



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

DECEMBER 13, 2019

Pause and Ponder

As the Third Week of Advent turns our focus more directly on the joy of the Incarnation, we find in the birth narratives the three virtuous actions developed through Gospel selections of St. John thus far this year.

- September – Listen Responsibly (Jesus Turns Water into Wine at the Wedding at Cana)
- October – Asking for Assistance (Jesus Heals an Official's Son at Capernaum in Galilee)
- November/December – Helping Others in Need (Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda)

On the journey to Bethlehem, Joseph did not hesitate in **asking for assistance** multiple times as he sought safe haven for Mary and the immanent birth of Jesus. Following the birth of Jesus, shepherds **listened responsibly** to the message of the angels. The Magi's gifts were **helping others in need** as these resources were provided to the Holy Family.

As Advent continues and the Christmas season emerges, let us look for daily opportunities in these days to continue to develop these virtuous actions in our lives, our families, and our work places.

Let Us Pray

+ for a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and holy 2020 for **all school communities** in the Diocese of Wilmington

+ for the **least, last, and lost among us** this Christmas

Catholic Identity

The Magi – Traditionally the visit of the Magi accompanies the Christmas narrative so that we find three figures with the shepherds and the angels at the crèche. Here are some interesting facts about the Magi:

- The traditional dates of December 25 and January 6 encourage the popular assumption that the visit took place the same winter as the birth, but later traditions varied, with the visit taken as occurring up to two winters later when the massacre of the Holy Innocents occurred.
- Although the Magi are commonly referred to as "kings," there is nothing in the account from the Gospel of Matthew that implies that they were rulers of any kind.
- The New Testament does not give the names of the Magi. However, traditions and legends identify a variety of different names for them. In the Western Christian church, they have all been regarded as saints and are commonly known as Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 15	Third Sunday of Advent		
Monday, December 16	CSO Staff Meeting	9:30 am	1626
Thursday, December 19	Bishop's Visit	10:00 am	Holy Angels
	Bishop's Visit	12:00 noon	Immaculate Conception
Friday, December 20	Christmas holiday begins at dismissal		
Sunday, December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent		
Wednesday, December 25	Nativity of the Lord		
Sunday, December 29	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph		
Wednesday, January 1	Mary, the Holy Mother of God		

During the Christmas holiday, the Catholic Schools Office will be open December 23, 27, and 30.

Regular office hours resume on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Attention Needed

Principal's Notes – The next edition of *Principal's Notes* will be Friday, January 3, 2020.

Pass the Word – Please see the communication from Fr. Norm Carroll and Fr. Rich Jasper regarding *Pass the Word 2020*.

Noteworthy Information

Fourth Annual Delaware High School Photography Contest – Please share this information with the Fine Arts Department in Delaware high schools.

Reasons to Celebrate

Honorary Degree – On Wednesday, December 18, **Bishop Malooly** will receive an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Neumann University. This degree is traditionally conferred upon scholars who have distinguished themselves in the humanities.

Christmas Concert of Excellence – On Tuesday evening, December 10, seven of the eight Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wilmington entertained family and friends at the annual All Catholic Concert. Congratulations to the students for sharing the gift of music! We are especially grateful to the following music directors:

Archmere Academy – Damiiian Demnicki & David Ifkovits

Padua Academy – Marion Jacob

Saint Mark's High School – Arthur Bookout

Salesianum School – Brian Cox

St. Elizabeth School – Jeff Dietzler

St. Thomas More Academy – Maureen Cannon

Ursuline Academy – Joseph Loudon

Middle States Success!

- Congratulations to ***Saint Mark's High School*** and ***Ursuline Academy*** which have been re-accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The Diocese of Wilmington is proud of ***Ursuline Academy*** which has been recognized with a Program of Distinction in Global Literacies. The Middle States Programs of Distinction initiative provides external validation of an accredited school's accomplishments in specific areas of expertise and enables schools to take accreditation to the next level.

***The time of Advent returns us to the horizon of hope,
a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God,
a hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints!***

He is faithful!"

Pope Francis

