



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

DECEMBER 6, 2019

Pause and Ponder

November/December – Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)

Virtuous Action – Helping Others in Need

Today the Church remembers St. Nicholas, a bishop noted for generosity in his ministry. His kindnesses were done selflessly and privately. He became the inspiration for the person of Santa Claus.

How is St. Nicholas connected to this month's focus? Our miracle in this month's Gospel points to Jesus giving of self for another. The Gospel highlights the importance of listening – with one's ears, head, and heart – to the need of another and of responding to the fullest extent possible to that need. The Lord healed fully the man by the pool after listening to his need.

St. Nicholas, in his own way, did the same for people of his day. He listened and responded. And, to an extent, Santa Claus listens and responds (with a bit of help from parent elves) to what each child brings to his lap.

We are called to emulate St. Nicholas. This week, how can we listen attentively as does Santa Claus?

Let Us Pray

- + for the cure of **Benny Pin**, son of Dan Pin, Associate Director of the Office for Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry
- + for the repose of the soul of **Very Reverend Leonard R. Klein**, Rector, Cathedral of Saint Peter, and Director, Pro-Life Activities for the Diocese of Wilmington
- + for **Immaculate Conception School** celebrating a patronal day on Monday, December 9 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Catholic Identity

Gaudete Sunday – Next Sunday, December 15, marks the halfway point in Advent. It is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin root meaning to "rejoice." The readings of the day point to the coming of Jesus and the reign of God. The Church guides us to see that the advent of the Lord in history, mystery, and majesty (Bethlehem, Eucharist, and the end of time) is cause for rejoicing. Now is the time to begin decorating our schools and classrooms for Christmas.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 8	Second Sunday of Advent		
Monday, December 9	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
	CPO Executive Committee Meeting	9:00 am	
	CSO Staff Meeting	10:30 am	
Tuesday, December 10	Bishop's Visit	10:00 am	Good Shepherd
	Bishop's Visit	12:00 noon	Immaculate Conception
	All Catholic Christmas Concert	7:00 pm	Salesianum
Wednesday, December 11	Bishop's Visit	10:00 am	Serviam Girls Academy
	Bishop's Visit	12:00 noon	Nativity Prep
Thursday, December 12	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>		
	CDOW Day of Recollection		
Friday, December 13	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>		
Sunday, December 15	Third Sunday of Advent		

Action Required

Teacher Evaluation Committee – In January a teacher evaluation committee will begin to meet. The committee will review and make recommendations of changes/additions to the current *Professional Standards for Catholic School Educators*. One specific change will be the inclusion of a student improvement standard and accompanying indicators. In addition, this committee will create a form principals will use in the spring of 2020 to provide feedback to educators in the area of student performance; for the current year, this feedback will not be a part of the teacher's summative evaluation. A revised summative evaluation form to include the student improvement component will be utilized in the 2020-2021 school year.

The following have volunteered to serve on the committee:

- Tina Morroni Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Patrick Tiernan Saint Mary Magdalen
- Altina Herbert Serviam Girls Academy
- Mary McClory Padua Academy
- Barbara Snively Holy Angels
- Kathleen Mann Saints Peter and Paul

If other administrators or teachers would like to serve on the committee, please contact Carol Ripken (cripken@cdow.org) by **Friday, December 20**.

Group Movie Licensing – It is important for us to abide by copyright law when it comes to showing movies and educational films in groups settings in our facilities. Christ the Teacher Catholic School will again be coordinating the movie licensing this year. Christian Video Licensing International (CVLI) covers over 1,000 movie studios, including major studios such as: Disney, Pixar, Columbia, Sony, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, Paramount, Universal, Dream Works, Scholastic, Lionsgate, The History Channel, and Discovery Channel along with the list found here:

<http://cvli.com/producers/total-package/>.

Based on the enrollment of the schools which purchased a license last year, the licensing company quoted us **around** \$0.79 per student, if all of the same schools sign on.

This year, the schools that were licensed last year will automatically renew. If you are interested in removing yourself from the license or adding on to our group license, please e-mail Steve Adams, Assistant Principal at Christ the Teacher Catholic School, at sadams@christtheteacher.org, no later than **Monday, January 6**. Enrollment numbers will be based on the numbers provided in the annual report provided by the diocese. If you need to change your total enrollment number, please also contact Steve no later than January 6th. Invoices will be provided to schools in February. Once payment is received, the copy of the license will be forwarded to the school.

All Saints Catholic School
Christ the Teacher Catholic School
Good Shepherd School
Holy Angels School
Holy Cross School
Immaculate Conception School
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
Mount Aviat Academy
Padua Academy
Serviam Girls Academy
St. Ann School

St. Anthony of Padua Grade School
Saint Edmond's Academy
St. Francis de Sales School
St. John the Beloved School
St. Mary Magdalen School
St. Peter Cathedral School
St. Peter the Apostle School
Ss. Peter & Paul Elementary School
Ss. Peter & Paul High School
St. Thomas More Academy
Ursuline Academy

Attention Needed

Student & Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) – If international students will be travelling out of the country during the Christmas break, be sure they have their original I-20 signed by Dr. De Angelo before **Wednesday, December 18**.

BOOST Assessments (Maryland Schools) – Schools participating in the BOOST program and receiving tuition assistance funding are reminded that they **must** adhere to the assessment requirements.

- English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments each year for students in Grades 3-8 and at least once for students in Grades 9-12; and
- A Science assessment at least once for students in Grades 3-5, at least once for students in Grades 6-9, and at least once for students in Grades 10-12.

These assessments must be taken from the list of assessments published by the United States Department of Education to qualify nonpublic schools for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Administering the approved assessments is required in the 2019-2020 school year and each year thereafter by the annual Budget Bill enacted by the Maryland General Assembly.

Mid-Atlantic Choral Festival and Mass – See the attached information for students in your school to be part of a Mid-Atlantic celebration at the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, March 21, 2020. If your school chooses to participate, please inform Dr. De Angelo.

Noteworthy Information

Light of the World – See the video song by Lauren Daigle. It might be a video prayer for your use this Advent with faculty and staff.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WR5iwssnTn4>

Reasons to Celebrate

Enrollment Watch – Thank you for your attention to enrollment recruitment and retention! The attached School Enrollment Report (11/30/2029) shows that, although our overall retention in parish, regional, and diocesan schools has dropped in the last two months by 12 students since the Official Enrollment Report of September 30, recruitment in schools has stemmed what could have been a greater decline. Let's keep working together for both recruitment and retention. We'll all be stronger in the end.

*The marvelous vision of Isaiah is a divine promise
and impels us to assume an attitude of pilgrimage,
of journeying towards Christ, who is the meaning and goal of history.
Pope Francis*

