

December 3, 2019

Dear St. Germaine families,

I hope all of you enjoyed your extended holiday weekend! With all the activity, past and upcoming, it's easy to lose focus on our liturgical season. Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent, allow yourself and your family time to focus on preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus—the true “reason for the season” of Christmas!

- Thank you to all who participated in our **annual all – school service project toy drive!** SO many toys were collected and will be distributed to children, at a special party this month.
- Another thank you to all who helped us surpass our school goal of 1,800 **Box Tops!** Our program is changing, soon we will only need to scan shopping receipts... more to come...
- Please take a moment to download the **Shoparoo app** on your smartphone or iPad, connect to St. Germaine Elementary School and start taking pictures of every receipt you receive from your daily purchases. It's easy, only takes a few seconds and they send our school money! With only 16 people doing it, we've already earned 7,000 points in 12 days!
- See **Camp Sancta Maria** registration information here: <https://campsanctamaria.org/>
- Students in grades K – 8 are invited to participate in the **Knights of Columbus poster contest.** All posters are due by December 11. An opportunity to design our **Christmas program cover** was offered to students in grades 1 – 8 as well. All program covers are due by Friday, December 6.
- Please send **pictures for our 2019 – 2020 yearbook** to colleen.kowalesky@gmail.com. Sporting events, birthday or class parties, field trips etc. are all great photo opportunities for our yearbook!
- Our **CYO basketball teams Mass is December 8** at 10:30 am. This is also the day of our **Mens' Club "Breakfast with Santa"** in the activity center 9:30 am – 12:30 pm AND our **Ladies Advent Tea** in the social hall 11:30 am – 1 pm. All are welcome.
- **Santa Shop** will open the week of December 16. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4ba9a72ca20-santas3>

Here's a look at our week ahead (**SAVE THE DATES: Friday, January 31 Men's Club Bowling fundraiser AND Saturday, March 21 is our 9th Annual Charity Gala**):

Tuesday, December 3	Mass at 8:30 am grades K – 5, join us! Toddler Time! Texas Roadhouse Night 4 – 8 pm
Wednesday, December 4	Mass at 8:30 am grades 6 – 8, join us!
Thursday, December 5	Mid – quarter, Little Learners!
Friday, December 6	Spirit Day, Jesse Tree Prayer Service 2:45 in church, Mr. C's orders due
Saturday, December 7	High School Placement Test—St. Germaine home basketball games 10:30 – 4p
Sunday, December 8	CYO team Mass at 10:30, Advent Tea 11:30 am, Santa Breakfast 9 – 12:30 pm

LOOKING AHEAD: December 10—El Charro Day/Night 11 am – 10 pm, **December 11**—Keep Christ in Christmas posters due, **December 13**—Grades 1 – 8 Christmas program in the activity center at 6:30 pm, **December 14**—Santa Shop Set Up, **December 16 – 19**—Santa Shop is open!
December 20—half day dismissal Christmas break begins, Kindergarten concert 10:30 am in the gym, Dreamweavers 11 am followed by some Student Council fun!

Weekend Liturgies here at Our Lady of Hope are celebrated Saturdays at 5:00 pm, Sundays at 8:30 am and 10:30 am (a special “Children’s Liturgy” is offered during 10:30 Mass). There is no better way to ensure your child develops in his or her faith life than to regularly, actively, and joyfully celebrate the Eucharist as a family.

Advent Peace and Blessings!
Mrs. DeGrez