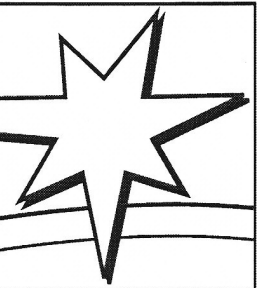


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2013

Trinity Catholic School
Mrs. Kathleen Behrens, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Nicholas

On December 6th we celebrate St. Nicholas, bishop and defender of the faith. St. Nicholas had a generous heart and gave away most of his fortune. One story credits him with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. His frequent anonymous acts of generosity helped him become the patron saint of children. Later he is credited with defending Jesus' full divinity at the Nicene Council against Arian supporters. St. Nicholas' example helps us focus on Jesus.



Holiday hysteria antidote

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Family meals

Families can help children become better socialized and more secure in as few as 60 minutes a week. Experts agree that even one weekly family meal can build a stronger family.



Make ready for something wonderful

Children spend the weeks before Christmas waiting for something wonderful to happen. In fact, that's what the Season of Advent means. It is the time when we prepare for something wonderful. Try taking Advent one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, and rejoice over the miracle of Christ's remarkable birth ...

Week One – Wait. Decorate slowly. Start with the Nativity scene (without the Baby, of course) and scatter more decorations around the house each week to build momentum up to Christmas.

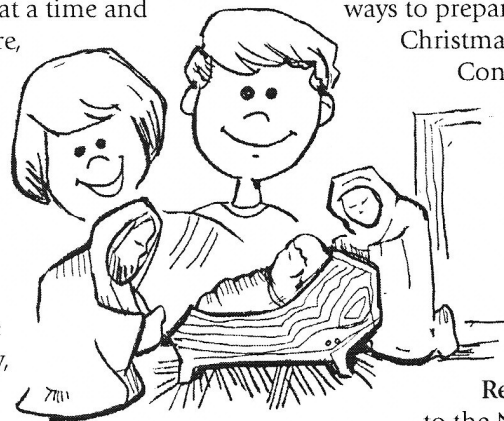
Week Two – Hope. As a family, take a break from the frenzy to volunteer for an organization that offers hope to

families without any. Soup kitchens, Catholic Charities, the Knights of Columbus, or your local parish may have ministries to help needy families in your area.

Week Three – Prepare. Look for ways to prepare your hearts for Christmas. Take the family to Confession to ready your souls for God's grace.

Resolve to use only caring words with one another to prepare for the Prince of Peace.

Week Four – Rejoice. Add the Baby to the Nativity, hug each other, and sing with joy at Mass on Christmas. Welcome our Savior with rejoicing hearts. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do we praise God?

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, he began with "hallowed be thy name." But God doesn't need our praise; he knows he is perfect. We praise God because he loves us and because he is



good. In fact, when we realize the gratitude and praise that we owe God, we want to give him what he is due. *"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O Most High"* (Psalm 92:1).

Make memories with Christmas traditions

Family Christmas traditions give children a sense of belonging and identity and make Christmases memorable. Consider adding these new traditions to your family Christmas this year:

Make "Adorements." Craft ornaments that illustrate names for Jesus, "Bread of Life," "Light of the World," "King of Kings," etc. Add to the tree one at a time.

Give Jesus the first gift. At Thanksgiving, wrap a gift box for Jesus. Cut a slot in the top. During Advent have children write down what they did for Jesus each day and drop these

offerings in the box. Unwrap this gift first on Christmas morning.

Mark a milestone. Give each child a new ornament marking an event in his or her spiritual life from the year. Celebrate the receipt of a Sacrament, learning a new prayer, or acquiring a virtue.

Celebrate cultures. Learn how to say "Merry Christmas" in different languages. Serve up new foods at dinner, such as potato latkes or pasteles. Host a Christmas party and ask friends to share international Christmas traditions.

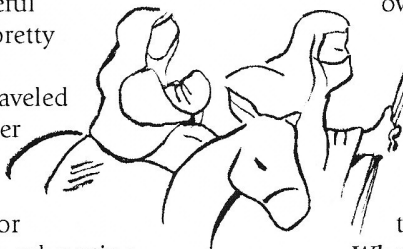


Scripture LESSON

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, God protects those who trust him.

Nativity scenes usually show Mary and Joseph calmly kneeling at Jesus' crib surrounded by adoring shepherds and wise men. It's a peaceful scene and probably pretty far from reality.

Mary and Joseph traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty, exhausting journey. Once there, there was nowhere to stay except a stable with animals. After a short time, they had to flee to Egypt with a newborn to escape danger, and stayed there for several



years without family or friends.

The Holy Family had a share of pain and difficulties much like our own experience. Yet

Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

What can a parent do? Tell your children that Jesus' birth and the Holy Family's escape to Egypt is further proof that God always keeps his promises. When we lean on him, God will always lead us to safety.

Feasts & Celebrations

December is the month we prepare for and celebrate Christ's birth and the miraculous events surrounding it.

Dec. 1 – First Day of Advent. The new Church year starts this day. We begin Year A.

Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin. In addition to attending Mass, praying a joyful rosary is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared

to St. Juan Diego. To prove her visitation to the bishop, she asked Juan Diego to carry roses to him as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his tilma (cape) before the bishop, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother and can still be seen today.

Dec. 13th – St. Lucy. In pagan Sicily, St. Lucy vowed to remain chaste for Jesus. A disappointed suitor betrayed her for her Christianity and she was executed for her faith.



Parent TALK

I grew up in a troubled home with few happy Christmases. So I vowed to make Christmas perfect for my own children.



In fact, I became obsessed. Our trees had to be perfect with color-coordinated decorations. Christmas cookies had to be baked just so. The year I found myself decorating the tree alone I realized

my mistake.

The next year, I let the kids pick the tree. It was lumpy and lopsided but we thought it was gorgeous. Instead of placing color-coordinated ornaments, we piled them on and admired our handiwork.

When we baked, dough and sprinkles got everywhere, but the cookies were delicious. Tessa was delighted that we put St. Nick in the bathroom so she could see him every night before she went to bed and in the morning when she awoke.

Our Christmas that year was messy, chaotic, and simply joyful. I finally got my perfect Christmas.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

Principal's Post-its



TRINITY'S TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

We hope you have marked your calendars for **Sunday, December 8**. This will be our third Taste of Christmas gourmet dinner hosted at Violi's Restaurant here in Massena, from 11:30-2:30. We are deeply grateful to the whole Violi family for hosting this event again this year. Based on the last 2 years' experience, it promises to be one of the highlights of Massena's festivities during the Christmas season. We also wish to thank Dr. Bill Orlando, Joe Brown and Mike Violi for agreeing to be our guest chefs this year. The specialties they will be preparing are Sweet Potato Encrusted Mahi, Mahi, Pork Bracirole and Chicken Bolognesa. Mr. Richard Giroux will also be cooking his delicious Curried Carrot Soup. Becca Violi and Margie Ilisco will be preparing an Italian Wedding Soup. All entrees will be served with salad, roll, choice of soup, dessert, coffee or soda for \$35 per person. A cash bar will also be available. Mrs. Joyce Giroux will be providing festive Christmas music to put us all in the Christmas spirit. Who can pass up spending a Sunday afternoon like this? Don't wait! Make your reservations soon. You can make reservations by calling school, 769-5911. Check out our website for more information about this wonderful celebration.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT SEASON
 "Trinity's halls are filled with music, fa la la la la la la la!" Yes, concert season is about to begin and it premieres with Pre-K on Thursday, December 5 at **9:30 a.m.** in the school Dining Hall. JK through Grade One will follow on Wednesday, December 11, at **9:30** in the school Dining Hall. And finally our students in grades 2-6 will be ready to perform "Miracle on Bethlehem Street" on Wednesday, December 18 at **6:30** in Sacred Heart Church. Many thanks to Father Don, Father Joe and the Sacred Heart parishioners for allowing us to invade their space as we rehearse for this performance. **A reminder that all students, unless informed otherwise by Mrs. Giroux, will need to wear white angel robes for this year's production.** If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Giroux at school.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Trinity Catholic School's Christmas break will be Saturday, December 21 through Sunday, January 5. Enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Advent Song

Advent is a time to wait,
 Not quite time to celebrate,
 Light the candles one by one,
 'Til this Advent time is done,
 Christmas day will soon be here
 Time for joy and time for Cheer!

