

St. John Vianney Catholic School Newsletter

December, 2009



December

Dates to Remember

- ◆ 12/04 Stewardship Rally @ 8AM SJV courtyard
- ◆ 12/08 Immaculate Conception Mass @ 6PM
- ◆ 12/08 SJV Parent Meeting 7PM Grand Hall
- ◆ 12/11 Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration 8AM
- ◆ 12/13 SJV Breakfast Sale
- ◆ 12/15 SJV Christmas Village 6-8PM SJV courtyard
- ◆ 12/16 SJV Parish Advent Reconciliation Service @ 6:30PM
- ◆ 12/17 Second Dose of H1N1 vaccinations
- ◆ 12/21-01/01 Christmas Holidays!
- ◆ School Resumes on January 4, 2010!

From the Administration...

Dear SJV Families,

I hope that you had a Blessed Thanksgiving with your loved ones. As we return from one special time with family and friends we now enter into another "Advent". We know that Advent is the special time the church sets aside to prepare for the coming of our Lord. The Catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this 'coming'; *"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation of the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming."* (No. 524 Catechism of the Catholic Church)

A good way to help us prepare this Advent is with the use of the Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle which calls to mind that we share in the eternity of God's plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life with Him in heaven someday. The three candles are purple which symbolize penance, preparation, and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished! The white candle which is usually in the center represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. I invite you to place the Advent wreath in a visible spot like the dinner table, and say a special blessing each time you gather to remind one another of this beautiful time of preparation for the coming of our Lord. May our hearts be well prepared by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and by spending time sharing and praying the Scriptures or maybe by spending time before the Blessed Sacrament.

What are some things you can do as a family to give witness to your children that Advent is a time of preparation for all of us? What are some Advent traditions you have? What may be some traditions to start? Be assured of my love and prayers for each one of you as you begin this Advent Season. May we journey and help one another prepare our hearts to receive Jesus in love, joy, and peace!

Tidbit from "Today's Catholic"

Holy days of obligation are special feasts on which Catholics who have reached the age of reason are seriously obliged, as on Sundays, to assist at Mass and to avoid unnecessary work. Serious reasons excuse us from these obligations. In the U.S. these days are:

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Mary the Mother Of God | Jan. 1 |
| • Ascension of our Lord | 6 th Thursday after Easter |
| • Assumption of Mary | Aug. 15 |
| • All Saints Day | Nov. 1 |
| • Immaculate Conception | Dec. 8 |
| • Nativity of our Lord | Dec. 25 |

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January Looking Ahead

- ◆ 01/04 School resumes
- ◆ 01/05 HSA Cmt. Mtg.
- ◆ 01/08 Buck-A-Jean to support ACE runners
- ◆ 01/12 SJV Parent Mtg. 7Pm cafeteria
"Baptism/Confirmation" by David Portugal
- ◆ 01/15 Family Movie Night
- ◆ 01/17 Rock-N-Roll run/support ACE students (40) running for SJV!
- ◆ 01/20 Advisory Board Mtg.
- ◆ 01/22 Spirit Rally @ 8AM courtyard "Celebrating our Heroes"
- ◆ 01/23 SJV Students/Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 10AM

May the true joy of the Christmas season be alive in your heart and in your family.



Accreditation Update:

We are working dutifully on collecting data and meeting as a faculty and staff. We are also meeting with members of the Home School Association and SJV Advisory Board to answer some prescribed questions for the creation of our self-study report. We are now downloading and printing all the surveys that have been collected. We have received 122 surveys from a possible total of 191 families. I am happy to report that the surveys indicate we are strong in Catholic identity and parents are pleased with curriculum. Another aspect that is highlighted in a positive way is that discipline is evident and enforced fairly.

SJV Parent Meeting Attendance:

As you know we have a SJV parent meeting once a month. It is important that you attend or send a representative so that you are informed about our school. Our next meeting is December 8th. **We invite all of our school parents to attend mass at 6PM and then meet in the grand hall at 7PM for our SJV parent meeting.** Your presence gives witness to the love and support you have for SJV. I will see you there!

Students who need Sacraments:

We are screening students 4rd thru 8th grade that joined our school this year and may have missed out on preparation of the sacraments of: baptism, reconciliation, confirmation, or communion. If your child falls in this category, please call the office and let me know asap. We are beginning to coordinate preparation classes for these students.

FYI SJV 2nd grade students will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on January 23, 2009 at 10AM here in our church.

Time is almost up-CTODP contributions must be made by Dec. 31! Limits are \$1000 for married couples; \$500 for single or head of household filers; **but really ANY contribution is helpful.** Contributions provide a dollar for dollar credit on your AZ tax return and you may be eligible for a federal deduction too. Questions? Workshops and information tables are available on the following dates: Dec. 6, 14, 20 and 27 -Sundays are after masses; Mondays in the Science Lab. Can't make one of these sessions? Contact Tricia Sidell at 623-297-2415 or triciasidell@cox.net and she will answer your questions. Your contribution helps support Catholic Education and helps fund THE DREAM ! TO PROVIDE A CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN!