



AMAZON SMILES

As you get started on your Christmas shopping, please remember to sign up for Amazon Smiles. By signing up for this great program, Amazon gives a kick-back on purchases you make to St. Ignatius Catholic School. For more information on the program and how to sign up, visit the "We Can All Help" tab of our website.

CHRISTMAS BOOK DRIVE

We are joining with Holy Apostles parish for their annual Christmas Giving Tree project. The parish has organized a gift donation drive for those in need. To support their effort, we are asking St. Ignatius families to purchase and donate new children's books that we can give out along with the gift donations being made to children in need. This book drive will be going on until Dec 8. Boxes will be placed in every classroom for collection.

MONTHLY PARENT COFFEE HOUR

Starting in January, our awesome HSA will begin hosting a monthly coffee hour for parents from 8:30-10:00 in the Holy Apostles Dining Room. Normally, this coffee hour will take place on the first Thursday of each month but in January it will be on Thursday, Jan 11 (because we won't yet be back in school on the first Thursday). Join us for this social hour and then join the entire student body for Mass at 10:15.

St. Ignatius School Mission

St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.