



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



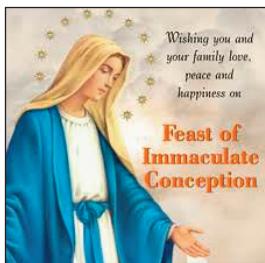
WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ DECEMBER 3, 2020

DISTANCE LEARNING REMINDERS

We are very proud of our mini mustangs (Pk and kindergarten students) who are doing a great job navigating the virtual world for their learning! For those who have been doing this since March 13, we understand how tiring and frustrating it can be. All of us are praying for a return to school as soon as possible. But until that blessed day arrives, we urge all in our community to stay strong and committed to doing your best every day. A few simple actions will help increase achievement for everyone:



- Log into class 2 minutes early (in case you have log-in issues), so that the teacher can start on time.
- Do not get up in the middle of class or leave until the teacher ends the meeting.
- Write down assignments in your planner and submit them completed and on time.
- If you need help or have questions, see the teacher during office hours.
- When you are having technical difficulties call 301-577-9412. We can help and let your teacher know you are trying to get into class.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND MASS FOR CARDINAL GREGORY

Our next virtual school Mass will be on Tuesday, December 8 at 9:45. December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a holy day of obligation for Catholics. This feast celebrates Mary, the Mother of God's special role in salvation history. The church teaches that from the moment of her conception, Mary was free from Original Sin.

We are offering our Mass in thanksgiving for the recent appointment of Cardinal Wilton Gregory to the College of Cardinals. We are proud that he is the first African American leader of our archdiocese and the first African American cardinal from the United States. He will be one of 120 cardinals who will choose the new pope whenever the time comes. All the Catholic schools are presenting Cardinal Gregory with a spiritual bouquet in honor of his call to greater leadership and service. A spiritual bouquet is a collection of prayers. We will be saying a decade of the rosary following Mass for Cardinal Gregory and his intentions.



Mark Your Calendar



Friday, December 4
Financial Aid Deadline

Tuesday, December 8
School Mass 9:45 am

School Advisory Board
Meeting 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 10
HSA Executive Board
Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, December 11
Catholic High School
Recommendations Submitted

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS ABOUT IXL

All students are reminded to visit the diagnostic arena in IXL for 15 minutes each week to update their skill profile. Doing this will help St. Matthias reach its academic growth targets for the year! Everyone benefits when we all do our best!

ANNUAL SCHOOL RAFFLE

Raffle tickets make great stocking stuffers and are highly sought after by our parishioners. If you would like to sell yours after one or more of the weekend or weekday masses, please contact Mrs. Blackburn. All families are required to sell or purchase 35 tickets at \$10 per ticket by February. If you have not yet received your tickets, they may be picked up at school on Mondays - Thursdays from 7:30-3:00 and on Fridays from 7:30-12:00. Kindly call before coming (301-577-9412), so that we can have your tickets ready.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINE

To receive any tuition assistance for the 2021-2022 school year, current families must complete a financial aid application in TADS by tomorrow, December 4 at 11:59 p.m. Applications are not accepted after this deadline. Families who are currently not receiving aid, but anticipate a need for next year, are urged to apply. Families who have a child graduating this June and going to Catholic high school also need to apply.

The only aid available to families who do NOT complete this application is the multi-child discount and the Father Hughes Scholarship. Please note that only contributing members of St. Matthias parish are eligible for the Hughes. Funding for this scholarship is generated from the "Every Penny Counts" donations from parishioners. Awards are usually less than \$500.

CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST

Recently, The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle partnered with Bill Murray of Development Associates to establish a database of alumni, parish families, former and current faculty and benefactors. We are planning to use this information, most immediately, in a Christmas mailing to all in the database.

We held a contest among our students to design a Christmas card for us. We were excited to name *Julianne Walters*, a current 8th grader, as the winner. As a result, her design will be used on our card which will be mailed out in the next week or so. We are grateful for Julianne's talent and as a token of our appreciation she will receive a Barnes and Noble gift card. Her name will also appear on the card. Thanks Julianne!!!

Home & School Association News

HSA needs YOU! Are you interested in service through the executive board of our Home and School Association? We are looking for more parent leadership and planning now for monthly virtual meetings/conference calls. Business includes connecting our families and school through fellowship activities, communication, and fundraising in efforts to enhance our community. Please contact Kenique Freeman at (770) 316-5435 to discuss your availability and interest.

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SUPPORT AND SAVE MONEY!

It is not too late to order your yard sign and earn one volunteer service hour for doing so. Un-served hours are billed at \$20 per hour. For a donation of \$12, you not only earn an hour, but you can show support for our school! It is not too late to order.

Please order yours today! This will enable us to submit our orders and get our signs back before Christmas. Can we count on you to support our student scholars, express our school spirit, and promote our school? Purchase online or bring your payment to the school office during school hours. The link to purchase online is: <https://bit.ly/ASMAyardsign>

SAVE THE DATE

The Home and School Association will host a fun family Christmas activity on the evening of Thursday, December 17. Plan to participate in this enjoyable holiday fellowship.