

**St. Stanislaus School**  
**December 3, 2018**  
**Friendship With Jesus: Living a Eucharistic Life**

*It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope. - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*

**Saint of the Week: St. Nicholas of Myra** The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships. Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6. Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need. (from [stnicholascenter.org](http://stnicholascenter.org))

**We have begun the season of Advent**, when we prepare our hearts anew for the rebirth of Jesus in our lives and we turn our minds to His second coming in glory. We have many Advent traditions that we will be celebrating as a school. I know many families have Advent wreaths at home. If you are searching for some new traditions, I've attached some suggestions to this newsletter.

**One of our traditions** is to celebrate the feast of St Nicholas. We will have a Big Buddy-Little Buddy activity. Students will leave their shoes outside the classroom door so that St. Nicholas can leave them a treat. Each child (or family) also takes a tag from our St. Nicholas Giving Tree. Families are asked to provide an unwrapped new toy for a child that age by December 12. As always, we are partnering with Marie's Place. Their staff will distribute the toys to needy children in Fall River.

**Parent Conferences for grades 1-8 are Thursday.** Please call the office on today or tomorrow to schedule your appointment. Report cards are distributed at the conference.

**Thursday, December 6, is a half-day for students, but aftercare is available. If your child will be staying in aftercare, please call the office to reserve their spot.** If your child is staying, please send lunch and a drink with them.

**Friday, December 7,** is a half-day for students with dismissal at 11:30 a.m. There is no aftercare on this day. The faculty meeting begins at noon.

**There is no drama practice this week.** Drama practice will be held on next Tuesday, December 11.

**8th Grade is holding a Bake Sale** on Thursday, December 6. Items are 25¢ - \$2. The sale will be during parent teacher conferences (12:30-6:30) and school hours (8:30-11:30).

**Many people have asked for Fr. Johnson's address:** Fr. Andrew Johnson, Corpus Christi Parish, 324 Quaker Meeting House Road, East Sandwich, MA 02537

**Our Christmas Festival was a tremendous success!** We realized a profit of \$10,455.00, which will help to pay for the new math and science programs that we purchased this year. Thank you to our many, many donors! Thank you to all who attended - the crowd was far beyond our expectations. Thank you to our Development Committee and especially to Derek DeSousa and Rita DeOliveira who spearheaded the effort! We have pictures in the editing phase – they'll be posted in the next couple of days.

**THE diocesan FACE Foundation has revised its scholarship application process. Instead of applying in the spring for next year, the process begins in the fall. THE 2019-2020 APPLICATION ARE AVAILABLE NOW. Please visit FACE at <https://www.face-dfr.org/tuition-assistance/> for the link to begin the Application process. Reminder: Even if your child currently receives a scholarship, you must re-apply for tuition assistance each year.**

**Things you will need..**

- Application Submission
- 2018 Federal tax-return
- 2018 W-2's and other non-taxable documentation
- \$15 Processing Fee

***Miss Willis***

***Advent Ideas on the following pages***

# 10 December Activities for Catholic Families

If there is one within traveling distance, visit a Living Nativity.

If this is not possible, set up your family's Nativity scene and have a discussion about what the sights, sounds, and even smells may have been.

Pray for missionaries all over the world who are spreading God's Word. Optional: To extend this activity, see what your family can do to help those doing a mission. (St. Francis Xavier's Feast Day is Dec 3rd.)

Brainstorm with your family things you can do to live more like the Holy Family. Plan to do at least one by the following week. (Feast of the Holy Family - 1st Sunday after Christmas)

Fill your children's shoes with small gifts or wrapped candies while they're asleep to celebrate St. Nicholas' feast day. (Dec 6th)

Try one of these fun, hands on Nativity themed activities:

<http://bit.ly/HandsOnNativity>

Choose an activity that will help babies, such as donating to a crisis pregnancy center, praying for babies in danger, or even just spending time with a special baby in your lives. (Feast of the Holy Innocents is Dec 28th)

Wait to add Jesus to your Nativity scene until Christmas



Have a Mexican themed dinner with roses\* as decorations to celebrate the feast days of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego (Dec. 12th / Dec. 9th)

Attend Mass on Christmas Day (Dec 25th) and Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec 8th) - Both are Holy Days of Obligation

Plan to give a gift (or three!) to Jesus this year to celebrate His birthday. Jesus taught us that when we help those in need, we are helping Him. Find a way to give a Christmas gift to someone who is particularly in need this year.

\*If you want to skip real roses, try this paper rose cutout craft:

<http://www.hsclassroom.net/super-easy-valentines-paper-rose-cutout/>