

December, 2020

Dear Holy Name of Mary Friends and Families,

During these very dark days of Autumn, we patiently wait for the light to overcome the darkness. This year, more than any other, we wait with hope for Christ to overshadow the darkness in our world. As this liturgical year closes, and a new one begins, join me in prayer for all, who during this past year, spread the love of Christ by being a light to others! We fervently pray for all our first responders and front line workers.

As you all know, families have been hit hard during the pandemic. Our Parish Outreach office is collecting gift cards to be distributed to families for Christmas. If you are able to help, a gift card in any denomination, to any store where families can purchase items for Christmas would be greatly appreciated. You may send them into the school office by December 15th. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Tuesday, December 2 is the National Day of Giving. We will **not** be participating in this event. We **will** be participating in the National Catholic Education Association Day of Giving during Catholic Schools Week in January. We will have a donation page set up on our website and all monies collected go directly to Holy Name of Mary School. More information on our goal and what the money will be used for will be on our website at the end of December.

Welcome to Advent, a joyful time of preparation for the birth of Jesus! At Holy Name of Mary, a plethora of activities are planned as we wait in joyful anticipation of Christmas.

The following is a list of our joyful activities:

December 7 – **Feast of St. Nicholas School Decorating Party** This year we added a door decorating contest. The class with the best door wins a prize! (Free Red and Green Dress Down Day)

December 8 – **Solemnity of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** We are in school and we will participate in a virtual mass.

December 9 – **Parent/Teacher Conferences –** (yes, this is a joyful activity) Grades 6, 7 and 8 are off for conferences, Grades Pre-K to 5 are in.

December 10 – **Parent/Teacher Conferences –** (yes, this is a joyful activity) Grades 6, 7 and 8 are in, Grades N - 5 are off for conferences.

December 17 – **Christmas Carolling outside** - You will receive more information from your child's teacher about this daytime event. (parents are welcome)

December 18 - **Crazy Sweater Day** (a prize will be given for the craziest sweater)

December 21 – **Mass for grades 6, 7 and 8** at 11:00 am (parents are welcome)

December 22 - **Mass for grades K - 5** at 10:00 am (parents are welcome)

December 23 - **Pajama Day!** Students will be able to wear pajamas to school and we will have some fun classroom activities planned. (11:30 dismissal)

Take time to enjoy these days of Advent and join us for some of the activities listed above. Advent is truly a season of joy, a joy that comes to us through the Gospel!