

# From the Desk of Mrs. Kathy Leahy

Volume 4, Issue 9

November 29, 2011



## Advent: Preparing for Christ

On Sunday, November 27 we began 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.

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 Christ-

mas. 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.



### Important Items for Early December 2011

Intramural Hockey Begins	12/1
Baking Buddies—Group B Begins	12/7
Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Mass 9:00	12/8
Barnes & Noble Day	12/8
No School— Teacher Conference Day	12/9
Christmas Concert PreK & Kindergarten 7:00pm	12/12
Christmas Concert Grades 1-3 7:00pm	12/15



## 2011 Holiday Tea A Huge Success

On Sunday, November 20 over 345 lovely young ladies and their guests gathered in our school gymnasium for a delightful Holiday Tea. With decorations of snowflakes, snowmen, and in the winter theme colors of blue, purple, and white, the school gymnasium was

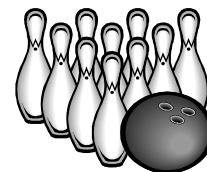
transformed into an elegant room only fitting for tea on fine china. During the tea, our guests gathered for an afternoon of crafts, photos, delicious treats, a performance by former American Idol star Alison Peratikos, refreshments, and a special visit from Santa.

This event was a wonder-

ful way for parents, grandparents, aunts and special friends to spend the day with those young ladies that they love. Special thanks to Mrs. Hall, Mrs. LaBare, Ms. Long, 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!



## First Annual Father/Son Event Bowls A “Strike”



On Friday, November 18, from 5:30 until 7:30 pm Saint Martin de Porres School hosted it's first annual Father/Son Bowling Event. With huge smiles across their faces, authentic bowling shoes on their feet, and bowling balls of their choice, 168 fathers and sons joined together for what proved to be truly a fun evening together.

At 5:30 pm as the bowlers entered their lanes, each lane was already waiting for them with their names, groups, and special added features for the younger bowlers. While the music played and laughter filled the bowling alley, these young bowlers and their fathers started and ended the evening hav-

ing fun together and meeting other fathers and sons from our school community. Later, as the evening progressed, pizza, snacks, soda, and water was also provided to our special bowlers when they needed a little more energy to continue to let their talents shine.

At 7:30 pm when the evening ended, each child was given cookies to take home to share with their father and to remember this special event. All boys that were there told me that they had a wonderful time and were looking forward to next year. As far as who won and were the winners for the evening...I believe that all students who attended were the winners for

they had the opportunity to slow down from their busy schedules and spend time with the most important man in their life, their father. The same also goes true for the fathers. What better way to spend a Friday evening laughing and fooling around with your amazing son. The memories of this evening for both fathers and sons are sure to last a life time.

Special thanks to Mrs. Fiege and Mrs. O'Keeffe for coordinating this very organized first annual father/son bowling event and to all of the other volunteers that so willingly gave of their time to help make this event a success.



## 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 1 Intramural Hockey will begin for all students in grades 5-8. This program will run until February of 2012 on Thursday afternoons from 3 until 4 pm. For additional permission slips, kindly go to Mrs. Leahy's web page under forms, download and complete the form, kindly return the completed form to Coach Reyman as soon as

possible.

**Christmas Concerts**—So that we can seat all parents and guests, this year we will have three Christmas Concerts. All concerts begin at 7:00pm and doors will open at 6:30pm.

PreK and K—December 12

Grades 1-3—December 15

Grades 4-8 and the School Band—December 19

**Christmas Break**—Please note that school will be closed from December 23 until January 3, 2012. Best wishes for a relaxing and joyful Christmas break.

(Please enjoy the pictures of Holiday Tea which can be located on my web site)