

Dear Parents,

10/25/11

We are coming up to the seasons of **Advent** and CHRISTMAS. The approach of the holidays often means that we're busier than ever. Many times we look forward to the celebrations, decorating, gifts and annual traditions. This is the time to celebrate the greatest gift of Jesus himself. CHRISTMAS is above all the celebration of love. As we approach the celebration of CHRISTMAS, focus on the simple notion of "gift." God, who loves us so much, He sent us the most precious of gifts: Jesus. This is the season of great joy but it is also a very busy season, so please take the time now to read this letter and:

PLEASE NOTE THESE UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- **GRADES 6-8 WILL CELEBRATE THEIR CLASS MASS** at our *Children's Mass* on SUNDAY, NOV. 6TH at 10 am. All children and their families are invited for this special celebration. PLEASE HAVE ALL OF THE STUDENTS AT THE CHURCH AT THEIR ASSIGNED TIMES, READY TO PRACTICE FOR THEIR MASS.
- The **1st Communion CLASS** will also have their **Commissioning** during the *Children's Mass* on NOV. 6TH. PLEASE HAVE THE FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS AT THE CHURCH BY 9:40 AM.
- **GRADES 9-12TH WILL BE HAVING THEIR CLASS MASS** at our *Youth Mass* on SUNDAY, NOV. 20 at the 10 am mass. PLEASE HAVE ALL OF THE 9-12TH GRADERS AT CHURCH AT THEIR ASSIGNED TIMES, READY TO PRACTICE FOR THEIR MASS.
- The **Confirmation Commissioning** will also be taking place at this *Youth Mass* on SUNDAY, NOV. 20. We ask ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS ARRIVE AT THE CHURCH BY 9:40am to practice for the **Commissioning.**
- **Confirmation Session #2** will also be on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH from 1-3:45 pm.** This will be held in **Room #7.** Confirmation students please remember that you must attend ALL SESSIONS. If you are ill, please call me at home (723-1909) by noon. It is very important that you arrive a little early so that we can all start on time.
- There will be **NO CLASSES ON NOV. 23RD** due to Thanksgiving.
- **GRADES 3-5 WILL CELEBRATE THEIR CLASS MASS** at our *Children's Mass* on **SATURDAY, DEC. 3RD AT 5PM** before the *St. Nick's party.* PLEASE HAVE ALL OF THE 3-5TH GRADERS AT CHURCH AT THEIR ASSIGNED TIMES, READY TO PRACTICE FOR THEIR MASS.
- The **parish St. Nick's Party** is planned for **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD** after the 5 pm mass. There will be a Pot Luck sign up after the masses for the few weeks preceding this wonderful annual celebration.
- **GRADES 3-12 WILL ATTEND** our **RECONCILIATION SERVICE & individual Confessions** on **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14TH** at 7pm. Sign in for attendance before the service in the Social Hall and then **attend RECONCILIATION with your family.**

- **GRADES K-2 HAVE THEIR REGULAR CLASSES AT 6PM ON THAT WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14th**, but class will end 5 minutes early so that families may pick them up if they are attending RECONCILIATION.
- **Confirmation Session #3** will be on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH from 1-3:45 pm.**
- The **Children's Christmas Eve Mass** will be at the **5PM MASS ON SATURDAY, DEC. 24.** We will need VOLUNTEERS, BOTH BOYS & GIRLS FROM GRADES K- 6 for our **Christmas** DRAMA. There are no speaking parts.
 - **PRACTICE FOR THE DRAMA WILL BE ON FRIDAY, DEC. 23RD AT 6PM.**
If you are planning on attending this mass and are interested in having your child participate, I will be sending home a SIGN UP SHEET at the end of November. These will need to be returned to me on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH.**
 - **THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR FINAL PRACTICE WILL ALSO BE ON WEDNESDAY AT 5:30PM.**

Cell Phones... We are asking students to **TURN OFF THEIR CELL PHONES** during class.

If there is an emergency and you need to get a hold of your child,

the downstairs phone number is 722-8409

and also I will normally have my cell phone (940-8541) which you may also call.

Reminder... As we get closer to WINTER WEATHER season, our *POLICY* is...

- We cancel Religious Education classes if the Duluth Public Schools cancels school for that day.
- In case the weather becomes serious during the day, the decision to cancel will be made by 3pm. You can call the church office (722-4445) and a message will be left on the answering machine that classes are cancelled or you can call me on my cell phone (940-8541).
- The teachers will also try to contact each of their students, so **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE ALL OF YOU CURRENT PHONE NUMBERS SO THAT WE CAN REACH YOU.**
- With the city of Duluth having a variety of weather conditions at the same time, the final judgment regarding your family's safety is your decision. If you feel the weather and road conditions are dangerous, do not come to class. Your safety is more important.

Consider adding a new tradition during the seasons of **Advent** and CHRISTMAS that will show your child that you put CHRIST in the center of your life. Every night at your child's bedtime, or the first thing each morning, make a small cross on your child's forehead with your thumb. That is all. This simple and silent, yet meaningful and powerful motion says volumes about CHRIST being the center of not only this season but your entire life. You may find that this simple gesture is something you want to do throughout your child's life. Your child will never forget this simple daily parental blessing. I know our children still treasure that simple gesture.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

† Peace in Christ,