

From the Desk of Mrs. Kathy Leahy



Advent: Preparing for Christ

Important Items for December 2008

Intramural Hockey Begins	3
Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Mass 9:00	8
Barnes & Noble Fundraiser	11
Breakfast with Santa Kindergarten & Gr.1	12
Christmas Concert 7:00 pm	15
Early Dismissal—11:30	23
Christmas Break Begins	24

On Sunday, November 30 we begin a “new” church year, the first Sunday in Advent. The first Sunday of Advent begins our season of waiting and preparation. It is time to prepare for the birth of Christ. Advent, like Christmas is a special time for memories, celebrations, and hopes.

Please take a moment to see if additional prayers, sacrifices and random acts of kindness are on your Advent list. If not, perhaps you may want to make a resolution and begin now to celebrate the birth of Christ by doing things to bring you and your family closer to Him.

In the midst of all the preparations for Christ-

mas, a family can also prepare with daily prayer, sacrifices and random acts of kindness. On the reverse of this page are suggested Advent activities that perhaps you may want to share together as a family. Also, if an Advent wreath is not a custom in your home, this may be a good year to begin. Instructions and prayers may be found in this blue folder. You may extend these prayers if you wish, by adding your own prayers, reflections and discussions.

Here at Saint Martin’s every classroom will be using the Advent wreath daily and every Monday morning we will gather together in the

gymnasium at 8:30 to pray for the coming of our Lord into our lives. In this way we can pray together and hope to focus the children on the real meaning of Christmas. Grade appropriate additional Advent activities will be going on in each classroom during the month of December.

Again, I thank all of you for entrusting us with your sons and daughters. May God bless us as we enter the holy season of Advent in preparation for the great Feast of the Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this wonderful season help us to turn all of our hearts and minds toward the Christ Child.

2008 Holiday Tea A Huge Success



On Sunday, November 30 over 200 lovely young ladies gathered in our school gymnasium for a delightful Holiday Tea. With decorations in the seasonal colors of green and white, the school gymnasium was transformed into an elegant room only fitting for tea

on china. During the tea our guests gathered for an afternoon of crafts, photos, delicious treats, a performance by the Horton House, refreshments and a special visit from Santa.

This event was a wonderful way for parents, grandparents, aunts and special

friends to spend the day with those young ladies that they love. Special thanks to Mrs. Scarpati, Mrs. Zarrelli and Mrs. Hilal for coordinating this event and to the many volunteers that helped to make this day special. What a fabulous day for all!

Grade 5 NYS Social Studies Test Results Are Outstanding

On Tuesday November 12 and Wednesday November 13 of this school year our grade 5 students took the 2008 New York State Grade 5 Social Studies Test. At this time it is my pleasure to report the results of this exam to you. All 26 of our grade 5 students passed the New York State Grade 5 Social Studies Exam. Out of our 26 students in our fifth grade, 24 of our grade 5 students, scored in the highest performance level with a score of 4 which

indicates that those children meet the New York State Standards with distinction and showed evidence of superior understanding of the content, the concepts, and the skills required for elementary level achievement in each of the learning standards and key ideas assessed in social studies. Two of the students scored in the performance level 3 which indicates that they meet the New York State Standards showing knowledge and understanding of the con-

tent, the concepts, and the skills required for elementary-level achievement of the five learning standards that are assessed in social studies.

We are extremely pleased with the work of all of our students in grade 5 as well as their classroom teacher, Miss. Hagan. Congratulations to these students, all their current and former teachers, and you, the parents who are our partners in your child's education.

Suggested Advent Activities

Make an Advent Wreath—Set aside a special time and place everyday for Advent prayers and devotion.

Set up Your Crèche—Add figures every week to your nativity scene but, wait until Christmas Eve to place the baby Jesus in the manger.

Go caroling—Gather family and friends to spread the joy of the season to others through the sharing of

your voices.

Visit others—Visit a local hospital or nursing home as a family to spread holiday cheer to others.

Make a Jesse Tree—Add symbols each and every day to your tree as you recall the beautiful stories in the Old Testament.

Write a family prayer—Ask family members to write a special prayer to thank God for the events

in the past year.

Read and Reflect—Set aside a quiet moment or two to read and reflect on the beautiful words of our Lord.

Attend Church Services—Invite friends and neighbors to join you and your family in the celebration of this joyful season.

Rejoice in the Season and Celebrate the gift of our Lord!

Final Notes

Intramural Hockey Begins—On December 4 Intramural Hockey will begin for all students in grades 5-8. This program will run until February of 2009 on Thursday afternoons from 3 until 4 pm. For additional permission slips kindly go to Mrs. Leahy's web page under announcements, complete the form and return to Coach Reyman as soon as possible.

Christmas Concert—Grades K-8, under the direction of Mrs. Hourani, will present our annual Christmas Concert on Monday, December 15 at 7:00pm in the school gymnasium.

Christmas Break—Please note that school will be closed from December 23 at 11:30 am until January 5, 2009. Best wishes for a relaxing and joyful Christmas break.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our parents for supporting our fall fundraisers as well as all of our school events. I sincerely appreciate all of you, our dedicated parents, for ALL you do for our school. We are truly blessed to have each of you as part of our school community.

May God bless you at Thanksgiving and always!