



## A Week at A Glance...12/04/2017 - 12/08/2017

This coming **Friday, December 8th**, our Church will celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. Many people often mistake this feast day of **St. Anne's conception of her daughter, Mary**, with the feast celebrating **Mary's conception of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit** which is celebrated on March 25th. It can be easy to confuse the two. One simple way to remember is to think of the number 8. We know that the Church celebrates the Blessed Mother's birthday on September 8th. If we count back nine months to this date on the 8th we can see that this makes sense. The same applies to the **March 25th, the feast of The Annunciation of the Lord**, when the angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary. Count forward nine months and we arrive at Christmas Day.

Just what does Immaculate Conception mean? The name refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin right from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother St. Anne. Neither the Greek or Latin Fathers of the Church taught the Immaculate Conception, but they professed it. It would take many centuries for the Church to recognize the Immaculate Conception as a doctrine, something which all Catholics believe to be true. On **December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX** in the Apostolic Constitution, *Ineffabilis Deus* (*Latin for Ineffable God*), declared the Immaculate Conception to be a dogma, that is, an official doctrine that the Church teaches was revealed by God Himself.

The Blessed Virgin's freedom from sin was a special *grace*, a gift from God. It was an exception to the law, or a privilege which no other created person has received, (*Modern Catholic Dictionary*). The Immaculate Conception represents Christ's saving grace operating in Mary in anticipation of His redemption of man and in God's foreknowledge of Mary's acceptance of His Will for her. The Immaculate Conception was the purely the expression of God's love for Mary, who gave herself fully and without hesitation to God's service.

During this season of Advent, let's take some time to reflect on the Blessed Mother and her Immaculate Conception. Our school children and their teachers will be going to the 8:30 Mass on Friday, a holy day of obligation. Consider pausing a bit from the busy schedule of your day and join them. You are sure to be blessed!

*Hail Mary full of grace...*

**BAKE SALE:** We will have our bake sale on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to help raise money for the foster families we adopted. If you can bake it will be greatly appreciated.

**MOVIE AFTERSCHOOL DAY:** Student Council is sponsoring a Movie Day after school on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The movies will go to approximately 4:15. There is also extended care if you cannot get your child picked up by then. The cost is a donation of a canned good (or as many as you would like) for the Survival Center. There will be a concession/snack bar as well. Permissions slips went out last week. You can also find one of the website

**KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE:** We had a great turnout with over 20 families in attendance and some have already registered for the fall.

**PARENT PORTAL:** I sent out an email last week about the parent portal for student's grades. There is also a link on the website to access this. If you did not receive the email, you can contact us and we will give you your username and password.

**LOTTERY CALENDARS:** We have sold 162 Lottery Calendars as of returns counted by last Friday (12/1/17). We thank you for your efforts so far and for picking up Calendars from the Office or Extended Care to sell. (We currently have over 800 Calendars in circulation). Please continue to turn in your Calendar sales as soon as you can. With everyone's participation, we can successfully reach our goal of 1,400 Calendars sold! Thank you for your support! Gary Bourbeau, Advancement Director

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:** The book fair will be open Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-2:30 and then again from 4:30-6:30; Tuesday Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30-2:30.

**CAREER DAY:** We will be offering another Career Day for students this school year on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope that many of you will be able to be a part of this day. The students learned about many different careers that they may not have known about. If you are able to take the time and join us, please let me know. It will probably run a couple of hours in the morning.

**UNIFORMS:** If girls want to wear leggings under there jumper as tights, they need to be black, navy blue or gray.

**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR K - 8:** We will have our Christmas musical for grades K – 8 on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the Pastoral Center.

**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR NURSERY SCHOOL:** The Christmas musical for nursery school is Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. Since we have an early release, students will go home right after the show. All students are welcome to attend.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR:** Students in grades 2 – 8, please consider joining the Christmas choir for 4:00 pm Christmas Eve mass. Practices will be on Mondays through December 18<sup>th</sup> from, 2 – 3 pm. If you are interested, it's not too late to join.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** Looking for someone to help out from 8:30 – 10:00 in the morning. If you are interested, please give me a call. Thank you.

**VOLUNTEER/CORI INFORMATION:** If you are interested in volunteering this year, you will need to either attend one of our workshops which is about 3 hours long or view the program online which will be a little over an hour. You will also sign off on the Code of Conduct at the same time. If you even think that you may go on a field trip or volunteer, please go on the site and watch the videos. Your CORIs also need to be up to date. If you were in need of a CORI update, it was put in your back to school packet that the students brought home today. The site is [https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg\\_2.cfm?theme=0&org=37495](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_2.cfm?theme=0&org=37495). If you sign up and take part of the course and then decide you need to finish this later you would actually go to **virtusonline.org** and then put in your username and password and finish the course.

**LUNCH TOKENS:** Tokens can be purchased on the following days: December 8, 20 (Wednesday); January 11, 26; February 9; March 2, 16, 29 (Thursday); April 13; May 4, 18; June 1.

### **FUNDRAISER INFORMATION**

**GIFT CARD ORDERS:** The next Gift Card Order is due, Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The order form will be attached to this email.

**INK CARTRIDGES:** We are looking for someone to volunteer to be in charge of the ink cartridges. If you are able to help out, please contact me. Thank you.

**TASTE OF WESTERN MA DINING BOOKS:** Taste of Western Mass Dining and Activity books were sent home to every family. If you do not want to purchase it, please send it back in the bag it came in. If you are interested in purchasing it, please send it back with \$25. They make great Christmas gifts. If you are interested in purchasing more, please send in the paperwork or a note and we will send it home with your child.

**STOP AND SHOP:** Our school is participating in the A+ School Rewards program. Please register your card at Stop and Shop or online to help raise money for the school. You can either visit [www.stopandshop.com](http://www.stopandshop.com) and select Savings and Rewards and follow the prompts to create your account. You will need your 13 digit Stop and Shop card number and our school ID (05181) or if you do not know your card number you can call 1-877-366-2668 and choose option #1. If you registered last year, you do not need to register your card again. You can track the number of points you are earning for our school by checking your grocery receipt starting October 6 2017 – March 15, 2018.

### **COLLECTIONS**

**BOXTOPS/CAMPBELL UPCs/INK CARTRIDGES:** We continue to ask for your support with the Box Tops, Campbell UPCs, Ink Cartridges

**BOTTLES AND CANS:** We are collecting clean bottles and cans with deposits. They can be dropped off in the containers in the parking lot by the other side of the dumpster.

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**SPANISH CLUB:** Fridays from 2:00 – 3:00 pm for grades 5 – 8.

**SEWING:** Fridays from 2:00 – 3:30 pm.

**MAD SCIENCE:** Mad Science ends Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**JUDO/JUTSU:** Please talk to your child(ren) about joining the Judo class on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. They can come out and try it, and if they like it they can join. It runs from 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

God bless,  
Shelly Rose, Principal