



St. Rita of Cascia School

*“The Peacemaker”*

*December, 2018*

*Dear St. Rita School family,*

*The new church year begins on Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> which marks the beginning of Advent. This is the time in the church year for PREPARING - somewhere in the midst of the busy stores and 24 hour Christmas carols on the radio we can lose our way - the Way to Bethlehem. When there are young children in a family there has to be room for Santa, but we need to be sure that we are careful to make room for Jesus in the Christmas story.*

*There are many beautiful religious traditions in our faith to bring a special reverence for the Holy Longing in Advent. Take time to participate in the weekly mass with your family. Use an Advent calendar with children - opening one door each day as we wait for Christmas. There are some beautiful religious Advent calendars available in stores. Start the tradition of the Advent Wreath in your home. Light a candle each week to prepare for Jesus, the Light of the World. In the Christmas light aisles of stores are individual candle lights, the children can turn the bulb on and you won't have to worry about “burned*

*fingers”. Have a special time to set up the Nativity set, the manger and read the Christmas story. Do a day by day experience and tell the children something about each figure, the shepherds, the angel, Joseph, Mary and Jesus. There are many excellent Children's bibles available at stores today. Have a Christmas carol sing-a-long with a few neighbors and try to include someone who may be alone or far away from their own family.*

*Christmas can be overwhelming for children. All children like to write a letter to Santa, why not also write a letter to Jesus and tell Him what you will do to celebrate His birthday - like sending a note to someone or picking out a gift for someone in need. Christmas is wonderful time if we remember to keep the balance between Jesus and Santa. Excitement is wonderful - Exhaustion is no fun - for anyone.. Plan to celebrate in holy and helpful ways. Jesus came into the world to serve not to be served.*

*During this year, find a way to rekindle your faith life. Look at new ways to incorporate some traditions with a focus on the spiritual side of the season.*

*Bette Faxon*





**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bake Sale & Children's Raffle:**

Each year the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class sponsors a Christmas Bake sale after all the week end masses at St. Rita in the Gathering Space. The presentations are very festive. You can share these tasty treats with friends, neighbors, and co-workers. If you have a special secret family recipe and wish to donate it to the event, I know the class would be very appreciative.

**BAKE SALE:**

- Sat. , Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> & Sun., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>

**CHILDREN'S RAFFLE:**

- Children's Raffle - On Wed., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> & Fri. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> during the school day, the children will be able to bid on special raffle items geared to the young. Raffle tickets are 50 cents each.



**WEATHER CLOSINGS:** Please be sure that we have all updated phone numbers, so that you receive our SCHOOLREACH messages Please do not call school. Listen to any voicemail message that we send.



*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe -*

Wednesday, Dec. 8 - All School Mass

In honor of the special feast day to Our Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we will move our school mass of the week to Wed., Dec. 8 at 9:00

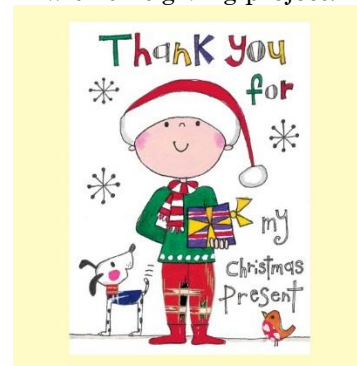
**Children Helping Children:**

Each year, the children from St. Rita School adopt the families of the Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center at Christmas.

Mrs. Wilkinson was a distinguished senior member of our parish who devoted her life to serving the poor and deserving in the city of Aurora. We will have a toy collection at mass at 9:00 on Tues., Dec. 4th. Parents are always welcome to attend. The Center is in need of 130 gifts. If each family could give one gift per family that would help us tremendously!

**Note:** It should be a NEW gift, not wrapped. The children range from 2 years – 12 years old.

Thank you for your generous help with this giving project.



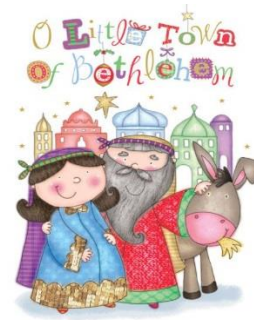


## You Are Invited! Thursday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ DOORS OF CHRISTMAS – 5:45-6:15PM before the concert. Come walk the hallways and see the festive decorated classroom doors!  
\*Children’s raffle in library also!!!!
- ❖ CHRISTMAS CONCERT – 6:30PM the students in grades K-8 will present our annual Christmas Concert in church. Under the direction of our music teacher, Mr. Rob Orland the students will offer a concert of religious and secular music for the holiday season. All students are required to be in attendance.



RED & GREEN DAY: Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the students will have an out of uniform day. They may wear clothing with a holiday flair - red & green. They may also wear jeans and gym shoes. Please follow the out of uniform guidelines. It’s our version of Casual Friday - Santa Style!



### “COME TO BETHLEHEM”

Our annual Nativity Pageant will be presented on the last day before break on Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in church. The story of “Mary and Joseph’s Journey” is performed by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students under the direction of the 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. What a perfect way to pray together before we start our Christmas vacation. Please join us as we prepare for the holy celebration of Christmas.

Let us begin our Advent spending extra time in prayer and reflection as “we wait in Joyful Hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Mrs. Peterson’s Preschool class will do a little Christmas presentation for their families on Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 in their classroom after the class Christmas party.



Enrollment for the PreKindergarten class beginning in August of 2019 will start soon. It is an all day program. Four years olds are fun! Please tell your family and friends to join us. Call the office today!