*(Sung to the tune of
 Twinkle, Twinkle little
 Star)*



IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/2 First Advent Prayer Service
- 12/5 Pre-K Concert @ 9:30 in Dining Hall
- 12/6 Feast of St. Nicholas Noon Mass
- 12/8 Trinity's Taste of Christmas 11:30- 2:30
- 12/10 Gr.3 & 4 Penance Service @ 9:30
- 12/11 JK-1 Concert @ 9:30 in Dining Hall
- 12/12 All School Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe @ 9:15
- 12/13 Gr. 5 & 6 Penance Service @ 10:00
- 12/18 2-6 Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal @ 1:30 Concert @ 6:30
- 12/19 Classroom Advent Parties
- 12/20 Advent Prayer Service @ 1:30
- 12/21-1/5 Christmas Break

Our mission is to nurture spiritual, academic and personal growth in an atmosphere of Christian love.



Truck Raffle

*Coming together is a beginning,
Keeping together is progress,
Working together is success!*

—Henry Ford

Yes, I know we are raffling a beautiful 2014 Dodge Ram from Blevins Seaway Motors not a *Ford*, but this quote truly speaks to what our school needs from all of our parents, students, faculty and staff. We all need to pull together and work as hard as we can to sell all of our Trinity Truck Raffle tickets.

Each family received 23 tickets to sell and it is crucial that we sell all these tickets. We need to sell 2650 tickets in order to pay for this year's truck. All of our sales after that will be profit.

If you haven't signed up for a selling time at the Mall please stop in school and sign up for a time. The sign up sheet is here at school and there is also a sign up sheet at the Mall. If you have any suggestions for any other places we could sell tickets, please contact Anson Burke, Meredith Austin, or the school.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. **We had 7000 tickets printed and our goal is to sell all 7000. If we work together and EVERY family does their part we can achieve that goal.** Also, remember to turn in your sold tickets as soon as possible or **no later than January 6, 2014.** This makes Shirley's life so much easier and we all know how important Shirley's sanity is to our school. The drawing will be held after the 9:30 Mass at Sacred Heart Church on January 12, 2014.

TOP 5 FOODS HELP YOU PREVENT WINTER COLDS

1. Coconut Oil: Use in smoothies, salad dressings, as a spread or just eat a spoonful!
2. Mushrooms: Especially maitake, reishi and shiitake—they all contain powerful compounds to activate your immune system.
3. Berries: Blueberries, raspberries, goji berries and acai berries all contain essential vitamins and dietary fiber for good health.
4. Organic fruits and vegetables: These are packed with antioxidants, vitamins, minerals that can keep your immune system optimized.

5. Matcha Green Tea: Contains natural chemicals called catechins which improves the body's response to pathogens.

None of us want to be sick for Christmas so why not give these a try?

—Edley, Gavin, "Prevent Winter Colds with Immune Boosting Foods"

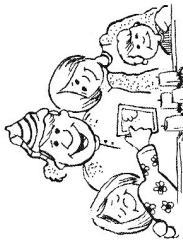
The TRINITY Robotics Will Compete in March

