

# December 2020



*“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.”*

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Dear Parents,

During this marvelous liturgical season of Advent, filled with joyous expectations and watchful waiting, we prepare our hearts and homes for the remembered birth of our Savior. As we wait we pray, prayers of longing and anticipation, we sing songs of hope and promise, and listen to the prophetic readings of Isaiah. “Prepare the way of the Lord...” Each week as another candle of the Advent wreath is lit, the darkness around us is pierced by a radiant light.

During this ominous time of the pandemic we are learning difficult lessons about waiting and watching. Waiting for the results of a test, waiting for the least crowded time to go to the grocery store, waiting to see our loved ones again, waiting for the vaccine. As we are forced to wait and watch let us use our time wisely as Isaiah urges us to: “Prepare the way of the Lord...”

During this Advent we have many opportunities to bring our families closer, we are literally trapped in our homes, perhaps God has sent us a gift, the gift of time! Time to light the Advent wreath on our table each night, time to open the Advent Calendar counting down the days until Christmas, praying the beautiful Advent Novena with your children, 15 times a day until Christmas! They will be happy to teach you the novena prayer. Decorating the Christmas tree, writing Christmas cards and baking Christmas cookies could become some of your family’s favorite things. Always and in all activities preparing for the birth of Jesus in our hearts and homes.

Here at school we are doing our best under trying conditions to fully celebrate this Advent season. The teachers have their advent wreaths up, we are praying our novena, Christmas trees glisten in the classrooms, scout elves have arrived! Today I received my first Christmas card and have happily put it up in hallway. (Don’t forget to send in a card with a picture of your child on it!) St. Nicholas will be bringing us blest candy canes on Monday. I believe on Christmas morning the Baby Jesus will find many warm hearts filled with love around the crèche when he gazes into the hearts of our St. Francis Academy community. Wishing you the gift of good health, happiness and love.

Peace, Hope, and Joy,  
Ms. Savage

Please note:

- The Thanksgiving Food Drive was a rousing success. Thank you for your generosity.
- Report Cards will be distributed on December 8<sup>th</sup> to Cohort A and on December 9<sup>th</sup> to Cohort B. Parents of virtual students may pick up the report cards on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.
- Children will have modified Christmas Parties in the classrooms but must bring their own lunch.
- Kindergarten – Grade 2 students will continue wearing the gym uniform until further notice.
- Grades 3 – 8 students will start wearing the full winter dress uniform after the Christmas vacation.
- Christmas vacation will begin on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you travel out of the state or celebrate in a group not in your immediate family you must quarantine for two weeks. Please consider others as you celebrate your holidays.
- Registration fee of \$250.00 per child for the 2021/22 school year is due by January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- If you have a sibling that will be starting in September 2021, please notify the office immediately.