Trinity Catholic's Robotics Team is hard at work on this year's theme, "Nature's Fury." They will be attending the annual competition at Clarkson University which has been moved to Saturday, March 8th. This year our Trinity Knights robotics team is comprised of the following 5th and 6th grade students: Anah Bogdan, Andrew Cook, Aidan O'Neill, Brendan O'Neill, Jack Witkop, Anthony Bolia, Trevor Francis, Sean Murphy, Dalton O'Keefe, and Isabella Vodron. These students have been working since October, doing research about natural disasters: thinking about a way to prevent them, protecting people during one, or how best to rebuild after one. In addition, they have been building and programming their robot to perform several intricate tasks. Robotics requires a tremendous amount of commitment and responsibility on their part. I also want to thank these students' parents for the level of support they have demonstrated as their children take on this challenge. Every team needs dedicated and caring coaches and mentors to nurture their success. This year's team is coached and mentored by Mrs. Terri O'Keefe, Mr. Richard Cook, Mrs. Lisa Cook, and Mr. Nicholas Tsibulsky. Without their enthusiasm and leadership this opportunity for our students would not be possible. We thank them for all their efforts and time.












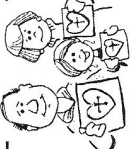


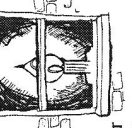
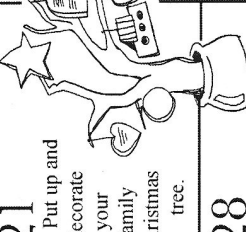



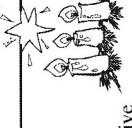
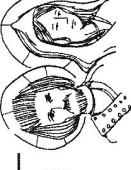
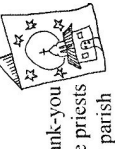


BASKETBALL BOUNCES BACK

Special thanks to Mr. Pomainville and Mr. Oldenburgh for coaching another year of Trinity Knights Basketball! Trinity students have been practicing for about a month now and will have their first game on December 5 at St. James in Gouverneur. We wish good luck to our girls' team: Caroline Cromie, Carlie Donnelly, Emmalyn Ellsworth, Laura Guimond, Amanda Polarolo, Kailey Peets, Violet Reyes, Sophie Stankovic, and Hannah Wilson, and our boys' team: Nicholas Burke, Devin Conto, Trevor Francis, Mason George, Ethan Miller, Sean Murphy, Aidan O'Neill, Brendan O'Neill, Ty Page and Carson Witkop.



Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>December 1 Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle each night this week.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Set up your Nativity scene, but leave out the Holy Family.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Read together about Elizabeth and Zechariah's special blessing in Luke 1:5-25.</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Make Christmas cards and bring them to a nearby hospice or nursing home to cheer the residents.</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Cut and paste pictures from Christmas cards you receive into ornaments for your tree.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Attend Confession as a family and go out to dinner afterward to celebrate forgiveness!</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Ask a family member you have hurt in the past year for forgiveness. Offer it to one who has hurt you.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come Emmanuel."</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight.</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>Read about the angel's remarkable visit to Mary in Luke 1:26-38. Talk about ways we can also say, "yes," to God.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling.</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Set out a rose tonight in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Together, write your Christmas cards. Let older kids address the envelopes and younger ones seal them.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Clean out your closets of unwanted clothes or toys in good condition. Donate them to a shelter or other charity.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today.</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it.</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Set the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the rest of the scene.</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Write letters to Baby Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming.</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day.</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Send Christmas cards to your pastor, priests, and religious or ordained ministers who are important to your family.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Put up and decorate your family Christmas tree.</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Read today's Gospel reading, Matthew 1:18-24.</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Decorate a "Jesus Candle" with symbols of Jesus. Light it during Christmas dinner.</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Put the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20.</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Take a drive or walk around your home to look at the Christmas decorations or displays.</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Family Movie Night. Make some popcorn and watch a Christmas movie together.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Give each family member a chance to say "thank you" for a blessing God has given this year.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Celebrate the feast of the Holy Family by gathering for a special family meal today.</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>Send a thank-you note to the priest or other parish ministers who enriched your seasonal celebration.</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>Resolve to pray as a family for at least 15 minutes every night during the coming year.</p>	<p>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</p> 